


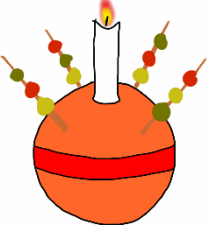


Monthly Update January 2019

| Day and Date | Time / Event | Theme / Readings | Prayers are asked for... |
|---|---|--|---|
| Sunday 6 th January Epiphany | 9.30am Festival Family Service (St Agatha's) | Matthew 2:1-12  | St Mary's Church, Cholsey; residents of Didcot Road & Old Didcot Road; The Volunteer Centre, Centre 70 & Day Care Centres; The Village Lunch Club; our Bellingrings and Sidespeople |
| Sunday 13 th January Baptism of Christ | 8am HC St James' ----- 9.30am Parish Communion | Isaiah 43:1-7 Acts 8:14-17 Luke 3:15-17,21-22 | St Mary Magdalene, Crowmarsh Gifford; residents of Greenmere; Brightwell and Wallingford Schools; Local House Groups |
| Sunday 20 th January Epiphany 3 | 10.00am Team Confirmation Service at St Mary-le-More |  | For Bishop Colin and those being confirmed |
| Sunday 27 th January Epiphany 4 | 8am HC St James' ----- 9.30am Family Communion ----- 6.30pm CTWA Service at the Baptist Church | 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a Luke 4:14-21  | St John's RC Church, Wallingford; residents of Kings Orchard; Westgate House Nursing Home, Sotwell Hill House and Mariot Court; our Intercessors and Readers |
| Sunday 4 th February "Candlemas" Presentation of Christ in the Temple | No 9.30am Service 4.00pm Candlemas Christingle (St James') | Luke 2:22-40  | The work of the Children's Society; St Mary's and St Leonard's, Wallingford; residents of The Street, Brightwell; for those who work for S.O.D.C., Parish and Town Councils; Families; our Organist and Choir members |

Also, each week:

- Bellringing Practice - Tuesdays, 7.15-9.00pm
- Morning Prayer - Wednesdays at 9.15am
followed by Coffee Morning until midday
- Choir Practice - Fridays at 7.15pm

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 Wallingford CofE Team

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Introduction to the Epiphany Season:

The season of joyful celebration that begins at Christmas now continues through the successive Sundays of Epiphany. In the Western churches, the Epiphany ('manifestation') became an occasion to celebrate one element in the story of Christ's birth, the visit of the far-travelled magi, understood as the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles. In this perspective, Epiphanytide is an apt season to pray for the worldwide mission of the Church. The feast of the Conversion of St Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles, appropriately falls in the Epiphany season, as does the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18th-25th). In the Eastern churches, the Epiphany is, rather, the celebration of Christ's baptism at the hands of John, when the heavens were opened and a voice from heaven declared Jesus to be God's beloved Son. The miracle of Cana in Galilee, where Jesus 'first manifested his glory', follows immediately.

The 40 days of celebration ends only with the Feast of the Presentation (Candlemas). The child who has been manifested to the magi at his birth is now recognized by Simeon and Anna, when he comes to be presented in the Temple according to the Law of Israel. He is both 'a light to lighten the Gentiles' and 'the glory of God's people Israel'. But the redemption he will bring must be won through suffering; the Incarnation is directed to the Passion; and Simeon's final words move our attention away from the celebration of Christmas and towards the mysteries of Easter.

Church News:

Junior Choir

We are grateful to all our junior singers and to Liz Hanson for their wonderful contribution to our Crib Service and we look forward to the future with interest, not least the Candlemas Christingle service on 3rd February, 4pm at St James'. A meeting to plan our future worship for families will be held soon – see Helen Baines or Louise Wymer to get involved.

Church Buildings

The faculty to repair the organ loft roof has now been approved and the work to replace the stolen lead with a terne-coated steel roof will begin as soon as the weather allows lime mortar to set properly, thus making the most efficient use of costly scaffolding.

Our Finances and Giving

As well as the cost of maintaining our two listed buildings, our largest outgoing for 2019 will be the Parish Share, set at £33,798. Such an amount can only be raised through the sacrificial giving of our church members and parishioners. The national average giving is £500 per person per year – roughly **£10 per week** - with each contributing in proportion to their means.

We encourage all church members to give using the Parish Giving Scheme, which is why most of the congregation place a "PGS token" in the offertory to represent their giving via Direct Debit. If you have not yet signed the simple form to pledge regular giving through the Parish Giving Scheme but would like to sustain the work and ministry of this church, even with a small amount, then please speak to our Stewardship Co-ordinator Andy Lewis, or to Margot our Church Warden. **THANK YOU!**

Key Contacts:

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|---|---|------------------------------------|
| Team Vicar: | Revd Kevin Beer The Vicarage, 34 Thamesmead, Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8EY teamvicar@wallingfordcofe.org.uk | Tel 599873 (day off Monday) |
| Team Rector: | Revd David Rice david.rice5@ntlworld.com | Tel 202188 (day off Saturday) |
| Associate Priest: | Revd Janice Chilton | Tel 836661 |
| Churchwarden & Safeguarding Officer: | Margot Shawyer | Tel 826677 |
| Treasurer: | Robin Shawyer | " " |
| Verger & Tower Captain: | Roy Thorpe | Tel 837334 |
| PCC Secretary: | Louise Wymer brightwellsec@wallingfordcofe.org.uk | |
| Organist: | Derek Nightingale d_nightingale@talktalk.net | Tel 835712 |