

THOUGHT FOR JANUARY 2020

By Rev'd. Claire Claxton, our Rector

Happy New Year! As we begin not only a new year but a new decade, perhaps we have mixed feelings. None of us knows for certain what this year will hold and, although we hope and pray for blessings, we may also have to contend with some challenges.

On Sunday 5th January we celebrate Epiphany, so called because the word means revelation and, on this day, we celebrate the visit of the Wise Men and the revelation of the birth of Jesus through their study of the stars. Their belief that a new king had been born drew them to Bethlehem and there they discovered the infant, Jesus, and they worshipped him and presented him with gifts. The gifts were symbolic: gold for royalty, frankincense for holiness and myrrh symbolising suffering and pain.

We might think that gold, frankincense and myrrh were not terribly practical gifts for a baby! However, I read that **gold** would have been very useful for a family who had to run away to Egypt and live there as refugees. The gold could have bought food, shelter, maybe even more carpentry tools. Living in a foreign country, the family would have had to hold their religious services at home and the **frankincense** would have been used in their worship. And the **myrrh** – well a pain-killing salve would definitely have been useful for a teething baby growing into an active little boy!

As we move through the Christmas season and face the challenges of 2020, it is helpful to remember the main gift of Christmas – Jesus. We follow someone who knew the challenges of living on this earth. Whatever joys and sorrows you will experience this year, I pray that you will know the strength and presence of Jesus.

Ste Marguerite de la Forêt



Newsletter

January 2020

Contacts

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Flower Rota

5th—last Sunday Tree festival—
trees may then be taken down

12th—Nancy Smith

19th and 26th—Liz Chamberlain



**Enjoying free
Lucky Dip,
kindly
provided by
Julia
Gallienne**



**Christmas Trading
Stall organised and
mainly provided by Liz
Chamberlain, and so
far we have raised
over £500 from it!**



**Oliver and
Iona at
Let's Do
Christmas**



Odds and Ends

Midweek Services

Every Wednesday there is a short Eucharist, 11.30am @ St Peter's. **Every Thursday** the same, 10am @ St Appoline.

Midweek Morning Prayer

Rev'd Claire says Morning Prayer in church at 9 am on Mondays and Thursdays. **Anyone is welcome** to join her for this short act of worship.

Guernsey Welfare

Don't forget the less well off. Tub under back pew in church. Our goodies go to Trinity once a month.

Prayers Please pray for anyone known to you who needs God's helping hand, but especially those who need God's healing hand: Brenda/Susie, Wyn, Jane, Lucy, Richard and Liz, Jill, Gretl, Mike, Jenny, and Joan.

Please also pray for those who have lost loved ones, but especially the families of Francine (Peter and Julia's daughter) Marguerite Paul, George and Rev. John Inder

Church Opening Times have changed slightly. The church is now open from 9.30 am, except Mondays and Thursdays (9 am for Prayers) and Sundays (10 am for 11 am service—3rd Sunday also 9 am). Please tel. Anne on 236492 if you require the church to be opened otherwise. Closing times will not change—normally around 5 pm.

WELCOME - Whether you are visiting or regularly worship with us, we welcome you to our beautiful church

Services: January 2020

CW = Common Worship **BCP** = Book of Common Prayer

Sunday, 5 January—Epiphany

11 am Family Communion—Rev'd Claire Claxton

Reader: tba Prayers: Nicola Hoyland-**Birch**

6.30 pm Evensong with Margaret Boden-Heaume

Reader: Fiona Roland

Sunday, 12 January—Epiphany 1/Baptism of Christ

11 am CW Eucharist with Rev'd Claire Claxton

Reader: Susie Mowbray Prayers: Margaret Boden-Heaume

N.B. 6 pm Covenant Service with Methodists

Sunday, 19 January— Epiphany 2

9am—Puppets and Praise, Breakfast followed by short service for families with very young (in church)

11 am CW Eucharist with Rev'd Claire Claxton

Reader: Katie Blampied Prayers: Vivien Rees

Sunday, 26 January—Epiphany 3

9 am BCP Eucharist—Rev'd Claire Claxton

11 am CW Eucharist with Rev'd Claire Claxton

Reader: Linda Archard Prayers: Peter Gallienne

General Diary Dates

Blossom Fields has sadly closed and our communicants have all found alternative homes.

Knit and Natter - from 2 – 4 pm. Next one is on Wednesday, 8 January (N.B. Second Wednesday).

Spinning Group (wool variety) is on Thursday, 2 January from 10 am to 12 noon in Douzaine

Room (next door to Forest Primary School). Tel. Pandy 263068

Ladies' Breakfast - 2nd Saturday of the month at St. Saviour's Church hall or Rectory 8-9 am. All Ladies welcome. Next meeting will be on Saturday 11 January. All welcome and it's a lovely way to prepare for the weekend.

The Solace Group meets fortnightly on a Thursday morning from 10.30 am to 12 noon in St Martin's Community Centre. The meetings for **January** are 16th and 30th.

Attic Art

In the past we have held very successful Art Sales so, we shall be holding another one. This is a plea for you to start collecting now—pictures, art materials, etc in fact anything to do with Art.

N.B. **The Wine Tasting** will now take place in April.



Mission Coffee Morning

FREE coffee/cake next Wednesday 8th January from 10.30 am til 12 noon in church

—oo0oo—

Free angels distributed by Nancy and I on 9th December at Le Bourg. All 109, kindly knitted mainly by

Anne Roland, and Jenny Martin were taken from the shop and the bus stop.

