

## News for the Pews

Date: 15<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Sunday: Epiphany 2



### News and Views

It has been a quiet week, catching up with myself post-Christmas and an opportunity to meet with Catherine and the grandchildren (as they caught the lurgy and couldn't visit at Christmas). I also had time to call at the Foodbank on Monday. They are SO busy but people are continuing to be very generous with donations into the box at Tesco's. And on Wednesday I had an outing to Coventry to meet with the Dean of Women's Ministry and lots of other lovely women priests – the first time we have managed to do that for three years! We met the new(-ish) Diocesan Secretary and our clergy representative on General Synod, as well as having time to pray with and for each other – what a blessing.

### Events for the week

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January – Priors Hardwick PCC meeting at 7pm at Pingle House

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January – Stockton Church soup and puddings lunch from 12noon

### Looking ahead

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January – The Gathering with Holy Communion for Candlemas at 10.30am at St. Lawrence's Church, Napton. The service will be led by Rev. Daniel Corlett from the Rural Mission Resource Hub.

### Services next Sunday: 22<sup>nd</sup> January – Epiphany 3

10.30am – CW Holy Communion at St. Michael's Church, Stockton

10.30am – Morning Worship at St. Peter's Church, Wormleighton

3.00pm – "4<sup>th</sup> Sunday" at St. Leonard's Church, Priors Marston

5.00pm – BCP Evensong at St. Lawrence's Church, Napton

Bible readings for the week are: Isaiah 9:1-4 and Matthew 4:12-23

### And finally

In a reading from 1 Corinthians 4 this week, Paul reminds us that we should think of ourselves "as servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries" (v1). I wonder, when we talk so much about being good stewards of the planet in order to reverse climate change, that we do not also apply the principle to our financial giving? We are not the *owners* of creation but its *stewards* and have been given the responsibility and ability to care for the world. Likewise, we should think of ourselves not as the owners of possessions but as stewards of them for the benefit of others - God has entrusted his gifts to us to use wisely – and one day we will be asked to give account of our stewardship.

The collect for this week: "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."

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)