

Beacon



www.beaconbenefice.org.uk

Light Online

...linking the Beacon Parishes

Sunday 24th January – 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

Our churches are currently closed for public worship during lockdown

10.30am Beacon Benefice Morning Prayer (by zoom)

Rector's Voice

As I look out of the study window this morning all I see is grey skies, wet leaves and wind-blown trees. We are mired in the depths of winter, some further have had snow, and floods are expected in the north. This is always a difficult time of year and lockdown makes everything feel so much worse.

And yet....

There is hope. Look under the shrubs and you can see the snow drops nodding their heads. Look further down our lawn and tall green spikes herald the first daffodils - and so the first signs of spring.

We can have faith that spring will come. And in the depths of the pandemic, we can have hope that this too will pass, not a verse from the Bible but nether the less a truth we all learn as we pass through life.

Slowly all will receive the vaccine, slowly the virus will be conquered and it will be safe to meet again, to hug again, to sing again.

I look forward to that day but in the meantime trust God and know he is with us in this situation.

Revd. Janet

Sunday Worship in the media

9.00am Live worship on the Church of England website

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online>

10.15am Gloucester Cathedral Sunday Eucharist

<https://www.gloucestercathedral.org.uk/worship/services/services-live-stream/>

8.10am Radio 4 Sunday Worship

1.15pm BBC2 Songs of Praise

Readings

Collect

God of all mercy,
your Son proclaimed good news to the poor,
release to the captives,
and freedom to the oppressed:
anoint us with your Holy Spirit
and set all your people free
to praise you in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Psalm 128

1 Blessed are all those who fear the Lord,
and walk in his ways.
2 You shall eat the fruit of the toil of your hands;
it shall go well with you, and happy shall you be.
3 Your wife within your house
shall be like a fruitful vine;
your children round your table,
like fresh olive branches.
4 Thus shall the one be blest
who fears the Lord.
5 The Lord from out of Zion bless you,
that you may see Jerusalem in prosperity
all the days of your life.
Glory be to the Father
And to the son and to the Holy Spirit
As it was in the beginning is now and for ever. Amen

The Gospel according to John 2.1-11

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

I love Mary's words here: Do what ever he tells you. What faith she had in her son. But though I love the words I do have to ask myself- Do I do everything He tells me? Do we as a Church community respond in the affirmative to everything God asks of us? I'm also struck by the fact that Jesus took the ordinary- water and changed it into the best wine.

As we look forward to leaving behind the restrictions of Covid- what do we want Jesus to transform for us in our worship and in our community?

Beacon People

Our prayers are asked for all who are sick, especially **Andrea Linsell, Frankie Marsh, Rowland and Maggie Oxland.**

Hold in prayer all who are alone and frightened during this latest lockdown. Pray for all those people, whether they are relatives or friends, who care for the sick and disabled in their own homes, for those undergoing cancer treatment at this time and for all from our churches and villages who work in the NHS and in care homes. Pray also for all who are worried about the future at this uncertain time.

We also remember before God all who have died recently, as well as all whose anniversaries of death fall at this time.

*Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord
And let light perpetual shine upon them*

Notices

St Mary's Christmas Charity - The Church of England Children's Society chosen for our Christmas Charity this year, will be sent **£514**. This was the amount collected from our two services held on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Thank you to all who contributed, particularly if you were unable to attend either service, but found a way to donate to this vital charity.

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**PSALMS Prayer Requests:** We are encouraged that even though we didn't meet with many young people last week, we still had an encouraging email from a parent who said that she was so thankful to us for merely connecting with her child online via games night. The child had been struggling with depression, but meeting with us was one of the few times he laughed and showed joy during his week. Praise God for working in the small things!

Online Bible study started up once again last week, with 3 young people attending. It returns at 5pm tomorrow, and we have been encouraging the young people to use the lectio365 app as a way to meet with God in there day to day - so pray that's been useful to them.

This week, the PSALMS team meet once again with the OneLife team to discuss the merger. Please continue to pray over all the decisions being made, whether small things such as uniform to where we deploy ministers and whether they get redistributed.

Pray for all the young people in our area, who are in need of our prayers more than ever. Many will be dealing with post-Christmas blues, and not feeling themselves. So pray for Gods power to intervene in their life and provide them with strength.

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If you are unable to access worship through online technology, how about trying a straightforward phone call? **Daily Hope** offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line. It is available 24 hours a day on 0800 804 8044.

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## Sources of help :

**St. Mary's Pastoral Link system:** Anyone who is self-isolating or unable to get out, we can help you by getting shopping, prescriptions etc. Please contact Delyth Allen (St. Mary's Pastoral Link Coordinator) on 813182 or 07854262517 or email [delyth\\_allen@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:delyth_allen@hotmail.co.uk)

**Painswick Community Support:** The Painswick Covid-19 Community Support initiative set up in March will be providing ongoing community support for Painswick with the same telephone number but an updated e-mail address. If you need support, please contact 07956 203087 or [painswickcommunity@gmail.com](mailto:painswickcommunity@gmail.com)

**Cranham Covid-19 Community Response Team:** The initial contact for Cranham residents is: [nigelrobincooper@gmail.com](mailto:nigelrobincooper@gmail.com) Tel: 07973 340227

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Weekday Worship

9.30am Thursday weekly via Zoom from Sheepscombe Morning Prayer
If you would like to join in or would like a copy of the service sheet please email Karen Riding kriding07@yahoo.co.uk.

Weekday worship in the media

9.45am Daily Service - Radio 4 (Long Wave)

3.30pm Wednesday Choral Evensong - Radio 3

The Church of England website;

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer>

Daily Hope offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line. 24 hours a day on 0800 804 8044.

Contacts

Rector: Revd. Janet Turville Tel:01452 245526 Email: janetbeacon6@gmail.com

Associate Priest: Revd. Andrew Leach Tel: 07564 448692 Email: ajpleach@gmail.com

[Website: www.beaconbenefice.org.uk](http://www.beaconbenefice.org.uk)

Information for the next Beacon Light Online to ajpleach@gmail.com by **Tuesday 5pm at the latest**, please.

and Finally...

Seen in a pewsheet: “ This afternoon there will be a meeting in the South and North ends of the church. Children will be baptized at both ends. ”