

## Parish Notices

**The PCC will be meeting to discuss and decide on our future Parish Services**

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### **Sunday Morning Holy Communion**

10.00am -

St Martins Church Zoom Link for Services

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/856888392>

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### **Thursday Morning Holy Worship 10.00am**

St Martins Church Zoom Link for Services

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/866070731>

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**PCC Meeting – 11<sup>th</sup> January 6.30pm, Via Zoom**

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### **Music in Worship for Epiphanytide**

For those who like Roger Jones' Christian Musicals: his latest audio-visual composition for Epiphany, *Three Wise Camels* (conceived, written and recorded entirely during the 2020 pandemic), is now available on-line at: [Three Wise Camels - Lockdown Video Premiere - YouTube](#). An audio-only version of his previous Epiphany work, *The Stargazers* (1976), is also available online at: [Stargazers by Roger Jones - YouTube](#)

Andrew Williamson

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**HAPPY NEW YEAR!** Please make supporting The Parish of All Saints with St Philip, Maidstone your 2021 resolution! It's easy, FREE and makes such a BIG difference to us during these difficult times. All you need to do is use #easyfundraising to raise FREE donations for us every time you shop online with over 4,300 retailers. Plus if you sign up, we'll get a £5 bonus donation: [https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/theparishofallsaintswithstphilipmaidstone/?referral\\_campaign=c2s&utm\\_source=refsharebox](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/theparishofallsaintswithstphilipmaidstone/?referral_campaign=c2s&utm_source=refsharebox)



Live Worship is streamed from Canterbury Cathedral Please click [here](#) to join the service. **Worship Times**  
Morning Prayer – 10am, Evening Prayer – 5.30pm  
Sunday Eucharist – 12noon, Sunday Compline – 8pm

The Parish of All Saints  
With St Philip, Maidstone and  
St Stephen, Tovil  
[www.maidstoneallsaints.co.uk](http://www.maidstoneallsaints.co.uk)

Sunday 10th January  
Baptism of Christ

**No Parish Eucharist**



### **Collect**

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 for ever.

### **Reading**

#### **Genesis 1:1-5**

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

## **Gospel**

### **Mark 1:4-11**

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.' In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.

### **Post Communion**

Lord of all time and eternity, you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son: by the power of your Spirit complete the heavenly work of our rebirth through the waters of the new creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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### **Special prayers for those in need**

*Matt 5.3 'Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven'*

Paul Crease, Vera Alflatt, Audrey Little, Daphne Holland, Nigel Gunyon, Mary Wheeler, Jane Sadler, Tricia (Barbara's Sister) David Johnson, Ray Stephens, Sue Payne & Family

### **Special Prayers of Hope and Compassion**

Clive & Andrea Lever, Rosemary & John Fowler, Keith Manuell & Family

### **Departed**

John Coates (A member of All Saints Choir for Many Years)  
June Dorothy Meeking (Janet Dredge's Mother)  
Jean Williamson  
Rowan Rose  
Millie Moss

Our thoughts are with the families of  
Rowan Rose, Millie Moss, John Coates  
June Dorothy Meeking, Jean Williamson

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***If anyone would like to add anything to the weekly notices please speak to [mollieneaves@gmail.com](mailto:mollieneaves@gmail.com)***

**Parish Office - 01622 688270**  
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**[www.stphilipschurchmaidstone.co.uk](http://www.stphilipschurchmaidstone.co.uk)**

**Our Facebook Page:**  
**[Click Here for our Facebook Page](#)**

### **Church Wardens:**

**Denise Joy –**  
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**Telephone – 07788 634047**  
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## An Epiphany Reflection

It's not very often that you hear the Queen talk explicitly about her Christian Faith but in her Christmas speech she was unequivocal, 'the teachings of Christ have served as my inner light.' It clearly drives who she is and the values she holds.

It was not an inner light that drew the wise men to the manger on that first Epiphany, but rather the star that shone in the East that drew them there.

However, when they arrived, it was no longer the star that shone in the East that held them there but the light of love, mercy and compassion that shone forth from the Christ child, so much so that their hearts and lives were changed forever. Instead of returning to the corrupt and violent rule of Herod, they turned their backs on him and returned to their own country to live, we might assume, a new and transformed life.

As we begin this New Year with another lockdown deprived of social contact and once again fearful for our own health and the health of those we love, how can we ensure that the inner light of Christ's love, hope and compassion continues to shine in and through us. Perhaps this prayer might help

*Christ as a light illumine and guide me. Christ as a shield overshadow me. Christ under me, over me, beside me on my left and my right. This day be within and without me, lowly and meek, yet all powerful. Be in the heart of each to whom I speak; in the mouth of each who speaks to me. This day be within me and without me; Christ as a light; Christ as a shield; Christ beside me on my left and my right.*

## **A short act of worship for the Epiphany Season**

During Epiphany we celebrate the revealing of the Christ light to the world.  
As we gather in these uncertain times, we light a candle to remind us that however dark it may seem, God's promise remains true, *'I am with you always, even to the end of time'*

A candle is lit (*allow yourselves a few moments of quiet reflection*)

Lord, touch my lips  
**that I may sing your praise with all my heart**

Shine in my soul, O light of the world  
**Come to my aid, O Saviour and Lord**

Glory to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit  
**Mystery of love, behind, through, and beyond all things**

I will worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness  
**Praise to you Christ, beloved Son of God**

As we turn our faces to you, O God, let our worship be once more a new beginning  
Cleanse our spirits with your mercy, draw us ever deeper into your love  
and accept our offering of praise and prayer on behalf of the world  
through Jesus Christ our brother and our saviour. Amen

## **Psalm 67**

God be merciful to us and bless us  
and make the light of your countenance shine upon us

That your ways may be known upon earth  
your saving health among all the nations

Let the peoples praise you, O God  
Let all the peoples praise you

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy; for you judge the peoples with equity  
and govern the nations upon earth

Then shall the earth bring forth her increase  
and God, even our own God, shall give us his blessing

God shall bless us  
and all the ends of the earth shall stand in awe of him

Bless us, O God, as we labour for peace, healing, and justice  
on this fruitful earth, that the nations may see your glory  
and praise your name for ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

## **The Gospel Reading for the day**

*You may wish to spend some time reflecting on the passage in conversation or silence*

## **Prayers for the Journey**

Journeying God who beckons us to join you on the road  
be with all your people as we continue to walk through these difficult days

Give courage to the cautious and the anxious; strength to the weary, especially our key workers; comfort to the sick, the troubled and those who are afraid, and hope to those who are broken in spirit

When we are unsure of where you are leading and cannot chart our path or progress, give us trust and a toleration of not knowing

When we are certain about the direction we are heading, give us humility, and the grace to listen and learn from each new situation

As the wise men brought gifts to the Christchild,  
so may we bring gifts to one another to help us on our way

May we share our resources justly  
May we find opportunities to help each other grow in grace and love  
May we take quietness with us where ever we go  
and exercise care and kindness in all our encounters

May we stand in solidarity with the oppressed and suffering  
weep with those who weep and rail against those who peddle injustice

Journeying God, help us to follow you, however risky it seems  
for in you lies our ultimate security, our greatest freedom

## **The Lord's Prayer**

Lord Jesus Christ, you have shown yourself to the nations  
and transformed many by your radiant light.  
Your ongoing revelations bring a continual rebirth, recreating each of us in your likeness.  
May today's rising sun remind us that your light is for the healing of the nations. Amen

## **Blessing**

God of God, Light of Light, true God of true God

**Bless us**

Object of the wise men's search, subject of Simeon's song,  
fulfilment of the Baptist's preaching

**Bless us**

Mary's son, Joseph's son, God's only son

**Bless us and keep us this day and every day**