



The Ship

St Jude's Church, Englefield Green Newsletter

Anglicans and Methodists working together

Number 115

January 2020

Community Concert

of words and music

Saturday 4th January

4.00pm

St Jude's Church

Admission free

Refreshments provided

Donations welcome

You are invited to take part — musically or spoken word — items lasting between 3 and 4 minutes.

Please let Geoff Chew know on 01784 435664 or geoffchew1@gmail.com



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Christmas at St Jude's

We were delighted to welcome so many people to St Jude's Church for the Crib Service on Christmas Eve.

Many thanks to those who helped decorate the church and those who provided refreshments after the services.

Christmas Tree

We extend a special thank you to Longacres, Bagshot for a generous discount towards the Christmas Tree which we decorated and displayed in St Jude's. All agreed that it's a splendid tree.

St Jude's School

We were very pleased to welcome the staff and children from St Jude's School to their Carol Service in Church on 16th December.

A New Year

Once again we find ourselves at the beginning of another New Year. This time of year does give us an opportunity to reflect. Many people do this and some even make Resolutions that they aim to keep for the rest of the year. Whether or not they are able to do this is perhaps not the most important point. It simply means that they have evaluated what has happened in the past and have decided to change some aspects of the way that they have lived.

It is also possible to look at the lives of other people and obtain some helpful hints from their experiences; whether these have been good, bad or indifferent. I was reading the other day about Albert Schweitzer. He was born on the 14th January 1875 and his was an incredibly productive life. He was a musician, a theologian, a philosopher and a doctor of medicine. It was in 1952 that he was given the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts in behalf of "the brotherhood of nations".

The interesting thing about his life is that he spent it in Africa in a Mission hospital in Lambarene which is the sort of place where you might not expect to be noticed. It was here that he exercised his gifts of looking after people who were ill and who often did not have the means to pay for their treatment. The truly amazing thing to note is that he saw that his gifts and skills became his property because others had passed them on to him. He clearly reflected on this and wrote, "One other thing that stirs me when I look back on my youthful days; the fact that so many people gave me something or were something to me without knowing it. Such people entered into my life and became powers within me. We all live spiritually by what others have given us in the significant hours of our life. Much that has become our own in gentleness, modesty, kindness, willingness to forgive, in veracity, loyalty, resignation under suffering, we owe to people in whom we have seen these virtues at work. If we had before us those who have been thus a blessing to us and could tell them how it came about, they would be amazed to learn what passed over from their lives to ours." (Quoted in "Schweitzer, Hero of Africa" by Robert Payne).

As I reflect on the year that has just come to an end I will also take a moment to think about the many ways I have benefited from the love and care of others and will also seek to pass something on to others during 2020.

I wish you a peaceful and happy New Year

Andrew Reed

From the Registers

Holy Baptism: (24th November) Sofia Surain Bradbeer-Dubery, Mabel Joy Saunders.

Funerals: (4th December) Stephen Lucas; (12th) Lindsay Beatrice Amelia Kemp; (17th) Ann Kathleen Patience Vulgar; (20th) Stephen Nicholas Nicolaou

The Epiphany



The Epiphany is an ancient Christian feast day and is significant in a number of ways. In the East, where it originated, the Epiphany celebrates the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist in the River Jordan. It also celebrates Jesus' birth.

The Western Church began celebrating the Epiphany in the 4th century where it was, and still is, associated with the visit of the magi (wise men) to the infant Jesus when God revealed himself to the world through the incarnation of Jesus. According to Matthew 2:11 they offered him gifts of

gold, frankincense and myrrh.

For many Protestant church traditions, the season of Epiphany extends from 6th January until Ash Wednesday, which begins the season of Lent leading to Easter. Other traditions, observe Epiphany as a single day, with the Sundays following Epiphany counted as Ordinary Time.

2020

We have just passed the start of a special year, not just because the calendar changes from 2019 to 2020 but because of the events, which lay behind our measurement of time. Christianity is an earthy religion – by that we mean that it records and celebrates specific events in our world history. Because of the birth of a baby in an obscure region of the near Middle East some 2,000 years ago God's promises came to a fulfilment, a time when all people could be saved. In watching numerous Nativity plays that we may have forgotten that this is a very adult story. It is not part of a never never land. It is a story that challenges adults and the way we conduct our lives. A true story of a young woman's obedience in saying "yes" to God so that the Messiah could be born, live, die and rise again for his people and for us 2,000 years later.

The notion of Jubilee goes back to Old Testament times. Just as God rested on the seventh day, at creation, so he commanded that the seventh day, known as Shabbat, was to be a day of rest. The seventh year was to be kept as a Sabbatical when all agricultural work was to cease, debts were to be cancelled and prisoners were to be released. After seven Sabbaticals an altogether special year was to be celebrated, the Jubilee (Leviticus 25:10). This special year was marked by a blast on a ram's horn.

As individuals and as communities, we are used to celebrating important anniversaries – silver, ruby, golden, and diamond Jubilees. Our own birthdays – the ones with the significant nought tell the passing of the years and we rejoice in these landmarks especially at the 90 years and the centenaries for people whom we know and love.

We need to think about our blessings, but we can only receive them when our hearts and minds are ready. Ponder on this ancient legend. There was a poor man who was begging in his village, when suddenly in the middle of the street stood a magnificent golden coach. He guessed that it must belong to a wealthy person if not the king himself. He felt sure that he would be ready to be generous to a poor beggar. His heart raced as the coach stopped and the king descended and moved towards him. Imagine his horror as he stretched out his hand when the king asked, "What are you going to give me?" Utterly disappointed and bewildered, the beggar dug into the bottom of his sack and produced a grain of wheat and reluctantly gave it to the king. However, when he emptied the sack at the end of the day, he found a small pile of wheat and in the middle a grain of pure gold. Naturally, he wept. "If only", he murmured "... if only I had had the courage to give him everything that I possessed!"

*Let there be respect for the earth.
Peace for its people. Love in our lives.
Delight in the good.*

The Village Centre (01784 471110) www.villagecentre.org.uk

Life at the Village Centre continues to be busy! Our regular bookings include Ballet classes, Pilates, Music with Mummy, Jazz, Film and Chess Clubs and The Egham Women's Institute (Nightingales) monthly meetings. We also host an informal Arts and Craft Group each week. Our Child Contact Centre and our Baby Basics Project are two major areas of outreach.

Our Computer Drop-In sessions (Tuesday–Thursday from 9.30am to 12noon) offer the use of desk-top computers but also provide support to those bringing their own electronic devices such as laptops, tablets or mobile phones. Our skilled volunteers can provide training in the use of particular computer programmes and are even willing to help you with booking airline tickets or completing other on line forms!

We are currently exploring an alliance with our local GP surgery to provide additional support for those who are currently Carers for loved ones, neighbours or friends.

Our Café continues to thrive and is open Mon–Wed 9am–4pm, Thurs and Fri 9am–5pm, and in school holidays 10am–2pm each weekday. Do sample our delicious "Cake of the Week" donated each Monday by local suppliers! We also have rooms available to hire for a variety of celebrations including Birthday and Baptism Parties!

Further details from our Centre Manager, Ali Watts, on 01784 471110.

Readings at Communion

5th January (Christmas 1 celebrating The Epiphany)	Psalm 72. 10–15 Ephesians 3. 1–12 Matthew 2. 1–12
12th January (Baptism of Christ)	Isaiah 41. 1–9 Psalm 29 Acts 10. 34–43 Matthew 3. 13–end
19th January (Epiphany 2)	Isaiah 49. 1–7 Psalm 40. 1–12 1 Corinthians 1. 1–9 John 1. 29–42
26th January (Epiphany 3)	Isaiah 9. 1–4 Psalm 27. 1, 4–12 1 Corinthians 1. 10–18 Matthew 4. 12–23

Englefield Green Cemetery

Englefield Green cemetery is the property of and maintained by Runnymede Borough Council based in Addlestone. Telephone 01932 838383.

Diary for January

- 1 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion (said)
- 4 Saturday 4.00pm Community Concert – admission free – refreshments provided – donations welcome
- 5 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Sung Eucharist 6.30pm Taizé service
- 6 Monday The Epiphany
- 8 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion (said)
- 12 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Sung Eucharist 6.30pm Evensong and Sermon
- 15 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion (said)
- 19 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Sung Eucharist
- 22 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion (said)
- 23 Thursday 8.00pm Church Council meets
- 26 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Sung Eucharist Informal all-age service 11.15am
- 29 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion (said)

All events are in St Jude's Church unless otherwise stated
The Church is open each Saturday from 2.00–4.00pm for tea and a chat