

# ST DENYS CHURCH EVINGTON BULLETIN Sunday 8th January 2023 Epiphany and the Baptism of Christ



Dear Friends, Christmas is over! We are down to the turkey leftovers. The excitement of Christmas took weeks to build to a crescendo...now life is suddenly normalising, and some will suffer from the post-Christmas blues! What was it like for Mary & Joseph at this point? We seldom hear about what happened to them *after* Christmas.

The Wise Men visited and presented their 3 gifts. Joseph had a dream and was told to flee to Egypt, because Herod was going to try to kill Jesus. In the middle of the night, God said "Move!". Joseph didn't argue with God, he didn't ask God for "Plan B" or wait to try to work it all out, he just OBEYED. That is why God chose Joseph to be the stepfather of Jesus. God knew his heart, that Joseph was sensitive to God's will. God provided - they would need enough money to live off whilst in Egypt and God provided it through the gifts of the Wise Men.

Herod's anger-talk about "Post-Christmas Blues"! This isn't usually included in plays about the Christmas story - Mary & Joseph and baby Jesus running for their lives, fleeing the country, with dead babies left behind.

What can we learn from all of this? *The Safest Place to be, is where God Leads You.*

The Wise Men followed a star, and it led them to the Christ-child, they followed God's instructions in a dream, and they escaped Herod's wrath. Joseph too, followed the instructions in a dream, and escaped to Egypt.

*The safest place you can be, is in the centre of God's will.* Whatever path you take in life, God knows where it will lead. How much better to follow the path that He leads you down.

*A Christian isn't exempt from troubles.* Look at all the suffering and trouble that the first Christmas brought about; The Wise Men, avoiding the wrath of Herod, Mary & Joseph fleeing for their life, multitudes of innocent babies killed by a mad King. But God always gives us the strength to win every battle when we follow the path He sets before us.

*God Is in Charge.* You will always feel safe when you are living in God's will. That is not to say that bad things won't happen to you but everything that happened in the Christmas story was planned out by God, you can see His hand in each step. Joseph and Mary experienced "Post-Christmas Blues". They didn't have their baby in Bethlehem, then "live happily ever after". Their dreams of going back to Nazareth to live a quiet and peaceable life, were postponed for a few years. Their life was nothing like they had planned or expected.

Maybe your Christmas wasn't all that you expected. Now that Christmas is over, maybe the excitement has passed, and your balloon has popped! Remember, God is still in charge! He didn't leave Mary & Joseph Egypt to go it alone. God is still on the Throne. So, stay at the centre of his will, *it is the safest place to be!* **Kay and Qyan**

**COMING UP AT ST DENYS THIS WEEK:**

**Friday 6th & 13th 10am—11am Musical Toddlers** meet in the parish centre

**Friday 6th 7pm—8.30pm Youth Club** meet in the parish centre

**Sunday 8th 10am Matins** in church and on Zoom (password available from Qyan) **3pm Café Church with Holy Communion** in church

**Monday 9th 2pm Monday Meet** meet in the parish centre

**Tuesday 10th 7.30pm Cruse Bereavement Group** meet in the parish centre

**Wednesday 11th 10am Evington Family History Group** in parish centre

**Wednesday 11th 7.30pm Evington Village Fete Committee** parish centre

**Friday 13th 7pm Youth Music Group** meet in the church

**Saturday 14th 11am Faith and Friendship Group** meet in parish centre

**Morning Prayer 9am Mondays—Thursdays** in church

**Open Church every Thursday 9am—12 noon, with 10am Holy Communion (said)** church and parish centre, free wi-fi and refreshments

**New Worship Pattern at St. Denys!** With the New Year upon us, the new monthly arrangements for services the PCC briefly outlined a few weeks ago, are beginning. Please see below as a reminder



**First Sunday 10am:** Matins with organ and hymns; **3pm:** Café Church with informal Holy Communion

**Second, Third and Fourth Sundays 10am:** Traditional (Common Worship) Holy Communion with organ; **3pm:** Café Church

**Third Sunday 6.30pm:** Evensong except in January when it will be held on the 22nd

**Every Thursday 10am:** Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) said, with sermon



**Readers and Intercessors** New Year, New Start! If you are not currently on the necessary rotas and feel able to join the ministry of reading the bible passages

in 10am & 6.30pm church services or writing and delivering the intercessions, or both, please e-mail me! Volunteers are still needed for both. Thank you. **Qyan**





**A massive thank you** to all those who helped make our Christmas celebrations so special this year. Thank you to our flower arrangers, cleaners, refreshments providers, decorators, candle lighters, servers, welcomers, readers, singers and musicians, intercessors, pastoral visitors, and the list goes on! I also want to say a particular thankyou

to those who put thought and prayer into giving out invitations to our Christmas services. A couple of people have shared wonderful stories of their invitations being well received and I know that our numbers were up to double the 2021 figures in many cases, particularly the Nine Lessons and Carols and the Crib Service. Personal invitations are such a powerful way to witness to the faith that we have so please keep inviting your friends and neighbours to come and see what life at St Denys is all about. **Anthony**

This Saturday a group of about 15 from St Denys are going to The Stable House at North Kilworth for an Epiphany Quiet Day. Epiphany is a wonderful opportunity to unwrap the gift God has given us at Christmas, to explore what it means that God is with us in Jesus. Watch this space next week to find out how we all got on...



**Why are some of the Christmas decorations, the candles and the crib still up in church?** The season of Epiphany starts on Friday 6th January and ends at Candlemas (also known as the Presentation of Christ in the Temple) which is celebrated on 2nd February. The light of Christmas continues to shine through these dark winter weeks as we remember the visit of the magi, Jesus' baptism by John, and the miracle performed at the wedding in Cana. English Heritage have got on board this year and are encouraging all of us to keep some of our decorations up until February, even if it's just a bit of tinsel or a sprig of holly!

**Christmas may be over but now the Work of Christmas begins ...**

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their flock,  
The work of Christmas begins:  
To find the lost, To heal the broken, To feed the hungry,  
To release the prisoner, To rebuild the nations,  
To bring peace among others, To make music in the heart.



*A poem by Howard Thurman*

**Epiphany Sonnet by Malcolm Guite** The season of Epiphany is an invitation to reflect on the many little 'epiphanies', glimpses of how things really are, which are vouchsafed us in the Gospel. The first Sunday of Epiphany is a time to reflect on the moment when 'the heavens opened' at Jesus' Baptism and we were given a glimpse of Father Son and Holy Spirit at the heart of all things. This sonnet is a reflection on that mystery. The picture was taken by **Margaret Krebs Neale** and is of the river Jordan, with the caption '*The dove descends, the Spirit soars and sings.*'

Beginning here we glimpse the Three-in-one;  
The river runs, the clouds are torn apart,  
The Father speaks, the Spirit and the Son  
Reveal to us the single loving heart  
That beats behind the being of all things  
And calls and keeps and kindles us to light.  
The dove descends, the spirit soars and sings  
'You are beloved, you are my delight!'



In that quick light and life, as water spills  
And streams around the Man like quickening rain,  
The voice that made the universe reveals  
The God in Man who makes it new again.

**Collect for the First Sunday of Epiphany** 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.

**Pray for the sick:** Mark Bulbeck, Mick Clay, Ann Dixon, Marion Heygate, **Pray for those who mourn including the family and friends of** Pat Davies, Helen (Rosemary Freer's daughter) and those who have died from Covid-19.



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St. Denys website, including the Giving Links for Church and Youth Work:

[www.stdenys.org.uk](http://www.stdenys.org.uk)

