

In & around the Benefice....

16th January | *The Second Sunday of Epiphany*



Our Rector is The Reverend Morna Simpson
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The good news of Jesus Christ speaks of welcome for all, with a particular regard for those who are most vulnerable, into a community where the value and dignity of every human being is affirmed and those in positions of responsibility and authority are truly trustworthy.

TODAY'S SERVICES:

8.30am	BCP Holy Communion	St Mary the Virgin, Whiston with Rev Morna
10.30am	Benefice Holy Communion	St Mary's, Grendon with Rev Morna
4.00pm	Sunday Space	St Margaret's, Denton with Rev Morna

MIDWEEK WORSHIP:

Weds 19th 9.30am Holy Communion St Mary's, Grendon with Rev Morna

NEXT SUNDAY:

10.30am	Benefice Holy Communion	St Mary Magdalene, Castle Ashby with Rev Morna
10.30am	Sunday Breakfast	St Andrew's, Yardley Hastings

Try something new next Sunday

Join us for Breakfast Church

at St Andrew's on Sunday January 23rd - 10.30am

Church with a difference and something for all ages

Music - Singing - Poetry - Chat

This month's theme - Stories



Face coverings are once again required in Church and, to protect each other, we encourage you to take a lateral flow test before attending.

The Collect

Eternal Lord,
our beginning and our end:
bring us with the whole creation to your glory,
hidden through past ages and made known
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

First reading

Isaiah 62: 1-5

The Lord says this:

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate; but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the Lord delights in you, and your land shall be married. For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your builder marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second reading

1 Corinthians 12: 1-11

Concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says 'Let Jesus be cursed!' and no one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

John 2: 1-11

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord**

There was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him,
'They have no wine.'
And Jesus said to her,
'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.'
His mother said to the servants,
'Do whatever he tells you.'
Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them,
'Fill the jars with water.'
And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them,
'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.'
So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him,
'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.'
Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Post Communion Prayer

God of glory,
you nourish us with your Word who is the bread of life:
fill us with your Holy Spirit that through us the light of your glory may shine in all the world.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Please hold in your prayers this week:

- All who work within the NHS, especially those who work within Trusts which have declared a critical incident
- Those who continue to feel exhausted and who are suffering from burn out
- Teachers, staff and pupils at Grendon Primary, Denton Primary and Yardley Hastings Primary as they return to school
- Our government and all who are making decisions at this time
- Those who continue to feel lonely, anxious or isolated
- Those struggling in body, mind or spirit, among them: Peter Evans, Ruth Williams, Derek and Janette Hopkins, Audrey Desborough, Jenny Payne, Judith Keggin, Mandy Bates and Jo Cawley.
- Those recently departed, amongst them Mary Ann Miller, Norman Lowe, Peter Walker and all who grieve at this time, including Carole and Michael Clarke and all the family who are grieving the loss of their Mother and Grandmother.

REFLECTION

As we continue with the season of Epiphany, I offer some words of reflection on today's Gospel reading taken from John 2:1-11, found earlier in this newsletter.

Read the precious words that John gave us as he describes Jesus turning water into wine in the wedding at Cana. This is the first miracle that Jesus does. Yet, John does not describe it as a miracle. If you re-read the words again you will read that he calls it a sign. I am not sure I had ever really noticed that before because I have always thought of this as a miracle. Miracles are extraordinary events not explicable by the laws of science or nature. Signs give instruction or direction and relate to the presence of something else. So, while it is absolutely a miracle because it shows the power of Jesus over nature and demonstrates the power of God it is also very clearly a sign. But what is this sign instructing us about and directing us to?

The first thing that we are directed to is Mary's response. When she sees that the wine had run out, she tells Jesus. At that time weddings were significant events lasting days and to run out of wine would be shameful and would imply a lack of hospitality. Mary notices that the wine has run out and brings it to the attention of Jesus. This is the sign for us to do the same. Mary trusts Jesus to find a solution. Are we like Mary, do we bring our problems to Jesus, and do we trust Him as she did to find a solution to our problems?

There are a further two things that we are directed to when Jesus turned the water into wine. The first of these is that Jesus is concerned for us and for our lives. He saw that there was a need at the wedding and met the need with a great abundance. Jesus meets us where we are and fulfils our needs such is His great concern and love for us. The second is that I believe that it is significant that he turned water into wine, because that's a sign that directs us to the gift of Himself of the cross and the wine we receive in communion.

Perhaps I can encourage you to think about this and the other miracles that Jesus did as signs as well as miracles and then I would like to encourage you to explore where the signs are directing you. Are you following the signs in the miracles? Read the passage again. Are there signs you notice that are directing you towards a truth you had never noticed before?

From *Sounding the Seasons: Seventy sonnets for the Christian Year* by Malcolm Guite, Published by Canterbury Press, here is the sonnet '**The Miracle at Cana**'

*Here's an epiphany to have and hold,
A truth that you can taste upon the tongue,
No distant shrines and canopies of gold
Or ladders to be clambered rung by rung,
But here and now, amidst your daily living,
Where you can taste and touch and feel and see,
The spring of love, the fount of all forgiving,
Flows when you need it, rich, abundant, free.
Better than waters of some outer weeping,
That leave you still with all your hidden sin,
Here is a vintage richer for the keeping
That works its transformation from within.
'What price?' you ask me, as we raise the glass,
'It cost our Saviour everything he has.'*

With love and prayers,
Liz, Benefice Reader

CHURCH CALENDAR

REGULAR EVENTS:

Every Tuesday:

Usually Crafters' Corner but due to COVID the URC is closed till the end of January. This means there will be no Crafter's Corner on Tuesdays in January.

Every Wednesday:

Midweek Communion at 9:30am at St Mary's Grendon

Every Thursday:

Crafting in St Margaret's Church, Denton, 2.00pm - 3.00pm. Bring something you want to work on or come for a natter and meet new friends. Refreshments available.
Contact Pat Terry on 890078 for more information.

Every Friday:

Coffee morning at St Margaret's Church, Denton from 10.00am - 12 noon with croissants, toast and friendly chat.

THIS WEEK:

Friday 21st January:

After School Club, 3.30pm at St Margaret's Church, Denton.
This month we will be celebrating Chinese New Year - the year of the Tiger.

FURTHER AHEAD:

Thursday 27th January:

Youth Group, 6.30 - 8.00pm at St Mary's, Grendon. For all in school year 6 and above.

Friday 4th February:

Little Fishes, 9.00am at St Mary's Grendon. For under 5's and their grown-ups.
Story, craft, play & chatter. £2 per family (including refreshments).

Tuesday 1st March:

St Andrew's Shrove Tuesday Supper, 7pm at Yardley Hastings Memorial Hall.
Adults £7, Children £3. Tickets from Fiona Rowntree (696665), Charlotte Tipping (696618) and Debbie Smith (696382) debs.yh62@gmail.com

Sunday 20th March:

Grendon Daffodil Festival, 11am - 5pm

Sunday 3rd July:

Open Gardens, Yardley Hastings