

# Epiphany News

The magazine of Holy Epiphany Church

April/May 2019



**HALLELUJAH – CHRIST IS RISEN**

**Come and explore Easter  
and beyond  
at Holy Epiphany**



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**There is a loop system available in church.  
Please adjust your hearing aid to the relevant setting**





## Letter from David Thompson

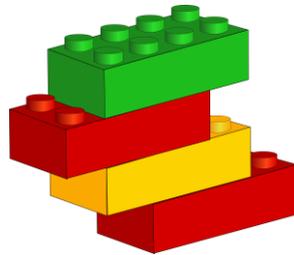
Dear friends,

As we pass the spring equinox and the days become longer than the nights, I am reminded again of the annual movement in the tilt of the earth, as it circles the sun giving us our seasons.

The earth has been moving in its orbit for millions of years and the seasons happened long before man first walked on the earth. Compared to this, our lives are but a blink of an eye on the cosmic timeline.

For us however, time passes quickly and our recollection of past days, weeks and months becomes blurred. This is probably a symptom of getting older but I digress slightly. Was it fifteen years ago that I joined Holy Epiphany as a newly ordained curate? Personally, the time has been filled with many memories - both daughters going through university, finding partners, getting married and having children of their own. Sadly, family members have also died and there have been things that have been negative as well as positive to reflect on and remember.

The same is true of our church life. We have said goodbye as folk moved away. We've seen the sad passing of long standing and loved members of our community but also the arrival of new people who now form our Church Family. Holy Epiphany remains, as it always has been, a friendly and open community but in other ways it has changed out of all recognition.



Yes, there are several physical improvements to our facilities that we can celebrate. More importantly, the 'back shop' has also been changed, with many Holy Spirit-led transformations in thinking and working together that help us build up the Church fellowship and serve our wider community with greater effect. The past few years have seen greater financial stability and an increased lay ministry team with folk committing themselves to training such as Bishop's Commission for Mission (BCM) and Licensed Lay Ministry (LLM). We have seen greater engagement with the life and mission of the parish by everyone.

The building blocks and foundations for Church growth have been laid. What then of the future? There is ongoing discussion as to the shape and form of ordained leadership here and across Bournemouth. The Church

has to change to meet the needs of a society that bears little resemblance to the past. My view is that the changes we see as being forced on us by necessity will, in the end prove to be not only according to God's plan, but beneficial for the 'common good' of all. Life within and around the Church will not be the same as it was, but it will be exciting and offer new ways of growing the Kingdom of God.

Together we can be more, give more and do more for each other. Holy Epiphany is on a journey; if you are not already part of it why not find out more by coming along to a community activity or Sunday worship? Faith and fellowship can and does transform lives.

God Bless,

## From the Editors

This magazine is free; a donation of at least £1.20 a copy helps to offset the costs of printing. Contributions by 15 May please, for the next edition, to be **published on 2 June**.

*Disclaimer: Views expressed in Epiphany News are those of contributors, not the editors or the ministry team. Editors reserve the right to edit or shorten articles or hold them for a later edition. Mary Hogg and Julie Renton*



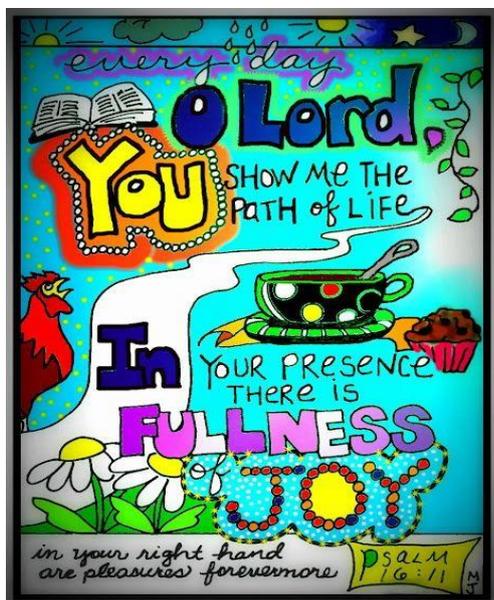
## FaithTime by Jan Farrow

I was recently taking a walk with Mopsy the dog when we found a new pathway to explore; it extended our walk by about half an hour. Mopsy was delighted, as was I. She ran about excitedly exploring every new area and scent, whilst I enjoyed the snowdrops and was careful to skirt the mud and water!!

New ways can be difficult unless you are following a map or book, neither of which have too much attraction for me. I enjoy the more spontaneous approach which can of course have its problems as well as delights. I don't usually get lost but it has been known.

I was surprised to see just how excited Mopsy was at finding something new but I guess she can get a little bored like all of us (or not) by treading the same old paths.

Many of us, as we get older, are not so keen on taking a new pathway in life, but no matter what age we are there is nearly always a choice, sometimes too much choice. We try to discern the way ahead, but often there are no clues - what we want to see is just around the corner, or around the next corner and so on.



In Psalm 16 David writes,

**'You will show me the path of life'**

'If only it were that easy', I hear you say, and yes, I agree it's not that easy to choose the right pathway. It's not as if we hear some disembodied voice saying, 'This is the way'. If I did, I think I might well run in the opposite direction!

We can look back at life and say, 'If only I had gone this way or that'. An attack of the 'if only's' is rarely a good place to be. It's far better that we focus on the Lord day by day, praying that He will indeed go before us, behind us and beside us, day and night.

Interestingly, Psalm 16 is also known as the 'Resurrection Psalm'. It is quoted in the New Testament by Peter and Paul when referring to the bodily resurrection of Jesus.

David, the writer of this psalm, led a chequered life; he explored many pathways, some of which were questionable to say the least. But his relationship with God was one of constant repentance and forgiveness as, hopefully, is our relationship with Jesus and God. He was confident that he would one day be with God eternally.

**'In Your presence,'** says David. **'There is joy, You will show me the way and I will live with You for ever.'**

I echo that prayer and continue to trust that whichever path I tread He will be there with me.

### A Celtic Prayer

*On your path, O my God*

*And not my own,*

*Be all my journeying.*

*Rule this heart of mine*

*That it be only yours.*

## Agape Outreach Ministry – work this church supports in Malawi

We were delighted to welcome Dennis and Sheila Eaton, our mission partners in Malawi, to speak at our service on Sunday 17 March.

They shared something of the conditions in which people live (in what is the poorest country in the world) and some of the practical ways they are able to show the love of Christ. They also spoke of the privilege of sharing the good news of Jesus with the Malawian people.



They told us how hungry the people are to hear the gospel. They shared the story of Margaret and of how her life had changed since she had become a believer in Christ. It wasn't that her circumstances had changed, but that she now had a hope for the future. We heard how on being given a Bible, Margaret had read it from Genesis to Revelation between visits from Dennis and Sheila. Speaking from Romans 10 v 13, Dennis went on to emphasise that the good news of Jesus is for EVERYONE, wherever they live and that the scriptures tell us that **'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved'**.

## Christian Aid Week 12 – 18 May 2019



**Christian Aid have more than 70 years' experience of working in partnership to support communities to thrive.**

**They tackle the root causes of poverty so that women, men and children the world over are strengthened against future knocks.**

**And if disasters happen, they get people the help they want straight away.**

The focus of this year's Christian Aid Week is Sierra Leone where Christian Aid are working with partner organisations to help the country's poorest communities. Sierra Leone lacks funds for proper health clinics, health training and for enough ambulances. It's the most dangerous place in the world to become a mum.

When Ebola struck Sierra Leone, its government had little choice but to accept loans from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to help it cope with the crisis. However, the country's debt repayments have left Sierra Leone with even less money to provide good healthcare. In addition to raising funds for Sierra Leone, Christian Aid is asking for support for their petition for the IMF to drop Sierra Leone's debt.

The UK Government has a lot of power within the IMF to do something about this.

**Will you write to the Chancellor or your MP  
to support Christian Aid's petition for the debt to be dropped?**

## Christian Aid Coffee Morning

Holy Epiphany Church Hall

**Saturday 11 May at 10.45am**



**Teas and Coffees, Cakes and Plant Sale - Small admission charge**

# What's happening at Epiphany in April and May?

## Church



## Services

Including changes to our regular service pattern during Holy Week and Easter.

### 7 April

9.00am Breakfast @ 9 – Especially for families with young children  
10.00am Coffee followed by a short, informal Family Service

### 14 April Palm Sunday

10.00am All Age Service

### 18 April Maundy Thursday

7.30pm Holy Communion (with foot washing)

### 19 April Good Friday

10.00am Family Reflection followed by hot cross buns and coffee  
(Joint service with the Lutheran church)

### 21 April Easter Sunday

10.00am Holy Communion with Roots for Children and Crèche  
No Messy Church

### 28 April

10.00am All Age Service

### 5 May

9.00am Breakfast @ 9 – Especially for families with young children  
10.00am Coffee followed by a short, informal Family Service

### 12 May

10.00am Holy Communion with Roots for Children and Crèche

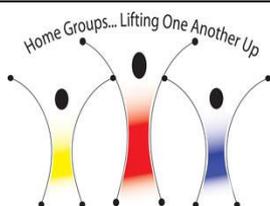
### 19 May

9.00am Holy Communion (said)  
10.00am All Age Service  
3.00pm Messy Church in the hall

### 26 May

10.00am Holy Communion with Roots for Children and Crèche

### Wednesday Holy Communion 12.15pm on 17 April and 15 May



**Home Groups** – friendly groups who meet fortnightly to share fellowship, study God's word and pray. New members welcome - please talk to Jan Farrow.

Monday Evening Group meets at 7.30pm

**Please see Lynley Wilkes for dates and venues**

Wednesday Morning Group meets at 10.00am

**3 April; 1 May and 15 May**

## PRAYER

*changes things*

**Prayer Meetings** in the Jubilee Room – all are welcome.

Saturday evenings 6 – 7pm – Coffee and prayer on **6 April and 4 May**

Tuesday afternoons 2 – 3pm on **9 and 23 April; 14 and 28 May**



**Epiphany Bright Stars** – parent/carer and toddler group on Tuesday mornings in **term-time** at 9.30am in the church and Jubilee Room.

**No meeting on 9 and 16 April (Easter) or 28 May (Half Term).**

Contact Jodie Burge on 01202 776270



**Messy Church** – family fun for parents and children followed by a shared meal.

Lots of craft activities, biscuit or cake decorating, Bible stories and buffet tea.

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month. Next meeting is on **19 May, 3.00 – 5.00pm** in the hall.

**No Messy Church on 21 April.** Contact Lynley Wilkes on 01202 823261

	<p><b>Men's Breakfast</b> – next meeting will be at <b>Holdenhurst Village Hall</b> on <b>27 April</b>, when Liam Morgan will speak on his journey with God in a talk entitled 'Religion to Reality'. <b>No meeting in May</b>. Full English breakfast served at <b>8.00 am</b>. All men welcome. Contact Andy on <b>07484 203076</b> or <a href="mailto:andy.renton56@gmail.com">andy.renton56@gmail.com</a>.</p>		
	<p><b>Muscliff Care Home:</b> – Mondays at 2.45pm, monthly  <b>8 April – Looking forward to Easter</b>  <b>13 May – Ascension of Jesus</b></p>		
	<p><b>Epiphany Pre school</b> meets Monday - Friday in the church hall during <b>term-time</b> from 9.00am to 3.00pm. Closed during half term. Please check dates with the pre-school staff. Phone 01202 612337 for more information</p>		
		<p><b>Tea Cosy</b> – tea and coffee and time for a chat. Mondays in term-time from 9.30am – 12.00 in the Jubilee Room. <b>No Meetings on 8, 15 and 22 April or 6 and 27 May</b></p> <p><b>Choir practice</b> - please contact Susan Bright for up to date information. See the 'Who's Who' page for contact details.</p>	
	<p><b>Lunch Club</b> – coffee at 10.30am followed by games and social time. Lunch is served at 1.00pm and is prepared by 'Crumbs'. A 2-course meal costs £4 and (pre-booked) menu choices are available. Please contact the church office on 01202 612337 to book.</p>		
	<p><b>Pie and a Pint</b> – an opportunity for men to chat and 'put the world to rights'. 7.00pm Wetherspoon's in Winton. <b>Next meetings 24 April and 29 May</b>. Contact Alan Hogg on 07963 706907. All men welcome, no need to book.</p>		
	<p><b>Hymns and Cake</b> – come and join in with some favourite hymns, learn a little about them and afterwards enjoy tea and cake. 2.30pm in the Jubilee Room. A dementia friendly event. <b>Easter hymns - 26 April, Creation hymns - 31 May</b>. Contact Joanne Davis for more details Tel 07906355271.</p>		
	<p><b>Beavers</b> Jacqui Elena  <a href="mailto:jacqui.elena15@gmail.com">jacqui.elena15@gmail.com</a>  <b>Cubs</b>  Jan Kingsland 01202 517627  <b>Scouts</b>  Simon Blake 07500 901 561</p>		<p><b>Brownies</b>  Sam Pattermore 07930 581851  <b>Guides and Rainbows</b>  Sandra Coomber 07712 129445</p>

## Around the Table - an evening of reflection for Holy Week

**Tuesday 16 April - 7pm in the church and Jubilee Room**

An interactive, reflective time focusing on a number of different scripture readings together with a simple meal



All are welcome - for catering purposes, please sign up on the sheet at the back of church or contact Jan Farrow or Lynley Wilkes for more information

# SERVICES FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

## 14 April Palm Sunday

10.00am All Age Service

## 16 April

7.00pm Reflective Evening (see advert on previous page)

## 18 April Maundy Thursday

7.30pm Holy Communion (with foot washing)

## 19 April Good Friday

10.00am Family Reflection followed by Hot Cross Buns and Coffee  
(Joint service with Lutheran church)

## 21 April Easter Sunday

10.00am Holy Communion

# Sing Praise and Bless the Lord

Sunday 7 April at 4pm

a reflective service of readings and music with the choir

the focus will be on healing and wholeness of body, mind and spirit  
with an opportunity to receive prayer

## Thy Kingdom Come: Prayer Breakfast

**Thursday 30 May 8.15 – 9.45 am**

**Join us for Breakfast and Prayer**

*on Ascension Day, which marks the start of 'Thy Kingdom Come'  
- a call to prayer during the nine days until Pentecost*

We will be praying for our local area, our church and our friends.  
Don't worry, you won't have to pray out loud.  
Come when you can and go when you need to.

**Names to Julie Renton/Mary Hogg for catering purposes please**

**Look out for details of other local events nearer the time**



## How passion flowers got their name

This beautiful climbing plant that grows in many of our gardens is not native to the UK, but comes from South America. It was first discovered by Spanish missionaries working there, centuries ago.

Drawings were sent back to Europe, and in 1609 an Italian priest interpreted the flower to represent Jesus Christ's crucifixion, otherwise known as His Passion. It provided visual aids to tell people about Jesus' death; amongst them, the corolla could be seen as Jesus' crown of thorns, the stigma could be seen as the cross or nails, and the five stamens could be seen as the number of wounds Jesus received.

The good news of Jesus' death for us and His resurrection has spread throughout the world, as has this delightful, intricate flower.



*(Our thanks to Sue Bright for the idea for this article.)*

**“But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on Him, and by His wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”** *Isaiah chapter 53 verses 5-6*

## Parish Registers from February and March 2019

**Baptisms – We welcome into the church family:**

**24 February**

*George Freddie Single*



## Barbara Manser – 27 September 1927 – 8 March 2019



We also record here, with sadness, the death of *Barbara Manser*, whose funeral was held at Bournemouth Crematorium on 29 March. Barbara was a very down-to-earth lady with a good sense of humour. She was a loyal member of Holy Epiphany Church for many years, helping with flower-arranging and as a part of the team of 'Holy Dusters'. We extend our deepest sympathies to her family and friends at this time.

**‘Do not neglect to do good and share what you have’ Hebrews 13 v 16**

This year we have been able to donate £247 to each of our chosen charities.

This money has come from donations for coffees and teas after church and at Tea Cosy.



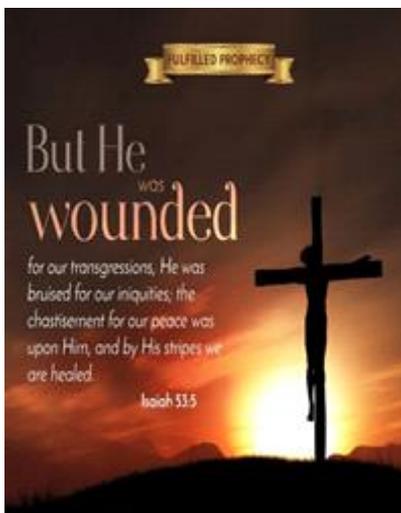


## Lent: A time of preparation *by Lynley Wilkes*

When you think of Easter what comes to mind? I wanted to find out why we call the time when we remember Jesus' death and resurrection 'Easter' because, for Christians, it's not about chocolate eggs...

In my research to discover the roots of the word 'Easter' I found information that comes from Bede, an English monk, who was a late-seventh-century historian and scholar. He says Easter's name comes from the Anglo-Saxon goddess Eostre, who was associated with fertility and was celebrated around the spring equinox. The Christian festival of Easter coincided with and replaced the pagan celebration of spring.

Whatever the origin of the word 'Easter', for Christians it is the time we remember Jesus' journey to the cross, His death, His resurrection and later, His ascension. It is also the time (and not by accident) of the Jewish festival of Passover, when God saved His people from slavery in Egypt. God chose this time to show the world that Jesus has become the Passover lamb and is able to free those who recognise Him from the slavery of sin.



In Lent we prepare, as Jesus prepared, for His final weeks and days. God prepared throughout history for this time.

We have already looked a little at Old Testament Prophets and their role in God's plan,

so it should not come as a surprise to discover that there are 330 prophecies in the Old Testament about the Messiah, the Anointed One, Jesus Christ. Here are just a few . . .

**"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace."**  
(Isaiah 9:6)

**"The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone." (Psalm 118:22)**

**"Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey." (Zechariah 9:9)**



**"He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces He was despised, and we held Him in low esteem.**

**Surely, He took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered Him punished by God, stricken by Him, and afflicted.**

**But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on Him, and by His wounds we are healed.**

**We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.**

**He was oppressed and afflicted, yet He did not open his mouth; He was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He did not open his mouth.**

**By oppression and judgment, He was taken away. Yet who of His generation protested?"**  
(Isaiah 53: 3-8)

We know the Bible is true; all that has gone before has happened but there is so much more to come. As we journey through Lent to the Cross and beyond, we look ahead to God's promises still to be fulfilled and celebrate the joy and glory of His constant love for humankind.

## Faith Stories – Pauline Wheeler *(interviewed by Jan Farrow)*

**Thank you Pauline for agreeing to talk to me about yourself and your faith journey. As a congregation we see you and Adrian week by week in the choir and I know you have a love of music.**

Yes, ever since I was young my brother and I have shared our love of music. When I was five, I remember singing the hymn 'Fill Thou my Life, O Lord my God, in Every Part with Praise'. I have always enjoyed singing and hymns, they have made a big impression on me.

**Do you have any favourite hymns, Pauline, and do you go for the words or the tune?**

That's a difficult question; I have always been drawn to 'The King of Love my Shepherd is'. I think the wonderful words of hymns help to strengthen your belief. Both the tune and the words are important although I am not so keen on modern hymns. I have begun playing hymns every morning and find I am improving.

**When did you begin playing the piano?**

I had a wonderful piano teacher; I began playing at the age of ten - those were the good years. I would love to see her again, I found her so inspiring.

**Tell me something about your early years Pauline.**

As children we moved homes quite a lot and we lived in the North East. I attended a number of different churches during those years; from the Presbyterian Sunday school I went to Methodist and Church of England Sunday schools alternately. I was sure of my



belief in Jesus Christ and if asked what my religion was, for example on a form, I would state Christian. Denominations were less important, I was not a Muslim or a Hindu and didn't believe in any other faith leader. Jesus was King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

**Have you any special memories, Pauline?**

A milestone in my faith came when I was 10 years old. I went to see a slide show of 'Pilgrim's Progress'. I wanted to be like the character Christian and feel the weight of sin fall off my back. We seemed much more aware of sin then, even at that age.

I also have a particular memory at the age of 16 in the Methodist church. It was the first time I read in church and I read about putting on the full armour of God. That also made quite an impression on me.

**Do you ever have any doubts about your faith Pauline?**

Yes, over the years I have questioned my faith. It can be difficult when we hear things about science and the world in general but I still believe in the life of Christ and the resurrection.

**I believe you trained as a nurse Pauline**

Yes, I nursed people with mental disabilities, then did my general in Stevenage, then midwifery in Middlesbrough and Boscombe. I was baptised as an adult at Lansdowne Baptist church and have been married to Adrian for forty years now. Adrian and I were very involved with the Full Gospel Business Men's International movement. We were at the United Reformed Church in Throop at the time. It was a really encouraging period for us both, faith-wise.

**You have moved about quite a lot, Pauline**

Yes, I sometimes feel I'm a bit of a restless soul, but I am happy at Epiphany. I feel I can serve the Lord in the choir, it gives me stability and peace. I have been at Epiphany for 25 years now.

**Pauline, I am very aware that you know your Bible well.**

Not so well now, but my faith is all centred around the person of Christ. I read a book, 'The Cost of Discipleship' by Bonhoeffer when I was in my early thirties and that helped me to realise and understand how Christ, who had no sin, took our sin upon himself. I want people to think more about the real meaning of His life and death and how knowing that truth could change their lives.

**Thank you for sharing the story of your faith journey and thank you for all you do for the church and community in general. We pray there are many happy years still singing God's praises in the choir.**

### What happened on the first Easter?

The religious leaders of Jesus' time, didn't like Jesus. They didn't believe that He was God's son and they wanted to get rid of Him. They hatched a plot to have Him killed by the Roman government. The Romans had all sorts of nasty punishments, one of which was death by hanging on a cross. This was the punishment given to Jesus, even though He had really done nothing wrong.

On the day we call Good Friday, we remember that Jesus died. Christians believe that He is God's son and that when He died, He took all the punishment that we deserve for the wrong things we do. At midday on the day Jesus died, when the sun should have been high in the sky, it became very dark and stayed dark for three whole hours. At 3 o'clock in the afternoon, Jesus cried out 'It is finished!' and then He died. At that point even one of the Roman soldiers who was there realised that Jesus really was God's son. Some friends of Jesus took His body and put it in a tomb (a sort of cave in the rocks) and rolled a huge stone over the entrance to keep His body safe.

Although Jesus had finished what He came to earth to do, His story isn't finished, because on the following Sunday, just a few days later, Jesus came back to life again. When some of Jesus's friends went to the tomb on that morning, they found that the huge stone had been rolled away and Jesus' body wasn't in the tomb any more. He had come back to life. Lots of his friends saw him, talked with him and ate with him. He told them that in a few weeks' time, He wouldn't be with them on earth any more. He was going to heaven to be with God, but that He would send his Holy Spirit to help them to tell others all about the amazing things that He had done.

*Come along to Breakfast @ 9 and Messy Church to find out more about God's amazing love for us.*

**He's not here!  
He is risen,  
just as He said He would.**

**Matthew 28 v 6**

Can you find a way from one side of the cross to the other through the maze?  
When you've finished, there's a picture to colour too.

