

NEWSLETTER

We three kings of Orient are



This month, the month of the Epiphany, our newsletter has information from the Credit Union, an appeal for a volunteer for our link with the Papua New Guinea Church Partnership, a new Study Group, lots of news from the Mothers' Union, together with the Vicar's letter, monthly prayer intentions...

Highlights of January

Friday 1st January

Naming & Circumcision of Our Lord

10am Sung Mass

Wednesday 6th January

The Epiphany of Our Lord

7pm High Mass

Preacher: The Rev'd Richard Stanton, Assistant Curate of Attleborough, Norfolk.

Saturday 9th January

Monthly Mass of Healing (with anointing and laying on of hands)

10am Preceded by prayers for the sick at 9:45am in the Lady Chapel.

Sunday 10th January

Baptism of Our Lord

10:30am High Mass

Preacher: The Rev'd Canon Chris Chivers, Principal of Westcott House

6pm Epiphanytide Carol Service followed by refreshments

Come and experience something of the full meaning of this holy season.

Monday 25th January

The Conversion of S. Paul

7pm Sung Mass

Advance Notice:

Tuesday 2nd February

Candlemas (*Presentation of the Lord in the Temple*)

7:45am Low Mass

7pm High Mass

Deadline for submission of articles, etc. for February is Monday 25th January. Please email them to melissaguiliano@gmail.com

From the Vicar

23rd December 2015

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

I never cease to be astonished by being asked ‘Are you going away for Christmas?’ by people at this time of year! Well, if the public never tire of asking the clergy if they’re going away for Christmas, I never tire of reminding people that Christmas *begins* on 25th December rather than *ends*. At the very least we are offered twelve days of Christmas and, together with Epiphany, we can happily be enjoying the season until the Baptism of the Lord on 10th January. For Spanish and Orthodox Christians Christmas doesn’t even get going until the Epiphany.

It is hard to keep this alternative pattern of time, however, when the rest of the world began Christmas so long ago and thus ends it so early. Yet while we might look like party-poopers from not starting it early, we can claim at least to be party-enhancers by our elongation of it well into January. Given the short days and dreary (if not actually freezing) weather, there are very good reasons why we might perpetuate the festivities beyond Boxing Day. The best reason, however, is that we need that time to reflect on and soak up the mystery of the Incarnation, of God in miniature. That the babe in the manger is also the Second Person of the Trinity is so astonishing that we need a lifetime of Christmases to comprehend it. This truly is the inauguration of a different pattern of time and a different way of looking at the world.

Yet paradoxically, immersion in the mystery of the Faith over several years can help us to realise how very fitting and even appropriate is the making flesh of the Word. It fits with the silent and gentle way we find God so often working and the endless movement to the margins of society and our human experience that the Holy Spirit inspires. Given that it is the making flesh of the God who made the world how it is, it is perhaps not surprising that the Incarnation should therefore make sense; it is no alien imposition but the working of the one who fashioned us while we were still in our own mothers’ wombs.

Christmas is the breaking in of a new way of living and seeing things and even among families with no religious sense, the compulsory closure of shops and coming together for a short time points to this (however faintly). This is so odd for some that in fact they find it incredibly hard; in fact for lots of us Christmas is not without its trials. We are not used to the ways of living that Christmas presents us with: extended family, religious ritual, home-cooked food – folk music even! Christmas, strangely, gives us a taste of the security our ancestors used to

experience all year round. It is so alien to us, however, that at times we can't wait for Christmas to be over and to get back to a lifestyle with which we are more familiar.

Certainly, for those who are alone or bereaved there are very good reasons to find this time of year hard. Yet for a lot of us it is hard because all that goes with it has become unfamiliar in the steady de-Christianisation of society. In the past families were better at rubbing along whereas now so many find themselves living alone because they find living together intolerable. Indeed, compressing the Christmas experience into one day is an invitation to misery: no twenty-four hours can possibly live up to such demands. Our forebears were wiser in giving themselves at least twelve days to do all that the season requires.

Yet it is more than that: Christmas produces nostalgia in the strangest people (even Richard Dawkins confesses to loving Christmas carols!) and we often seek to recreate a half-imagined past at this season. At the same time, however, the world has changed so much that we are not very good at living temporarily in this olde-worlde we have just built and so are stuck – both wanting the security and promises of a Christian society but unable to cope with what it means.

This is no cause for despair, however, because of the very logic of the Incarnation: Jesus comes to be born in whatever society we find ourselves in and is not just capable of being with us in an idealised Christian past. Amid the conflicts and compromises of today – just as it was in an occupied, violent Middle East then – the Word is made flesh. He will find a way to be with us wherever we are and whatever we do. We are His home. May January, therefore, be a time for us to discover God-with-us afresh and may the Holy Family pray for us that we may be worthy of the promises of Christ.

With my love and prayers this season, I am,
yours ever,

Fr Robert.



Calendar and Intentions
for
January 2016

Calendar for January

LM-Low Mass, SM-Sung Mass, HM-High Mass

Fri	1st	The Naming & Circumcision of Jesus, SM 10am
Sat	2nd	Ss Basil the Great & Gregory of Nazianzus, bishops & doctors
Sun	3rd	SECOND SUNDAY after CHRISTMAS
Mon	4th	
Tue	5th	
Wed	6th	EPIPHANY of our LORD, LM 10am, HM 7pm
Thu	7th	
Fri	8th	
Sat	9th	Of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Sun	10th	FIRST SUNDAY of EPIPHANY (Baptism of our Lord)
Mon	11th	
Tue	12th	S. Ælred of Hexham, Abbot
Wed	13th	S. Hilary, Bishop
Thu	14th	
Fri	15th	Of Requiem
Sat	16th	
Sun	17th	SECOND SUNDAY of EPIPHANY
Mon	18th	<i>Beginning of Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.</i>
Tue	19th	S. Wulfstan, Bishop
Wed	20th	
Thu	21st	S. Agnes, Virgin & Martyr
Fri	22nd	<i>S. Vincent, Deacon & Martyr</i>
Sat	23rd	
Sun	24th	THIRD SUNDAY of EPIPHANY (Septuagesima)
Mon	25rd	Conversion of S. Paul, LM 12:30pm, SM 7pm
Tue	26th	Ss Timothy & Titus, Bishops
Wed	27th	
Thu	28th	S. Thomas Aquinas, Priest & Doctor
Fri	29th	
Sat	30th	S. Charles, King & Martyr
Sun	31st	FOURTH SUNDAY of EPIPHANY (Sexagesima)

Daily Intentions and Anniversaries of death for January

World peace	<i>Dorothy Ogden, Derek Williams</i>	1 st
Renewal of Vocation		<i>Daphne Peck</i> 2 nd
Our Parish & People	<i>Edward Maycock, pr., Lena Wheatley,</i>	3 rd
	<i>Arthur Clough, Cecilia Scott-Townsend</i>	
The Unemployed		4 th
Schools & Colleges	<i>Jennifer Williams, Joyce Day, Peter Dicken</i>	5 th
That all may know Christ's Glory	<i>Margaret Hulyer, Kathleen Ray Holland</i>	6 th
CamTrust		7 th
Cambridge Churches Homelessness Project		8 th
The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham		9 th
Our Parish & People	<i>Silvia Skeil</i>	10 th
Asylum Seekers	<i>Geoffrey Baines</i>	11 th
Vocations to the Religious Life		12 th
Bishop Stephen		13 th
Social Workers	<i>Marjorie Shepherd, Aline Norman, Elaine Wheatley</i>	14 th
The Faithful Departed	<i>Isabel Nourse</i>	15 th
Spiritual writers	<i>Marjorie Galletly</i>	16 th
Our Parish & People	<i>Margaret Rowett</i>	17 th
Christian Unity		18 th
Girl Guiding	<i>Daphne Clavey</i>	19 th
Joy	<i>Pauline Martindale, Donald Harris, pr., Madé Katib, bp.</i>	20 th
Cambridge Street Pastors	<i>Athelstane Furley</i>	21 st
Increase in vocations to the Diaconate		22 nd
Sufferers from depression or anxiety		23 rd
Our Parish & People	<i>Robert Garrett, pr., Peggy Hall</i>	24 th
Those who are new to the Faith		25 th
The Armed Forces	<i>Maurice Rayner, James Rone, pr.</i>	26 th
The Mothers' Union	<i>Sebastian Hawkes, Elsie Perrin, Peter Barnard</i>	27 th
Theologians		28 th
County & City councils	<i>Eric Furley, Beryl Goonetilleke</i>	29 th
The Queen	<i>Mary Ann Hammond</i>	30 th
Our Parish & People		31 st

The Conversion of Saint Paul – Monday 25th January



Almighty God, who hast caused the light of the gospel to shine throughout the world through the preaching of Thy servant Saint Paul: grant that we who celebrate his wonderful conversion may follow him in bearing witness to Thy truth; through Jesus Christ Thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The conversion of the anti-Christian zealot, Saul, to the apostle of Christ, Paul, is clearly related in the reading from the Acts of the Apostles, but it has to be remembered that this was a beginning: Saul took some time to become Paul and some time to begin to understand that his call to preach – to Jew and to Gentile – the saving power of Jesus, the Son of God, was something that was a whole life’s journey for him.

Paul says in his Letter to the Church in Galatia, “God set me apart before I was born and called me through His grace...Three years after (the Damascus Road conversion), I went up to Jerusalem.” The preparation for this moment of his conversion was his whole life.

This feast has been celebrated in the Church since the sixth century but became universal in the twelfth century. It marks the conclusion of the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**, which begins on 18th January (the old Feast of the Confession of Saint Peter). The Week – in fact an octave – began in 1908 and is a time of particular prayer for the unity of all Christians: that the unity we have inwardly in Jesus Christ may be expressed outwardly in the life of the church.

Low Mass 12.30pm, Sung Mass 7pm

LSM Global – Volunteer Needed!

Clive Brown, Secretary to our overseas mission group, LSM Global, writes:

While we give financial support to our overseas links, we also believe it is important to establish personal contact with them and keep in touch with them as much as we can. For this reason, each member of the LSM Global Group has taken responsibility for specific overseas missions.

One of our overseas mission links is the Anglican Church in Papua New Guinea, where we particularly support the Newton Theological College. The link is maintained through the PNG Church Partnership in London. Until he left us in the summer, Ian Douglas was the Group member who kept in touch with PNG, and we now urgently need someone to replace him.

The job is not particularly onerous in terms of time, but it is interesting and rewarding. Papua New Guinea is a fascinating country, but one which faces huge problems, and the challenge to the Church there is formidable. PNG Church Partnership produces a newsletter, and holds day conferences and other events from time to time, so there is a ready source of information available. The Global Group meets about four times a year, and we then report briefly on news from each of our links, and we take turns to write a short piece for this newsletter.

I do hope that someone will step forward and take over this role. If anyone is interested in doing so, please get in touch with me or with Gillian Beard to find out more. Our next Global meeting is at 7:30 pm on Wednesday 17th February.



Join Our Study Group

Some of those of us who attended Fr Robert's confirmation classes in 2014 found them so enjoyable and informative that we asked him if we could continue to meet occasionally under his guidance. Our group is small but enthusiastic, and we would very much like others to join us.

The meetings are more theology tutorials than Bible study. Fr Robert generally recommends reading material on a particular topic, and that informs the discussion when we meet. We cover a lot of ground. Those who enjoyed Fr Robert's heady gallop through the Patriarchs and Prophets in the Advent Group will know what I mean.

If you would like to come, we next meet in the Parish Centre on Saturday 23rd January. We start at 4pm, and end by joining in Evensong in the Church at 6pm. We shall be discussing Saint Paul's Letter to the Ephesians.

Clive Brown

Mothers' Union

Saturday breakfast – 23rd January 2016 at 9am
Saint John's Church, Hills Road Cambridge
(In the Wilkinson Room. Car park off Blinco Grove)

IS THE MOTHERS' UNION THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND'S BEST-KEPT SECRET?

The Cambridge Archdeaconry Vice President's cycle ride created a greater awareness of the Mothers' Union. Come and enjoy breakfast and find out more about this amazing organisation.

Thursday Prayer – 28th January at 10:30am
Little Saint Mary's Church, Trumpington Street

A monthly half an hour of prayer as an alternative venue to the Thursday prayer held in Ely Cathedral, followed by coffee and cake.

Contact: Jo Wibberley jowibs.mu@gmail.com 01223 248728

Credit Unions

Jan Howieson of Rainbow Saver Anglia Credit Union Ltd has provided briefing for this update on the church's support for the credit union movement.

It will be recalled that Archbishop Justin Welby is urging churches to support credit unions as a means of encouraging prudent financial management, and enabling people to borrow in a way which avoids the ruinous interest rates charged by payday lenders and the like. Two years ago there was a presentation at LSM on the work of credit unions, and both the PCC and a number of members of the congregation have supported *Rainbow Anglia* by joining the credit union and making deposits.

Rainbow Saver Anglia Credit Union is still working towards a merger with *Eastern Savings and Loans*. This has been delayed because *Eastern Savings and Loans* is currently developing a standard banking platform offering a much wider range of services and so giving to members most of the facilities of a standard bank current account. Members are already able to check balances online, and if they register the details of another bank they are able to transfer funds between these two accounts online. New members can join online if they have a passport or driving licence. The new developments which *Eastern Savings and Loans* is carrying through are a huge undertaking because all the banking software has to be changed.

Cambridge City Council are about to run a large marketing campaign with the support of Council Staff. *Rainbow* will be opening access points around the city in Community Centres. Promotion is also appearing on buses, in Council magazines and on posters.

Rainbow is currently running a deficit. This is primarily because our income stream from loan interest and rent processing has reduced. The reasons for this are partly legislation to control payday lenders and loan sharks, which has also affected *Rainbow*. It has always been a responsible lender, but typically its members have been used to having top-up loans at Christmas. Now *Rainbow* is only allowed to top up twice before the loan has to be paid off completely. *Rainbow* is also being affected indirectly by changes in the benefit system.

Our greatest needs are for volunteers at access points or champions to continue putting the word out so that we reach those who need the service. We also need to increase our income stream by people borrowing more.