

News and Prayer Update for 17th January

Rostherne with Bollington, St John High Legh and St Paul Over Tabley

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Do You Need to Talk To Someone? Call any of the above, we have other people who are also experienced in listening who are willing to help, so **please do call, we are here for you.** All conversations are in strict confidence.



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Link for this week's recorded service is: https://youtu.be/X3f_vd4HpNc

HYMN: O Worship the King All Glorious Above

(Robert Grant 1779-1838 based on Psalm 104)

O worship the King all glorious above,
and gratefully sing his power and his love:
our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,
pavilioned in splendour and girded with praise.

O tell of his might and sing of his grace,
whose robe is the light, whose canopy space;
his chariots of wrath the deep thunder-clouds form,
and dark is his path on the wings of the storm.

The earth, with its store of wonders untold,
Almighty, thy power hath founded of old;
hath stablished it fast, by a changeless decree,
and round it has cast, like a mantle, the sea.

Thy bountiful care, what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
it streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
and sweetly distils in the dew and the rain.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail -
in thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail;
thy mercies, how tender, how firm to the end!
our maker, defender, redeemer, and friend.

O measureless Might, ineffable Love,
while angels delight to hymn thee above!
thy humbler creation, though feeble their lays,
with true adoration shall sing to thy praise!

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Collect for Second Sunday of Epiphany

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.

Psalm: Psalm 139: 1 – 9

- 1 O Lord, you have searched me out and known me; ♦
you know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar.
- 2 You mark out my journeys and my resting place ♦

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- and are acquainted with all my ways.
- 3 For there is not a word on my tongue, ♦
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.
- 4 You encompass me behind and before ♦
and lay your hand upon me.
- 5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, ♦
so high that I cannot attain it.
- 6 Where can I go then from your spirit? ♦
Or where can I flee from your presence?
- 7 If I climb up to heaven, you are there; ♦
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.
- 8 If I take the wings of the morning ♦
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
- 9 Even there your hand shall lead me, ♦
your right hand hold me fast.

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First reading: 1 Samuel 3: 1 – 10

- ¹Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.
- ²At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room;
- ³the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was.
- ⁴Then the LORD called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' and he said, 'Here I am!'
- ⁵and ran to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call; lie down again.' So he went and lay down.
- ⁶The LORD called again, 'Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call, my son; lie down again.'
- ⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him.
- ⁸The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy.
- ⁹Therefore Eli said to Samuel, 'Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, "Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening."' So Samuel went and lay down in his place.
- ¹⁰Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' And Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.'

Gospel Reading: John 1: 43 – end

- ⁴³The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, 'Follow me.'
- ⁴⁴Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.
- ⁴⁵Philip 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.'
- ⁴⁶Nathanael said to him, 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?' Philip said to him, 'Come and see.'

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⁴⁷ When Jesus saw Nathanael coming towards him, he said of him, 'Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!'

⁴⁸ Nathanael asked him, 'Where did you come to know me?' Jesus answered, 'I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.'

⁴⁹ Nathanael replied, 'Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!'

⁵⁰ Jesus answered, 'Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.'

⁵¹ 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.'

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised (NRSVA)

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REFLECTION ON THE READINGS – Revelation – Rev'd Trish

Today is the second Sunday of Epiphany; Epiphany means "revelation"

The Epiphany is a single celebration but Epiphany is more than that – it is a season covering four Sundays during which time we recount the ways in which Jesus was revealed to the world as Christ, the Son of God; as God incarnate / God made man.

The Epiphany when Christ was revealed to the Wise men is clear

The revelation of Jesus as the Son of God during his baptism is clear

The revelation will be clear when we see Jesus perform his first miracle and when he is recognised by Simeon in the temple

But this little story that we have just heard isn't quite such an obvious revelation about who Jesus is.

At first it looks quite the opposite of a revelation to Nathanael who says can any good come out of Nazareth?! He doesn't see Jesus for who he is.

But then Jesus tells Nathanael that he knows him and saw him sitting under a fig tree.

That sort of insight is not like a magician who seems to know what you have in your pockets / or a clairvoyant who can see your history of foretell your future – supposedly??! Jesus simply declares that Nathanael was sitting under a fig tree – well that's not too bad a guess since fig trees were common enough in the country and offer good shade from a canopy of thick dense leaves.

Yet it is sufficient to draw Nathanael to recognise Jesus as the "Son of God; King of Israel" At that moment through those words Jesus is revealed to Nathanael as the Son of God; King of Israel"

However, Jesus has a bigger & better revelation for Nathanael.

Now – do you remember the story of Jacob when he was running away from his twin brother Esau, having stolen his inheritance; on the first night Jacob had a close encounter with God through a dream of a ladder between heaven and earth – with angels ascending and descending from earth to heaven bridging the gap and connecting the two.

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Jesus reveals to Nathanael that he himself bridges the gap between heaven and earth; that in himself heaven and earth become one; that when we are in the presence of Jesus we are in the presence of God. Heaven and earth are in unity in Christ.

This little story from John's gospel tells us of Philip who has met Jesus and responded to the call "Follow me"; and Philip doesn't keep that to himself instead Philip passes that news on his friend Nathanael – "we have found him" he says; but Nathanael is sceptical – surely you must have experienced that when passing on the news about Jesus – haven't you? But instead of giving up Philip says "Come and see" and Nathanael does come and see and Jesus is revealed to him as the one who reveals the nature of God so that when you are alongside Jesus you are in the very presence of God.

It's a story repeated through the generations – that of passing on the good news and revealing the nature of Jesus.

I wonder:

How has Jesus been revealed to you? Was it someone whose life made him feel real to you?

Was it someone who explained the stories about Jesus?

Was it someone who helped you to learn to pray and know Jesus close to you?

It may have been all of these and others that I haven't mentioned.

But someone has helped to reveal to you that Jesus is God incarnate / God made man.

Prophets like Samuel in our OT reading had for many years been revealing the words of God, his intentions and his actions but Jesus was very far from this. Jesus was showing us the very nature of God because, as John tells us in the opening words of his gospel, Jesus was one with God in the very beginning.

And all of you listening today have had that nature revealed to you in Jesus Christ – not by chance or accident but because someone took the trouble to reveal it to you.

In this season of Epiphany, the revelation of who Christ is, we should take time to think how we can reveal him to others.

A friend gave me this epiphyllum just before Christmas.

When it came it was just a bulb - yet hidden inside was all that was needed to create these beautiful flowers; but in order that they could be revealed to the world it needed a little care and encouragement; some water, light and warmth – otherwise the beauty of this flower would not have been revealed; it would have remained hidden.

Each of us has Jesus Christ within us / in our hearts; but we need to allow him to flourish within us and then become visible to the world. We have to nurture the presence of Christ in us so that it flourishes and becomes visible in our lives and revealed to the world around us.

How are you going to reveal Christ to the world around you? Perhaps it will help if - first of all - you look back on who revealed him to you and how that happened and allow that to lead you into revealing Christ to the world.

Amen

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HYMN: Dear Lord and Father of Mankind (John Greenleaf Whittier 1807- 1892)

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
forgive our foolish ways;
re clothe us in our rightful mind,
in purer lives thy service find,
in deeper reverence, praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard,
beside the Syrian sea,
the gracious calling of the Lord,
let us, like them, without a word,
rise up and follow thee.

O sabbath rest by Galilee,
O calm of hills above,
where Jesus knelt to share with thee
the silence of eternity,
interpreted by love!

Drop thy still dews of quietness,
till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire
thy coolness and thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still, small voice of calm.

Prayers for the coming week:

As you pray this week ask yourself if there is anything God is asking you to do as a response to our prayers.

Monday

Thank you for the new week. Help us to be aware that you are with us each day. gives us strength, wisdom and guidance, an awareness of the needs of others and help us in all we do to be conscious of your care for us so that at the end of the week we will see how you have blessed and provided for us.

Tuesday

Lord, we pray for all who are working. We pray for the safety of those who must travel to work on public transport and those in public facing occupations - please keep them safe and free from the virus. We pray for those working from home that they won't feel isolated from their colleagues or be under too much pressure from juggling their own work and their children's education. Help all who work this week to find ways of managing their time and work successfully. In Jesus' name we pray.

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Wednesday

Lord God we are conscious that life is difficult for many people at the present time. We pray for people who are living alone that despite the present restrictions they will find ways to have safe contact with other people. Prompt us to be aware of what we can do through telephoning, writing or video calling to encourage them and assure them of our love and your love.

Thursday

Thank Lord for all the good things you give us, help us to remember your deep love for us during today. We pray for those who are feeling sad. We think especially of those who are living in difficult situations and ask for help for them to find a way through their difficulties and to know that you care. We pray for all who are working to bring relief to families who are in distress and pray for the provision of food, clothing and a place to live for all.

Friday

Father, thank you that we know you and are able to have a relationship with you. Thank you for blessing us in so many ways. In our gratitude help us to follow your guiding for the way ahead and give us an awareness of how we can bring blessing into the lives of those we know and those we love. Even in these difficult times may we live joyfully and see you at work in our homes and communities. In Jesus' name we pray.

Saturday

Lord God, thank you for your love for us. Help us to live and love well and to be good stewards of what you have given us in time and resources. Help us not to live with regrets about things we cannot change but to trust you for the past; to live in the present guided by you; to trust you for the future rather than living in fear. For Jesus' sake.

Think about the past week. In what ways have you seen God at work and how have you been blessed? Thank God.

Prayer for January:

Thank you for bringing us to the beginning of another New Year. Help us to remember that the gift of Christ, Emmanuel, is your gift to us not just at Christmas, but throughout the year.

Fill us with your joy and the peace of your Spirit and help us to keep following you. Thank you that you are with us in our times of difficulty as well as our joys and celebrations and that you never leave us but always care.

Please guide us through 2021 and help us to bring our prayers to you.

Amen

NOTICES

❖ **Services – each of the PCCs in our United Benefice have decided to suspend worship services and private prayer in our Churches until mid-March**

We will continue to stream a service each Sunday.

Below is information about other services that you can join remotely:

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Some New Services for you to join:

- 10.30 on Sunday mornings starting this week - join **Morning Worship** on the link below. Please join from 10.15 onwards and we will have time for a chat afterwards for those who wish to.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87937255579?pwd=ekxOUGt4SIZXVjk4WG9kK0dlcUo0UT09>

If you require the ID and Passcode please contact Revd Patricia.
(this service is in addition to the weekly pre-recorded online service).

- **Wednesday Morning 09.00 Celtic Morning Prayer** with Revd Trish Cope. Please contact Revd Trish for the link for this. Next week we will include it in the Update.
- We are planning to hold a **Telephone Service** once a week. This is especially helpful for those without the internet to join a service and have contact with other people.
Chris Stanisstreet is working on this and we hope to have details next week. Please let Chris know what time of day would be good - we can organise Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer or Night Prayer this way. Please let people who don't have the internet know about this service and ask them to contact Chris. If you can help in practical ways with this service (i.e. setting up the conference call on the system we have chosen) Chris would love to hear from you
- **Suggestions:**
If you have any other ideas, please let us know - contact Revd Philip by phone 01565 830595 or email. robinsonpj50@gmail.com

❖ **Coffee and Chat Wednesday 20th January:** We are having a Zoom Coffee and Chat meeting on Wednesday mornings from 11.00 am to 12.00 noon.

Just click on the link below.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89014498190?pwd=WXJWU0JySGNqR05VRU1qOE1jbGwxQT09>

If you need the meeting ID and Password for this meeting please contact Patricia.
Email: pmrobinson51@gmail.com or Tel: 01565 830 595

❖ **Christingle Service in the United Benefice:**



Our final Christingle Service will no longer be able to go ahead at St Paul's. There is an online Christingle Service available at: <https://youtu.be/1CHlvU77fAg> . Christingle kits and instructions are available and if you would like to have a kit to use with the online service, please contact Patricia (details above) before the end of January.

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We have our own Christingle giving page with the Children's Society so if you would like to make a donation to the Children's Society go to: <https://thyg.uk/CUS047758>
Please note there was a digit missing from the link so if you tried and didn't get through to it please try again.

❖ **Join the Prayer Chain:**

Our Reader, Chris Stanisstreet has organised a **Prayer Chain** which is done by email and telephone. The idea behind this, is that when a specific prayer request is made, it is passed on by group e-mail to the people on the list who then pray for the particular situation.

If you would like to receive prayer requests or would like to make a prayer request, please let Chris Stanisstreet know:

Tel: 01925 755559; Mob 07918 981 723; stanbess2003@yahoo.co.uk

❖ **Offering and Fund Raising** – Please continue to give if you can

❖ **Knutsford Food Bank**

Now the New Year is here please help us support the Knutsford Food Bank by bringing items to church or asking us to collect them for The Welcome - the New Year is a time when families and people in need can find themselves in difficulty. Contact Revd Patricia for more information or collection of items.

❖ **Homemade Jams For Sale:**

There are various Jams and Marmalade available at prices between £2.00 / £3.00 per jar depending on size, either from St Mary's or by telephoning the Vicarage- we will deliver them to you.

St Paul's are offering: Strawberry, Gooseberry, Damson or Strawberry, Greengage and Gooseberry jams.

St Mary's are offering: Strawberry, Rhubarb & Ginger, Rhubarb Jelly, Redcurrant Jelly, Marmalade and Yellow Raspberry.

❖ **Morning and Night Prayer**

If anyone does not yet have access to the "Worship at Home" booklet containing the Order of Service for Morning Prayer or Night Prayer, please contact the Vicarage, as there are large print copies and ordinary size ones that can be posted out or versions that can be e-mailed.

Bible Readings and Psalms for the Coming Week from the Lectionary.

Here are some suggestions for more Psalms and Bible readings to use with Morning and Night Prayer:

Readings for Morning Prayer: These readings usually follow on from each other so you get a bit more of the story each day (except on special Saints Days).

Mon 18th Jan – Psalm 146; Amos Chapter 6; 1 Corinthians 6: 1 – 11

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Tues 19th Jan – Psalm 132; Amos Chapter 7; 1 Corinth 6: 12 – end

Wed 20th Jan – Psalm 81; Amos chapter 8; 1 Corinthians 7: 1 – 24

Thurs 21st Jan – Psalm 76; Amos Chapter 9; 1 Corinth. 7: 25 – end

Fri 22nd Jan – Psalm 27; Hosea 1: 1 – 2: 1; 1 Corinthians Chap 8

Sat 23rd Jan – Psalm 122; Hosea 2: 2 – 17; 1 Corinth 9: 1 – 14

Readings for Night Prayer (for Epiphany)

Short Reading:

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. (Titus 2.11)

Psalm 16

- 1 Preserve me, O God, for in you have I taken refuge; ♦
I have said to the Lord, 'You are my lord, all my good depends on you.'
- 2 All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land, ♦
upon those who are noble in heart.
- 3 Though the idols are legion that many run after, ♦
their drink offerings of blood I will not offer, neither make mention of their names
upon my lips.
- 4 The Lord himself is my portion and my cup; ♦
in your hands alone is my fortune.
- 5 My share has fallen in a fair land; ♦
indeed, I have a goodly heritage.
- 6 I will bless the Lord who has given me counsel, ♦
and in the night watches he instructs my heart.
- 7 I have set the Lord always before me; ♦
he is at my right hand; I shall not fall.
- 8 Wherefore my heart is glad and my spirit rejoices; ♦
my flesh also shall rest secure.
- 9 For you will not abandon my soul to Death, ♦
nor suffer your faithful one to see the Pit.
- 10 You will show me the path of life; in your presence is the fullness of joy ♦
and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

Collect:

King of kings and Lord of lords,
making the true light to shine:
lighten our darkness now and evermore
that with our lips and in our lives
we may praise you;
for you are our God, now and for ever.

Blessing:

May the living waters of Christ cleanse us,
may the Spirit descend upon us,
and the blessing of God be with us
this night and always.