



**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 24 January 2021

Services 24 January 2021 3rd Sunday of Epiphany White

09.30am Zoom Morning Praise
 Holy Trinity Holy Communion

Genesis 14:17-20 Psalm 128 Revelation 19:6-10 John 2:1-11

Collect 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. Amen

Anniversaries 17-23 January 2021

St Andrew's: Charles Frederick Brittan 17 Bertha May Buckman 18 Reginald Edmund Kefford 21
Elaine Trickey 21 Alfred David Harris 22 James Patrick (Jim) O'Brien 22

St Thomas': Richard Alfred Miller 21

Holy Trinity: Connie Fletcher 19 William (Bill) Redhead 21

St Mary's: Kathleen Francis Long 17 Kitty Alma Sharpe 19 Clarence Victor Copeman 20

Monday 25 January -Saturday 30 January 2021

Monday	M P	Psalm 147	Ezekiel 3:22-end	Philippians 3:1-14
Tuesday	M P	Psalm 36	Hosea 4:1-16	1 Corinthians 10:1-13
Wednesday	M P	Psalm 46	Hosea 5:1-7	1 Corinthians 10:14-11:1
Thursday	M P	Psalm 47	Hosea 5:8-6:6	1 Corinthians 11:2-16
Friday	M P	Psalm 65	Hosea 6:7-7:2	1 Corinthians 11:17-end
Saturday	M P	Psalm 68	Hosea 8	1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Mid-week Communion Service - 27 Wednesday 9.15am Holy Trinity

Service s 31 January 2021 3rd Sunday of Epiphany White

09.30am Zoom Morning Praise
 Holy Trinity Holy Communion

Mid-week Communion Service 3Wednesday 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, Richard Willows, Mavis Connor, Joyce Jackson, Mary Widgery, Tony Barnett, Nicholas/Christine Dale

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:

Lena Keemar Ronald Moore

Michael Munns 25 January Holy Trinity 11.30am followed by cremation at Fenland Crematorium 2.30pm
Frank Hallam 26 January Graveside service at Whittlesey Cemetery 1.30pm
Elsie Anker 27 January Fenland Crematorium 12.30pm
Leslie Holman 27 January St Mary's 10.30 followed by burial at Whittlesey Cemetery 11.15am
William Winfield 3 February Peterborough Crematorium 3.00pm
Frederick Howsham 5 February Peterborough Crematorium 11.00am

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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MRS JANE RANDELLS 07870 942362 - jane.randells@gmail.com (Editor)

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

Message from Anne Howell I would like to thank everyone for their prayers and kind wishes after my heart attack. I am now well on the road to recovery. God bless you all and thank you again. Keep safe and hopefully we will all meet up again soon. Anne Howell.

Toby Clark Thankfully Toby is making good progress after suffering with Long-Covid. His mum, Isabel Clark, would like to thank you all for your prayers during this difficult time.

JUDY STEWART: We are sad to announce that Judy passed away on Thursday despite having found contentment with her life at the Gables, Coates. Our deepest condolences are with Gary, his daughters Denise and Emma and their families. There will be a short funeral service in the near future but a full Memorial and Thanksgiving Service for Judy's life will be held in St Mary's later when we are free of Covid-19 restrictions and can all attend to celebrate her life.

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 annandave49@yahoo.co.uk

Expanding the ministry team We are looking for willing volunteers to assist with the collation, development and production of the news sheet each week. It may be an individual or a team of people who could compile the newsletter for the benefice each week, collating notices from each of the churches, on behalf of the ministry team. If you are willing to be involved and would like to volunteer please speak to Jane Randell using the contact details below. jane.randells@gmail.com

Pride in Fenland Awards Ceremony for 2020 The Pride in Fenland Awards was to have been held on Wednesday 18th March 2020 and had to be postponed due to the Coronavirus Covid-19 outbreak. The ceremony is an evening when unsung heroes are given the recognition they deserve. With still being unable to celebrate the collective achievements together, instead, an online awards evening was held on Tuesday 12th January. This year (i.e. for the 2020 ceremony) no individual or group from Whittlesey and district featured as winner or runner up in the various categories; a) Volunteer in the community b) Young person in the community c) Group, club or organization in the community d) Sports in the community. However, the Special Judges Award winner was Deborah Slator (Helping Whittlesey etc) and runner up Carol Turner, both of whom were nominees in the volunteer in the community category. Many congratulations to Carol for all she has done and continues to do in Pondersbridge and for the people there.

Message from Chairman of Churches Together in Whittlesey & District in this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Christian Unity Week began on Monday 18th January and continues to the Conversion of Paul on Monday 25th January. Clearly what could be done during this time is fairly limited. Gatherings of people who do not normally meet, indoors, is a non-starter. It would have been good to get together during the designated week, but we just have to accept that this year it is not on.

This still leaves the summer when we hope that the restrictions will have eased, so there is the chance that the regular open-air gathering at Coates can go ahead. Obviously different churches have reacted in different ways to the possibility of worship which is still allowed by the government. The church to which I belong is continuing with reduced congregations and strict restrictions on numbers to maintain social distancing and with thorough cleansing both before and after the event. But I fully understand that not all churches feel able to do this. Let's hope that this year with its prospect of widespread vaccinations is better for the people of this country than last.

Father Michael Vulliamy (St Jude's RC Church, Whittlesey) Chairman of Churches Together in Whittlesey and District

Thank you from Helping Whittlesey We are a reactive community group, the good work we do could not be achieved without the support of our local community. The generous donation from St Andrew's Whittlesey, St Mary's Whittlesey, St Thomas' Pondersbridge and Holy Trinity Coates Church of England Team Ministry of toys and £145 allowed us to provide many gifts for all the families that came to us for help this year. Additionally we were able to support pensioners living on their own and residents in care homes that have no family to support them. This year we were able to support the elderly more than any other year. Please thank all those that contributed towards our cause. Deborah Slator Helping Whittlesey 07843383368

Reflections for Sunday 24th January 2021 – Epiphany 3 : Genesis 14.17-20. Revelation 19.6-10. John 2.1-11.

How can we speak highly enough of God's bountiful goodness?

The visit of the mysterious Melchizedek to Abram in the Genesis reading seems far from an everyday happening. It speaks to us of the blessing of the "God most High" when Melchizedek, both a Canaanite Priest and King of Salem, comes to meet Abram after Abram's victory over a number of other Canaanite Kings. They had come unsuccessfully to destroy Abram and God's people in battle. In goodwill, he brought bread and wine for Abram and his people and lauded the many blessings which he saw that God had heaped upon Abram, and Abram responded by giving him goods in return, one-tenth of what he had. Not only is Melchizedek a king but he is a good and holy man who also recognises the bountiful goodness of Abram's God. Salem becomes the future Jerusalem, built by King David, a place of hope for so many. What they did not know at that time was that God's greatest gift to the World was yet to come through the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus, and the salvation and grace offered to all those that believe in him.

What Revelation 19 tells us about is the marriage of Jesus with his Church, when John talks about the marriage supper, he refers to the bride of Christ, his Church alive with the bountiful goodness and blessings of Jesus the Saviour.

Well what about the vast quantity of very good quality wine which Jesus produced in the water jars kept for ritual washing in our Gospel reading? Today, Muslims wash in a separate room before entering the mosque to pray reflecting the same ancient tradition of ritual cleansing before coming into the presence of God. We recognise Jesus' first miracle performed at the wedding at Cana in Galilee where to their shame the hosts, probably friends of Mary the Mother of Jesus, ran out of wine.

Jesus' act is a magnificent symbol of God's limitless love. Jesus doesn't say "that's it, I've produced enough or this wine is good enough for their purposes." He produces more than they need, a vast quantity, although wedding festivities in Palestine in Jesus' time would have taken place over several days requiring copious supplies of wine and food to keep the guests happy. Moreover, Jesus produces wine of a superb quality since we hear that the steward comments to the bridegroom that whilst everyone at weddings serves the good wine first, so that the inferior wine can be served later when the guests are intoxicated and will not notice when the inferior wine is served later, yet here the best wine is saved until last.

In other words Jesus offers plenty and does not stint in the quality and so demonstrates God's limitless love and generosity to us showing that nothing but the best is good enough for God's children.

What does this say to us in how we are expected to lead our lives for God? Just as Jesus called his disciples and followers, rough-hewn as some might have been, Jesus is calling us to take part in his transforming work that continues daily. We are also called to show abundant generosity in assisting with the life-changing transformation of others. The quality that we participate in producing is the wonder of God's Word and Promise to us all. So, let's get out our wine making kits and join in with the wine production! We need to make enough of it to bring a wonderful quality of life in Christ through the Spirit to others around us. JC.