



ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST
Greenlands Avenue, Redditch B98 7PZ
Parish of Ipsley
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Sunday 7th January 2018

Dear All,

An epiphany is an experience of sudden striking and enlightening realisation which allows a situation to be understood from a new and deeper perspective. A light bulb moment. It is a moment of revelation, of seeing something new, or something familiar in a new way.

So, in this season of epiphany we reflect on what it means to us to see Jesus as a human being, God incarnate. This is our God! The God who has come to be good news to the poor, light in the darkness, the prince of peace, the fulfilment of so many prophecies. Our God is revealed as a baby, a carpenter from Nazareth, a wondering Rabbi...

Our readings throughout the season are about the incarnation, the humanity of Christ, Christ the man. The God man. History is littered with examples of people who think they are gods, but only one example of God becoming human. So throughout epiphany, we celebrate the God who became human, who became one of us, who became flesh and blood and moved into the neighbourhood. The God revealed in Christ the man.

Let's pray for some lightbulb moments where we see him afresh, and new faith arises.

Nikki Groarke

Archdeacon of Dudley

Helping homeless people in Redditch - What can you do?

There are ways you can directly help a homeless person, or even someone who you may perceive as being homeless, including:

1. If you are worried about a homeless person use StreetLink this is a charity who will get in touch with organisations who will go out and speak with the person. You can leave your details if you wish and you will be updated on the outcome of the contact.

<https://www.streetlink.org.uk/> Call 0300 500 0914

2. [Donate food to the foodbank](#) bring items into church for ongoing transportation to the storage facility for Redditch Food Bank. To help ensure there is sufficient storage, please donate items where possible from the list given out by the Foodbank. You can also donate at the Town Hall or Tesco.
3. If you strike up a conversation with a homeless person, direct them during the day to Redditch Borough Council reception at Walter Stranz Square, adjacent to The Palace Theatre. There are trained staff available to help assess a persons needs and help people to make steps to coming off the streets.

Redditch Foodbank food items needed

Fruit Juice Tinned `fruit & Veg UHT Milk Rice Pudding Dried Mash Potato
Jam

Christmas Charity Donation

As in previous year's St Johns will be making a monetary donation to the The Children's Society. If you haven't already and would like to please put any donation in an envelope marked 'Children's Society' in the box in the foyer or hand to Annette.

The Children's Society was founded in 1881 by Sunday School teacher Edward Rudolf and the Church of England. While working in some of England's poorest neighbourhoods, Rudolf was inspired by the practice of Jesus Christ, who taught that children and the poor are at the heart of the Kingdom of God. The charity fights child poverty and neglect and helps all children they are in touch with have a better chance in life. Over 13,000 children and young people were helped last year they also helped to bring about 27 national and regional policy changes.

David Ryan

On Sunday January 14th we will be welcoming the Hospital Chaplain and Diocesan Ecumenical Officer, Revd. David Ryan to preach at our service at 10:30am. The Alexandra Hospital falls within the pastoral area covered by the parish, in particular, St. John's Church. We thought it would be really good to invite David to come and speak about his ministry within the hospital.

Recycling Christmas Cards

We all receive many beautiful Christmas Cards, but what do we do with them afterwards? A friend of a friend makes beautiful houses & flowers from old cards, which are sold to raise funds for the Primrose Hospice. Any she cannot use herself are passed on to other people to use.

If you already have a way of reusing your cards, please feel free to carry on with that, but if you have unwanted cards Christmas or otherwise, that need a good home, Rosie will be happy to pass them on.

Services

Sunday 7th Jan - Baptism of the Lord

10:30am Worship for Everyone with Vicki Quarton & Amanda Worley
'A community of the baptised' *Genesis 1:1-5 & Mark 1:4-11*

6:30pm Holy Communion with Richard Harding
'New Beginnings' *Matthew 2:1-12*

Next Sunday - Epiphany 2

10:30am Morning Worship with Rosemary Humphrey & David Ryan
'The tingle factor' *1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20) & John 1:43-51*

6:30pm Evening Worship

Lectionary Readings

Mon 1 Jn 3.22–4.6; Ps 2.7–end; Mt 4.12–17, 23–end

Tues 1 Jn 4.7–10; Ps 72.1–8; Mk 6.34–44

Wed 1 Jn 4.11–18; Ps 72.1, 10–13; Mk 6.45–52

Thurs 1 Jn 4.19–5.4; Ps 72.1, 17–end; Lk 4.14–22

Fri1 Jn 5.5–13; Ps 147.13–end; Lk 5.12–16

Sat1 Jn 5.14–end; Ps 149.1–5; Jn 3.22–30

Collect for the week

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 forever. Amen.

Also remember members of St Johns prayer Healing Ministry team are available most Sunday mornings and a prayer chain is available everyday, to pray in confidence for you or someone you know. Call Ann Donovan (for prayer chain) in the first instance on 01527 527789.

Diary dates

Thurs 9:30am Holy Communion - St. John's, followed by coffee morning.

Tues 9th Jan 7:30pm DCC Meeting - St. John's

Sat 13th Jan 10-12noon Messy Church at Woodrow Community Rooms.

Please pray for:

- ❖ Garth and Jenny, Richard and Wendy, Ian and Judy.
- ❖ *Licensed Lay Ministers* – Maureen, Rosie and Vicki.
- ❖ *Wardens* – Barry Humphrey and Sharon Forrest.
- ❖ Garth and Jenny as Garth recovers from his operation.
- ❖ The Kigezi Water and Sanitation project we are supporting.
- ❖ Alexandra Hospital: Staff, patients & chaplaincy team serving the community.
- ❖ Graeme and Jackie Russell as he fulfils the role of Community Missioner in Christ Church.
- ❖ Those recovering from surgery: Chris McLaren, Garth Nathaniel, Sam (Grandson of Erica Dilger)
- ❖ Chris Tilley who is ill
- ❖ Our Nation: For our MP Rachel Maclean & the Government involved in Brexit negotiations, for our security services working to keep us safe;
- ❖ DCC Meeting on Tuesday 9th Jan
- ❖ CPAS: Their new initiative “Venture in Schools” which started in May as part of taking the gospel into schools, their work as a “Patronage Society” offering support enabling mission and training leaders;
- ❖ Parish Prayers: : Hatfield Close, Matchborough; Furze Lane, Winyates Green; Aston Close, Woodrow; Oakenshaw Road, Greenlands; Linton Mews, Winyates;

Please keep praying for:

Nancy Borthwick Sylvia Czink Peggy Snellgrove Linda Beasley
The family of Isabel Stephens The family of Sylvia Laight
Vicki and Rob Quarton & family on the passing of Vicki's father.

Contacts

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