

The Benefice of Foremark and Repton with Newton Solney

The Third Sunday of Epiphany - Sunday 24th January 2021

Daily Reading Sunday 24th January to Saturday 30th January
Sunday 24th January

Genesis 14: 17 - 20

When the King of Elam, Chedorlaomer, was raiding Sodom and Gomorrah, he captured Abram's nephew Lot. Abram pursued him and defeated his army. The King of Sodom, whose nation had been oppressed by Chedorlaomer, was keen to show his appreciation.

Revelation 19: 6 - 10

As God's justice unfolds, and the forces of evil are defeated, angels tell of when Christ will come and gather his church to himself.

John 2: 1 - 11

The first miracle recorded in the Fourth Gospel was not only a wondrous event but a sign of the amazing transformation Christ would bring to the world.

Monday 25th January (Conversion of St Paul)

Psalm 66, Ezekiel 3:22-27, Philippians 3:1-14

Tuesday 26th January (Timothy and Titus)

Psalm 36, Hosea 4:1-16, 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Wednesday 27th January

Psalm 46, Hosea 5:1-7, 1 Corinthians 10:14-11:1

Thursday 28th January (Thomas Aquinas)

Psalm 47, Hosea 5:8-6:6, 1 Corinthians 11:2-16

Friday 29th January

Psalm 65, Hosea 6:7-7:2, 1 Corinthians 11:17-34

Saturday 30th January (King Charles)

Psalm 68, Hosea 8, 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Next Sunday will celebrate The Presentation of Christ in the Temple [Candlemas]



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

FOR OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

All continuing to provide spiritual and pastoral care to our parishes and those within the wider community during this period of COVID-19.

All our Church, Messy Church and Youth Alpha families that they may continue to deepen their faith.

Those serving God, here and abroad: Nick Parish training for ordination, Sarah Attwood as she continues her ministry with the church in Bosnia.

Those in need of long-term prayerful support: Andrew Pitchford, Lynn Wells, Ian Tennant, Samantha Taylor, Ted Weston, Alf Booth, Kay Howard, Claire Rose, Audrey Morris, Joan Taylor, Robin Nelson, Carl Baker, Shirley Wells, Lorna Griffiths, Karen Perks.

Prayer requests: Nazanin & family, for all affected by the coronavirus and all seeking to contain & combat this pandemic, for all providing care and support at this time.

Those who have recently died and those known to us, R.I.P: Avril Kerry, Maggie Tennant, and their family and friends who mourn them.

BENEFICE SERVICES AT ST WYSTAN'S

10.00am on SUNDAYS

Will continue during this lockdown.

PLEASE NOTE LIVE-STREAMING WILL BE ON ZOOM

These are the instructions for joining

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7855049461>

Meeting ID: 785 504 9461

Telephone: 0203 901 7895

Enter the Meeting ID: 785 504 9461 when prompted. There is no password required.

The service will be uploaded to YouTube and Facebook afterwards.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

With apologies I misread my diary and did not advertise last Monday as the start of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Today would have seen us hosting our brothers and sisters from The U.R.C. but that has not been possible. Our thoughts and prayers however are with them, especially as Graham Maskery is now having to shield so is not able to leave home.

ROOF REPAIRS AND PORCH ROOF RENEWAL - ST WYSTAN'S.

In late October we were delighted to receive a grant offer of over £19,000 from the Government's Heritage Stimulus Fund administered by Historic England and the Church of England as part of the Culture Recovery Fund for Capital projects. This will provide 80% of the cost (excluding VAT) of the necessary work to repair the lead roofs and gutters and renew the porch roof. We hope to receive further grants to help meet the balance. **The work is likely to take about 6 weeks. The church will remain open as normal, [if not as pleasant to look at!!] during this time.**

VOTIVE CANDLE STAND

Within the hour of the newsletter being sent out I had received an offer to purchase the Stand we would like. We are now seeking the Archdeacon's permission to install it and once we have that the purchase will go ahead.

I was greatly moved to receive a second offer from another family a couple of days later. Blessings on all who are generous at this time in whatever way that generosity might be displayed.

Thank you. Vicar Martin

VICAR LEAVE

From the end of this week until St Valentine's Day I will be on leave. I shall return on February 14th, the two Sunday services before being covered by David Fergus [Thank you David]. As I am unable to go away I shall be on holiday at home – and would therefore appreciate the space I would normally get by going away. Therefore if you need to get in touch with someone for pastoral or other matters please contact one of the Churchwardens [George, Stephen, Ann, Heather, Brenda] or the ministry team of Stephen, Ruth, Wendy Longden and Nick Parish or the Administrator Rebecca as appropriate.

WINTER OPENING TIMES - OUR CHURCHES CONTINUE TO BE OPEN FOR PRAYER

ST MARY'S [EVERY DAY] 10.00 – 3.00pm.

ST WYSTAN'S [WEEK DAYS] 10.00 – 4.00pm

St Wystan's is open on Saturdays 10.00AM – 3.00pm then it will be cleaned and set up ready for Sunday.

On **Sundays** the church will be cleaned after the service and then open for prayer until **4.00pm**.

COVID SITUATION UPDATE

Last week we published the situation about singing in services. Here are the current regulations about Weddings and Funerals, so that if someone asks you as a 'church goer' you know the score.

Weddings

Weddings must only take place with up to 6 people. Anyone working is not included. These should only take place in exceptional circumstances, for example, an urgent marriage where one of those getting married is seriously ill and not expected to recover, or is to undergo debilitating treatment or life-changing surgery. Weddings must only take place in COVID-19 secure venues unless in exceptional circumstances.

Funerals

Funerals may continue to happen in church with a maximum number of 30 present. In addition the minimum number of 'workers' are allowed. Crematoria have different rules in regard to numbers. The funeral director will be able to answer questions about what happens there. In church singing by a soloist is allowed.

The Burial of Ashes is allowed but only with a maximum of 6 in attendance.

In all forms of service rules for social distancing, face masks, track and trace, and cleaning are the same as they are for a Sunday service.

DAILY PRAYER – A small group of us continue to say Morning Prayer each weekday from 9.00 – 9.30am

We use a Service Order from Iona Abbey. We 'meet' on Zoom and the telephone link works for this as well. If you wish to join us, then you are most welcome. Please ask Rebecca for a copy of the service order and a Zoom link.

ASH WEDNESDAY

To coin a Star Trek phrase, "It's the imposition of ashes Jim, but not as we know it." Ash Wednesday Services are permitted if we wish to hold one, [lockdown or not – Ash Wednesday is on Feb. 17th]. Those wishing to receive the ashes would have them 'sprinkled' on their head, not marked on their forehead. Oil would not be used. Ashes could be sprinkled on the head dry or as the Roman Catholic Church has advised, could be mixed with holy water and that sprinkled on the head. **I would be grateful if you could let me know your views on holding this service by Wednesday this week** so that a decision can be made before I take my leave. thevicarofrepton@gmail.com

DAILYHOPE PHONE LINE

DailyHope, a free national telephone line, offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of the phone.

A Church of England initiative in partnership with CONNECTIONS at Holy Trinity Claygate, and Faith in Later Life.



The line – which is available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044** – has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services during the period of restrictions in mind; to provide comfort and spiritual nourishment to the most isolated in our society.

"With many in our country on lockdown, it's important that we support those who are feeling lonely and isolated, whatever age they are."

Archbishop Justin Welby