

# ARLE VALLEY BENEFICE

*St John's Church, New Alresford ♦ St Mary's Church, Old Alresford  
St Peter's Church, Ovington ♦ All Saints Church, Bighton*

## January 3rd 2021 Second Sunday of Christmas Epiphany

*Welcome to our worship today. If you are a newcomer, please make yourself known to the Clergy or one of the Churchwardens after the service.*

### ***Services this Sunday:***

09:30 : St John's: Parish Communion (*Tasha*)

*There are no services at St Mary's, St Peter's and All Saints*

*Lord you make all things new and bring hope alive in our hearts. In this new year come and kindle in us a mighty flame so that we can walk forward in love, and with your guiding hand to lead, build a better and more peaceful world. Amen.*

**Benefice Curate: Rev'd Tasha Anderson**  
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**Benefice website: [www.arlevallychurches.org.uk](http://www.arlevallychurches.org.uk)**

## ***This week's notices...***

### ***Services at St John's:***

As safety and wellbeing is of paramount importance, we constantly review the advisability of holding services in church.

The current situation is:

<b>Sunday 3rd January:</b>	<b>Communion Service in Church</b>
<b>Friday 8th January:</b>	<b>Communion Service in Church</b>
<b>Sunday 10th January:</b>	<b>Online Second Sunday Service</b> <i>(no service in church)</i>

All of the above services in church MUST be pre-booked. Maximum of 30 attendees.

The PCC will be reviewing the advisability of services beyond this point.

St John's will remain open daily for Private Prayer...

Monday - Saturday: 10am - 12 noon

Sunday: 10.30am - 12 noon

If you are not able to attend today's service, hopefully you will be able to join us on-line for the service at 9.30am. The service will be streamed live via the St John's Facebook page. You can access the Facebook page by...

- *Going to the Benefice website - [www.arlevalleychurches.org.uk](http://www.arlevalleychurches.org.uk). You need to scroll down to the picture of St John's that says Facebook and click on the church name or....*
- *Going to the facebook page directly at [www.facebook.com/StJohnsAlresford](http://www.facebook.com/StJohnsAlresford)*

But if you prefer, a recording of the services will be emailed out later on as they will be available on YouTube as usual, and the links will also be on the Benefice website.

***Services at St Peter's:*** The Café Church on 3rd January has been CANCELLED. As it is such an interactive service, we feel that it is not sensible to hold Café Church whilst we are all in Tier 4. We hope to be able to resume as soon as the Covid infection rate comes down and possibly by then many of us will have had an inoculation. Meanwhile our other services at St Peter's will hopefully continue as *Parish Communion* on the second Sunday and *Morning Praise* on the third Sunday.

***Services at St Mary's:*** As a Covid-19 precaution, There will be no services during January, but the church will be open on Sundays from 10.00 - 12.00 noon for Private Prayer.

***Services at All Saints:*** At the moment All Saints is planning to carry on as per the rota, with Morning Prayer on 10th and 24th, and Parish Communion on 17th, all at 11am.

## **This week's notices...**

### **Michael Project:**

On behalf of everyone at the Michael Project, many thanks to the kind anonymous donor who recently gave so generously towards our work with orphaned and vulnerable children in Zimbabwe. Please be assured that your gift will be put to very good use and is hugely appreciated.

**Prayer requests:** If you would like the Prayer team to pray for you, your family, friends or any other situation, please contact Rosie Waring Green - [rosie@22rwg.co.uk](mailto:rosie@22rwg.co.uk) or 01962 733237. We of course always respect the confidentiality of your requests.



**Flower arrangers at St John's** are urgently needed for the 2021 rota in order to keep up the weekly pedestal. Please contact Diana Robbins: 01420 565668 or email: [dianarobbins@me.com](mailto:dianarobbins@me.com).  
*Thank you!*

*And .....*

**If you would like to sponsor an arrangement**, whether in memory of a loved one or event, or "just because", do please contact Diana.

**Giving at St John's:** If you would like to make a contribution to church funds with a debit or credit card during lockdown, or indeed any other time, you may do so by phoning David Griffiths on 01962 734408.

### **Carbon footprints: 7. The 'Green Thing'**

In the line at the store, the cashier told the older woman that she should bring her own grocery bag because plastic bags weren't good for the environment. The woman apologised to him and explained, "We didn't have the 'green thing' back in my day."

*The cashier responded, "That's our problem today. The former generation did not care enough to save our environment."*

He was right, that generation didn't have the green thing in its day. Back then, they returned their milk bottles, soda bottles and beer bottles to the store. The store sent them back to the plant to be washed and sterilized and refilled, so it could use the same bottles over and over. So they really were reused not just recycled. *But they didn't have the green thing back in that customer's day.*

In her day, they walked up stairs, because they didn't have an escalator in every store and office building. They walked to the grocery store and didn't climb into a car every time they had to go two blocks. *But she was right. They didn't have the green thing in her day.*

## ***This week's notices...***

Back then, they washed the baby's nappies because they didn't have the throw-away kind. They dried clothes on a line, not in an energy gobbling machine burning up 220 volts - wind and solar power really did dry the clothes. Kids got hand-me-down clothes from their brothers or sisters, not always brand-new clothing. *But that old lady is right, they didn't have the green thing back in her day.*

Back then, they had one TV, or radio, in the house - not a TV in every room. And the TV had a small screen the size of a handkerchief, not a screen the size of the state of Dorset. In the kitchen, they blended and stirred by hand because they didn't have electric machines to do everything for you. When they packaged a fragile item to send in the mail, they used a wadded up old newspaper to cushion it, not styrofoam or plastic bubble wrap. Back then, they didn't fire up an engine and burn gasoline just to cut the lawn. They used a push mower that ran on human power. They exercised by working so they didn't need to go to a health club to run on treadmills that operate on electricity.

*But she's right, they didn't have the green thing back then.*

They drank from a water fountain when they were thirsty instead of using a cup or a plastic bottle every time they had a drink of water. They refilled their writing pens with ink from a bottle instead of buying a new pen, and they replaced the razor blades in a razor instead of throwing away the whole razor just because the blade got dull. But they didn't have the green thing back then. Back then, people took the streetcar or a bus and kids rode their bikes to school or rode the school bus instead of turning their mums into a 24-hour taxi service. They had one electrical outlet in a room, not an entire bank of sockets to power a dozen appliances. And they didn't need a computerized gadget to receive a signal beamed from satellites 2,000 miles out in space in order to find the nearest pizza joint.

*But isn't it sad the current generation laments how wasteful the old folks were just because they didn't have the green thing back then?*

*Prayer...*

*God of life, Help us to see that your gifts are meant to be shared by all, not just exploited by a few. Lead us to take action to make a change not just for ourselves, but for all creation. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.*



## **Collect & Readings for Epiphany**

### **Collect:**

Creator of the heavens,  
who led the Magi by a star  
to worship the Christ-child:  
guide and sustain us,  
that we may find our journey's end  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**



### **First Reading: Isaiah 60.1-6**

*To be announced as a Reading from the Book of Isaiah*

Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.  
For darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the LORD will arise upon you,  
and his glory will appear over you.  
Nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.  
Lift up your eyes and look around;  
they all gather together, they come to you;  
your sons shall come from far away,  
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.  
Then you shall see and be radiant;  
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,  
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,  
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.  
A multitude of camels shall cover you,  
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;  
all those from Sheba shall come.  
They shall bring gold and frankincense,  
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

*At the end the reader will say: **This is the Word of the Lord**  
The response is: **Thanks be to God***



### **Psalm 72.(1-9)10-15**



## **Epistle: Ephesians 3.1-12**

*To be announced as a Reading from the Epistle to the Ephesians*

I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles - for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

*At the end the reader will say: **This is the Word of the Lord***

*The response is: **Thanks be to God***



## **Gospel: Matthew 2.1-12**

*When the Gospel is announced we respond with:*

**Glory to you, O Lord**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When

they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

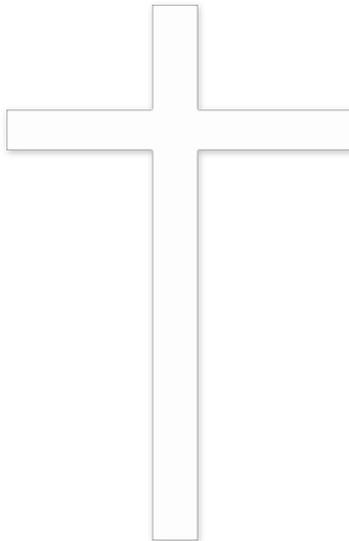
*At the end the reader will say: This is the Gospel of the Lord  
The response is: Praise to you, O Christ*



### **Post Communion Prayer**

Lord God,  
the bright splendour whom the nations seek:  
may we who with the wise men have been drawn by your light  
discern the glory of your presence in your Son,  
the Word made flesh. Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**



#### **Copyright Acknowledgement:**

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## *For Prayer*

### *Please pray for:*

- Those who are in **hospital**
- Those who are ill **at home** or recovering from being in hospital
- Those **receiving on-going care**
- Those in **Nursing and Rest Homes**
- **Home Communicants**
- **R.I.P.** Those who have recently died. We pray too for their families.

### *Please pray for...*

**The UK** as we begin to live under the terms of the new deal with the European Union, for those who will need to rethink their business or private lives. Pray for cooperation, tolerance and friendship with our European neighbours.

**Our National Health Service** as they work to care for the sick and dying in our hospitals which are under unprecedented pressure due to the COVID-19 virus. Give thanks for their selfless dedication to duty. As vaccines become more available give thanks for the skill of the scientists in developing the vaccine in record time, giving hope for an end to this pandemic.

**Our young people** as they face uncertainty over their future education, for those whose return to school or college will be delayed and those for whom home learning is particularly difficult. For all teachers and support staff, especially those who are anxious yet continue to go to work despite the risk.

**For countries where the vaccine is not yet available** to vulnerable people, those who may lose their lives or be seriously ill as a consequence. For all who live in areas of conflict, all refugees, all suffering from natural disasters, naming the people of Croatia.

**Please continue to pray for Valsa Augustine and all the staff at Shanthigramam village**, who are deeply grateful for our support and prayers for their work with leprosy-affected elderly residents. May they be able to continue this important work into the New Year.

**For our churches** in these challenging times. Pray for all who led worship over Christmas: Bishop David, Tasha, Graham, Sue, Ian and Peter and for all who worked hard in the background to make services possible. Pray that 2021 may be a year full of hope for all in our communities and that as church we may reach out to all who are lonely, bereaved or depressed.

*Joy to the World, the Lord is come.*