

Epiphany News

The magazine of Holy Epiphany Church

October/November 2019

Everyone is welcome
Join us as we celebrate
God's goodness to us
this Autumn



46 Castle Lane West
Bournemouth
Dorset BH9 3JT



Tel. 01202 612337
office@epiphanychurch.co.uk
www.epiphanychurch.co.uk

Ministry Team



Jan Farrow (LLM)
jan@kerith.me.uk
01202 515373



Mark Payne (LLM)
dimark@live.co.uk
01202 523504



Joanne Davis (BCM Pastoral)
j.davis3@talktalk.net
07906355271



Alan Hogg (BCM Pastoral)
alanhogg7@gmail.com
07963 706907



Andy Renton (BCM Children, Families and Youth)
andy.renton56@gmail.com
07484 203076



Julie Renton (BCM Worship and LLM in training)
julie.renton@gmail.com
07890 751020



Mark Vincent (BCM Pastoral)
07788 316749

Churchwardens
Linda Knight
linda.knight87@ntlworld.com 01202 510157
Alan Hogg
alanhogg7@gmail.com 07963 706907

Baptisms, weddings and funerals
office@epiphanychurch.co.uk
01202 612337

PCC Secretary Jill Haynes
jillandroger@yahoo.com

Hall bookings Alan Hogg
alanhogg7@gmail.com 07963 706 907

Church Diary Linda Knight
linda.knight87@ntlworld.com
01202 510157

Deputy Churchwardens
Alan Bright
alan.bright13a@gmail.com 01202 859773
Julie Renton
julie.renton@gmail.com 07890 751020

Treasurer Richard Burge
richardburge@tiscali.co.uk
01202 514223

Director of Music Susan Bright
susan.bright13a@gmail.com

Safeguarding Officer
safeguarding@epiphanychurch.co.uk

Magazine Editors Julie Renton and Mary Hogg
holyepiphany.magazine@gmail.com
01202 511759 (Mary)

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





Are you any good at losing things? I have a terrible habit of writing information down on a scrap of paper, putting it safely on my desk and expecting it to be there the next time I go to look for it.



The last time I did this, just a few days ago, Rosie came to my rescue and delved into the dustbin. Yes, there it was.

Now the moral of this tale could be: please make sure I write anything important in my diary, not on a bit of paper. I have never lost my diary; its miles too big and pink to lose - Rosie bought it for me!!

In the Bible there are quite a few stories that Jesus told about things such as sheep, dowry coins and, of course people, being lost and found again; it seems to be a recurring theme. There is also a story in the Bible about Mary and Joseph losing Jesus when He was 12 years old. It has to be a mother's worst nightmare.

Following their visit to the Passover festival, Mary (believing Jesus to be in the safe company of friends) heads for home with everyone else. We can just picture how desperate Mary and Joseph must have been as they realised they had no idea where Jesus was. They felt they had looked everywhere and asked everyone if they had seen Him. Finally, 4 days later, Mary catches a glimpse of Him with the religious teachers in the temple, listening and asking questions.

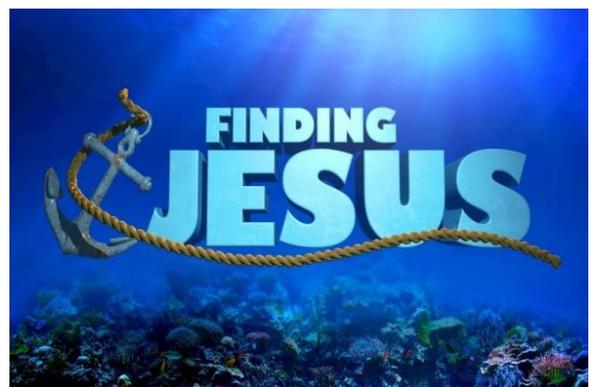
I think I would have been quite cross, through the sheer relief of finding Him at last, having imagined all sorts of things that might have befallen Him.

I'm not sure Jesus' reply would have helped much either. 'Did you not know?' He asked her, 'that I had to be in my Father's house'. 'Didn't you know, couldn't you guess where I was?' said Jesus. Well it wasn't that easy at the time and, as far as Jesus' parents were concerned, they eventually found Him in a totally unexpected, yet with hindsight, obvious place.

There are times when we might echo that same question ourselves. 'Where can we find Jesus?'

The obvious answer I suppose is that Jesus/God is where He has always been. He has promised to meet with us, in prayer, in His word - the Bible, and of course He is in our hearts when we come to Him in worship. But we can also find Jesus/God in the totally unexpected, in the ordinary humdrum, mundane routine of everyday living. He is there at our high and low points. We don't have to go somewhere special to find Him; He can turn up anywhere and everywhere, even when we are not looking for Him. He is in the eyes of the poor, hungry and abused who stare out at us on our television screens.

The bigger question is, do we recognise Him? I pray that each of us will find Him for ourselves and that He will live and reign in our hearts for ever.



Agape Outreach Ministry – work this church supports in Malawi



Sheila and Dennis Eaton have just returned to Malawi after a short break in the UK. Here they update us with the latest news and items for prayer. They write:

Following disputed elections in May, there has been political unrest in the country. The matter is now in court but there have been demonstrations resulting in violence, looting and burning of property. *Please pray for a peaceful, just resolution and that we will not be hindered or affected by any demonstrations or riots.*

We are looking forward to going back into the Muslim community where over recent years we have developed good relationships and have had opportunities to share the Gospel. The responses have been so encouraging and we have been warmly welcomed back. We hear that a neighbouring Muslim village is also saying, "Come to us and tell us about Jesus!" *Please pray that God moves by His Spirit to teach the truth about Himself and the way of salvation to our Muslim friends.*

Following the cyclone, our teams are working hard on building projects but have been delayed by the need for good quality bricks. Young people are gaining good skills and people are delighted with their new homes. *Please pray that God will continue to lead us in every aspect of the building project that we will use our resources well and efficiently.*

As you pray for our needs, please join us also in thanking God for answered prayer:

- Many audio Bibles have been given to people who are illiterate or struggle greatly to read. We cannot over-emphasise the blessing of audio Bibles as people can hear the God's word clearly in their own language!
- There is a deep and continuing spiritual interest amongst the Muslim community.
- The water pump at our field was repaired - which the water engineer said was a miracle! The pump is still providing precious water.
- We have several building teams currently rebuilding or repairing many houses that were destroyed or damaged during the cyclone in March.



Photo shows Dennis and Sheila in Malawi. It gives an indication of the conditions in which they live when they are there, and how the people of Malawi live all the time. Some, of course, have even more basic shelter.

Agape Outreach Ministry seeks to show the practical love and compassion of Christ - sitting alongside people in their painful suffering, listening to their needs and helping where appropriate and practical.

The Bible tells us very clearly that God cares about how we treat those who are in need - particularly the vulnerable, widows and orphans.

In the remote rural area in which we work, people are living in great physical poverty but also great spiritual poverty. Through our pastoral care we provide food for the hungry, take the sick to hospital, provide clothes for the destitute, accommodation for the homeless, and through our pre-schools give love, care, food, clothes and an education for more than 100 children who have no other means of help.



'Diary' of an LLM trainee *by Julie Renton*

When I retired in 2016 I thought that academic work was over; but it seems God had other ideas. I suppose I shouldn't have been surprised. A couple of years ago, it was suggested to me that I should consider training for licensed lay ministry. My initial reaction was 'No way!' but by the time three people that I respect and trust had said the same thing independently I began to think that perhaps it was God prompting me. By this time last year it became a case of 'now or never' or I would be too old even to be considered. My thinking was that if this is what God wanted He would open the way. So here I am, right at the start of my three-year training programme and feeling scared at the thought of what I've let myself in for. By the time you read this, the deadline for my first assignment will be just a couple of weeks away.

The course involves studying at Wolvesey (in part of the Bishop's Palace – see photo) in Winchester on Thursday evenings, as well as some Saturdays and Sundays, so it has a significant impact on family life.

The next three years are not going to be easy, but I invite you to journey with me as I take on this challenge. Please pray for me, encourage me as I try to serve you and forgive me when I get things wrong.



I hope to share more of my journey with you in the next magazine.

Mustard Seed Relief Mission – showing love in action



We are passionate about the work Mustard Seed do in connection with Christmas shoeboxes for children's orphanages and hospitals in Moldova and the Ukraine. Could you give small toys, hats, gloves or scarves for these children? A leaflet (available from the back of church) explains how to fill a shoebox for a boy or girl for a chosen age group. A donation of £4 towards the cost of transportation would also be appreciated.

Please return wrapped shoeboxes, donations or gifts **no later than**

Monday 25 November 2019

These can be left at the church or children who go to Epiphany School can take theirs to school and leave it in the library.

Your kind donations and thoughts are a lifeline of hope to these children. These boxes give them Christian hope and a message that they are loved and valued.



GOD BLESS AND THANK YOU

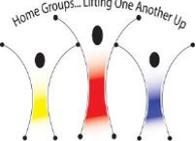
Mark Vincent 74 Claremont Avenue - in connection with Holy Epiphany Church
Contact Mark (01202 255958 or 07788 316749)

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 November please, for the next edition, to be published on 24 November.

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

What's happening at Epiphany in October and November?

 <p>Church Services</p>	<p>6 October (Harvest Festival) and 3 November 9.00am Breakfast @ 9 – Especially for families with young children 10.00am Coffee followed by a short, informal Family Service</p> <p>13 October and 10 November (Remembrance) 10.00am Holy Communion (sung) with Roots for Children and Crèche</p> <p>20 October and 17 November 9.45am Café 46 3.00pm Messy Church in the Church</p> <p>27 October (All Saints) and 24 November 10.00 Holy Communion (sung) with Roots for Children and Crèche</p>
	<p>Home Groups – friendly groups who meet fortnightly to share fellowship, study God's word and pray. New members welcome. Please talk to Jan Farrow for dates and venues.</p>
<p>PRAYER <i>changes things</i></p>	<p>Prayer Meetings in the Jubilee Room – all are welcome. Saturday evenings 6 – 7pm – Coffee and prayer on 5 October and 2 November Tuesday afternoons 2 – 3pm on 22 October; 5 and 19 November</p>
	<p>Epiphany Bright Stars – parent/carer and toddler group on Tuesday mornings in term-time at 9.30am in the church and Jubilee Room. Half term closure 29 October Contact Jodie Burge on 01202 776270</p>
	<p>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. 3rd Sunday of the month. Next meetings on 20 October and 17 November 3.00 – 5.00pm in the church. Contact Andy on 07484 203076 or andy.renton56@gmail.com</p>
	<p>Men's Breakfast – next meeting is at St Paul's, Throop on 26 October, when our speaker will be Aaron Rigby, Director of Dorset Youth for Christ. On 23 November, we meet at Holy Epiphany when the speaker is Andy Muir on 'Life, death and miracles in Afghanistan'. All men welcome, so why not come and join us? Full English breakfast served at 8.00am. Contact Andy on 07484 203076 or andy.renton56@gmail.com.</p>
	<p>Muscliff Care Home: – monthly on Mondays at 2.45pm 14 October - David 11 November - Remembrance</p>
	<p>Epiphany Pre school meets Monday - Friday in the church hall during term-time from 9.00am to 3.00pm. Please check dates with the pre-school staff. Phone 01202 612337 for more information</p>

	<p>Tea Cosy – tea and coffee and time for a chat. Open from 9.45 - 11.30am. Everybody welcome.</p>		<p>Choir practice - please contact Susan Bright for up to date information.</p>
	<p>Lunch Club – 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. Enquiries to 01202 516712, please.</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 30 October and 27 November. Contact Alan Hogg on 07963 706907. All men welcome, no need to book.</p>		
	<p>Hymns and Cake – come and join in with some favourite hymns, learn a little about them and afterwards enjoy tea and cake. Friday 25 October (Harvest) and 22 November (Remembrance) at 2.30pm in the Jubilee Room. A dementia friendly event. Contact Joanne Davis for information on 07906355271.</p>		
	<p>Beavers Jacqui Elena jacqui.elena15@gmail.com Cubs Jan Kingsland 01202 517627 Scouts Simon Blake 07500 901 561</p>		<p>Brownies Sam Pattermore 07930 581851 Guides and Rainbows Sandra Coomber 07712 129445</p>

Communion Services from October 2019

Following David’s retirement in September, our communion services will be led by local Church of England ministers from Winchester Diocese Clerical Register.

Our usual pattern of services will be continued, including those during the Christmas season. On 13 October we welcome Rev Paul MacCarty and following this we will look forward to several services led by Rev Paul Canon Harris.

Our thanks to Linda Knight for arranging this.

Remembrance Service

with Holy Communion

Sunday 10 November

10.00am



Harvest Festival

followed by ‘Bring and Share’ lunch

6 October

Coffee from 9.45am

Family service starts at 10.15

Your gifts of food for our local foodbank will be much appreciated



Foodbanks give emergency supplies of food to individuals and families in crisis. Individual or family-sized packs are preferred, please



Tombola
Refreshments

Christmas Fayre

Saturday 16 November

11-3

**An early visit
from Santa**



**Christmas gifts
and decorations**
Raffle

Farewell to Rev David Thompson and to Lynley Wilkes LLM



On 22 September, we said our formal farewells to two long-serving members of our ministry team. David Thompson has been part of the Holy Epiphany ministry team since 2004 variously as curate, NSM and as our priest-in-charge for the last three years. Lynley Wilkes has also faithfully served the people of Holy Epiphany for 15 years as an LLM. We will miss them both and wish them well in their retirement.



Looking ahead: Some special events on 1 December

10.00am Toy Service

We welcome donations of new toys (unwrapped please) for distribution by the Salvation Army

4.00pm Advent Carol Service

More details in our next issue, but why not make a note of the date now?

Parish Registers from August and September

Baptisms – We welcome into the church family:

11 August

Jaxson Jerry Hunt

1 September

Eleanor Roberta Cashell

Rosemary Georgina Cashell

8 September

Oscar James White

Funerals – we extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of:

6 August

Beryl Margaret Smith

25 September

Thelma Violet Cummings



All Churches Trust - Growing Lives Grant

The All Churches Trust puts the transformation and improvement of lives and communities at the heart of its grant-making decisions. They aim to fund projects run by churches and charities that put Christian values at the heart of what they do. They support the repair, restoration and re-ordering of churches and cathedrals of many denominations, especially where these changes support wider community use and help those in need.

One type of project which they are keen to support through their 'Growing Lives' grant is the re-ordering of church buildings to better enable connections with children and young people and support the forging of lasting links with families in their local area.

We have been very fortunate to receive funding from them to pay for the refurbishment of the toilets in our church hall. This has included the creation of a multi-purpose children's and disabled person's cubicle which meets both the requirements of national access standards for those with limited mobility and provides child-sized facilities for the pre-school (and all small children who use the hall). Structural alterations are also in progress to improve office and kitchen facilities for pre-school use. When completed, these will provide a quiet space for pre-school staff to complete paperwork, together with an easy to clean kitchen. This multi-functional space also provides overnight and weekend storage for pre-school equipment.



Combined children's and disabled toilet facility with privacy screen

We are most grateful to the All Churches Trust for all that this grant has enabled us to achieve.

Pray around the Psalms – Psalm 148



Take a look at the second half of Psalm 148, below. The whole Psalm is about praising God – the phrase is repeated 12 times. Why? When we come to God in prayer, we often want to ask Him for things – and that's good – but He also delights to hear our thanks and praise.

Praise helps us remember that God is the creator of everything and this gives us confidence to come to Him. As we trust Him, through Jesus, we, like the people of Israel who originally sang this, can be encouraged - we are 'close to His heart'.

“Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths, lightning and hail, snow and clouds, stormy winds that do his bidding, you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars, wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds, kings of the earth and all nations, you princes and all rulers on earth, young men and women, old men and children.

***Let them praise the name of the LORD, for His name alone is exalted;
His splendour is above the earth and the heavens.***

***And He has raised up for His people a horn, the praise of all His faithful servants,
of Israel, the people close to His heart. Praise the LORD.***

**You can pray by yourself or you might like to join us when we pray together.
(For dates and times, please see the centre pages of the magazine)
Don't worry, you don't have to pray out loud if you don't want to.**



Trusting in God - by Lynley Wilkes

Who is really fed up with (dare I say it) Brexit or perhaps with our government? Whilst I really don't want to get political, for many our nation's future may seem very uncertain. Most of us just want to switch off, so why am I even mentioning it?

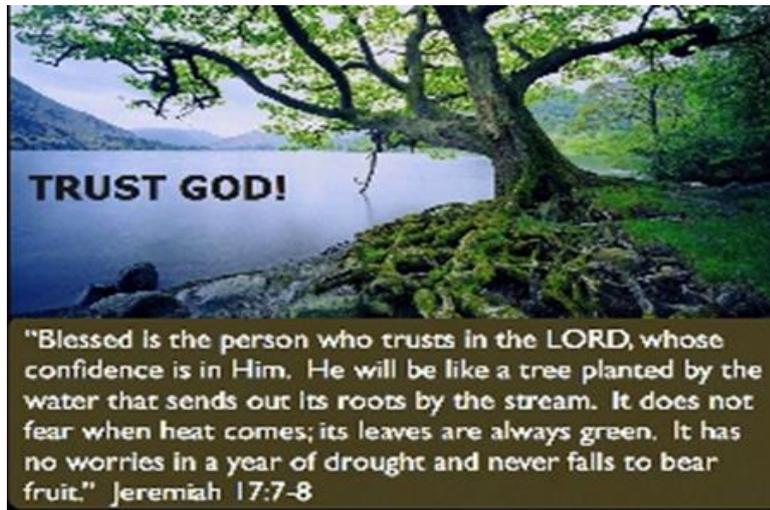
We all know, or at least should know, that the Bible is the living word of God, so it is always relevant to us in our time, even if we are reading something from the Old Testament. As the prophet Jeremiah responded to the political and international situation of his day, he made it clear there are two kinds of people: those who truly trust in God (including during their national crises) and those who don't. We probably all know that even the most committed Christians will differ on the whole Brexit situation, so when we look to our future who do we truly trust? Jeremiah makes it clear we are to reach out to God.

Recently I was given a bracelet which has been designed by a charitable trust that supports people with poor mental health. On the bracelet it reads, 'the future is still unwritten'. It is designed to give hope to those struggling with mental health issues by saying that things don't have to stay the way they are. Is that something you believe?

In reality the future *has* been written. God is the author of our future, although we don't yet know what it will be. In times of national and personal confusion, we often seek answers from the wrong places, rather than seek God. Which mind-set are you in? Can you trust God? Or do you seek other ways to build confidence in your future?

Jeremiah the prophet wasn't speaking to people who didn't know God, but to the nation of Israel who should have known from past experience that God is trustworthy. Yet in a crisis they sought other means of reassurance and hope by consulting

false gods and making military alliances instead of trusting God to save them from their enemies. Jeremiah told them that this is sin in God's eyes. Jeremiah 17:7-8 says:



'But blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord and has made the Lord his hope and confidence. He is like a tree planted along a riverbank, with its roots reaching deep into the water — a tree not bothered by the heat nor worried by long months of drought. Its leaves stay green, and it goes right on producing all its luscious fruit'.

The 'but' at the beginning of verse 7 shows us that Jeremiah is contrasting the people who trust God with those who put their trust in idols. We can all experience periods of spiritual dryness at times but we are not to turn away from God.



Don't wait for the storms of life before you put down roots in God.

We can have His life-giving water which will nourish us and help us to flourish - the living water of Christ poured into us through the Holy Spirit. In Him there is no reason to fear what may come.

Where will your roots be when the storms come?

Lynley Wilkes - (interviewed by Jan Farrow)

I know you quite well now having worked together over the last 12 years, but I have no idea where to begin. Let's try this. I have always said you are a mover and a shaker but above all you are an encourager.

I've always wanted people to realise their own potential. This comes from my own personal background of discovering I was dyslexic, of not being able to understand things properly. I often felt I was not as good as other people.

I am not always confident, although others often see me as such. Over the years God has changed me – He wants us all to realise our potential in Him.

Did you go to church as a child?

I went to Sunday school; I had a wonderful teacher. I have often wondered if she continued to pray for me. My mum died when I was sixteen and I fell out with God. It took me another fifteen years before I came back to the church and God.

Tell me a little about that difficult time?

Fifteen years later, I was married, we had young children and we moved to a new town, Bournemouth. I was lonely and didn't feel welcome anywhere. I met a lovely Christian who became my closest friend. Cheryl took me to church and, as the vicar was preaching, I felt as if he knew everything about me. It was God's hand on my life.

The Bible opened up to me and it was an amazing time. After



years of feeling something was missing in my life, after the loss of my mum, I recognised that I had turned my back on God.

I believe Cheryl died, Lynley?

Yes, sadly she did; she was very instrumental in my faith journey, she became my soul mate and was my chief encourager.

What happened next?

Ten years later, I moved to St John's Church, Boscombe. Passionate to understand more of God's word, I decided to go to Moorlands Bible College and take a degree in Theology. During my second year, I combined this with a national certificate in youth work and community work. I was already involved in youth work and have been ever since. I wanted young people to see their God-given potential. God had transformed me; I was no longer the shy inadequate person that I thought I was and I wanted that for others.

So, what was next on this exciting God-given journey Lynley?

I felt God nudging me to do an L.L.M, (Licensed Lay Ministry) course which eventually led me to Holy Epiphany.

I have seen God intervene in my life in so many ways. I have not always understood, especially when things seemed to go wrong, but with reflection, I can see God has always been present. The message of this is to pray, trust God and remain faithful to what one believes is right before God. I have spent many hours in prayer and I have even heard God audibly. It's been a journey, God's journey and it's not over yet. I feel God chooses each one of us. I have no strength of my own; God has got me this far and I know that there is more.

We are almost back to where we began Lynley.

Yes, my favourite Bible verse is Philippians 4 verse sixteen,

'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me'.

I know all things are possible through Him, He can do so much more than we are capable of. God always has so much more for us than we can see. I give thanks to God for my faith journey at Holy Epiphany. I have come to love you all so much and He gave me a heart for the community around the church. Moving to Verwood is a part of that faith journey and sadly I have to say goodbye but my heart and prayers will always be with you.

You go with our prayers and our blessing. May God bless you in your future ministry. Thank you so much for all you have done here at Holy Epiphany and within the community.



You're invited!

Messy Church Light Party

20 October

3 - 5pm

Games, craft, fun and food -
all on the theme of God's light



Do you find it hard to change your mind? Perhaps we all do. When it comes to choosing a treat, many of us know we'd rather have chocolate, and we don't want to change our minds!

The Apostle Paul wanted to attack Christians and then changed his mind and became one himself. How did that happen? Because of an unexpected meeting with Jesus – who Paul thought was dead.

Paul set out for a city called Damascus, determined to arrest Christians there because they were teaching people that Jesus was the son of God, and that he had been killed but was alive again.

As he went on his way, a light from heaven shone on him, so brightly that he couldn't see.

And a voice spoke, "I am Jesus," it said and told him what he had to do next.

When Paul could see again, he went to the Jewish synagogue to tell people that Jesus was the son of God – and continued to do this all his life. You can read the story in Acts of the Apostles, chapter 9, but

Paul tells us what it felt like in his second letter to the Christians in Corinth, chapter 4 verse 6:

"God once said, "Let the light shine out of the darkness!" And this is the same God who made his light shine in our hearts. He gave us light by letting us know the glory of God that is in the face of Christ." (International Children's Bible)

6 October - Harvest Festival Celebrations
during Breakfast @ 9 and at Family Service

(We welcome the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Guides, Brownies and their leaders as they join us for Family Service)

3 November - come and learn about a man
named Zacchaeus and discover how he became
one of Jesus' friends.

All families with young children welcome to join us from 9am for breakfast, colouring and puzzles, a Bible story, prayer and a song. 1st Sunday every month

