

Bulletin for the weeks beginning 18th January – 1st February

The season of Epiphany, which continues from 4th January to 1st February is all about the many and various ways in which God is revealed in Jesus Christ to the world. It simply means manifestation or how God is made known. We think about the wise men, symbolic of the wider non-Jewish world, we think about baptism as a sign of the new life in Christ; we think about discipleship and what it means today to be a follower of Christ; and we think about signs, symbols and miracles as evidence of God being in the world. We also celebrate the week of prayer for Christian unity from 18th January to 25th February. God manifested in his one unified church.

Sunday 18th January – Epiphany 2

10.30am: Holy Communion at St Albright's

Readings: Isaiah 49. 1-7; Psalm 40. 1 – 12; 1 Corinthians 1. 1 – 9; John 1. 29 - 42

Monday 19th January

Wulfstan, Bishop of Worcester, 1095

Tuesday 20th January

Richard Rolle of Hampole, Spiritual Writer, 1349

Wednesday 21st January

Agnes, Child Martyr at Rome, 304

Thursday 22nd January

Vincent of Saragossa, Deacon, first Martyr of Spain, 304

2.00pm: Hall Committee

Saturday 24th January

Francis de Sales, Bishop of Geneva, Teacher, 1622

Sunday 25th January – The Conversion of Paul (Epiphany 3)

10.30am: Joint Holy Communion at St Albright's

Monday 26th January

Timothy and Titus, Companions of Paul

Tuesday 27th January

10.30am: Albright's Tots

Wednesday 28th January

Thomas Aquinas, Priest, Philosopher, Teacher, 1274

10.30am: Community Coffee Morning

Thursday 29th January

7.00pm: PCC Meeting

Friday 30th January

Charles, King and Martyr, 1649

Saturday 31st January

John Bosco, Priest, Founder of the Salesians Teaching Order, 1888

Sunday 1st February - Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

10.00am: Holy Communion at All Saint's

Services

Please note that Services will now be held in the Hall until further notice.

St. Albright's in Vacancy

The post has been readvertised, and shortlisting will take place on 15th January
We pray for the right person to apply. If you need more information, please speak to Pam or Ravi.

Churchyard

The group for maintaining the churchyard is still happy to have any further volunteers
Further information from Steve s.whitfield07@btinternet.com or 07833472766

Books

Next to the main door of the church there is a bookcase with many interesting and useful Christian books on a wide variety of subjects. Do take time to have a look at them and feel free to borrow as many as you like.

Children at St. Albright's

Children are welcome at all of our services. There are always crafts and activities available in church focused on the theme of the day.

Community coffee morning

Our community coffee morning is on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month, between 10.30am - 12 noon. Our next gathering will be **Wednesday, 28th January**. Everyone is welcome.

Family Communion

Usually on the third Sunday of the month, if there is a baptism, the 10.30 Eucharist follows a shorter and simpler form, and families are particularly welcome to this service.

St Albrights Tots

A great playgroup for younger children which meets every Tuesday, except the 2nd Tuesday of the month, from 10.00 to 11.30 in the hall during term time.

The next meeting will be this **Tuesday, 20th January**.

New helpers are always welcome. Please speak to Pam if you are interested or if you know of anyone who might be.

Stanwell Hub

'Time to Talk Tuesday' meets on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at St. Andrew's Hall 1.30 to 3.00 pm. Our next gathering will be **Tuesday, 3rd February**.

Holy Communion at home

If you would like to receive Holy Communion at home, or if you know anyone who might, then please contact Pam.

Giving and Stewardship

Along with most parish churches, St. Albright's relies almost entirely on voluntary

giving. We have received grants for specific projects, such as for the new roof and for our pioneering ministry, along with donations and legacies (some very generous) plus fee income from weddings and the like, but the everyday running of the church and our essential contribution to the wider Church, the diocese, comes from the giving of individuals. There is no state aid or subsidy, something which many find surprising. However, giving to the Church in terms of time and talents as well as money, has always been a fundamental aspect of being a Christian - supporting each other within the Christian community is a firm Biblical principle and one which we achieve at St. Albright's. So giving is not just a worthy and good thing to do, it is an important, vital, part of being Church and of continuing our witness and ministry to the parish.

These days there are many ways to give:

We now have a new card reader in church so that donations may be made using a debit or credit card.

It is also possible to donate to St. Albright's online. There is a dedicated page on the website to make giving much easier.

If you would like further details about how to give, and there are many ways to do so, then please contact any of the ministry team or churchwardens. We particularly welcome regular giving, however small, either using weekly envelopes or by standing order, and, if you are a taxpayer we can reclaim Gift Aid.

It is also possible to sponsor a day in the life of the church. You may wish to make a one-off donation in memory of someone or to celebrate a particular event. Please contact any of the ministry team or Churchwardens.

Flowers. If you would like to donate towards the cost of providing the beautiful flowers in church, then please speak to any of the ministry team.

Safeguarding

We aim to be a safe and welcoming church community. If you have any worries or concerns, you can speak to our parish safeguarding officer (Pam Higham) at any time (numbers at the end of this bulletin. Alternatively, you can contact the diocesan safeguarding team on 01245-294444

For your prayers

Collect for Second Sunday of Epiphany

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.

Collect for the Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)

Almighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty, whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple, in substance of our flesh: grant that we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts, by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Collect for the conversion of Paul

Almighty God, who caused the light of the gospel to shine throughout the world through the preaching of your servant Saint Paul: grant that we who celebrate his wonderful conversion may follow him in bearing witness to your truth; 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.

Prayer for Christian unity

Heavenly Father, you have called us in the Body of your Son Jesus Christ to continue his work of reconciliation and reveal you to the world. Forgive us the sins which tear us apart; give us the courage to overcome our fears and to seek that unity which is your gift and your will; 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

A Prayer for the Middle East:

Almighty God, from all thoughts of truth and peace proceed: kindle we pray in the hearts of all the true love of peace, and guide with your pure and peaceable wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth, that in tranquillity your kingdom may go forward until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; 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.

A Prayer for Ukraine:

God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine today. We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons. We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow, that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them. We pray for those with power over war or peace, for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions. Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear, that you would hold and protect them. We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

There are many places in the world that are suffering from conflicts and warfare, in particular the Sudan and the DRC (Congo).

We pray for our King, HM King Charles III, our sovereign and Governor of the Church of England, Our Prime Minister and government, all our elected representatives - our MPs, county, city and parish councillors.

In our church community, please pray for:

Our churchwardens and PCC

Our Choir and Choirmaster

All who help lead our worship - especially readers, intercessors, servers and sidespersons

The ministry and pastoral teams as we seek to help those in particular need.

Those who care for the hall.

Our Architect and the building team

All those who are to be baptized and confirmed. Upcoming baptisms:, Lorenzo Dino-Boffa Luxford, Peace and Joshua Olatunde, Liam Anthony O'Brien, Joseph Newman.

Pray for all those who have been baptised and for our continued connection with baptism families.

All those are getting married; Chris Palmer and Emily Dowrick, Ryan Scot and Gemma Story and all who are having their banns called here.
Our outreach, particularly with young people and to the schools in the parish.

In the diocese of Chelmsford, please pray for the Bishop of Chelmsford, the Rt. Rev. Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani, and for the Bishop of Colchester, the Rt. Rev Roger Morris. Please also pray for our Archdeacon, the Ven. Ruth Patten, and for all the other parishes in the Colchester Deanery.

The diocese of Chelmsford has links with several overseas dioceses in the Anglican communion: in Kenya - Embu, Meru, Mbere and Marsabit; and the diocese of Trinidad and Tobago. There are also links with the diocese of Karlstad in Sweden and the Archdiocese of Lasi in Romania. Please pray for the bishops, clergy and people of these places.

In the Anglican Communion, please pray for The Most Rev. Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York and acting Archbishop of Canterbury.

In the wider Church, please pray for the Orthodox Patriarchate of Ukraine, for the Church in South Sudan, for Christian communities in Israel and Palestine, and for all Christians persecuted for their faith.

In the wider world, please pray for a better and wiser stewardship of our natural environment.

For the peace of the world wherever there is conflict.

All the nations of the world and their leaders

In our Community

Please pray for : The medical and caring professions, Other Christian denominations - the Tollgate Methodist Fellowship, Stanway Evangelical Church, The Kingsland Church, St. Teresa's Roman Catholic Church, Lexden, Colchester Foodbank, Colchester Debt Centre, Colchester Korban Project, Colchester Engagement and Next Steps, The StanWell Hub, All families with young children, and for all our schools. The elderly, vulnerable and for all those who support them, especially their families. Loganberry Lodge - all residents, staff and supporters and all who are in care homes and hospital at this time.

Those who have asked for our prayers: Karl, Joan Alexander, Debra, Daniel, Carol Harvey, Gordon Harvey, Keith, Penny Miller, Daniel Butcher, Ann Booty, Marcus, Mark Claydon, Allison, Sophie, Jo and Richard, Doreen Hales, Jenny Richardson, Brian Greenaway, Ann and John, Graham and Viv, Alex, Alexander, Simon, Joshua, Jill Dixon, Mervyn, Antony Watson, Maxine Humes, Jean Needs, Suzannah, Irene Brewer, John & Hazel, Morgan Burgoyne, Ann Adams, Dorothy Williams, Tony Windsor, Vitaly and Rosolaka, Nicola Jones, Ali, Shirley Vaughan, Suvianna, Arji, Edwin Lambert, Rafael and Rebecca

If you have a particular prayer request there is a box in the church into which you can place a card writing the request or person's name on it. Alternatively you can send a message to the office.

The monthly prayer diary for **January** is on our website with printed copies in the

church and distributed to those without access to the internet.
There is also the Church of England **Prayer Line** which is open 24/7 and is free: **0800 804 804**

RIP

Linda Brook, Joanne Marie Doman, Mason Morgan, Jean Gilbert, Babs Baker, Leonard Comben, Tony Momotiuk, Adeleye Adediran Aluko, Alice Bolton, John Cheale

We hope you find this bulletin helpful. If you have any contributions, comments or questions then please contact the office or any of the ministry team.

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