



South Wye Team Ministry Newsletter

26th January 2025

The Third Sunday of Epiphany

Hello Everyone, I hope that you're keeping well and not feeling the weight of blue Monday this past week. I want to begin by firstly saying a huge thank you to all of those that donated to the January jumble and helped out, and of course those that came out and bought something to support it, it's wonderful to know we raised £500 in the process which will be helpful to continue the work we try and do here.

It's appropriate perhaps then that in this week's New Testament reading, we see Paul reminding us how important we each are in supporting any ministry and supporting one another. He tells us that just like the human body has many different parts that each serve a unique function, the church is made up of many people with different gifts and roles too—but we're all connected in Christ. Whether you're the "hand," the "foot," or even the "eye," you're essential. So, don't underestimate your place in the body of Christ! We are to remember that there is unity in diversity and the church is greater when it has people with all sorts of gifts and talents.

Paul stresses that just because you might think you're not as "visible" or "important" as others, that doesn't mean you're any less needed. In fact, it is our job as a church family to make sure no one is left out, that everyone deserves attention and care. Whether you're new to the faith or have been walking with Jesus for years, you're essential to the body of Christ. Everyone's gifts and contributions are valuable, even if you feel like you're not the "loudest" or that you don't have much to offer, your role is needed in God's work! Because we're all in this together. Our church thrives when we support each other and use the gifts God has given us for the good of the whole body. Whether it's serving, praying, teaching, or just being there for someone, every action counts and just as we need Christ, we need each other. Whether you're the one lifting others up or being lifted up yourself, we're all connected and united in Christ.

So how can we make sure we live this all out more fully? If you've been thinking about getting more involved, now is the perfect time! We all have something to contribute—whether it's your time, talent, or treasure. Maybe you've been unsure about how you fit in or what your gift is. Take some time to pray and ask God to show you how you can serve and contribute to the body of Christ here at church. Whether it's through helping out at events, leading intercessions, serving others, or simply being present, there's a place for you!

Let us be mindful of those who might be feeling like their contribution isn't as important. Check in with them, encourage them, and remind them that they're a vital part of our church family. If you know someone who's struggling to find their place or feels disconnected, be that encouragement they need. Let's continue to celebrate the diversity within our church, embracing the different gifts and if you see someone serving in a way that blesses others, let them know! Let's keep building each other up, reminding each other how important we are in God's plan. Let's keep walking together in faith, remembering that each of us—no matter where we are in our stage of life—is a vital part of the body of Christ. Let us be prayerful people who take action, because what else is possible when we let God fully take control?

With every blessing, Lauren
07429 862444
curate@stmartinshereford.org.uk

Family and Community News

How do you get to Church?

Do you drive, walk, cycle or perhaps you are unable to get here? Whatever your situation, there may be small changes we could make, to help the environment and each other.

If you drive, would you consider giving someone a lift (we know many of you already do)?

If you walk or cycle would you consider walking with someone for company?

Would *you* like a lift or someone to walk with?

If the answer is 'Yes' to any of these questions, please get in touch with a member of the Eco Church Team or Church office, and we can arrange a match.

Sarah, Peter and Dafydd (Eco Church Team)

Toastie and Warm at St Martin's

On Tuesday afternoons the Narthex at St Martin's is a busy and welcoming space.

From 1pm there is a Bible Study group, all welcome.

From 2pm there is a coffee afternoon, full of conversations and information, with chocolate biscuits and, usually, home-made cakes.

Everyone is welcome to come along to any – or all – parts of the afternoon.

Catching up with friends – or making new ones!

Young at Heart - First Thursday of each month – Lunch together (contact the office so that we can book the table)

Third Thursday of each month at 2pm – Meeting in St. Martin's Church – talks, games, refreshments and friendship – everyone welcome!

Making Room is a new initiative based at St Martin's which, whilst it will not offer any formal professional mental health treatment, will offer a safe space to express any worries you may have. *Making Room* is intended for people of working age, and is about making room to have safe discussions about our mental wellness, making room to support one another, making room for mindfulness and to start or share any hobbies and interests and making room to offer hope. If you are interested in joining us please contact us and we can discuss plans further. If you wish to volunteer equally please do get in touch.

Rev'd Lauren Bell curate@stmartinshereford.org.uk 07429 862444

Services at Belmont Community Centre

If you live in or near Belmont and find the journey to St Martin's difficult, or if Sunday mornings are not easy for you, you might like to join us for Friday Communion at Belmont Community Centre.

We celebrate a said service of Holy Communion at 12:30pm on the Second and Fourth Fridays of each month, following FoodShare. Everyone is very welcome to this service. The hall has level access and good ventilation – and if the weather is good we celebrate outside.

The next services at Belmont are: 12.30pm Holy Communion –24th January, 14th & 28th February

For our Prayers

Those who are ill or in need of your prayers, including:

Brenda Baylis Maureen Gerard Irene F Julia Ware Steve Miller Margaret

Those who have died and those who mourn their loss:

Darren Owen.. Eric Williams.. Mary Fisher.. Simon Lane..

Anglican Communion:

Province of Alexandria - Most Revd Samy Fawzy, Primate.

Hereford:

Pray for all that helps resource the local church in mission and ministry, as we plan for new ways of being a serving and responsive church across our communities. Pray for Elizabeth Wild, Mark Melliush, Mark Godson, Mary Oxley and all involved with the Mission and Ministry team

Porvoo:

England: Birmingham, Bishop Michael Volland; Ireland: Cork, Cloyne and Ross, Bishop Paul Colton; Denmark: Elsinore, Bishop Peter Birch.

South Wye: Those struggling to know where they fit in the local community or within their own families.

The Wider View:

The agricultural sector in Tanzania is a significant contributor to the national economy, and agricultural products make up the largest proportion of the country's exports. The government is working to increase agricultural production and to ensure food security, but climate change has led to longer than normal periods of drought and less predictable rains, and changes in weather patterns are a particular threat to the livelihoods of small subsistence farms. Pray for the development of new crops and farming methods to maintain stability, and for the protection and careful use of the nation's natural resources. Sunday is Australia Day - pray for the churches and communities of that land, where many users of this Diary will have families and friends. Sunday is also World Leprosy Day. Leprosy is still a major scourge in our world, and up to four million people are living with visible impairments or stigma because of the disease, and over 200,000 new cases are diagnosed annually. The disease is controllable, and poverty plays a large part in its persistence. Pray for all who live with leprosy, for every effort made to provide help, assist with disability, and counter stigma, and for the ministry of organisations like the Leprosy Mission. Monday is kept as Holocaust Memorial Day, on the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau. Pray for all who suffer today in a world still scarred by genocide. Monday is also Parent Mental Health Day. This day aims to highlight the importance of parent mental health and its impact within the family, and to encourage parents and carers to reflect on their own mental health and how to balance it with looking after their family. Pray for those who feel stigmatised as failures, and for all that offers support and care when needed. The Chinese New Year begins on Wednesday (the Year of the Horse): pray for the Chinese communities within our diocese, and the Christian churches of China, including those that lack official sanction. National Puzzle Day, also on Wednesday, prompts thanksgiving for puzzles of various kinds as entertainment but also in their role of enabling mental alertness. Pray for the pubs, hotels and eating places that serve our communities, especially at this time when many in the hospitality industry are struggling with falling revenues and higher costs.

Services on-site, online and on TV and Radio For the week beginning 26th January

South Wye Services Through the Week:

8pm Night Prayer from Common Worship – on St. Martin’s Facebook page

Sunday

9:30am Holy Communion at St. Martin’s

11.15am Morning Prayer at St. Peter’s

Thursday

10am Said Communion in St. Martin’s Lady Chapel

The 9.30am service will be streamed on St. Martin’s Facebook page and will be available on the St. Martin’s and the St. Peter’s Facebook pages and the St. Martin’s YouTube channel later in the day.

Diocese of Hereford

Diocese of Hereford Facebook: Sunday Service 10am.

Church of England

National Weekly Service Facebook at 9am.

TV and Radio on Sunday;

Radio 4 8.10am Sunday Worship- ‘Final Solution’- the 80th Anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenhau

BBC 1 1.15pm Songs of Praise- Barbara Dickson’s Faith and Music

Prayer for the day:

The Church of England website has audio and text of the Prayer for the Day.

Prayer for the Nation

The Archbishops continue to invite all to call on God in Prayer. We invite you to set aside time every evening to pray, particularly at 6pm each day. More than ever, this is a time when we need to love each other. Prayer is an expression of love. Find more details at churchengland.org/resources/prayer-nation

Collect for the Third Sunday of Epiphany

God of all mercy, your Son proclaimed good news to the poor,
release to the captives, and freedom to the oppressed:

anoint us with your Holy Spirit

and set all your people free to praise you in Christ our Lord.

Readings for the Third Sunday of Epiphany

Nehemiah 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10

8 ¹ all the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. ² Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. ³ He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law.

⁵ And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. ⁶ Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, 'Amen, Amen', lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshipped the LORD with their faces to the ground.

⁸ So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

⁹ And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, 'This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep.' For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. ¹⁰ Then he said to them, 'Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.'

Psalm 19

¹ The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

² Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.

³ There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;

⁴ yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.

In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,

⁵ which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,
and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

⁶ Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the end of them;
and nothing is hidden from its heat.

⁷ The law of the LORD is perfect,
reviving the soul;

the decrees of the LORD are sure,
making wise the simple;

⁸ the precepts of the LORD are right,
rejoicing the heart;

the commandment of the LORD is clear,

enlightening the eyes;
9 the fear of the LORD is pure,
enduring for ever;
the ordinances of the LORD are true
and righteous altogether.
10 More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey,
and drippings of the honeycomb.
11 Moreover by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.
12 But who can detect their errors?
Clear me from hidden faults.
13 Keep back your servant also from the insolent;
do not let them have dominion over me.
Then I shall be blameless,
and innocent of great transgression.
14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable to you,
O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

1 Corinthians 12: 12-31a

One Body with Many Members

12 For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. 13 For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

14 Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. 15 If the foot were to say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. 16 And if the ear were to say, 'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? 18 But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. 19 If all were a single member, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many members, yet one body. 21 The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you', nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.' 22 On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23 and those members of the body that we think less honourable we clothe with greater honour, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; 24 whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honour to the inferior member, 25 that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. 26 If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it.

27 Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. 28 And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. 29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are

all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰ Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹ But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

Luke 4: 14-21

The Beginning of the Galilean Ministry

¹⁴ Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵ He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

The Rejection of Jesus at Nazareth

¹⁶ When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸ 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'

²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'

Bible Study based on Luke 4: 14-21

Bible notes

We meet Jesus on his way from Galilee to Nazareth and the synagogue there. Here is the Jewish teacher standing in the place of worship on the Sabbath. He quotes from Isaiah 61:1-2 and Isaiah 58:6. This great liberation call is the reply to his mother Mary's own words in the Magnificat. Jesus proclaims that the freedom foreseen by Isaiah has arrived in his own person. This is an identifying moment in the Gospel, in keeping with the Epiphany theme of the person of Jesus being revealed to us anew. Jesus is the one who is meeting the hopes and expectations of the prophets of old. The year of the Lord was one of great eschatological promise and is now here, as Jesus begins his ministry. Those who are on the outside, on the margins, are being brought in. Those who might typically be excluded are welcomed by Jesus. We see this embodied in his ministry as he eats and drinks with socially unacceptable people. This gospel is topsy-turvy – the things that we think we should value, the power structures of the world and the values of society – are questioned.

Reflection

Spend a few moments thinking about what stands out for you from the Bible reading. This idea may help.

In the Gospel passage, Jesus declares his mission of ushering in a new order of things in which those that are seen to be the least and the last are prioritised. In the Corinthians passage, we see that diversity is part of God's creation and the plethora of gifts listed reflects that. Such diversity can cause strife. However, Paul suggests that this is not God's way. The message of both these passages is that the social order in the kingdom of God is different. How can we make sure we are always maintaining unity and prioritising those who might otherwise be forgotten? Who are the forgotten in your own context? Do they know that the church welcomes them?

Questions for reflection

You may wish to use these questions and the picture to help you think about or discuss issues arising from this week's Bible passage.



Questions

- When did you last experience a 'mic drop' moment (one that completely astounded you)?
- Why do people sometimes not like positive news stories?
- Who most needs to hear Jesus' good news right now?

Sudoku

5		9		8				
				6		4		
					2	5		6
		8						
			7	3		8		1
2		1	6				4	
3	7			4	5	1		8
4		2	1	9				

		8						
9				4	6	5		7
	4				5	2		
2		9		8	4		3	
	6			9				
4			6	2		7		1
			7				8	
		3						6
							7	

5	6	9	3	8	4	7	1	2
1	2	3	5	6	7	4	8	9
8	4	7	9	1	2	5	3	6
7	9	8	4	2	1	6	5	3
6	5	4	7	3	9	8	2	1
2	3	1	6	5	8	9	4	7
9	1	5	8	7	3	2	6	4
3	7	6	2	4	5	1	9	8
4	8	2	1	9	6	3	7	5

6	5	8	2	7	1	3	4	9
9	3	2	8	4	6	5	1	7
1	4	7	9	3	5	2	6	8
2	7	9	1	8	4	6	3	5
4	8	5	6	2	3	7	9	1
5	9	4	7	6	2	1	8	3
7	2	3	4	1	8	9	5	6
8	1	6	3	4	1	8	9	5
8	1	6	3	4	1	8	9	5
2	7	1	3	4	9	6	5	8

Sudoku (Trickier)

6					3		1	
8		1		5				4
	3			2		7		
			2			8		
		4				1		
								6
				1		3	7	
	5	9		8				
1							5	

		9		5	8		6	
	1				4		8	
			1					8
			5	3		7		
	2						1	
	4				1			
	8		7					6
	5			4				3

1	7	8	3	6	4	9	5	2
3	5	9	7	8	2	4	6	1
2	4	6	5	1	9	3	7	8
7	1	2	4	3	8	5	9	6
9	8	4	6	7	5	1	2	3
5	6	3	2	9	1	8	4	7
4	3	5	1	2	6	7	8	9
8	2	1	9	5	7	6	3	4
6	9	7	8	4	3	2	1	5

6	5	7	8	4	2	1	9	3
1	8	3	7	9	5	2	4	6
9	4	2	3	6	1	8	5	7
3	2	6	4	8	7	9	1	5
8	9	1	5	3	6	7	2	4
5	7	4	1	2	9	6	3	8
2	1	5	6	7	4	3	8	9
7	3	9	2	5	8	4	6	1
4	6	8	9	1	3	5	7	2

Wordsearch based on 1 Corinthians 12: 12-31a

M	B	L	U	L	D	U	J	O	W	E	H	Z	Y	I
T	R	E	A	T	E	D	I	P	Z	X	E	B	D	S
S	M	E	L	L	T	M	A	O	M	C	A	T	O	K
D	E	Z	O	F	N	W	J	W	Z	E	L	D	B	T
K	M	C	P	O	I	A	M	E	P	L	I	I	Y	W
Y	B	A	T	O	O	I	S	R	U	L	N	Z	B	T
P	E	H	E	T	P	H	M	C	Q	E	G	Z	R	O
U	R	R	A	E	P	A	R	R	A	N	G	E	D	N
R	B	E	C	J	A	N	E	T	N	T	S	W	Z	G
T	I	K	H	P	L	D	O	Y	R	P	I	L	L	U
P	Q	A	E	V	I	R	T	S	E	C	S	Z	H	E
A	G	E	R	C	A	R	E	C	D	S	Z	I	Y	S
R	Z	W	S	E	A	R	T	P	S	T	F	I	G	E
T	O	G	R	E	A	T	E	R	G	Q	S	S	P	C
H	O	N	O	U	R	B	E	L	O	N	G	V	C	Q

BODY
HONOUR
STRIVE
EAR
POWER

APPOINTED
HEALING
HAND
GREATER
ARRANGED

TEACHERS
FOOT
WEAKER
TONGUES
SMELL

MEMBER
BELONG
RESPECT
EYE
GIFTS

PART
TREATED
EXCELLENT
CARE