



The Parish of
Mitcheldean and Abenhall

Parish News

Epiphany 2017



the star which they had observed at its rising went ahead of them

THE
Epiphany

Worship with us

St Michael and All Angels', Mitcheldean

1st Sunday of each month: 8.30am **Said Holy Communion** followed by

10.00 am **Family Service** (inc. Holy Communion)

Remaining Sundays: 10.00 am **Sung Eucharist**

Tuesdays: 10.30 am Holy Communion (said)

9.00am Tuesday, Wednesday: 8.45am Friday **Morning prayer**

Fridays: 12noon Midday Prayer

St Michael's, Abenhall

1st and 3rd Sundays of the month: 3.00 pm Holy Communion

2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays of the month: 3.00 pm Evensong

For Saints Days and other Holy Day services, please see the porch noticeboards or view the website: www.stmichaelmitcheldean.co.uk

(Children and families are very welcome at all of our services)

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This little light of mine

One of my favourite church 'feast days' in the church's year is Candlemas or the Feast of the presentation of Christ in the Temple. It celebrates the story from Luke's Gospel (2. 22-40) when Mary and Joseph take their baby Jesus for his first visit to the temple as required by Jewish Law. There they bump into Simeon an old man who has been promised by God that he will not die before he has seen the Messiah. Simeon takes the infant into his arms and says those well know words.

'Lord now let your servant depart in peace according to your word, for mine eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared for all people, a light to lighten the gentiles and the glory of your people Israel'

Candlemas marks the end of the liturgical season of Christmas, and is celebrated on February 2nd but it is one of those feast which we move to the nearest Sunday, so this year we keep it on January 29th. Traditionally in celebration of Simeon's words that Jesus is a Light to lighten all people, it was the day on which people brought their candles to church to be blessed. In the days of electricity we usually provide a candle for people to hold during the reading of the Gospel story, a candle which they are then encouraged to take home with them.

The Gospel stories we hear in church during Epiphany provide us with little light bulb moments, revelations of who Jesus is, The wise men reveal Jesus as a gift for all people; at his Baptism he is revealed as Son of God; at the wedding in Cana he is revealed as the one who will transform our lives; In chapter one of John's Gospel he is revealed as the one who brings forgiveness of sins, and so on.

Candlemas brings us back to the beginning, to the baby in a mother's arms where we began 40 days before. And certainly the story of Mary and Joseph taking Jesus to the temple is an ordinary story, they were probably not the only family there for that purpose on that day, and certainly not the only family there that week. This is a very real glimpse at the every day, but of course God bursts in. He bursts in through the gentle old man Simeon.

Continues over..

Hopefully you will be able to worship with us on January 29th and be able to take a candle home with you. For as long as it lasts light it, once a day or once a week and take time to remember that the gift of Christ we were given at Christmas is for every day use. The light he brings is for you ,for me, and for us, in our every day lives. That God speaks through Jesus' story into our every day lives.

Epiphany is a season when we celebrate God's light bulb moments, but those moments happen all year round, shining a bit more light on our own lives and on the lives of those around us.

David

Flower Festival. A date for your diary, there will be a flower festival in Mitcheldean church on 17th 18th and 19th of June in Mitcheldean church

100 Club. After many (many) years Doreen Davis is giving up running the 100 club. We wish extend our thanks to her for her reliable and faithful service in making sure the club runs smoothly.

However this means awe are looking for some one else who would be willing to take over the running of the 100 club, which contributes around £500 to church funds. This isn't an overly onerous task, more details of what is involved from Fr David or Sue Lewis

Soup Lunches: By popular demand soup lunches at the Rectory are continuing 12.30pm until 2.00pm Drop in. January. 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th

Christmas Crackers: Thank you to all who contributed Christmas crackers for our schools Christmas lunch. They were much appreciated.

Christmas Fair: Thank you to Sue Lewis and everybody who helped with the Christmas Fayre. £800 were raised for church funds.

Items for the next News Letter to Fr David by 15th of this month please.

Don't forget this news letter is available by email or on the church website. If you'd like it emailed please send an email to Fr David

Daily Bible readings:

January:

1. Luke 2. 15-21

2. John 1. 35-42

3. Galatians 3. 23-end

4. John 2. 1-12

5. John 2. 13-end

6. Matthew 2. 1-12

7. 1John 4. 7-end

8. Matthew 3. 13-end

9. 1 John 5.6-9

10. 1 Corinthians 1. 18-end

11. 1 Corinthians 2

12. 1 Corinthians 3

13. 1 Corinthians 4

14. 1Corinthians 5

15. John 1. 29-42

16. 1Corinthians 6. 1-11

17. 1Corinthians 6. 12-end

18. 1Corinthians 7. 1-24

19. 1Corinthians 7. 25-end

20. 1Corinthians 8

21. 1Corinthians 9. 1-14

22. Matthew 4. 12-23

23. 1Corinthians 9. 15-end

24. 1Corinthians 10. 1-13

25. Acts 9. 1-22

26. 1Corinthians 11. 2-16

27. 1Corinthians 11. 17-end

28th 1Corinthians 12. 1-11

29th John 2. 1-11

30th Mark 4. 35-end

31st 1Corinthians 13

A bit of a change to the readings for this year. Instead of reading through books of the bible the readings are those set in the lectionary for morning prayer each day unless it is Sunday or a saints day when the readings are the gospel for the Eucharist on that day.

This means that you are joining with all those who use the lectionary, either in their daily prayer or just as a scheme for bible readings in reading that passage on that day.

I'll take this opportunity to remind you that morning prayer is said in church each Tuesday and Wednesday at 9.00am and midday prayer on Friday at 12.00noon. You are very welcome to come along either regularly or just occasionally. Each service lasts no more than 15 minutes.

I'm afraid that renewed school run commitments at least fortnightly mean that I will probably drop Friday's morning prayer this year.

David

Wanted: Large Screen (50") TV for use in church.

We need a working large screen Television for use in church. If you happen to have had a new TV for Christmas and need a home for your old one. Please let Fr David of Sue Lewis know. It does need to around a 50" screen



Lent Course. Don't panic we aren't there yet, but planning ahead- I would love to hear any ideas of things you might like to do for a Lent Course. Things you might want to learn more about, types of Lent course you have taken part in, in the past that have been helpful to you, things that you have heard about from other parishes, questions you always wanted to ask but never been brave enough!

Traditionally we run our Lent course in the evening, but would be happy to run one in the day time if people are interested.

Fr David

Dates.

January 6th Epiphany. 7.00pm Solemn Eucharist. M

January 25th Conversion of Paul. 7.00pm Solemn Eucharist. M

January 29th, Candlemass. 10.00am Parish Eucharist. M

3.00pm Evening Prayer. A

February 1st PCC Rectory. 7.30pm

The Diocesan Messenger, December 2017

CA look back at the last months of 2016

Praying for new Life

Around 700 people came together to celebrate the launch of our new vision, Life, at a party in November. The powerful rhythms of the Taiko Drummers, laughter with the Viney Hill Adventure Centre, time for quiet reflection and prayer with Prayer Spaces in Schools and a dance with iSingPop helped make the day one to remember. Bishop Rachel ended the party by praying for everyone and sending us out to live our new vision. See the highlights at <https://youtu.be/YSvD3mv30VI>

#liedentity

In 2016, Bishop Rachel has been drawing public attention to the unhappiness of many young people, rooted in their dissatisfaction in their physical appearance and this unhappiness is affecting their mental health. She has visited a number of schools to talk to young people about what they perceive as perfect and reminding them that each of them are created uniquely in God's image, loved and valued. She has run a campaign called #liedentity Watch this video <https://youtu.be/TZFSvNY9t1I> Bishop Rachel will continue to campaign at this issue. Stay up to date with the news at www.gloucester.anglican.org

Archdeacon to Bishop

In December, Robert Springett took up his new ministry as Bishop of Tewkesbury. Bishop Robert has been in the Diocese as the Archdeacon of Cheltenham for six years, so will be well known by many, and is now working alongside Bishop Rachel.

Students from All Saints presented Bishop Robert with a crozier designed and made by them, reflecting John 10:10 I have come that they may have life and have it to the full. 

Events and training

Saturday 14 January

The importance of play.

Trinity Church, Cheltenham, GL52 2NW

The Revd Mary Hawes, the National Youth and Children's Advisor for the Church of England will introduce this day with some background to the importance of play, where and why it is missing and how it supports spiritual growth and development. Workshops include Toddling to Church , Praying Playfully, Faith-full play at home and Godly play, a playful approach to storytelling. | 7.50 including lunch. Contact Natasha Kent to book on nkent@glosdioc.org.uk

Tuesday 31 January, 10am to 4.30pm

Baptism Matters

St Andrew's Church, Station Road, Churchdown

Sandra Millar, Head of Projects and Developments for the Archbishop's Council will be leading this day for clergy, Readers and those involved in baptism and family ministry. It

includes new resources and new research to support this ministry. | 7.50 cost includes lunch and refreshments. Book with Iona on ibird@glosdioc.org.uk or 01452 835551.

Russell Haines: Faith exhibition

Friday 6 January to Sunday 26 February

Gloucester Cathedral

Artist Russell Haines celebrates modern society and the synergy between us, no matter our faith or belief system. Telling the story of 35 people from different backgrounds. For more information see Gloucester Cathedral website.



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