

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 10th 2021 First Sunday of Epiphany Baptism of Christ

Services this Sunday:

09:30 : St John's: Online Second Sunday Service
(No service in church)

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

*When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and the princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flock
then the work of Christmas begins.
To find the lost, to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among the people
to bring music to the heart.*

Benefice Curate: Rev'd Tasha Anderson
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Benefice website: www.arlevalleychurches.org.uk

This week's notices...

At the end of our service last Sunday you may have heard Tasha announce her departure from the Arle Valley Benefice. Having completed her curacy last summer, her next step was to seek a permanent role in ministry, and she has now accepted the post of Priest-in-Charge of All Saints Milford-on-Sea and St Mary's Everton in the Lyndhurst Deanery. Tasha's last Sunday with us will be on 31st January.

Tasha has given of herself unstintingly during her time with us, and we will all miss her very much.

Services at St John's:

As a result of the rapid rise in the number of new cases of the coronavirus and the impact that is having on the NHS, St John's PCC have reluctantly decided to temporarily suspend all live worship. We will review the situation after 24th January. In the meantime we will continue to offer on-line services and meditations. The church will remain open Monday-Thursday and Saturday from 10-12 noon for private prayer, and 10.30-12 noon Friday and Sunday. The decision to suspend live worship has not been made lightly but the safety and health of all our congregation has to be our prime concern at the present time.

Jackie and Jane (Churchwardens)

Hopefully you can join us for our on-line services. This Sunday's Second Sunday service will be recorded in advance, and the link to the service will be emailed out (it will be available on YouTube as usual) and the link also available on the Benefice website from 9am on Sunday.

The Friday 10am Communion Services, taken by Rev'd Graham Trasler, will be on-line only and 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. 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*

...and again a recording of the service will be emailed out later for viewing on YouTube, and the link will also be on the Benefice website.

Services at St Peter's:

It has been decided to cancel all services at St Peter's for the foreseeable future until the coronavirus situation improves. This decision has been endorsed by the diocese. The church will be open however on Sundays from 10am till 2pm for private prayer.

Pip Stevenson (Churchwarden)

This week's notices...

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.

Roger Parsons (Churchwarden)

Services at All Saints:

All Saints Bighton will be closed due the the virus until further notice.

Bob Ellis and Michael Manley (Churchwardens)

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 or 01962 733237. We of course always respect the confidentiality of your requests.



Flower at St John's: We are sorry to announce that from now until, hopefully, Easter there will not be flowers in the church. We have decided that this is the most sensible course of action under the present circumstances.

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.

Christmas thank you:

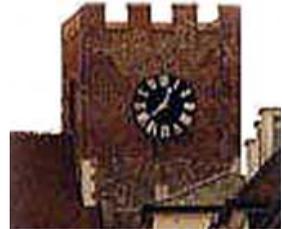
Our wonderful crib has been put away until next year, the 'Comfort and Joy trees' have been taken down, the 'Joy from St John's' gifts delivered and the 'Nativity Hunt' windows cleared. As a result of all these amazing things we have been able to bring alive the Christmas message to our community at a time when normal celebrations were simply not possible. We want to thank all those who in anyway helped with all these different activities. So many people played a part, it really was a tremendous team effort, and we are so grateful to each and everyone of you. Our very sincere thanks to you all.

Jane and Jackie

This week's notices...

Time is standing still:

Unfortunately the church clock at St John's is unwell and is awaiting a new part. There is likely to be a delay in getting the part because of the lockdown but it will be repaired as soon as possible. *Please share this news with anyone you know so they don't worry that time is standing still.*



St John's Annual Report for 2020:

If anyone would like to have a report of their group's activities included in the Church Annual Report for 2020, please send it to the PCC Secretary, David Carr (david@drhcarr.com) by January 31st. *Thank you.*

Carbon footprints: 8. What can we do?

... since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.

For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

(Romans 1:19-20)

... for, "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it."

(1 Corinthians 10:26)

which invites us to respect our Creator by caring for his world.

Eat less red meat - *The Amazon is gradually being cut down and destroyed in order to feed cattle, and make space for them to graze. As well as this, animal agriculture is responsible for around [14.5% of greenhouse gas emissions](#), which amounts to more exhaust than from all transportation.*

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 the Baptism of Christ

Collect:

Heavenly Father,
at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son:
may we recognize him as our Lord
and know ourselves to be your beloved children;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Amen



First Reading: Genesis 1.1-5

To be announced as a Reading from the Book of Genesis

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

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



Psalm 29

- 1 Ascribe to the Lord, you powers of heaven,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
- 2 Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name;
worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.
- 3 The voice of the Lord is upon the waters;
the God of glory thunders;
the Lord is upon the mighty waters.
- 4 The voice of the Lord is mighty in operation;
the voice of the Lord is a glorious voice.
- 5 The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees;
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
- 6 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf
and Sirion like a young wild ox.

- 7 The voice of the Lord splits the flash of lightning;
the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
- 8 The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe
and strips the forests bare;
in his temple all cry, 'Glory!'
- 9 The Lord sits enthroned above the water flood;
the Lord sits enthroned as king for evermore.
- 10 The Lord shall give strength to his people;
the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.



Epistle: Acts 19.1-7

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

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the inland regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?' They replied, 'No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.' Then he said, 'Into what then were you baptized?' They answered, 'Into John's baptism.' Paul said, 'John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.' On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied – altogether there were about twelve of them.

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



Gospel: Mark 1.4-11

When the Gospel is announced we respond with:

Glory to you, O Lord

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and

untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

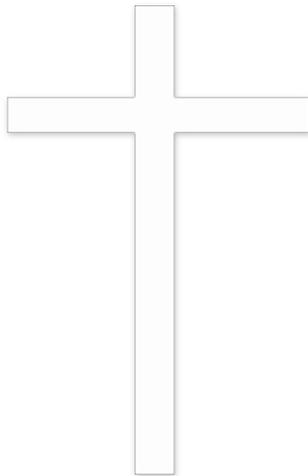
*At the end the reader will say: This is the Gospel of the Lord
The response is: Praise to you, O Christ*



Post Communion Prayer

Lord of all time and eternity,
you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father
in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son:
by the power of your Spirit
complete the heavenly work of our rebirth
through the waters of the new creation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen



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Collect (Baptism of Christ, Additional) © The Archbishops' Council 2004

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 NHS as they fear being overwhelmed by the increasing number of cases of COVID-19. As the vaccine is given to the most vulnerable in our society and to health workers pray that there may soon be some relief to the present crisis.

The USA facing tension and division in these last weeks before the inauguration of President Biden. Pray for respect for democracy and human rights and reconciliation between deeply divided communities.

All for whom this third lockdown is particularly difficult, our children and young people facing uncertainty in their education, and all who may become, or are already, unemployed and are facing financial hardship.

Parents struggling with home schooling as they try to work from home. Pray for all families as they deal with the pressures of fear and uncertainty, those suffering from long COVID and unable to work or care for their children and all who are concerned for elderly relatives.

For our churches as live services are reduced or stopped. Pray that with streamed services and regular contact we can maintain our church communities until life returns to some kind of normal. Pray for Tasha as she prepares to move on to a new job, for strength and good health as she faces new challenges.

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.