

The Parish Church of St Mary Oldswinford

Sunday January 9th 2022

Baptism of Christ

Our services this week are as follows:



10.00am - A Service of Baptism in the Eucharist on the Feast of the Baptism of Christ

Lead: Rev'd John Flitcroft **Preacher:** Rev'd John Flitcroft

Warden: Judy Hall

Stewards: Richard Hall with Gill Davies

Reader: Gill Davies

Intercessions: Judith Nex

Baptism: Hamish Alan MacLeod

MU Helper: Susan Clark

6:30pm - Choral Evensong

Leader: Rev'd John Flitcroft

Reader: Angela Price

Readings: Isaiah 55.1-11 and Romans 6.1-11

10:30am Thurs. 13th January - Holy Communion (BCP)

Leader: Rev'd John Flitcroft **Preacher:** Rev'd John Flitcroft

Stewards: Nigel Tonks with Elaine Buchan

Reader: Jill Finney

New Year, New Prayer Groups

A new series of prayer and reflection meetings begins Tuesday, 11th January for 4 weeks until 1st February. We will hold these in church from 1.30 pm, (for coffee or tea), with a start at 2 pm to finish by 3 pm. Please do come along and join us.

Living in Love and Faith

Throughout the country, Church of England parishes are being encouraged to explore the Church's teaching on marriage and sexuality before a debate at General Synod this year. The Living in Love and Faith (LLF) initiative aims to provide a safe space in which to ask "how questions about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage fit within the bigger picture of the good news of Jesus Christ?" And: "What does it mean to live in love and faith together as a Church?" If you are interested in being part of a group looking at these questions, please talk to Rev'd John. Find out more online at: [About Living in Love and Faith | The Church of England](#)

Collect for this week:

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.**

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 43. 1-7

Thus says the LORD,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.
For I am the LORD your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.
I give Egypt as your ransom,
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.
Because you are precious in my sight,
and honored, and I love you,
I give people in return for you,
nations in exchange for your life.
Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you;
I will say to the north, "Give them up,"
and to the south, "Do not withhold;
bring my sons from far away
and my daughters from the end of the earth—
everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made."

This is the Word of the Lord
THANKS BE TO GOD.



The Gospel Reading: Luke 3. 15-17, 21-22

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke
GLORY TO YOU, O LORD.

'In the wilderness John proclaimed a baptism of repentance.'

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptise you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Now when all the people were baptised, and when Jesus also had been baptised and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST.

Post Communion Prayer:

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. **Amen.**

We invite you to offer prayers for

Worldwide Church: Iglesia Anglicana de Chile: Bishop Hector Zavala.

Churches Together: St. James' Church, Wollaston.

From our Diocesan Prayer Diary.....

Plough Sunday

Traditionally, Plough Sunday has been observed on the First Sunday of Epiphany since the Victorian age, however, it has a much older association with the first working day after the twelve days of Christmas, hence the phrase Plough Monday used in some places. In the past, ploughs were often kept in the parish church and were blessed at this service. After long winters, during which farm work was scarce, the observance of this agricultural festival looked ahead to the time of sowing and the promise of harvest to come. Although the nature of farming has changed over the centuries, today Plough Sunday is still seen as a way of celebrating farming and human labour more generally near the start of the calendar year. It is an opportunity to cherish the land and to remind us all of our dependence upon it and upon God.

The work of St Mary's.....

For those who will visit St Mary's this week to find sanctuary and peace. For Hamish Alan MacLeod who has been Baptised here this morning. For his parents and Godparents who will support him. For those participating in the prayers and reflection group on Tuesday. For those attending the standing committee meeting on Wednesday. For those who have left prayers on our prayer board.

Those Living in: Sheraton Grange / Albemarle Road.

Local Community: Age Concern.

Among those who are ill: Richard Willetts, Ian Moore, Bob Bowen, Dorothy Gibson, Margaret Shepherd, Paul Chard.

We continue to pray for: Stephen Webb, Gill Franks, Harold Swithenbank, Peter & Angela Viner, Helen Hunt, Susan Haskew, Natalie Jones, Audrey Tranter, David Johnson, Colin Millward, Pamela & Roy Peacock, Josh Raffan, Judy Taylor, Joe and Ros Yeates, Rory Macintosh, Elian Irvine-Boden, Martin Aston, Ruth Hardy, Anna Scudamore, Jonathan, Noah, Cantius, the May family and the Rogerson family.

Those in nursing home care:

Norma Wren, Melitta Ling, Meriel Harris, Betty Shore and Betty Taylor.

The departed: Christopher Lees, June Turley, Roma Wright, Dennis Ward, Jean Watkins, Margaret Wright, Pauline Morris and Barbara Finney.

