

ADVERTISEMENTS

Following the resignation of our independent examiner we are looking for someone to take up this voluntary position for the 2020 accounts and onwards. The accounts and record books are usually ready for inspection by mid-February and need to be reviewed before the APCM, usually at the end of March / beginning of April. No qualifications are required other than a sound financial understanding. If you, or anyone you know would be willing to carry out this small but essential role, then either Pat Rushmere or Caroline Gulliver would be delighted to hear from you.

ONE CAN TRUST

The (plastic) One Can Trust donation box outside the church was removed just before Christmas. All donations have now been delivered & were gratefully received. Thank you to all who donated items which will have helped struggling families at this time. We will let you know when the collection service will resume.

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, Jenny King, Beryl Palmer and Sally Zeybek.
- The recently departed, may their souls rest in peace. And for their families 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. For our own country where infection rates have been rapidly increasing in recent weeks and the health services as they work to cope with increasing numbers of hospital cases.
- 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.

Key Contacts:

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PARISH CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, LACEY GREEN



Coming to Faith, Growing in Faith

Week Commencing
SUNDAY 24TH JANUARY 2021
3RD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

FOCUS ON... THE WEDDINGS AT CANA

Ancient church lectionaries included the Wedding at Cana in Chapter 2 of St. John's Gospel as a reading for the Epiphany. In the contemporary Roman Catholic and the Revised Common Lectionary, it only appears for the Second Sunday of Epiphany during Year C. The Church of England, however, includes this event in all three years of the Common Worship Lectionary. The clue to its position in St. John's Gospel narrative lies in the timing, three days after Jesus is baptised; and in its primacy as the first sign that marked his public ministry, revealing his glory. The disciples saw and believed – it was, for them, a moment of epiphany. It was also an act that saved the newlyweds and their families from a potentially disastrous social faux pa. In an ancient Semitic society that took the contracting of marriage extremely seriously, during a ceremony with attendant feasting that lasted some seven days, for the wine to run out was a flaw with profound consequences. Inadequate supplies for the guests, in a culture that regarded hospitality so highly, would have brought disgrace upon the host families, and blighted the newly married couple's nuptial celebrations. And so, this opening miracle in St. John's Gospel account signposts for us that the mission and ministry of Jesus was focused on building reformed, cohesive communities alongside the healing of individuals. The overwhelming generosity offered by Jesus in providing what amounted to over a hundred and twenty gallons of wine for a wedding hints at the lavish prodigality of God's love. And, theologically speaking, it represents "a foretaste of the heavenly banquet". How, then, to faithfully witness to the vulnerable and open-handed extravagance of divine love is always a significant challenge for the Church. This public sign of the divine nature at the Wedding in Cana tells us that meanness is never an option if we are to embody for others the abundant hospitality of the heavenly kingdom.

Canon Tony Bundock

Weekly Services:

SUNDAY

10:00 am GMT On-line Morning Worship with Hymns on Zoom

TUESDAY

9:30 am GMT On-line Celtic Morning Worship on Zoom

WORSHIP AT ST. JOHN'S

Buckinghamshire is now in **Tier 5** which is in effect a third National Lockdown. Current Guidance is where churches decide to do so and it has been judged safe, collective worship is still permitted, although the latest guidance from the Bishop strongly encourages churches to suspend collective worship in church and switch to on-line services. The PCC has decided that in-church collective worship will be suspended for the present. This will be reviewed by the PCC later in the month or as and when Guidance changes. This decision has been made to protect our congregation due to the high infection rates in Buckinghamshire including with the new more transmissible strain of Covid-19. (The other churches in the Risborough Team are also suspending in-church services during January.)

We will continue to hold an On-line Morning Worship Service with Hymns on Sundays (at 10:00 am GMT for the rest of January). The Tuesday morning service has been replaced with an On-line Celtic Morning Prayer service at 09:30 am GMT. We will also be opening the church for private prayer on two days during the week (Tuesday Morning from 10:00 to 10:30 am and Thursday Evening from 7:00 to 7:30 pm).

COLLECT FOR THE EPIPHANY 3

Almighty God, whose Son revealed in signs and miracles the wonder of your saving presence: renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your mighty power; 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 3

Genesis Ch. 14 VV. 17 – 20
Revelation No. 19 VV. 6 – 10

John Ch. 2 VV. 1 – 11

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

On-line Churches Together in Risborough joint service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity takes place on Sunday 24th January at 3pm streamed on Zoom from Princes Risborough Methodist Church.

Topic: CTR Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Time: Jan 24, 2021 03:00 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89377991295?pwd=MFY3RzRubWJ4alBhNFdSOTlCbVpDQT09>

Meeting ID: 893 7799 1295

Passcode: 501926

MORNING WORSHIP ON THE 3RD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

This Sunday's Online Morning Worship service on Zoom will be led by Canon Tony with assistance from Graham King and start at **10:00 am GMT**. Details are being supplied in the email sending out this Pew Sheet, and are as follows:

Topic: Morning Prayer with Hymns

Time: Jan 24, 2021 **10:00 AM** London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71729717895?pwd=enpGbUk4ME0wVnMwcnp2bmFOcVpV3UT09>

Meeting ID: 717 2971 7895

Passcode: Kw08R4

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PRAYER CHAIN PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK

(THIS SUNDAY THE INTERCESSIONS WILL BE LED BY JUNE BRAZIER)



Heavenly Father, we thank you for your continued presence - especially to be with us in this challenging time.

We earnestly pray for an end to Corona virus throughout the whole world.

We give thanks and pray for all medical services and carers - those who risk their lives to alleviate the suffering of others. Support and encourage them.

We pray that the vaccine will be effective and plentiful.

We pray for an end to conflict and poverty, Peace and Healing to all nations.

Lord, hear our prayers we beseech You.

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.