

NOTICES

Team Morning Prayer Services

Wednesdays for 08:45 am Morning Prayer at Team churches. The Team Clergy will resume weekly meetings for Morning Prayer during January attending Team Churches in rotation. Location details can be provided by Canon Tony, but pleased to highlight that on 5th January, St. John's is hosting.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Online Shorter form of BCP Evening Prayer with Hymns – Sunday 2nd January 2022 at 6.00 pm.

FIRST AID COURSE

Princes Risborough Baptists Church are planning to run a First Aid course in the new year but don't currently have enough people to fill it. If anyone at St. John's wishes to do a First Aid course (particularly to support their Church role) please contact either Vanessa or Sheila at the Baptist Church Office if they would like to join. There is a charge for the course. More details from Vanessa / Sheila (prbaptist@btconnect.com)

One Can Trust



The One Can donation box is outside the Church so that we can continue to make our gifts to this worthy cause. Caroline will continue to take what has been collected on our behalf and deliver it to the main collection centre. Thanks very much to everyone who continues to support this cause. Please see the One Can Trust Web Site (www.onecantrust.org.uk) for further details on the scheme and current urgent needs.

Key Contacts:

Vicar:	Rev. Canon Tony Bundock	01844 347741
Team Rector:	Rev. David Williams	01844 346984
Licensed Lay Minister:	Mr Graham King	01844 343910
Churchwardens:	Mrs Pat Rushmere	01494 562140
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PARISH CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, LACEY GREEN



Coming to Faith, Growing in Faith

Week Commencing
SUNDAY 2ND JANUARY 2022
THE EPIPHANY
(2ND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS)

WELCOME TO TODAY'S WORSHIP

You are warmly welcomed to St. John's Church, particularly if you are new to our congregation or are a visitor. This Sunday the 10:00 am service will be led by Rev. Peter Viney.

WORSHIP AT ST. JOHN'S

Recent UK Government Guidance has been reviewed and at this stage few changes are going to be required for in-church worship at St. John's. These will remain in place for the immediate future:

- Wearing masks in church, apart from for the choir when singing and for those leading worship is now mandatory. Also, during actual receipt of Holy Communion. The congregation are requested to wear masks in Church, maintain social distancing and sanitise their hands.
- Singing of hymns in Church during the sung services will continue. The congregation can continue to join in the singing of hymns, but to do so wearing their masks.
- Holy Communion will continue in one kind only for the time being and will be administered from the area in front of the chancel step.
- The Peace will continue for the time being to be observed discreetly and following social distancing protocols.
- The congregation are asked to observe social distancing as far as possible and the Lady Chapel area will be set aside as a mandatory social distancing area for those who feel they need to socially distance themselves from others. Please respect this.

Weekly Services:

SUNDAY	
8:00 am	In-church Said BCP Communion Service (1 st & 3 rd Sun)
10:00 am	In-church Parish Communion Service with Hymns
6:00 pm	On-line Evening Prayer with Hymns (1 st Sun).

TUESDAY	
9:30 am	In-church Said Parish Communion Service

FOCUS ON..... THE EPIPHANY

The Three Magi, the Three Wise Men or Three Kings, are said to have been distinguished foreigners who visited Jesus after his birth, bearing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. They are key figures in traditional accounts of the Nativity celebrations of Christmas and an important part of Christian tradition, not least as representing different ethnicities within humanity. The Gospel of Matthew is the only one of the four Canonical Gospels to mention the Magi. Matthew reports that they came "from the east" to worship the "king of the Jews". The Gospel account never mentions the number of Magi. But most western Christian denominations have traditionally assumed them to have been three in number, based on the statement that they brought three gifts. But it is quite conceivable that they were part of a larger travelling party. Their identification as Kings in later Christian writings is regarded as probably linked to Isaiah 60:1–6, which refers to "kings [coming] to the brightness of your dawn"... "bearing gold and frankincense". Further identification of the Magi as Kings may be due to a text from Psalm 72:11, "May all kings fall down before him". Gold is associated with royalty and was a gift given to Kings in ancient times. Frankincense is a type of incense burned by Priests in the course of prayer and worship, both in the religious rituals of ancient times and in Christian Churches of the Catholic and Orthodox traditions. Myrrh is used as an embalming ointment and as a gift to the infant Jesus symbolises that, in common with many of the Prophets of old, this child was destined to suffer and to die. The mysterious gifts of the Three Magi therefore symbolise the three-fold roles of the Messiah as King, Priest and Prophet. The word "epiphany" means "manifestation" or "striking appearance". It is often associated with the Greek theophaneia, meaning "vision of God". Clearly, the visit of the Magi to the infant Christ in Bethlehem was indeed an Epiphany, a life-changing encounter with the divine presence.

Canon Tony Bundock

COLLECT FOR THE EPIPHANY

O God, who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever, Amen.



READINGS FOR EPIPHANY

Isaiah Ch. 60 VV. 1 – 6
Ephesians Ch. 3 VV. 1 – 12

Matthew Ch. 2 VV. 1 – 12

PRAYER CHAIN PRAYERS

(This Sunday Service's Intercessions Led by PAT RUSHMERE)



Dear Jesus, as You led the Three Kings to You by the light of a star, please draw us ever closer to You by the light of Faith. Help us to desire You as ardently as they did. Give us the grace to overcome all the obstacles that keep us far from You. May we, like them, have something to give You when we appear before You, Amen.

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May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us evermore, Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER FOR THE EPIPHANY

Lord God, the bright splendour whom the nations seek:
may we who with the wise men have been drawn by your light
discern the glory of your presence in your Son,
the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.



This Week you are Asked to Pray for:

- Those in the parish and further afield who are sick or in need that they receive peace and healing, including: Irene Foord, Mary Mines, Helena Oecken, Ian Wilson, Ron Goodearl, Ian Goodearl, Phillipa King, Sally Zeybek, Doug Tilbury, Don White, Pat Syrett, Marina Deacon & Christopher Roberts. Also, Margaret Karstens and Motsansana Manyako of Kuruman.
- The recently departed, including Sally Smith, and John Roberts. May their souls rest in peace. We pray for their families and friends at this difficult time.
- All parts of the world affected by the Coronavirus (Covid-19), those who are ill with the virus and those caring for them. Particularly praying for countries where infection rates are very high and the hospitals are struggling to cope.
- For the country of South Africa, for the people of Cape Town and Diocese of Kimberly and Kuruman including our linked parish of St. Mary's Kuruman.