



Welcome to
St John the Baptist, Midsomer Norton
3rd Sunday of Epiphany
24th 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](#).

Please pray for:-

The Residents of: Pows Hill, Eastdown Road & Eastdown Place, Northdown Road & Crawl Lane.

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, Christopher Watts.

Years Mind:- (S) Doreen Winfield, Hilda Heaney, Winifred Brooks, Peggy Carpenter, Natasha Simmonds (M) Vivien Blatchford (T) David Wait, Bessie Shear, Harry Edwards, Kenneth Slocombe, Cyril Matthews (Th) Annie Dyke, Jane Chaudri (F) Eileen Howe, Oliver Whittock, Gilbert Shearn (S) Gladys Edwards, Leonard Ullman, Jean Henderson.

The Collect

Almighty God, whose Son revealed in signs and miracles
the wonder of your saving presence:
renew your people with your heavenly grace,
and in all our weakness sustain us by your mighty power;
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 19 v 6 – 10

I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the sound of
many waters and like the sound of mighty thunder-peals, crying out,
'Hallelujah!

For the Lord our God
the Almighty reigns.

Let us rejoice and exult
and give him the glory,
for the marriage of the Lamb has come,
and his bride has made herself ready;
to her it has been granted to be clothed
with fine linen, bright and pure' –
for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

And the angel said to me, 'Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to
the marriage supper of the Lamb.' And he said to me, 'These are true words of
God.' Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, 'You must
not do that! I am a fellow-servant with you and your comrades who hold the
testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of
prophecy.'

This is the Word of the Lord; **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia, Alleluia.

There is one body and one spirit.
There is one hope to which we were called;
one Lord, one faith, one baptism,
one God and Father of all.

Alleluia

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John chapter 2 v 1 – 11.

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, ‘They have no wine.’ And Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.’ His mother said to the servants, ‘Do whatever he tells you.’ Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, ‘Fill the jars with water.’ And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, ‘Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.’ So, they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, ‘Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.’ Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ

A Reflection from Fr Guy

“Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding.”

For many people, weddings are as important for us today as they were in Jesus' day. Our culture recognises that weddings are a significant moment for couples to make a public commitment to each other and are a cause for celebration.

Since the COVID 19 pandemic has swept across our nations, very few couples have been able to marry. Many have postponed their weddings, some more than once! I feel for them all, as they struggle with having to change their plans, and weighing up the restrictions on our social interactions against the desire to celebrate their new life together with family and friends.

I conducted just one wedding during 2020. It was a real privilege to officiate at a wedding in a family home back in July. An Archbishop's Special Licence was obtained to allow the wedding to take place because the groom was terminally ill. The sun shone, close family and friends filled the back garden, and neighbours watched from bedroom windows. The couple were married in their home at the patio doors so that everyone could see and hear. It was a marvellous, moving occasion. One I won't forget. A bittersweet moment celebrated with champagne, wine, and beer. And of course, I raised a pint of real ale to the happy couple, wishing them an abundance of God's love for the future.

Jesus and his disciples were invited to a wedding, along with Mary, his mother, and all from the village community. Everyone was invited. Everyone was welcome. Jesus liked a good party, as much as the rest of us. Consider, for a moment, how Jesus' power is quietly being revealed in this story. At first glance, an unassuming favour is performed, hardly comparing to his healing and feeding miracles. But Jesus often referred to the Kingdom being like a feast, so where better than this celebration, this banquet, to begin his ministry?

We are still in the season of Epiphany – the declaring of Jesus to the world. And John, our Gospel writer, recalls this wedding celebration as a 'sign' of glory, a revelation of Jesus' glory, which his disciples believed. A sign is important. It both points in the right direction and contains a meaning deeper than itself. Ponder the deeper meaning within this story. Jesus came to bring us all life in abundance, so that the ordinary water of daily life should taste like the best gold-medal-winning wine of Champagne.

As we contemplate this wedding reception at which Jesus begins his public ministry, we can't avoid fast forwarding to the end of his mission, to the time when Jesus himself will become the wine of the New Covenant. At every Eucharistic banquet we drink this wine in remembrance of Jesus' self-offering.

In these COVID times it is difficult for couples to get married. Days seem to drag and merge one into another. We long to go out and meet family or friends and celebrate. We look forward to the time when we can all safely come and worship God with songs of praise and share in the Eucharistic feast of bread and wine.

This story marking the beginning of Jesus' ministry contains a 'sign' of glory to encourage us all on our journeys of faith. The ordinary is turned into the extraordinary, the secular into the sacred, the mundane into the magnificent, drudgery becomes divine.

Wherever we are on our journey of faith, just setting out, at a crossroads wondering which way to turn, or coming towards the end of our earthly path, the 'sign' that gives us hope and assures us of God's love is Jesus turning water into wine, and then, with the wedding guests, enjoying the celebration of a new relationship. A new relationship reflecting our relationship with God made real through his Son Jesus, who continues to offer the best wine of the Kingdom to us and to all creation. Cheers!

Intercessions by Colin Tincknell

As we approach the end of another Week of Prayer for Christian Unity let us pray for the Unity of the Church which Christ prayed for on the eve of his death. "That they may all be one...."

Each tradition seeks to lead us to the heart of faith: communion with God through Christ, in the Spirit. Paul warns us against an attitude which threatens the unity of the Church. We should not absolutize our own tradition to the detriment of the unity of the body of Christ. Differences can become divisive instead of mutually enriching.

May we at St John's fully commit ourselves to work towards ending the separations of Christians.

LORD IN YOUR MERCY. Hear our prayer.

We pray for our church that it may be welcoming to all who seek Christ and those whose faith is failing or not recognised by themselves. We pray for our Diocese and Deanery that that Bishops and clergy may empowered and given wisdom to seek truth, unity and concord.

We pray today for the residences of Pow's Hill, Eastdown Road, Eastover Place, Northdown Road and Crawl Lane.

LORD IN YOUR MERCY: Hear our prayer.

At this time of pandemic, we pray for all doctors, nurses and those employed in any role in the NHS. We give thanks for their dedication, service, and selflessness in caring for all those affected. We pray for the mental and emotional health of NHS staff as they deal with intense pressures which affect their wellbeing and family life.

LORD IN YOUR MERCY. Hear our prayer.

We pray for all people in hospital currently as they suffer from not being able to see relatives and those they love. We pray for all who are sick at home and those who care for them. We especially pray for those on our own sick list:
(See sheet)

LORD IN YOUR MERCY: Hear our prayer.

We pray for all who have died because of Covid 19. We pray that they may find peace in resurrection with Christ. We especially pray for those on our prayer list. Some of whom we do not know but are remembered by family or friends.
(See sheet)

LORD IN YOUR MERCY. Hear our prayer.

We pray for the Nations of the World. We pray for all politicians. Those in authority and those with assumed power over others. We pray for all captives and those who suffer torture. We pray that we may be governed well where the needs of those who are hungry, those who are homeless, those who suffer through the increased pressures of the pandemic are real and the needs of the young are recognised.

LORD IN YOUR MERCY. Hear our prayer.

Finally, Lord we pray for ourselves, our families, and friends. That we may remain faithful to our calling as ambassadors of your love and Church on earth. We pray that you will give us wisdom and tolerance towards others with whom we share our lives.

LORD IN YOUR MERCY. Hear our prayer.

Merciful Father

Accept these prayers.
For the sake of your Son,
Our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

Post Communion

Almighty Father,
whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world:
may your people,
illumined by your word and sacraments,
shine with the radiance of his glory,
that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed
to the ends of the earth;
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Amen

THIS WEEK

TUESDAY 26th January 10am – 12 Noon Private Prayer

SUNDAY 31st January 9.30 am Holy Eucharist

Pat Marriott is pleased to be able to tell you that her husband Vince, whom we are praying for, is at last starting to slightly improve in health and is very appreciative of our prayers.

We are now praying for Josie Mitchard's grandson Christopher Watts, who has Covid and is seriously ill in hospital.

A message from Kay Harvey to say that she is happy to collect your planned giving envelopes. Just give her a ring on 416050, or the envelopes can be left in church when it's open on Tuesday morning.

Somer Valley Food Bank

As we are no longer able to physically collect food in church on behalf of the Somer Valley Food Bank, members of the congregation may wish to make a financial donation by phone/online or give food at one of their collection points in supermarkets. Information is available here: [Ways to Give - The Trussell Trust](#).

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 31st (carolmoore226@yahoo.com or 01761 412226). For the few of you who are going it is still very important to remember to socially distance.

Third National COVID 19 Lockdown

In the light of guidance from Her Majesty's Government, the Church of England and the Diocese of Bath and Wells, our Parish Church will be open for public worship, private prayer, and funerals.

The Parish Eucharist will be celebrated on Sundays at 9.30am. This will be recorded and streamed on our YouTube channel at 11.00am.

The church will be open for private prayer on Tuesdays from 10.00am to 12noon.

During lockdown the population are asked to stay at home. Public worship is permitted so long as the provision can show that it is COVID-safe.

We encourage everyone to follow this guidance:

Persons with any symptoms should not attend church.

Persons shielding (Clinically Extremely Vulnerable) should not be in wider circulation during the third national lockdown (commenced 5th Jan 2021).

We advise that anyone with an underlying health condition such as asthma or heart disease or in the clinically vulnerable group through age (70 years of age and over) should not attend public worship at this time.

Definitions for CEV and CV are available on the [NHS website](#).

Thank you for your cooperation and stay safe.

For further information please refer to our website www.stjohnschurch.org.uk