



# Wychwood Benefice

Church News 3 January, 2021

***Our Vision: To build God's Kingdom here on earth as in heaven***

## **SUNDAY 3 JANUARY – EPIPHANY**

11.00am Shipton United Benefice Holy Communion Church Service

*We will post a recording of the service online on Facebook and YouTube afterwards. [youtube.com/wychwoodbenefice](https://www.youtube.com/wychwoodbenefice)*

There is an online service from the Diocese at 10am each Sunday. The order of service and links to view/listen are posted on Saturday:

<https://www.oxford.anglican.org/coronavirus-covid-19-2/livestream/>

## **PRAYERS AND READINGS**

**Collect** Creator of the heavens, who led the Magi by a star to worship the Christ-child: guide and sustain us, that we may find our journey's end in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**Post 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**

## **Epiphany**

**First Reading Ephesians 3:1-12** Paul speaks of his own experience of seeing the light, and of his calling to affirm Gentiles in their place in Christ's Church.

**Gospel Matthew 2:1-12** The wise men arrive from the east, alerting Herod to the birth of a potential rival. Representing the Gentiles, they worship the King of the Jews.

**Prayer List:** Hostage John Cantlie, Marian Clark, Richard Adams, Emma Bradford, Shauni McGregor, Robert Arlott, Joan Howard Drake and Wendy Cherry.

**R.I.P.:** Meriel Brooke and Ian Carrington.

**Intercessions:** In our prayers we are particularly praying for all in our care homes – especially those at Old Prebendal (staff and residents) following the recent flooding and evacuation. Also we pray for Tall Trees and The Paddocks; and all the elderly in our villages.

We also pray for all those who have been affected by the flooding.

We also pray for our school – for the teachers and staff and all the children ahead of the new school term.

We are also praying for the work of the foodbank.

## Notices

### Oxfordshire is now in Tier 4

The Church of England have produced a useful document relating to activities permitted under the tier system and how that relates to churches and worship.

Churches can still open for private and public worship:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2020-12/COVID%2019%20Permitted%20Activities%20under%20Tier%20System%201.12.20%20v3.pdf>

The Church of England also published the following:

*“It is everyone’s responsibility to comply with the law. This guidance is designed to help those who have responsibility for organising gatherings, to ensure they comply with the law and protect parishioners and the public, especially those most vulnerable to the effects of COVID-19.*

*We urge everyone to take precautions and, especially for those in tier four, to be exceptionally careful.*

*We acknowledge and share the sadness many are feeling at not being able to meet together as we used to do. We prayerfully and confidently look forward to the day when we can all meet together again.”*

### **Guidelines on coming to church:**

- We ask you please not to come if you (or anyone in your household) are unwell.
- Please wear a mask or covering and use hand sanitizer on entering church.
- Please sign in and use the track and trace system if possible.
- Please adhere to the advice displayed on signs in church with regards to social distancing and where to sit.

### **Mid Week Communion in Milton**

This will continue to be every Wednesday in Milton Church at 10.30am.

### **Shipton Monthly Prize Draw – £100 prize every month!**

If you would like to sign up to the monthly draw with the chance to win £100 a month (starting from £36 a year - £3 a month) see details on the website

<https://wychwoodbenefice.org.uk/sign-up-to-our-monthly-draw-100-prize-each-month-and-help-raise-funds-for-shipton-church/>

or contact Mary: [minifan2@gmail.com](mailto:minifan2@gmail.com)

[monthly-draw-shipton-church/](#)

## **Sunday 10 January 2021 – Baptism of Christ**

- 9.30am Milton Holy Communion Church Service  
11.00am Fifield BCP Holy Communion Church Service  
11.00am Shipton Holy Communion Church Service

*We will post a recording of a service on Facebook and YouTube each Sunday. It will be available on the website from the Monday.*

[youtube.com/wychwoodbenefice](https://www.youtube.com/wychwoodbenefice)

## **Baptism of Christ First Reading Acts 19:1-7**

Paul teaches that Christian baptism always involves being filled with the Holy Spirit. This is not an optional extra, but a sign that we are part of the new age initiated by Christ's own baptism.

## **Gospel Mark 1:4-11**

Jesus' baptism shows the world that he is indeed more powerful and greater than John the Baptist. It reveals his identity as the Son of God.

### **Contact Details**

The Benefice Office is currently closed, Clare is working from home and will be checking emails and phone messages Mon – Fri.

Tel 01993 832467 [office@wychwoodbenefice.org.uk](mailto:office@wychwoodbenefice.org.uk)

Vicar: Rev Geoffrey Clement [vicar@wychwoodbenefice.org.uk](mailto:vicar@wychwoodbenefice.org.uk) 01993 832514

Rest Day: Thursday

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