

## News for the Pews

**Date: 8<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

**Sunday: Epiphany Sunday**



### News and Views

Happy New Year everyone. Despite all the illness going around, I hope you managed to have a joy-filled Christmas and that it was all you hoped it would be. I also hope you found time to spend with Mary and Joseph, the shepherds and the angels worshipping the new born King who came to turn our world upside-down! Thank you to everyone who came to a carol service, Messy Christingle, the Crib service, the midnight or Christmas morning services – it was great to see so many people come to worship. A special thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make it all happen – cleaning, decorating, baking, washing-up, serving, helping lead services, and generally being supportive and encouraging!

### Events for the week

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January – school assemblies start up again

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January – Memorial service for Margaret Fell at 11.30am in St. Lawrence's Church, Napton

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> January – Deanery bring & share tea from 3 – 5pm in Stockton Church. Following the "Belong & Believe" course last autumn we will explore new ideas around Celtic / Monastic Church. Anyone interested in this is very welcome (please let me know if you plan to come).

### Looking ahead

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January – The Gathering at 10.30am at St. Lawrence's Church, Napton. We will be joined by Rev. Daniel Corlett, from Alcester, who leads the Rural Mission Hub.

### Services next Sunday – 15<sup>th</sup> January – Epiphany 2:

9.00am – BCP Holy Communion at St. Mary's, Priors Hardwick

10.30am – CW Holy Communion at St. Lawrence's, Napton

10.30am – Morning Worship at St. Leonard's, Priors Marston

4.00pm – Messy Church at St. Lawrence's, Napton

Bible readings for the week are: Isaiah 49:1-7 and John 1:29-42

### And finally

One of my morning bible readings this week was from Isaiah 61:1-3: "The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion – to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit." It reminded me that these are actions that flow naturally from God's Holy Spirit dwelling in us. This is about the outworking of God's mission in the world – through the prophet, through Jesus and through us. If you are someone who likes to make New Year resolutions – maybe this is a good place to start!

God bless,  
Gillian

(For more details of events and diary dates, see our website: [www.thebridgesgroup.org.uk](http://www.thebridgesgroup.org.uk) or the parish magazines)