



**St Andrew's Whittlesey, St Mary's Whittlesey,
St Thomas' Pondersbridge and Holy Trinity Coates**
Church of England Team Ministry:

www.wpcteam.org.uk

Sunday 10 January 2021

Service s 10 January 2021 1st Sunday of Epiphany (Baptism of Christ)-White

09.30am	Zoom	Morning Praise	Genesis 1:1-5
	St Andrews	Cancelled	Psalm 29
	Holy Trinity	Holy Communion	Acts 19:1-7
11.00am	St Marys	Cancelled	Mark 1:4-11
	St Thomas'	Cancelled	

Collect. **Epiphany** Creator of the heavens, who led the Magi by a star to worship the Christ-child: guide and sustain us, that we may find our journey's end in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Baptism of Christ Heavenly Father, at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son: may we recognize him as our Lord and know ourselves to be your beloved children; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen**

Anniversaries 3 -9 January 2021

St Andrew's: Jean Evalyn Joyce 9

St Thomas': Ada Rose Lant 9

Holy Trinity: Cicely Joyce Welbourn 7 Dennis Henry George Amps 7 Thomas George Ping (Michael) 7

St Mary's Laura Amba Chrispina Cole 4 William Chandler Boon 5 Florence Anker 6
Sidney Simon Hunt-Pain 7 Cyril Clifford Gutteridge 7

Monday 11-16 January 2021

Monday	M P	Psalm 2	Amos 1	1Corinthians 1:1-17
Tuesday	M P	Psalm 9	Amos 2	1Corinthians 1:18-end
Wednesday	M P	Psalm 20	Amos 3	1Corinthians 2
Thursday	M P	Psalm 21	Amos 4	1Corinthians 3
Friday	M P	Psalm 67	Amos 5:1-17	1Corinthians 4
Saturday	M P	Psalm 33	Amos 5:18-end	1Corinthians 5

Mid-week Communion Services

13 Wednesday 9.15am Holy Trinity

14 Thursday 9.15am St Mary's - Cancelled

Service s 17 January 2021 2nd Sunday of Epiphany White Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

09.30am	Zoom	Morning Praise	1 Samuel 3:1-20
	St Andrews	Cancelled	Psalm 139:1-5, 12-18
	Holy Trinity	Holy Communion	Revelation 5:1-10
11.00am	St Marys	Cancelled	John 1:43-51

6.00pm St Thomas' Cancelled

Collect Eternal Lord, our beginning and our end: bring us with the whole creation to your glory, hidden through past ages and made known in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Anniversaries 10 -16 January 2021

St Andrew's: Charles Alfred Chapman Olive Brooks 16 Brian Harding 16
St Thomas'

Holy Trinity: Harry Thompson 10 Charles Frederick Neal Bates 10 Brian Lawrence Jackson 10
Mabel Kisby 14 Douglas Claude Dickerson 14 Thomas William (Bill) Harris 15 Thomas Hall 16

St Mary's Ivan George Jackson 14

Monday 18 January -Saturday 23 January 2021

Monday	M P	Psalm 146	Amos 6	1 Corinthians 6:1-11
Tuesday	M P	Psalm 132	Amos 7	1 Corinthians 6:12-end
Wednesday	M P	Psalm 81	Amos 8	1 Corinthians 7:1-24
Thursday	M P	Psalm 76	Amos 9	1 Corinthians 7:25-end
Friday	M P	Psalm 27	Hosea 1:1-21	1 Corinthians 8
Saturday	M P	Psalm 122	Hosea 2:2-17	1 Corinthians 9:1-14

Mid-week Communion Services 20 Wednesday 9.15am Holy Trinity

A Prayer for the world

God of love and hope, you made the world and care for all creation, but the world feels strange right now. The news is full of stories about Coronavirus. Some people are worried that they might get ill. Others are anxious for their family and friends. Be with them and help them to find peace. We pray for the doctors and nurses and scientists, and all who are working to discover the right medicines to help those who are ill. Thank you that even in these anxious times, you are with us. Help us to put our trust in you and keep us safe. Amen

A prayer for all those affected by coronavirus for daily use.

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy. Sustain and support the anxious, be with those who care for the sick, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may find comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

The Ely Prayer

We praise and thank you, God of the journey, for all your gifts to us in the past. We look to you as fellow-traveller and faithful companion on the way ahead. Shelter and protect us from all harm and anxiety; give us grace to let go of all that holds us back; and grant us the courage to meet the new life you have promised us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Please remember in your prayers those who are in residential homes, hospital or hospice & those known personally to us including:

Marie Rogers, Terry Randells, Emma Aindow-Gregory, Lizzie Monk, Joan Kefford, Cheryl Tyner, Judy Stewart, Richard Willows, Mavis Connor, Joyce Jackson, Mary Widgery, Toby Clark, Anne Howell Tony Barnett

Let us remember in our prayers

- all those working for the NHS and in research and the pharmaceutical industry
- all those who cannot work from home and have no choice but to be at risk of becoming infected and infectious
- those in severe economic need and those relying on foodbanks
- those struggling with their mental health in this third lockdown
- our friends in the Diocese of Kigali
- our friends in the Diocese of Vellore
- refugees living in unsanitary conditions
- the people of those countries who are a long way from obtaining vaccine
- all those with the responsibilities of leadership during this pandemic: locally, nationally and across the world.

The families and friends of those who have recently died:

Betty Flintoft

Janette King 11 January Fenland Crematorium 1.30pm

Barbara Richardson 15 January St Mary's 11.00am followed by burial at Whittles Cemetery

Lena Keemar 18 January Peterborough Crematorium 2.00pm

Ronald Moore 21 January St Mary's 1.15pm followed by cremation at Peterborough Crematorium 2.30pm

Michael Munns 25 January Holy Trinity 11.30am followed by cremation at Fenland Crematorium 2.30pm

To support you with your daily prayer and contact with the wider church please make use of the following websites.

Church of England. <https://www.churchofengland.org/>

Prayer online. <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online>

Diocese of Ely. <https://www.elydiocese.org/>

Ely Cathedral. <https://www.elycathedral.org/worship-at-home>

The diocesan prayer calendar can be found at

<https://www.elydiocese.org/growing-in-faith/prayer-calendar/>

Ministry Team - Contacts

ASSISTANT PARISH PRIEST

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If there is anything that we can do to help, listen, collect something, pray, that will help you through this time please be assured that we will do our very best, please use contacts above.

Notices

Worship During Lockdown 3 Following guidance from the Bishops office we have invited each PCC in the benefice to consider whether or not to continue with worship in person during this current lockdown. Factors to consider in addition to the much higher infectiousness of the new strain, include local infection rates, the suitability of the church building for worship with Covid restrictions and the relative vulnerability of the congregation.

After due consideration our four PCC's have decided to suspend worship in person at St Mary's & St Andrew's at Whittlesey and at St Thomas' Pondersbridge. Holy Trinity Coates have decided to continue with in person services at this time, but will review the position in a fortnight.

If you do choose to attend a service at Coates, please do play your part in ensuring we are as Covid Secure as possible by observing the practice of refraining from chatting to each other and not standing too closely together across different households & making sure masks are worn covering nose and mouth. Please be understanding that our ministers have been advised not to greet people at the church door on leaving as it causes a bottleneck and encourages mingling and chatting.

During this lockdown we will of course persist with online worship on zoom on a Sunday morning and those of you on email will receive details of those services week by week. I will continue to seek to gather people during the week, and we have plans for an online lent course. We will also revisit the contact we are able to have with those of you unable to attend online and will review what else we may be able to do to sustain one another's shared and common prayer life as congregations during this time, regardless of whether we can gather together or not.

Be assured of our prayers for all of you during this time, as we all play our part in keeping not only one another safe, but also our wider communities. With Peace in Christ Jesus, Rev'd Phil.

Additions to Newsletter If you have anything that you would like to share with members of our congregations through the Newsletter, please send to Jane our editor. It may be something in the parish you would like everyone to know about or perhaps something more personal - things that have encouraged me, or places where I have seen God at work. We would love to hear from you.

St Andrew's Church 100 Club If you would like to join the St Andrew's Church 100 club for this year, please contact Ann and David Mason on 01733 208215 or by email on andandave49@yahoo.co.uk

God in the Thunderstorm, God who is for us.

In our readings this Sunday from Old Testament and new, I spy a thread, a familiar and reassuring thread of the God who is for us. Grab a bible and turn with me to each reading in turn.

In the opening chapter of **Mark's Gospel, chapter 1 verses 4-11** we once again see John the Baptist, just as we did during advent, but now in this epiphany season Jesus comes to John to be baptised. The one whom John said he was not even worthy to stoop down and tie his sandals. Here comes Jesus placing himself under John's ministry of baptism, a baptism of repentance. A baptism of declaring to choose turn ones life around and to turn to God once more. A baptism that surely Jesus does not require. Yet here he is, on the banks of the river Jordan identifying himself fully with our humanity, identifying himself fully with our fallen and broken state, and humbling himself to walk with us in our condition, to walk with us in our lives. Here is the foot-washing servant king humbling himself to be baptised by John into this baptism of repentance, into our baptism of need. Thus, when the voice from heaven declares this is my beloved with whom I am well pleased, this announcement from heaven falls upon us all, for in our baptism, in our decision to turn to Christ, we are made one in Christ Jesus. Our being and our identity becomes tied up in His, and the favour of God that is cast upon Christ becomes cast upon us also, as fellow children of God with Jesus.

This is the God who is for us. Who stands with us, serves us even and pronounces in Christ his favour over us.

Now let's head to the book of **Acts chapter 19:1-17** and read of Paul's encounter with the early church in Ephesus. Here just twelve individuals have come together, as 'followers' having received a baptism of repentance just as John the Baptist had taught. They were decided to turn their lives afresh towards God, and here comes Paul who shares with them the Good News of Jesus Christ. Accepting Christ as their Lord and saviour they are baptised in the name of Jesus, and receive precisely the same Holy Spirit that descends upon Christ at his baptism. Here we see the God who is at work ahead of us in the lives of people around us, just as he was at work in Ephesus before Paul even gets there! And we see the Holy Spirit being given to the people who follow Jesus, the same Holy Spirit given to Jesus in His baptism, and the very same Holy Spirit given to us as we receive Christ for ourselves.

This is the God who is for us, who works for us, and works in those around us, and pours out His Spirit upon us.

Now we head to the psalms, to **Psalms 29** – entitled 'God in the thunderstorm' – and here in a song written by king David we read of the God who is above and over all things – who is even in the thunderstorm that rages, whose voice is even greater than the storm that is contained within it. Remember the Jesus who calmed the storm from the prow of the boat, and the frightened disciples with him. This our God, above even the greatest of storms. Whatever we feel we may be facing, whatever storm comes our way, this is the God who is for us, Greater than any and every storm.

And lastly to **Genesis, chapter 1:1-4** have a read... do you remember the opening statements? Do you remember the first act of creation? The scriptures start in darkness, God speaks, and brings light. We might remember our Christmas readings of the light that shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. We might note that scripture, while it begins with darkness, ends with light, in the holy city of revelation, where there is no need for moon, or sun or lamp, for there is no darkness. By the end of scripture darkness is gone. Gone in its entirety. This metaphor of light and darkness runs through every book of scripture, and here we see the God who is for us, who has determined to bring every darkness to an end, leaving only light.

I don't know about you, but at the head of this year, following the challenges and griefs of 2020 and the challenges and possible griefs that lay ahead of us still, I needed these passages of hope. I needed to be reminded that whatever else happens. Whatever rages around me or within, our God is for us, from the very beginning and to the very end. I need to be reminded of the God who is above all things and over all things. I need to be reminded of the God who has determined to bring all darkness to an end. And I need to be reminded of the God who has demonstrated His love for us, and that he is for us, in the most remarkable manner possible, in the person of Jesus Christ.

This is God in the thunderstorm, God who is with us, God who is for us. In Christ Jesus, Our Lord, Amen. Rev'd Phil