

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND IN MELBOURNE, SMISBY,
STANTON-BY-BRIDGE AND TICKNALL

THE BULLETIN

A weekly publication for the Benefice

Sunday 3rd January 2021

The Epiphany



Across the Benefice Today

- 10.30am** **Parish Eucharist – Melbourne**
The Revd Michael Rogers
- 11.00am** **Morning Prayer – Stanton-by-Bridge**
Canon David Edwards
- 5.30pm** **Holy Communion – Smisby**
The Revd Steve Short / The Revd Alan Winfield

Bible Readings for Today

Collect

God our Father,
in love you sent your Son
that the world may have life:
lead us to seek him among the outcast
and to find him in those in need,
for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 60.1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.
Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,^{*}
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 2.1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

“And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.” ’

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Prayer after Communion

Lord God,
the bright splendour whom the nations seek:
may we who with the wise men have been drawn by your light
discern the glory of your presence in your Son,
the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

We regret that Ticknall Church will be closed throughout January.

Prayer Pilgrims at Melbourne Parish Church

Friends will be aware of the opportunity made for private prayer and reflection in Melbourne Parish Church during the COVID-19 crisis. Following feedback, the Prayer Pilgrims Wednesday midweek slot has been moved to straddle the lunch break (12:30-14:00) so that people at work in the town (either from home or at their place of work) can take advantage of Covid safe space in the church building for prayer and reflection.

This is in addition to the Sunday Worship at 10:30 which replaced the Saturday Prayer Pilgrims opportunity.

Please let your friends and neighbours know of this safe space for prayer and reflection. No need to book, just turn up wearing a mask if you can.

If anybody else would like to join the volunteer team please contact Marcus Nolan on: 07966 545281 or by email: thewordsmith@gmail.com



Bell Ringing Suspended

Due to the move to Tier 4 (“Stay at Home”) we will suspend our bell ringing until such time that the situation improves and there is change in the guidance for bellringing. Although the guidance allows for a single household bubble to ring, we have taken the cautious approach and ceased ringing altogether. It was good to be able to ring on Christmas Day, but that was an exception. We look forward to being able to ring again in the future. Meanwhile, keep safe and socially distant.

Nigel Coupe, Tower Captain.

Some of the best (or worst??) Christmas cracker jokes!!

How did Scrooge win a football match?

The ghost of Christmas passed!!

How does Darth Vader enjoy his Christmas turkey?

On the dark side!!

Who hides in the bakery at Christmas?

A mince spy!!

Why is getting harder to buy Advent calendars?

Because their days are numbered!!

What did Adam say the day before Christmas?

'It's Christmas, Eve!!'

**A pattern for daily prayer, so that, at home or at church
we can pray together:**

Monday: Those in great poverty or need.

Tuesday: Those who have asked for our prayers: Anne Brazier, Roo Hubbard, David Ingram, Kate Landenberger, Bob Smith, Joan Tatam and Hanna King.

Those in Derby's hospitals and hospices. All at Pool Cottage. All who are suffering from Covid-19.

Wednesday: Our benefice and our diocese. For our bishop, Bishop Libby and our cathedral dean, Peter.

Thursday: Our schools as they continue their new academic year. The church worldwide. All Christian people.

The local church. The Anglican Communion.

Friday: All in need, especially the hungry, poor and homeless.

The Departed

In our prayers this week, we remember those who have died recently, especially Pamela Shouksmith, and also those whose anniversaries occur near this time, among them Harriet Burden, Ronald Moore (Priest), Audrey Moore, Richard Morrison, Kath Kington and Bob Honner (Priest).

If there is anyone you know who would like to go on our prayer list or who would appreciate a phone call, do please contact Steve, one of the wardens or the parish office. Thank you.

Daily Hope

The Church of England continues to run a free phonenumber service of hymns, reflections and prayers. To access call: **0800 804 8044**

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