

Sunday 17 January 2021

2nd Sunday of Epiphany

Welcome to everyone today – wherever you are!

Although our church buildings are temporarily closed for public worship, the church is very much open! The decision to close was not an easy one to make but we want to protect everyone in our church family and help bring an end to the Coronavirus pandemic.

The Parish Eucharist is at 10am live on St Thomas' Facebook page.

You can also *dial in* to listen live, or later, using our new phone number

01706 599309.

There are also hymns and prayers to listen to and these will change from week to week.

The Collect

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.

First Reading | Samuel 3.1-10

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!'^{*} and he said, 'Here I am!' and ran to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call; lie down again.' So he went and

lay down. The Lord called again, 'Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call, my son; lie down again.' Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, 'Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening."' So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' And Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.'

Gospel Reading John 1.43-end

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, 'Follow me.' Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, 'We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.' Nathanael said to him, 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?' Philip said to him, 'Come and see.' When Jesus saw Nathanael coming towards him, he said of him, 'Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!' Nathanael asked him, 'Where did you come to know me?' Jesus answered, 'I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.' Nathanael replied, 'Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!' Jesus answered, 'Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.' And he said to him, 'Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.'

Prayer after Communion

God of glory,
you nourish us with your Word
who is the bread of life:
fill us with your Holy Spirit
that through us the light of your glory
may shine in all the world.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Week Ahead & Information

Today (and each Sunday)

Join us for coffee after the Sunday morning service, 10.45-11.15am on Zoom. You just need the email link to join in – if you've not received one please email Fr David (frdavidstephenson@gmail.com)

Monday - Saturday

9am Morning Prayer *live on St Thomas' Facebook page*
5pm Evening Prayer *live on St James' Facebook page (not on Saturday)*

Wednesday

12pm Lunch Deliveries *see note below*

Thursday

Please note that St James' Standing Committee is postponed.

Friday

Please note that all church cleaning is postponed.

Next Sunday (24th January – 4th Sunday of Epiphany)

10am Eucharist *from St James' live-streamed on St Thomas' Facebook page & dial-in*
10.45am After church coffee *on Zoom*

Telephone Church

We know that some people haven't been able access our many on-line resources during the pandemic. We hope that our new dial-in system will help more people to feel involved in church life at the moment. Our dedicated number – **01706 599309** – has a number of options to select from, including listening live, or later, to the Sunday service, plus a number of hymns and prayers. Please share this information with anyone who might appreciate it.

Wednesday Lunches *continued*

Our Wednesday lunches are once again *Lockdown Lunches*. If you, or anyone you know, would like to receive a hot, homemade lunch on a Wednesday, please book in with Fr Andrew by the previous Saturday. Absolutely **anyone** is eligible. No charge but donations of £5 welcome. Fr Andrew – andrewinhaslingden@gmail.com, 07460 899451

The Children's Society

It might seem an age since we collected for The Children's Society at our Christmas services. St Thomas' collected and sent £440.74 from Christingle and Crib services and St James' collected and donated £200 from the carol service. Thank you for all your support.

Prayers

Please let Fr David know of anyone who should be included on our weekly prayer list. (frdavidstephenson@gmail.com, 07539264279)

For your prayers

For on-going work for peace and justice throughout the world.

For all who lead and govern.

For all who live and work in our parishes and especially for businesses under pressure and at risk during the pandemic.

For the outreach and mission of our church communities.

For our schools and colleges and all who teach.

For the sick: Ian, Alan, Denzil, Edna Charley, Rita, Dorothy, Jim, Matthew, Jean, Mary, Mother Enid, Judith, Julie, Louise, Mandy, Alexander, Emily

For all with coronavirus throughout the world, those who care for them, and those who work to vaccinate and continue research into cure and prevention.

For all struggling with isolation and loneliness and all with mental health issues at this time.

For all who have died in the past week and all whose anniversaries fall in the coming week. *Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord.*