



*Welcome to*  
**St John the Baptist, Midsomer Norton**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany**  
**17<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

**Sunday Services on YouTube**

During lockdown we will be recording and uploading the 9.30 service to YouTube. You will be able to watch the service from around 11am each Sunday. The link to our YouTube channel is on the front page of the [church website](#) and we will also email the link to people on this list.

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***Please pray for:-***

**The Residents of:** Millards Hill, Fosse Lane, Green Tree Road, Binces Lodge Lane, White City & Old Millards Hill.

**The Sick:-** Rachael Macfarlane, Miranda Cooper, Rose Stenner, Paul & Margaret Knott, Irene Leet, Fr Roy Boots, Nicholas Hambleton, Betty Chiplin, Ethan Horwood, John Lewis, Patricia Flagg, Pat Gilham, Bishop Peter Hancock, Vince Marriot.

**Years Mind:-** (S) Thelma Guiney (M) Len Scott, Joan Lewis (T) Mary Eyles, Geoffrey Wilton, Gwen Rhymer, Ilse Broadhurst, Frank Minney (W) Don Webb, William Plummer, Frank Locke (F) Bill Clements, Terence Dukes, Olive Clark, James Pugh (S) Edward Gregory, Joseph Cross, Ronald Thomas.

## **The Collect**

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 your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen**

## **A Reading from The Book of Revelation chapter 5 verses 1 – 10**

I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll written on the inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals; and I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, ‘Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?’ And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it. And I began to weep bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. Then one of the elders said to me, ‘Do not weep. See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.’

Then I saw between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders a Lamb standing as if it had been slaughtered, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. He

went and took the scroll from the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne. When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. They sing a new song:

‘You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God

saints from every tribe and language and people and nation; you have made them to be a kingdom and priests serving our God, and they will reign on earth.’

This is the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

**Alleluia.**

This is the message we have heard from the beginning:  
that we should love one another.

Christ is our peace, who has made us one:  
he has broken down the barriers which divided us.

**Alleluia**

**Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John  
chapter 1 verse 43 – 51**

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, ‘Follow me.’ Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, ‘We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.’ Nathanael said to him, ‘Can anything good come out of Nazareth?’ Philip said to him, ‘Come and see.’ When Jesus saw Nathanael coming towards him, he said of him, ‘Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no

deceit!’ Nathanael asked him, ‘Where did you come to know me?’ Jesus answered, ‘I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.’ Nathanael replied, ‘Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!’ Jesus answered, ‘Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.’ And he said to him, ‘Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you, O Christ**

### **A Reflection from Fr Guy**

*“Come and see.”*

It’s amazing to think that it’s only twenty years since the worldwide web came into being and computer networks started to be used by the general public, rather than just by scientists. Today, the vast majority of us in the developed world use the internet, most of us engaging with social networks. It’s almost as easy to communicate with a friend on the other side of the world as it is with your next-door neighbour. The COVID 19 pandemic has nudged many of us into this brave new world, as we keep in touch with family and friends, via the wonders of FaceTime, Zoom etc.. And today you can “come and see” this celebration of the Eucharist which is being recorded and will be available on our YouTube channel later this morning.

News about Jesus first spread via a sort of first-century social network. John the Baptist pointed out Jesus to Andrew and another of his disciples. Those two disciples then followed Jesus and spent the day listening to his teaching. Andrew was impressed and went to tell his brother, Simon Peter, that they had found the Messiah.

In today’s Gospel reading we hear how Jesus heads home to Galilee and finds Philip. We are not told how Jesus finds Philip, but given that John mentions that Andrew and Simon Peter were from the same Galilean town of Bethsaida, it seems likely that they had suggested that Jesus look out for him. Next, Philip finds his friend Nathanael. The news that Jesus is the Son of God spreads from John the Baptist to Andrew, to Simon Peter, to Philip, to Nathanael.

But to begin with, Nathanael is sceptical when Philip tells him that he reckons he’s stumbled across the Messiah so close to home. Jesus is just Joseph’s son from the neighbouring village, a rural backwater lacking culture and, frankly, not especially

religious. To be blunt, Nazareth is not the sort of place devout Jews like Philip and Nathanael would expect the Messiah to come from.

Philip doesn't attempt to argue with Nathanael. He simply invites him to "Come and see." And when Jesus sees Nathanael coming, he doesn't criticise him either, but praises him for his honesty and his commitment to studying the scriptures, a practice traditionally performed under the fig tree.

In this brief exchange, Nathanael truly sees Jesus. This man may come from Nazareth, but he has extraordinary insight. Nathanael is totally convinced that, in spite of his unpromising start on this earth, Jesus is the Son of God and King of Israel. Nathanael will come to understand that, like Jacob's ladder, Jesus is the link between heaven and earth.

'Seeing is believing': that well-worn truism could be a popular title for John's gospel. But John records, after the Resurrection of Jesus, the blessing promised to those in the future who would believe without seeing. We do not learn about the Christian gospel as a study in philosophy or approach it as a club to join if we like it. It calls to us, and its witness is all around us. "Come and see."

Are we making good use of our social networks, whether online or in person? Who do we know who, like Philip and Nathanael, might be receptive to meeting Jesus? Who can we share the news with? And if they object, as well they might, perhaps we should remember Philip's response to Nathanael's prejudices and resist the temptation to argue, persuade or criticise, but simply invite them to "Come and see." Maybe point them to our YouTube channel!

As Christians, all we are required to do is to share our excitement about Jesus and invite our friends and neighbours to come with us. Once they meet Jesus for themselves, they too may believe, for Jesus does all the rest. Jesus sees the potential within every person and encourages them to flourish. But he needs us to say, "Come and see."

## **Intercessions by Beth**

With the Magi, we seek God's glory; those moments when we are shown that God is here with us.

God who made us all, each wonderfully different, give us grace to learn from each other and lead all who seek you in the ways of humility and peace.

God of power and mercy, shine your light upon our nation and its leaders that they may govern justly and wisely.

We pray for the Archbishop Justin Welby and for the Diocese of Bath and Wells, especially Bishop Peter as he undergoes his cancer treatment in hospital, for Bishop Ruth and for Fr Guy as he leads us in these difficult and unprecedented times; help us to be a church where all are welcome and where God's glory is discerned and cherished in many different ways.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of mystery, in this time of pandemic it's hard to work out where you are and why you allow this hardship and suffering, give us strength to keep going even when we feel forsaken.

We pray for all those who suffer today and for those who care for them, the doctors and nurses working under such demanding pressure, the scientists who developed the vaccines and the people who administer the vaccine in an endeavor to bring relief, healing and peace. We pray especially for those known to us on our prayer list.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In this Epiphany season of light, shine your light upon us into the recess of our spirits, those places where we experience anxiety, depression, fear and despair. We lift up in particular all who are grieving. God of life help us to see you even in the face of death. Help us to trust in you even when the road travelled takes our loved ones away. We place into your care our loved ones who have died and especially for those whose years mind occurs this week; as we travel towards you in this world and the next, draw us close to yourself, forgive us our sins, and mend that which is broken until we come to kneel before you in wonder and joy.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of grace and healing, shine your light upon us into those places of conflict and tension, in our families, in our friendships, in our work and community.

May your light be a healing balm, bringing with it forgiveness and reconciliation.

Dear Lord, shine your light upon us, around us and within us, that we too may be a light to the world.

Merciful Father accept these prayers for the sake of your Lord Jesus Christ.

**Amen**

### **Post Communion**

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**

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### **THIS WEEK**

**TUESDAY** 19<sup>th</sup> January      10am – 12 Noon      Private Prayer

**SUNDAY** 24<sup>th</sup> January      9.30 am      Holy Eucharist

### **Because of Covid Restrictions**

A reminder to let Carol know by email or phone if you hope to be able to come to our 9.30am service on Sunday January 24<sup>th</sup> ([carolmoore226@yahoo.com](mailto:carolmoore226@yahoo.com) or 01761 412226)

*For further information please refer to our website [www.stjohnschurch.org.uk](http://www.stjohnschurch.org.uk)*