

Epiphany News

The magazine of Holy Epiphany Church

February/March 2018



Look inside for details of
special events
in February and March
as we look forward
to Easter

There's something
for everyone!

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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

My letters for the magazine have to be produced a long time before it is printed. I'm writing this, having just celebrated Christmas and not yet entered 2018. This magazine covers February and March, which this year will include Holy Week. Mentally, I am forced to jump from the beginning of Jesus' life on earth to its conclusion, from birth to resurrection.

This is actually no bad thing for it reminds me that the magic of Christmas cannot be divorced either from the horror of the cross, nor of course, from the victory of the resurrection. The baby of Bethlehem was born on earth for the purpose of leaving it as the ultimate and complete sacrifice for the sins of humanity. Jesus was sent to minister, teach and heal but equally the manner of his death was already part of God's plan when he was born.

Our lives may be described as journeys and the same is true within the Church's calendar as we move from Christmas, through Epiphany and into Lent before finally reaching Holy Week and Easter. During this time, we may metaphorically travel with Jesus as he set his course towards Jerusalem and the cross, but this is not a journey of despair but of joyful hope in the promises of God fulfilled by Jesus.

As we move from the darkness of winter to the warmth of springtime so we also travel from an understanding of our own sinfulness to forgiveness and salvation as we approach Easter.

A New Year brings new opportunities, even a fresh start. My family and I are already talking about 2018. We are anticipating events which include a friend's wedding, the birth of a second grandchild and perhaps a holiday together on the Isle of Wight. A lot to look forward to and to plan for. Will they all occur? Well the first two are definite but I have to admit that the holiday was talked about last year but never took place. Can we make it happen this year? The answer is of course only by committing ourselves early on, getting the dates in our diaries and booking the accommodation. What is it that you wish to do, or need to do this year? Do you have dreams or aspirations? How are you going to make them a reality?

Your Church also has dreams, aspirations, goals and tasks for the coming year. Holy Epiphany has seen rapid change over the past few years, far faster than most are used to, and great progress has been made. However there remains a lot on our 'to do' list. Let us commit ourselves to the tasks and goals we have set before us with renewed enthusiasm to get the job done; we have to move from planning to action and there is a part to play for us all. Can I encourage everyone to ask questions of PCC members, or the leadership team and explore what you can do, even if it is in a small way, to make a difference to your church and your community.

God Bless

Regular readers will know that we plan to continue refurbishing the church and church hall to increase the number of community activities that take place. Next projects include disabled toilets in the church and general improvement of facilities for all the groups that meet here.

If you shop online, even for small things, you can help us achieve this by shopping via

www.easyfundraising.org.uk

From the easyfundraising website, search for Holy Epiphany Outreach Program and register as a supporter. Now do your online shopping (e.g. with Amazon or for your groceries and much more) through the easyfundraising website. The retailer makes a donation to us, there is no additional cost to you.



FaithTime by Jan Farrow

“Would you like to help paint the outside of the garage?” said Rosie to me one morning last October.

We are in the process of turning the garage into a quiet space and art room. Well, when someone asks you a direct question like that there's not a lot you can say. We had almost finished the inside, now we needed to paint the outside. The trouble was, and I could see it coming, it's pebbledash, a nightmare to paint. However, I couldn't think of a valid excuse so I agreed.

After some time of painting and listening to the birds etc, Rosie gives a big contented sigh and says, “This is so therapeutic, isn't it. . .” There is a long pause as I think about how best to answer this. I could think of many things to call painting the garage but therapeutic was not on the list, not even near it.

It looked wonderful when it was finished. It looked like a new building which of course it was and I was thrilled to see it, but no, I am not going to tell you what my reply to Rosie was.

Praise God we are all very different - in build, personalities, emotions, gifting, spirituality and much more. As Christians we need to make an effort - sometimes, like me, a very big effort - because we are called to be like Jesus and that means we have to change. Left to our own devices we can so easily become selfish, only wanting to do those things WE like and WE want.

St Paul tells us we need to be changed from the inside out:

“Don't copy the behaviour and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.”

Letter to the Romans chapter 12 verse 2 (NLT)

How do we do that? There is so much in the Bible about changing, so much good advice it's difficult to know where to begin, so here are a few words from Jesus. He is speaking to a crowd of people and this comes under the heading of “love your enemies”:

“Do to others as you would like them to do to you.” Luke's Gospel chapter 6 verse 31 (NLT)

So, how do we want others to treat us?

No doubt we would like others to treat us with honesty, generosity, fairness, patience, faithfulness, loyalty, and with wisdom - not to mention endless forgiveness. The list could be a whole lot longer but could perhaps be summed up in one word '**love**'.

I'm not sure I always appreciate just how much that little word 'love' embraces. It is by loving others that we come to love ourselves. It may seem a little back to front within the culture of today, but with the Lord, the source of all love, in our hearts, hopefully we might aspire to some of these desirable qualities and grow in love towards God, each other and ourselves.



Epiphany Family Service and Lunch

The Feast of the Epiphany is a special time for us, as the festival from which our church gets its name, so in January both Breakfast @ 9 and our Family Service at 10.15 celebrated the arrival of the magi to worship Jesus. There was much hissing at an evil-sounding King Herod. The service was followed by a bring and share lunch masterminded by Greta and her team of helpers. A big thank you to them all.

This magazine is freely available however a donation of at least £1.20 a copy would help to offset the costs of printing. Contributions welcome for consideration for our next edition - by **15 March** please.

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.

2017 Christmas Lunch



We are extremely grateful to Asda at Castlepoint for a generous donation of £750, which enabled us to provide a free Christmas lunch to older people and others living in difficult circumstances in our parish. As usual, catering was courtesy of Crumbs who provided a delicious meal with all the seasonal trimmings.

Hot lunches are provided for older people most Wednesdays during the year at a subsidised price of £4. Please phone the parish office on 01202 612337 for more information.

News from some of our groups

Epiphany Bright Stars Toddler Group



The Epiphany Bright Stars children had a great time at their Christmas party! There was yummy food, crackers and a visit from Mother Christmas with a gift for each child.

Epiphany Bright Stars meets on Tuesdays from 9.30am during term time

Recruiting Now!

Rainbows have places available
TUESDAY evenings 5.30pm – 6.30pm
in the Church Hall. [Note new venue/time]
Guides are also looking for new members
TUESDAY evenings 6.45pm – 8.30pm
in the Church Hall.

Lots of fun activities are planned for Guides this year including a camp in May and a Christmas holiday in December.

Why not come and join in?

Phone Sandra Coomber 07712 129445

It's a time of change for the 1st Bournemouth Scout Group as Ken Ford has stepped down after 17 years as our Group Scout Leader (GSL). Thanks go to Ken for his hard work and massive commitment to our group and the young people. We look forward to him continuing to be involved.

Paul Sutton is moving from being Beaver Scout Leader to become GSL and Jacqui Elena is taking on the role of BSL. Paul remains the phone contact for Beavers.

Jan Kingsland and Simon Blake continue to run the Cubs & Scouts with a fantastic team of leaders and supportive parents throughout.

The Cub Pack currently has spaces for boys or girls aged 8-10.5 years – so, if you have a child of that age then why not drop in to see them on a Thursday between 5.45 & 7.30pm?



Parish Registers from December and January

Baptism

10 December Veronica Elizabeth Cashell

We were delighted to welcome Veronica into the church family by baptism and to see so many family and friends take part in the service. Veronica's amazing journey of faith has just begun.



	<p>Epiphany Pre school meets Monday - Friday in the church hall during term-time from 9.00am to 3.00pm. Closed for half term 12 – 16 February and for Easter from 30 March. Phone 01202 612337 for more information</p>	
	<p>Tea Cosy – tea and coffee and time for a chat. Mondays in term-time from 9.30am – 12.00 in the Jubilee Room. No meeting on 12 February (half term).</p>	 <p>Choir practice - Fridays from 7.00 – 8.00pm. Please contact Susan Bright, for up to date information. See the 'Who's Who' page for contact details.</p>
	<p>Lunch Club – social time with coffee at 10.30am followed by games. Lunch served at 1.00pm prepared by 'Crumbs'. A 2 course meal costs £4 and (pre-booked) menu choices are available. Weekly in the Jubilee Room. Please contact the church office on 01202 612337 to book.</p>	
	<p>Pie and a Pint – an opportunity for men to chat and 'put the world to rights'. 7.00pm Wetherspoon's in Winton. Next meetings are on 28 February and 28 March. Contact Alan Hogg on 07963 706907. All men welcome.</p>	
	<p>Beavers Paul Sutton 07736 283973</p> <p>Cubs Jan Kingsland 01202 517627</p> <p>Scouts Simon Blake 07500 901 561</p>	 <p>Brownies Sam Pattermore 07930 581851</p> <p>Guides and Rainbows Sandra Coomber 07712 129445</p>

Special services for Holy Week and Easter

Palm Sunday 25 March

10.00am All age service

Lenten Reflection Tuesday 27 March

6.30pm - 8.45pm in the Jubilee Room

Maundy Thursday 29 March

7.30pm Holy Communion
(with washing of feet)

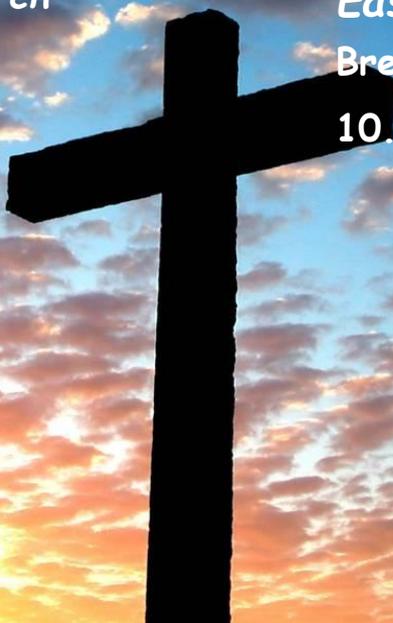
Good Friday 30 March

10.00am All age service

with the Lutheran Church and followed by hot cross buns

Easter Sunday 1 April

Breakfast @ 9 in the Hall
10.00am Holy Communion



Special Events at Epiphany during February and March

LENT 2018

Join a Home Group for Lent!



Each home group will have special meetings during Lent and all are welcome - bring a Bible and find out more about why Jesus died and rose again.

Check the centre pages for dates and times and contact details.

Lunches during Lent

Everyone is welcome to a lunch of soup and a roll to support a variety of charities.

We hold lunches every Friday from 16th February to 23rd March, in different homes.



Look out in church for a list of dates and venues.



'Around the Table'

An opportunity to reflect on the last few hours that Jesus spent with his disciples

Join us on Tuesday 27 March anytime between 6.30pm and 8.45pm in the Jubilee Room

Light, self-serve refreshments available at the back of church whilst we sit quietly and prepare to experience the reflection space in the Jubilee Room or share our thoughts afterwards

Pray around the Year

A discipline of prayer changes the way that we think about our lives, because it creates new habits of heart and mind. Prayer opens us more deeply to the transforming grace of God. We enter into God's presence, allowing the Holy Spirit to pray in us. Whether you are a child, young person or an adult, prayer is easier than you might imagine! Millions of people of every age pray every day.

*Almighty God,
in Christ you make all things new:
transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace,
and in the renewal of our lives
make known your heavenly glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.*



Taken from the Church of England Website: <https://cms.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/>

You can pray by yourself or you might like to join us at one of our times when we pray together.

Don't worry, you don't have to pray out loud if you don't want to.

We'd love you to join us in prayer – times are listed in the centre pages.

Becoming a Dementia Friendly Church *by Julie Renton*

Did you know there are 850,000 people living with dementia in the UK? That's 1 in 14 people. This is set to rise to 1 million by 2025 and will soar to 2 million by 2051. Dementia costs the UK economy £26.3 billion a year. With unprecedented pressure on health and social care, society runs the risk of failing people living with dementia and their carers, with stretched services that are not tailored to their needs.

It doesn't have to be this way.

Dementia Action Alliance exists to bring together national organisations to connect, share best practice and take practical action on dementia. The aim is to seek a similar level of change as has been seen in our society's response to cancer over recent decades.¹



As a church, Holy Epiphany has recently committed to becoming recognised as a Dementia Friendly Church and is registered with Dementia Action Alliance. DAA have provided advice on some of the small changes that we can

make to make life easier for visitors and members of our church who have dementia. Some of these relate to improving signage to facilities such as toilets - not only how to find them but also how to find the way back into church. To a person with dementia our vestry area is a confusing mass of identical doors, only one of which leads back into church.

We will also be providing some information for members of the congregation, and especially for the Welcome Team, about how best to help visitors who have dementia.

I'm sure there are many in our congregation who have experienced the devastating effect of dementia on the lives of loved ones or friends or neighbours. Some of you will know that it is a cause close to my heart because my father has dementia.

We welcome all visitors to Holy Epiphany and the aim of these changes is to provide a safe and welcoming environment for people with all stages of dementia and their carers. Ultimately we are working towards being able to provide some measure of respite for those looking after a dementia patient.

¹ www.dementiaaction.org.uk/who_we_are/why_we_exist

Church away from Home – *by Les Owen*

Last year Barbara and I spent two holidays in Bosham (pronounced Bozzam), a village on Chichester Harbour about four miles from Chichester itself. We already knew that a stroll from the hotel past the craft centre would bring us to the village church, Holy Trinity, the oldest site of Christian worship in Sussex, which dates back to Saxon times. The church is depicted in the Bayeux Tapestry which shows Harold approaching Bosham church on his way to Normandy in 1084.



When we visited in July we were told that the service was an 'informal communion' which meant a 'lighter' communion format with interactive parts, e.g. with the children. There would have been about 60-70 people in the congregation and we were 'shepherded' from entry to coffee after the service. On our autumn visit it was Harvest Festival. The vicar brought the children to the front and gave seven of them a letter card which, placed in order, spelt the word 'harvest'. The vicar began his talk about harvest - what it is and what results from having sufficient or insufficient food. When he reached a key word he asked the children to move in their places to spell it. There were a few amusing attempts but all went well!

Do you have a story to share about going to a church service "away from home"?



Unsung heroes of the Bible – The unnamed man

How does this relate to us today?

by *Lynley Wilkes*

Our unnamed man is a Roman centurion, whose faith had an amazing impact on Jesus. It's not often that the Bible gives us no name for a hero of faith. This man, who doubtless had a pagan upbringing, was stationed in Palestine to bring the Jews under the Emperor's rule. He was a man of war and represented Israel's enemy; he would have achieved the rank of centurion by distinguishing himself in the brutal Roman martial arts.

It's not exactly the life story you'd expect from one of the Bible's heroes of faith. Yet, in Matthew's gospel chapter 8 v 10 it says that Jesus 'was astonished', he marvelled, at the centurion's faith.

Before he meets the centurion, Jesus has spent time healing people and a couple of hours earlier he has told his friends how important it is to love their enemies. Then the centurion comes to seek Jesus' healing for his servant who is paralysed and in terrible suffering (Matt: 8 v6). The Lord's answer is very plain and direct, "I will come and heal him."

The centurion could have had many reasons to keep away from Jesus: pride, doubt, money, language, distance, time, self-sufficiency, power and race. But instead we see the humility of the centurion - a man who held authority and power over others - bowing to the authority of Jesus and believing that Jesus will respond to his request.

The centurion recognises he is not worthy to have Jesus come to his own home, the home of a Gentile soldier of war. But he is a man of compassion. His servant's suffering disturbs him so much that he wants to step out of his comfort zone and is prepared to be mocked by the Jews and his fellow Romans in order to find healing for him.

The centurion says to Jesus, "Say the word, and let my servant be healed." He recognises that just the word of Jesus brings healing even if Jesus isn't physically there together with his servant.

The pagan centurion understands what even the Jewish elders don't yet grasp – who Jesus is. It is a marvel and as Jesus says in verse 10, "I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith."

The fact that the centurion's faith amazed and astonished even Jesus is in itself remarkable.

There is nothing to tell us how the centurion came to such faith but in St Luke's version of the story we find that the centurion was involved with building a synagogue and loved the Jewish nation. We can only speculate on what transformed this Roman soldier and how he came to put his faith in the one and only true God of Israel rather than pagan gods from his upbringing and cultural background.

What we see in this Bible story is that the love of Jesus is open to all people. It's a foretaste of Jesus' whole ministry, showing that He came for all, not just the Israelite nation. Jesus made it clear that this man's faith was greater than that of the religious Jewish people who would not listen.

Faith is not about being religious, Biblical faith rests on truth. The centurion came to a faith that was grounded in the truth of who Jesus is. We need not worry about what others may think of us when we step out and trust in Jesus; nor are we to think highly of ourselves but we are to submit humbly to Jesus. Then, when we call out to him, his response is 'I will come'.

The other remarkable thing about this story is that Jesus praises the faith of the centurion because the centurion praises and trusts Him. The more we praise and trust Jesus the more he praises and blesses us.

You can find this story in Matthew 8:5-13 and Luke 7:1-10. Do read it for yourself - what more can you discover in it?

Faith Stories – Rosie Snell *(interviewed by Jan Farrow)*

Rosie, thank you for agreeing to this interview. I have known you for 30 years now, but I had better let you speak for yourself!! Tell me a little about your early years.

I was born in the Shetland Islands. My father was a Methodist minister and looked after people on all the islands. Being Methodist, my dad moved quite often. He sadly died when I was twelve, by which time we had already moved 5 times. We were all fully involved in church but I wouldn't say that I had a relationship with Jesus. In 1973 I went to an evangelistic meeting in Birmingham where I accepted Jesus as my personal saviour.

In 1975 I moved to Bournemouth where I worked as a cook at a Christian hotel for 4 years. I made my home at the Pentecostal church where my faith grew. In 1979 I was led to a new job, still cooking, in the convent at Ensbury Park, a Roman Catholic Order of Sisters founded in Germany.

This was a big change Rosie - what on earth possessed you to do such a thing?

I believed I was being led by God, to convert these Catholic heretics to Christianity; a misguided thought maybe, as in fact I began to feel very much at home with the way of life the sisters led. In 1985 I entered the community as a postulant. I have been a sister for 32 years.

So, Rosie, what does a nun do or not do?

We do not get married as we marry ourselves to God and the work of His church.



This means we are free to devote ourselves fully to mission and being there for people from all states of life, rich and poor alike. We do not have possessions that we call our own and what we have is there to be shared.

Why don't you wear a habit?

When I was a young sister I worked with elderly people in our Care Home in Ensbury Park. They found it quite depressing to see me dressed in black so Sister Francis and I asked if we could wear 'lay clothes' and brighter colours for our ministry. I also believe that it is not wearing the 'habit' that makes me who I am but the way I lead my life.

Are you very holy? Do you pray a lot?

My life is a life of prayer. We do have the Prayer of the Church which I often pray alone or, as you know, with you, Jan as together we have formed a small ecumenical community. I also find that I can draw close to God in everyday things, even when I walk the dog. It's surprising how being out in the natural world can bring God into focus. And it's not just about kneeling in prayer and going to Church, we find God in all things; in knowing and understanding the needs of the day and bringing all of life into prayer.

Do you ever wish you were not a nun, and if so, why?

Sometimes I feel that I have 'missed out' by not being married and having a family of my own, but then I realise that I have 'family' around me in church and in my religious community. There are now new expressions of community living and these give life to the church and the world. I believe that, as with the church, the Religious Life is always evolving and we have to move with it.

So how did you end up doing what you do now?

In 2009, sister Francis died and I became the only nun from my community left in the area.

So now it really was all change.

Yes, helping you to look after our friend Eva during her final months led me towards training as a counsellor. It was at this point that we decided to form an ecumenical community. For me this has enriched my faith life; working together and sharing ministry in our different churches has deepened my faith. It has been good to make so many friends at HE. Praise be to God.

I have finally realised where God wanted me to be. It was an exciting journey, though it has been hard at times.

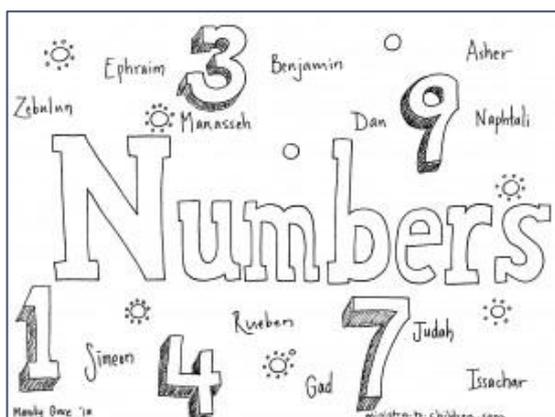
Thank you, Rosie, and thank you for all you do within the community of Epiphany at Messy Church and at Tea Cosy. We wish you well in your continued ministry.

Family Page

Do you know that the Bible is made up of 66 books? They're in two groups – the Old Testament, before Jesus was born, and the New Testament which tells us about Jesus' life and why he died for us. Some Old Testament books are the story of God's people and how they learned about living God's way. Some books tell how God spoke through the prophets, who were people who listened to him and some are songs people sang to say thank you to God for his love and care.

There's a lot of stories in each book and we have already begun in January Messy Church with **Genesis**, the first book of the Bible. We found out that God made everything and wanted all the world to know about his love for them, beginning with a man called Abraham and his family.

In **February**, Messy Church is about **Exodus**, the second book of the Bible. Many of us know some of these stories already – how God sent Moses and rescued his people who were slaves in Egypt.



Next, in **March** we find out about three Bible books you may not have heard of. . . **Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy!** We'll find out that God cares about how we live and how we can thank God for what he has done for us.

We'll find that God's people weren't very pleased to be rescued because then they had to live in the desert and it took a long time – 40 years – for them to learn to trust God and get to the country he had promised would be theirs. We'll see how they sent spies into the land and what they found out . . .



Why not join us on 18 February and 18 March 3-5pm
to find out more?



"How did I Get Here?"

Monday 5 March 7.30pm in the Jubilee Room

An evening out for women, with nibbles and puddings

Why not get someone else to look after the children and come and relax, chat with friends, enjoy some delicious food and hear Sheila Eaton speak about her journey from 'biker' to working in Malawi.



Bring your Mum on Mothering Sunday – Everyone Welcome

**Mothering Sunday Family Service
with Church Parade
11 March at 10.00am**

