

NOTICES / DIARY DATES

Event	Date and time	Venue
Parish Communion (1 st Sunday after Epiphany)	Sunday 8 th January (10:00 am)	St. John's Church
Team Morning Prayer	Wed. 11 th January (8:45 am)	St. Dunstan's Monks Risb
PCC Standing Committee Meeting	Wed. 11 th January (7:30 pm)	-
St. Mary's Men's Breakfast Full English one Breakfast at £7 is payable on the day. To attend, please contact Steve Williams on 01844 274225 or email him on mensbreakfast@stmarysrisborough.org.uk (numbers needed for catering purposes)	Saturday 14 th January (8:45 am)	St. Mary's Church Hall
Team Morning Prayer	Wed. 18 th January (8:45 am)	Holy Trinity Bledlow
Team Morning Prayer	Wed. 25 th January (8:45 am)	St. Mary's Princes Risborough
Team Morning Prayer	Wed. 1 st February (8:45 am)	St. Dunstan's Monks Risborough
PCC Meeting	Tues. 7 th February (7:30 pm)	St. John's Church
Team Morning Prayer	Wed. 8 th February (8:45 am)	St. John's Church

ONE CAN TRUST

One Can Trust are trying to create bags that enable families to make a nutritious meal. Soup is not needed, but all donations for the food cupboard are welcome. Sources of protein e.g., tinned meat, tinned fish, lentils etc. In addition, items such as tinned tomatoes and cook-in sauces will enable people can where possible prepare meals of their choice. We are being told that donations to the Trust have been down recently, but demand remains high. Any offerings that you can donate will be welcomed (we have a donations box outside the Church Porch). Thank you.

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
	Mrs Margaret Gray	01844 347094
PCC Secretary & Pew Sheet editor:	Mr Mark Roberts	01296 437345

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PARISH CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, LACEY GREEN



Coming to Faith, Growing in Faith

Week Commencing
SUNDAY 8TH JANURARY 2023
THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST

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.

WORSHIP AT ST. JOHN'S

Wearing masks in church is now optional except for the Lady chapel where we request that masks are still worn in this part of the Church. Please continue to maintain social distancing where possible and sanitise your hands. We are continuing to offer, for those who wish it, hosts intincted by the Celebrant at all Communion Services. Reintroduction of the Common Cup will be considered again at a later time. The Lady Chapel area will continue to be set aside as a mandatory social distancing area for those who feel they need to socially distance themselves from others and where masks will be worn. Please respect this. Where possible, we will be serving coffee after the 10:00 am Service on Sundays.

We have now received the card reader so we will shortly be able to take cashless offerings during services / donations. Linked to this we also have a QR code for members of the congregation to donate via their Smartphone, which can be used as of now. You will need a QR reader App to use this. Thank you for however you choose to make your offering.



Weekly Services:

SUNDAY

8:00 am In-church Said BCP Communion Service (1st & 3rd Sun)
10:00 am In-church Parish Communion Service with Hymns

TUESDAY

9:30 am In-church Said Parish Communion Service

FOCUS ON... THE EPIPHANY

The ageless story of the star guiding the Magi to Bethlehem has a timeless message of wisdom. We are told that these wise men were astrologers, using the stars for guidance, both to help them navigate terrain and for journeying through life. And for that they need the dark. To follow the star that they have seen rising they travel in the dark in order to be able to see the star. So, for them, darkness is not something negative, but a place where hopes are born. While they need the light of the star to guide them, the night is the necessary context for that light, so that it can be seen. The star guides them in their migration from the Gentile lands of their birth to the land where their predictions will find their fulfilment. In St. Matthew's telling of the journey of the Magi in his Gospel narrative, it is these Wise Men who first name Jesus as "King of the Jews", a title destined to return to him at his Crucifixion. As stargazers using their knowledge of celestial bodies to navigate, it is not surprising that it is a star that both heralds the advent of a new King and guides these stargazers to him. And if indeed stars are most commonly associated with the night, so too are dreams. At the end of the Gospel reading appointed for the Feast of the Epiphany, the Magi are warned in a dream not to return to Herod, just as Joseph previously had been counselled in a dream to take Mary as his wife despite her pregnancy. So then, the Magi leave by another road, not retracing their steps but being called by God to continue their journeying. The Magi's night-time travelling as they seek Jesus reminds us that both light and shade are integral aspects of life and faith, and of our own spiritual journey. If we are constantly looking out for the next bright moment in life, we may be blinding ourselves to the truth of darkness as the region of reflection and regeneration, that space or time in our lives where our faith journey might well take the most profound turns and capture the deepest intimations of God's presence with us in all things; both in the light and in the dark.

Canon Tony Bundock

COLLECT FOR 1ST SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children; 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 THE 1ST SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

Isaiah Ch. 42 VV. 1 – 9
Acts Ch. 10 VV. 34 – 43

Matthew Ch. 3 VV. 13 – 17

PRAYER CHAIN PRAYER



Father God, the star that led the Magi to the stable announced to the world that its Saviour was born. Today we live in a world that is still covered by darkness, and still needing to make that journey to the stable door. May our lives reflect your light day by day, as we seek to serve where you have placed us. That we might be the means through which others can encounter Jesus Christ. Amen.

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 1ST SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

Lord of all time and eternity, you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son: by the power of your Spirit complete the heavenly work of our rebirth through the waters of the new creation; through 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: Mary Mines, Helena Oecken, Ian Wilson, Sally Zeybek, Marcus Barthropp, Gary Webb, Lila King, Rita Probert, Rev Nancy Wallace, Roger Hussey and Dick Field. Also, Margaret Karstens of Kuruman.
- The recently departed May their souls rest in peace. We pray for their families and friends at this difficult time.
- Kelly Safaris Silva and her family who are currently in need at this time.
- We pray for our Government, that they will lead wisely and fairly for all.
- We pray for countries where there have been natural disasters, for their peoples and for the various aid organisations bringing relief.
- We pray for Peace in the Ukraine. That there will be a rapid end to the fighting and the suffering for its People.
- We pray for our National Health Service, which is suffering increased demand at this time, and the Doctors, Nurses and Support Staff.
- 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.