

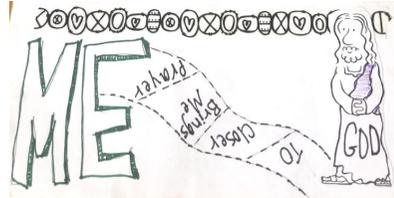
- ◆ **Connections:** The Archbishop of Canterbury's new year message centred on connecting with people. 'Connections' offers the opportunity to grow in knowledge, understanding and faith by sharing food, fellowship, views and opinions. In the fortnightly evening sessions between now and Lent, we are reflecting on aspects of the Holy Spirit working in our lives.



Sessions begin with supper at **7:00pm and always end at 9:00pm** and, until the heating is restored, we are meeting in our homes. The first session called '*Spirit of Unity and Diversity*' is on **Wednesday, 22nd January** at the home of Jim & Carole Oliver. If you would like to attend, please have a word with one of them or email Jim (address below).

- ◆ **Vicar's musings...** We can make many new year's resolutions that are important but none more so than prayer. Mother Teresa was a woman of deep prayer. She once explained the secret to her prayer life:

"If you face God in prayer and silence, God will speak to you. Listen in silence because if your heart is full of other things you cannot hear the voice of God. What is essential is not what we say but what God tells us."



Prayer is all about getting to know God and letting HIM become a real part of your daily life. It is about talking to Christ, your friend. You can pray anywhere, anytime... about anything.

Services/Events next Week

Wednesday, (15th): 12:00 to 3:00pm—**Open Wednesday** with a service at 12:30 followed by Ploughman's Lunch; St Nicolas Church

Thursday, (16th): 11:00am—Maud Johnson's funeral will be held in St Nicolas Church followed by refreshments in church.

Friday, (17th): 12:30pm — Adam Smith's funeral will be held in St Nicolas Church followed by refreshments in the Village Hall.

Sunday, 19th January: Epiphany 2

09:15—Holy Communion at St Anne's Church, Dropmore

10:45—Parish Communion at St Nicolas Church, Taplow

Further information on **St Nicolas Church Website:** <http://st-nicolas-taplow.org>

If you need to **contact the Vicar**, you can ring her on 01628 661182 or email her: jane.cresswell523@gmail.com

Notices in the Pew Leaflet: If you have a notice or news for the *Pew Leaflet*, please email it to Jim Oliver (oliverjim1@sky.com) by the end of the Wednesday preceding the Sunday

We are part of

St Anne's Church, Littleworth Common

St Nicolas' Church, Taplow

Baptism of Christ

Sunday, 12th January, 2020

Faithful to God

Caring for each other

Serving the Community

Welcome to this morning's Joint Parish Communion Service here at St Anne's Church, Dropmore and a particular welcome to Rev Sue Smith who is leading our worship today.

Collect (or Prayer for Today)

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children; 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: Acts 10:34-43 *Gentiles Hear the Good News*

Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

The Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17 *The Baptism of Jesus*

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."



Anthem: *O Lord give thy Holy Spirit* Thomas Tallis

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.

This Week's News and Notices

- ◆ **Maud Johnson's funeral:** This will be held in St Nicolas Church at **11:00am this Thursday (16th)** followed by refreshments in church.
- ◆ **Adam Smith's funeral:** This will be held in St Nicolas Church at **12:30pm this Friday (17th)** followed by refreshments in the Village Hall.
- ◆ **The Heating Work:** This work at St Nicolas Church is scheduled to take place during February so from 3rd February to 28th February, St Nicolas Church will be closed during the week.
- ◆ **Taplow Tots:** This group will start again on Thursday, 5th March at the end of the heating work at St Nicolas.
- ◆ **Sunday School at St Nicolas:** Pam has kindly agreed to continue taking our Sunday School on the first Sunday of each month and Caroline is going to lead it on the third Sunday of the month. The fourth Sunday is always Worship for All so we now just require

support for the **second Sunday in the month**. Jane has material available to help those who are new or feel inexperienced at this task. It is a very important job welcoming children and families, and helping our children begin to understand our faith and enjoy being part of this worshipping community. Is God calling you? Please speak to Jane today or call her on 01628 661182.

◆ **Survey related to St Nicolas Church Parish Communion Service:**

Thank you to all those who responded to the two questions about the strengths of the service and how it could be further enhanced. We have some most thoughtful and interesting perspectives which the Worship Sub-Committee will consider most carefully. More feedback in due course....

**Thank
You!**

- ◆ **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: 18th to 25th January.** This year, St Nicolas has the honour of hosting Prayers for Christian Unity for our local Churches Together as part of the Open Wednesday Eucharist on **Wednesday 22nd January**. Please think about supporting this service to demonstrate our commitment to



this important initiative. We are also invited to join with Churches Together to a service **next Sunday (19th) at 4pm at St Mary's Church**. We are encouraged to attend this service and if you would like to participate by either reading or offering prayers or joining the choir, please do contact Rev. Sue Sampson at St Mary's (sueathitcham@gmail.com). This year, material for prayer has been provided by Churches Together in Malta and Gozo. On 10th February, many Christians in Malta celebrate the Feast of the Shipwreck of St Paul, marking and giving thanks for the arrival of Christian faith on these islands. The reading from the Acts of the Apostles used for the feast is the text chosen for this year's Week of Prayer. The people who showed unusual kindness to Paul and his companions did not yet know Christ, and yet it is through their unusual kindness that a divided people were drawn closer together. Our own Christian unity will be discovered not only through showing kindness to one another, but also through loving encounters with those who do not share our language, culture or faith. God has been sent to all peoples (see Acts 28:28).