

**All Saints Church, Kempston
St James's Church, Biddenham**

Virtual Church News

16th January 2022

**2nd Sunday of Epiphany
(3rd Sunday)**



Welcome to Virtual Church News. Hard copies will be circulated to those without access to email/social media. If you know of anyone without email who you think would benefit from a hard copy, please call Jacqui on 0778 6886 710 or email her at stjameschurchbiddenham@gmail.com

Our Normal Sunday Services

1st Sunday of the month

- 8.00am Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion at All Saints
9.30am Joint All Age Service (followed by said Holy Communion) at St James's

2nd Sunday of the month

- 9.30am Morning Worship at St James's
10.00am Holy Communion Service at All Saints
6.00pm Service of Evening Prayer at St James's

3rd Sunday of the month

- 8.00am **Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion at All Saints***
9.30am **Holy Communion Service at St James's**
7.00pm **Revive: Coffee/Bible/Fellowship**

4th Sunday of the month

- 9.30am Morning Worship at St James's
10.00am Holy Communion Service at All Saints

5th Sunday of the month (when there is one)

- 9.30am Service at St James's
6.30pm Sung Evensong at St James's

We also hold online services during the week via Zoom at 9.00am on Monday and 6.00pm on Wednesday. To join these Zoom services, simply go to Zoom and enter meeting ID 998 074 6039.

We hope you will join us at our services as we explore a mixture of both traditional and new ways of worship.

Revive - 3rd Sundays

A short act of worship over a coffee, then unfolding the scriptures together. 7.00pm in St James's Church Barn. Everyone invited.



Reading for the Week

John 2.1-11

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Message from Rev Eric Lomax

All is well, we have not run out of wine. The bottom two shelves of the white wine section of Sainsbury's in Great Denham has a section which is, invariably, nearly empty. It is the section that sells cheap, white, £5.50 bottles of Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc and Pinot Grigio. Particularly on Sunday evening we find that this shelf is empty, and we know this because it is invariably the bottle that we need.

I guess that this is something to do with our human condition, a dissatisfied, predominantly utilitarian society that feels unfulfilled, and somehow incomplete, and on Sunday evenings, before the week begins, we need something that numbs us to the mindless TV on our screens, and the mundanity of the week ahead.

For many of us, when we reach the next day, there is the feeling that the wind has run out, our energy and our purpose is spent, which is why I feel that this week's reading could make such a

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Message continued...

powerful connection with us. The Gospel story tells us that, in terms of the life we are leading, there is a much better wine on the shelf (I am not talking about Sainsbury's here!).

This story is about the aspirations of these people in first century Jewish society. Life, whether it was the religious or the secular, had become empty, dry and meaningless. The party (in this case, a wedding), had run out of steam, and metaphorically, the wine had run out.

Jesus arrived at the party with his disciples, and transformed everything. With a little shove from his mother, he took what was already there (the six stone jars for ritual washing) and transformed their contents into the new wine of God's Kingdom. It was this that everybody in the party described as the 'very best wine.'

It is easy to feel despair and hopelessness, especially considering the current brokenness and fractures of the last two years. What this reading tells each of us is that he has much more to offer us than cheap wine, despair, and hopelessness. With faith, he invites us to his party. He invites us to call on him, to enter the lives that we already had. He will perform the miracle of transformation in our lives. This is not the time for despair, this is a time for hope. If we trust in Jesus, the best is yet to come. God bless, Eric

The All Age Bit

This week we are looking at a reading from the book of 1 Corinthians which is in the New Testament of your Bible. This reading talks about Spiritual Gifts and says that, through our helper, the Holy Spirit, we can receive Spiritual Gifts from God which we can then use to love and serve others. Read through the passage and see how many different Spiritual Gifts, e.g. to speak with wisdom, you can find in the passage. Which one of these Spiritual Gifts would you most like to have?

When Jesus was on the earth people followed him not just because of what he said but because of the amazing things he did. How do you think people might respond if we used our Spiritual Gifts in our daily lives to help and serve others?

Activities:

Secret whispers - sit in a circle and pass a whispered message around the circle. Is the message the same when it has travelled all the way around the group? Think about how we have a message about God's love to pass on to others through our words and actions. The Holy Spirit can help us to find the right words to use.

Talent Show - God gives us Spiritual Gifts but we all have talents and skills which God has also given us. Hold a family/friends talent show to give everyone a chance to share a gift or skill. What will your talent be? Singing? Playing a musical instrument? Painting a picture? Reading a story? Demonstrating sports skills?

Let us pray...

Eternal Lord,
our beginning and our end:
bring us with the whole creation
to your glory, hidden through the ages
and made known
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Give us hope in your promise,
That in you,
The best is yet to come.
Amen



All Age Reading

1 Corinthians 12 v 1-11

Gifts from the Holy Spirit

Now, brothers, I want you to understand about spiritual gifts. You remember the lives you lived before you were believers. You let yourselves be influenced and led away to worship idols—things that have no life. So I tell you that no one who is speaking with the help of God's Spirit says, "Jesus be cursed." And no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," without the help of the Holy Spirit.

There are different kinds of gifts; but they are all from the same Spirit. There are different ways to serve; but all these ways are from the same Lord. And there are different ways that God works in people; but all these ways are from the same God. God works in us all in everything we do. Something from the Spirit can be seen in each person, to help everyone. The Spirit gives one person the ability to speak with wisdom. And the same Spirit gives another the ability to speak with knowledge. The same Spirit gives faith to one person. And that one Spirit gives another gifts of healing. The Spirit gives to another person the power to do miracles, to another the ability to prophesy. And he gives to another the ability to know the difference between good and evil spirits. The Spirit gives one person the ability to speak in different kinds of languages and to another the ability to interpret those languages. One Spirit, the same Spirit, does all these things. The Spirit decides what to give each person.

The All Age Bit continued...

Songs

Shine

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Btbzli8sR1o>

Relentless

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9x1Lly4az6c>

Prayer

We pray to a God who wants to give: that we will tingle with goodness and help others to tingle too; that we will see goodness in unlikely places; that we will bring God's welcome to those that need a friend or a home; that we will have our feet on the ground, but our hearts open to heaven and God's gifts. Amen.

Resources from *Roots and Journey Together* (www.tath.co.uk)

Suggested Music

I Come With Joy, a Child of God

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UpBs0b8Nnzs>

The Church's One Foundation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bCdASxyPIKE>

Restore, O Lord, The Honour of Your Name

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_qBYITC5ROs

Chorale Prelude 'Leoni' by Lang played on Organ

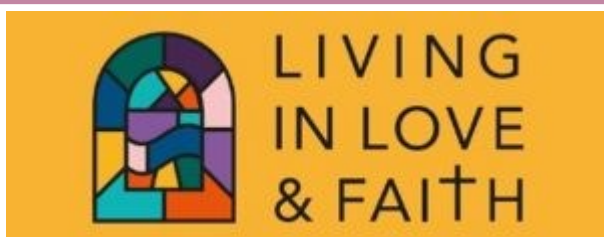
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3u6f3K8_iLw

Listen Sweet Dove

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CJnNAoa0Ypg>

Perfect Peace by Laura Story

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6kj8pzDLcc8>



Living in Love & Faith

The St Albans Diocese warmly encourages you to join in the Living in Love and Faith course taking place in the Diocese and across The Church of England as we explore together Christian teaching and our understandings of identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage.

If you're not sure about what this is all about, there is a short film to watch which features some people who have already taken part. You can watch this at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sUwaXHOJQMo>

You can join this course online via Zoom. The course will be run by Bishop Michael. There are five sessions which are all on Wednesdays from 7.30pm to 9.00pm on 26 January, 2 February, 9 February, 23 February and 9 March.

To book a place please go to: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/living-in-love-and-faith-llf-course-msn-tickets-229353130387>

Bedford Foodbank

Please continue to support this valuable charity and help them prevent hunger in our community.

In December they fed 1,299 people (489 children) who were identified through over 200 referral agencies in the community. This was a huge increase on previous months.

Food urgently needed includes: Milk (Longlife), Fruit Juice (Longlife), Cup-a-Soup, Tinned Potatoes (large), Coffee (100g), Teabags (40/80), Hotdogs (Jumbo), Tinned meat in sauce (e.g. curry, chilli), Shower gel, Sponge Puddings.

www.bedford.foodbank.org.uk



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Book now

Limited availability



SPRING HARVEST 2022

RESTORE RENEW REBUILD



Book into Spring Harvest 2022 with confidence

Harrogate 9-13 April

Skegness 11-15 April

Minehead 18-22 April

Spring Harvest/Greenbelt

In previous years groups of people from our churches have attended these events. Both events are planned to take place this year. Please use the following links to book or for more details.

<https://springharvestevent.org/booking>

<https://www.greenbelt.org.uk/buy-tickets/>