



South Wye Team Ministry Newsletter

16th January 2022

2nd Sunday of Epiphany

Good Morning Everyone,

I hope that you are all able to keep safe and well – and warm, as January seems to be biting with some proper frosts at the moment. The clear blue skies that come with the cold snap are really welcome though, aren't they – and at least the days are drawing out a little. 'The days are drawing out' - even in writing, I seem to be turning into my Mum. As she is a subscriber to this newsletter, I should make it clear that turning into my Mother would not be a bad thing to do – and since it seems entirely inevitable, I might as well get used to the idea. It's not just about turns of phrase, but I do find myself quoting adages about creepy crawlies and so on that I have been hearing for 50 years. "If you want to live and thrive, let a spider ruin alive." Inheritances take all sorts of forms, don't they?

I have written before about my fondness for *The Repair Shop* on the telly. It's really noticeable that the things that people bring in are often not valuable – not saleable – at all. Last night a little leather writing case, last week a piece of scrap aluminium that a Grandfather had used as a portable desktop; things that perhaps had never cost very much but which hold precious memories. You can see too that the craftspeople working with such skill and dedication put just as much care into fixing a cheap toy as they do a costly antique. In the act of restoration, they restore memories – both the owners of the objects and the viewer at home are smiling through tears by the end of the programme as people receive the newly strengthened and smartened plate or picture and express their intentions to hand it on to another generation. A battered rectangle of scrap metal, lovingly cleaned and straightened and ready to be handed on, together with the stories and memories that it evokes.

Have you often wondered what memories and stories Mary handed on to her son as he grew up? As well as the family tales about the time Uncle Josiah lost the donkey or whatever, did he also learn about shepherds and visiting Magi? The nativity stories that have been part of our inheritance, handed down with such care – did he hear them too? And as we receive these heirlooms, have we thought about how we will hand them on, and to whom?

In the Gospel for Sunday Mary and her son have been invited to a wedding. We can guarantee that there were lost of stories being told. Funny or gossipy, sad or bawdy tales about family life and family trees form part of the inheritance of the new couple. And then, suddenly, something new, a miracle that had never been seen before, something that would be the beginning of new stories to hand on (and however much people were sworn to silence, you know that the story would be told.) That story – of God's abundant, overflowing love and care for us – is also part of our inheritance, for us to hand on, not just to our children, but to neighbours, siblings, uncles – to anyone who might hear.

Who will you tell?

With every blessing,
Anne
07864938898

Family and Community News

Members of both congregations, especially those who attended Tuesday Morning Coffee, will be saddened to hear of the death of Margaret Morgans. We will miss Margaret's stories, her kindness and her smile. We will continue to hold Margaret and her family in our prayers.

C19 Guidance

Under 'Plan B' guidance Face Coverings must be worn during all services in Church by everyone over 11 years old (unless exempted)

Confirmation

One part of our planning that has been hit by the pandemic is Confirmation and Admission to Communion. We are trying to get back on track this year, so if you are interested in being confirmed or would like to talk about your children being admitted to communion, please get in touch. If you have already expressed an interest, I will be getting in touch in the next couple of weeks – but don't be afraid to remind me! Anne

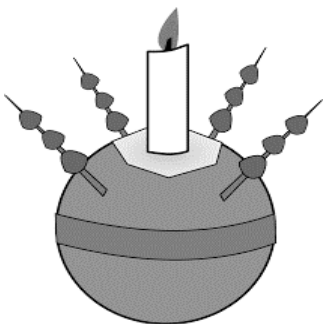
Services at Belmont Community Centre

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 or Sunday afternoon Tea-Time Praise 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. Tea-Time Praise is at 4pm on the Third Sunday of each month and is an informal service with hymns, prayers, tea and cakes and scripture. Everyone is very welcome to either of these services. The hall has level access and good ventilation.

This month our services at Belmont are:

Sunday 16th January 4pm	Tea-Time Praise
Friday 28th January 12:30pm	Holy Communion



Christingle Messy Church
Friday 21st January, 3pm
at the Scout Hut!



For our Prayers

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

Gaynor C	Ann W	Carol	Lee	Roger	Dot G	Oliver
Chrissie	Hana	Nick D	Brenda B	Bob	Harry	Jo
Viv	Helen	Enid	Emma	Daphne	Rob	Marian
Claire	David	Gwenda	Tony	Ian	Claire	Rose
Claudia	Sue	Brooke	Joan	Brett	Maureen	Lindsay
John						

Those who have died and those who mourn their loss:

Gerald.. William.. Raymond. Margaret. Ken

Anglican Communion: The Church of England - The Rt Hon & Most Revd Justin Welby.

Hereford: Pray for the Intergenerational Ministers working throughout our Diocese, and all who work with them. Pray for all our outreach to families and young people, and for those leading and helping resource Messy Church, Muddy Church, Forest Church, Open the Book and other activities and worship events with children, young people and families in mind.

Porvoo: Finland: Tampere - Bishop Matti Repo; England: Manchester - Bishop David Walker, Bishop Mark Ashcroft, Bishop Mark Davies.

South Wye: Please pray for those who live alone

The Wider View:

Pray we may see the end of the pandemic soon. Pray for all those working with Covid patients in difficult conditions, that they may have the resources they need, and that they themselves may stay safe. Pray for churches, benefices and deaneries as they engage with Living in Love and Faith, using the five-session course and other material, the time to report back having been extended. Give thanks for those who have prepared the study material, and for the honesty of those taking part. Pray we may adopt the principles of care, patience, allowing safe space and respecting the feelings of others both in this course of study and debate and wherever there may be conflicting standpoints and views as we meet together. As the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins, pray for those of other Christian denominations with whom we share a ministry of mission and service, recognising the points of contact and the areas of difficulty, but praying we may be ready to offer support, hospitality and fellowship as pilgrims together. Give thanks for the study and worship material this year, prepared by the Churches of the Middle East, and pray that the Week may open minds and hearts. Pray for those presently serving their curacy within our Diocese, and for training incumbents and those who support and advise them. This week remembers Wulfstan, saintly bishop of our neighbouring Diocese of Worcester at the time of the Normal Conquest, and prompts prayer for the life and work of that diocese today. Pray for all involved in music and the performing arts at a time when the profession has been under huge pressure; pray too for local choirs, drama groups and musicians, as they continue to face the challenge of how to meet, rehearse and perform. Monday this week is sometimes called "Blue Monday", as it is supposed to be the most depressing day of the year. The Samaritans have rechristened it "Brew Monday" - a chance to chat over a cuppa, but also an important fund raiser for their cause. Give thanks for the work of the Samaritans, so important at times of extreme stress and desperation (fundraising note - "Brew Monday" can in fact be done any week!).

Services on-site, online and on TV and Radio

For the week beginning 16th January

South Wye Services Through the Week:

8am Morning Prayer from Common Worship – on St. Martin's Facebook page
8pm Night Prayer from Common Worship – on St. Martin's Facebook page

Sunday 16th January

9.30am Holy Communion at St. Martin's
11:15am Morning Prayer at St. Peter's

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.

Thursday 20th January

10am Said Communion in the Lady Chapel, St. Martin's

Diocese of Hereford

Diocese of Hereford Facebook: Sunday Service 10am.
Diocese Freephone Prayerline: Dial 0800 304 7052 to hear a prayer.

Church of England

National Weekly Service Facebook at 9am.

TV and Radio on Sunday 16th January;

BBC H&W	8am	Sunday Worship.
Radio 4	8.10am	Sunday Worship – Choral Matins, from St. Mary le Tower
BBC 1	1.15pm	Songs of Praise – 'Bristol'

Prayer for the day:

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

Prayer for the Nation

In response to reaching the terrible milestone of 100,000 deaths from COVID-19, the Archbishops 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 [churchofengland.org/resources/prayer-nation](https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/prayer-nation)

Collect for 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new:
transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace,
and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory;
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.

Readings for 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

Isaiah 62:1-5

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate; but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the LORD delights in you, and your land shall be married. For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your builder marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

Psalm 36:5-10

Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds.
Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your judgments are like the great deep;
you save humans and animals alike, O LORD.

How precious is your steadfast love, O God! All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.
They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights.
For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.

O continue your steadfast love to those who know you, and your salvation to the upright of heart!

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

John 2:1-11

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Bible Study based on John 2:1-11

Start by reading the Bible notes below. You may want to read them more than once, or pause after each paragraph to reflect on what you have read.

Bible notes

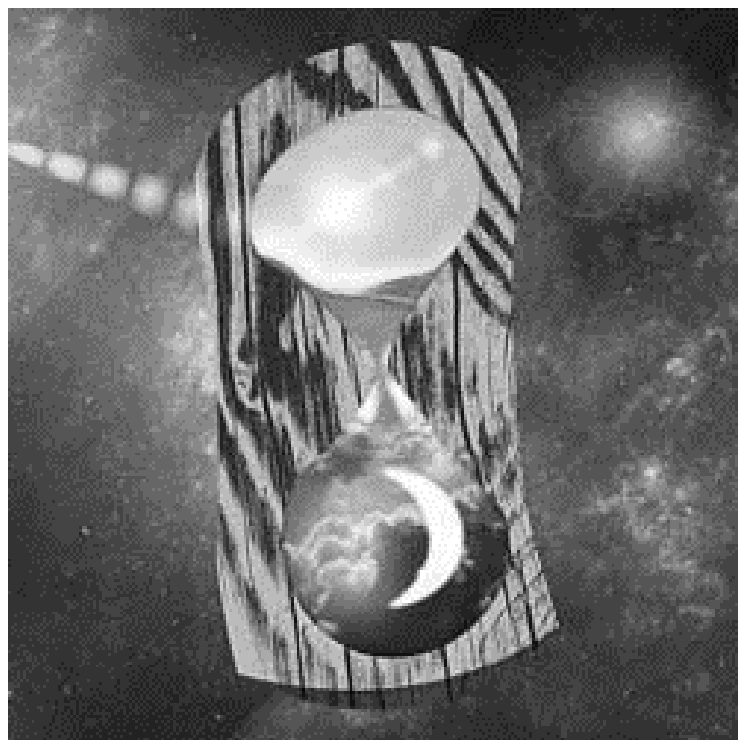
- It can be tempting, as people shaped in part by the scientific and cynical culture we live in, to read a well-known miracle story such as this one with great suspicion. Perhaps, we say, it is nothing more than a conjuring trick. Or we might think that people 'back then' were just more credulous than us. This doesn't do justice to the miracle of water changed into wine. Consider, for example, the person whose job it was to taste the wine. This 'first drinker' or 'steward' is no naïve fool, easily tricked. When he is offered the new wine, his first reaction is to come up with a rational explanation: given that people serve the good wine first, and then the poor wine once everyone is drunk, this must mean that the host is exceptionally generous!
- The power of the miracle lies not in how it was brought about, but in what it shows us about Jesus as God's Son. In the middle of an ordinary event, a wedding, God reveals his unprecedented hospitality. God upends the expectations. In the ordinary run of things, the best wine is served first; in God's reality, our expectations are turned upside down. The miracle happens on 'the third day'. It is a foreshadowing of God's definitive work of love: the resurrection of Jesus on the third day after his crucifixion. In John's Gospel, miracles always proclaim God's love for us in the middle of our ordinary lives.

Reflection

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

John's Gospel makes repeated use of the notion of the 'third day'. It is a feature of Jesus' first miracle in John as well as, for example, the raising of Lazarus – and, of course, the Resurrection of Jesus. The 'third day' matters for John because it ties all the major miracles to God raising Jesus from the dead. What would it mean for us to act as people of the third day? If today is 'day one', then day three is 'the

day after tomorrow'. People sometimes say, 'You never know what tomorrow may bring.' How much more is that true of the day after tomorrow? If we are people of the third day, what does this tell us about hope in God?



Questions for reflection

You may wish to use these questions and the picture to help you think about or discuss issues of sharing.

Questions

- How do you feel when you are waiting for something to change?
- What ordinary things, in your life, would you like God to transform?
- And in your community, what ordinary things would you like God to transform?

Sudoku (Easier!)

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	4		8					6
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1		5					8	
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6	5	9	1	7	4	3	8	2
3	2	7	5	6	1	8	9	4
9	4	1	8	3	7	2	5	6
5	6	8	4	2	9	7	1	3
4	9	5	7	1	3	6	2	8
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(Trickier!)

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

Wordsearch based on 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

V J M A N I F E S T A T I O N R A C S S
D A H H I O L I P S N D W G R K Q A W O
Y S R E T S I S H H D Z Y Q V H B R V Y
E S L Y A I J X V A S S F Y N E X Q A H
B L Y C E L C Z S E E O V Q M N P H R N
X D S L O D I N N D I Z Q V Y T S N I N
I D F Y G Z E N A B T M O B M I W L E S
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G D C S P F P F G T S F P S M H D P X F
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WISDOM
SPIRITUAL
COMMON
ENTICED
SPIRIT
MANIFESTATION

FAITH
ACTIVITIES
GOOD
HEALING
PROPHECY

CONCERNING
BROTHERS
PAGANS
IDOLS
VARIETIES
UNINFORMED

SERVICES
SISTERS
UTTERANCE
MIRACLES
TONGUES

Extra point if you can see miracles, I cant.....!