

10th January - The Parish of Cowbridge Pews News

Readings for The Baptism of Christ (colour - white)

Collect

Eternal Father, at the baptism of Jesus you 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. **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

A reading from Genesis (1.1-5)

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.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 29

R. The Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

The Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

Ascribe to the Lord, you powers of heaven, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the Lord is upon the mighty waters. **The Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.**

The voice of the Lord is mighty in operation; the voice of the Lord is a glorious voice. The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon; He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox. **The Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.**

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. The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare; in his temple all cry, 'Glory!' **The Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.**

The Lord sits enthroned above the water-flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king for evermore. The Lord shall give strength to his people; the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace. **The Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.**

New Testament Reading

A reading from Acts (19.1-7)

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.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God. Gospel Reading**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased. **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to St Mark (4.1-11) **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.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **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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Readings for Evensong Psalm 46 Isaiah 42.1-9 Ephesians 2.1-10

to join our worship, use this link and joining details: [Click here to attend](#) ; Passcode *Please email rector@cowbridgeparish.com or phone or text 07506 689450* (Meeting ID 447 849 545)

Next week's readings - The Second Sunday of Epiphany (colour - white)

1 Samuel 3.1-10 Psalm 139 Revelation 5.1-10 John 1.43-51 (Year B) **Readings for Evensong** Psalm 96 Isaiah 60.9-22 Hebrews 6.17- 7.10

Prayer Intentions

In the Anglican Communion please pray for the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia.

In the Diocese of Llandaff please pray for all who teach the faith in the schools of our diocese.

All who are sick particularly Dawn Conrad, Maureen Dixon, Charlotte Carpenter, Helen Saunders, William Watkins, Doreen Stafford, Ellie Harris, Grayson Finn, Margaret Launder, Crispin Clay, Margaret Harris, Eric Cooke, Stuart Munro, Terry Mayor and Canon Derek Belcher.

Those who have recently departed this life. Among them Oscar Ackerman, Peggy Long, Anne Yates and Polly Beavon

Those whose 'years mind' fall during the coming week:

Sun: Jack Fawcett. Tues: Ken Parfitt, Trevor Powell and Owen Wyn Pritchard. Wed: Maud Elizabeth Jenkins, Derek Sanders and Roydon Eric Snape. Thurs: Roy Wermeling, Katie Thomas, Natalie Anne Worswick and Nancy Elgiva Thomas. Sat: James Comber, Edith Mary James, Mary Constance Marshall, Bruce McGovern and Ian Fernyhough.

May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

Weekly Pattern of Services.

updated 30th December

Our weekly pattern of worship (at the moment) is:

Monday-Friday: 9:15 am - Morning Prayer on Zoom: [Click here to attend](#) ; Passcode *Please email rector@cowbridgeparish.com or phone or text 07506 689450* (Meeting ID 447 849 545)

Sundays:

9:00 am - Sunday School on Zoom - families welcome.

Link to Sunday Club: Passcode: *Please email rector@cowbridgeparish.com or phone or text 07506 689450* (Meeting ID: 842 7508 5595) 10:00 am - Morning Worship on Zoom: [Click here to attend](#) ; Passcode *Please email rector@cowbridgeparish.com or phone or text 07506 689450* (Meeting ID 447 849 545) 6.00 pm - Evensong on Zoom - all welcome: [Click here to attend](#) ; Passcode *Please email rector@cowbridgeparish.com or phone or text 07506 689450* (Meeting ID 447 849 545)

Baptisms, Weddings & Funerals Following several inquiries, we have protocols for holding small weddings and funerals. At present, Holy Cross, Llanblethian and St. Hilary are potentially available.

Before formulating any plans, all requests for weddings, baptisms, or funerals must be made to one of the following:

Stephen Adams (Rector), Victoria Ashley (Team Vicar) David-Lloyd Jones (Parish Administrator) See below for contact details

Clergy Christmas break

From Monday the 28th of December, the parish clergy will be taking turns to have a break, a bit of rest and time to catch up with family and friends. Until the 13th January, it'll be best to contact David-Lloyd (see contacts below) the office phone line automatically transfers to David-Lloyd's mobile and you may contact him at anytime. The clergy are not all off at the same time and David-Lloyd has the rota of who is available. Those who are on duty in this period will be delighted to deal with any queries or have a chat.

Smile Lines

The cat

A vicar and his wife were going out for the evening, and carefully set the security lights and put the cat out. But when they opened the door to go to the taxi, the cat slipped back in and disappeared upstairs. Irritated, the vicar followed it. The wife waited with the taxi driver. Not wanting him to know that they were leaving the parsonage empty, she said: "My husband is just upstairs for a quick word with my mother." A few minutes later, the husband arrived, breathless. "Sorry I took so long" he said, "but she put up a fight! Stupid old thing was hiding under the bed and I had to poke her with a coat hanger and grab her by the scruff of the neck to get her out."

Films adapted for Wales

It is said that the Welsh film industry has spent lockdown planning to remake numerous well-known films, but this time with a Welsh flavour. The following have been suggested as sure winners:

* 9½ Leeks * The Lost Boyos * Dai Hard * The Eagle
has Llandudno * The Magnificent Severn *
Haverfordwest Was Won * Austin Powys *
Independence Dai * The
Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlantysiliogog
och That Time Forgot * The Bridge on the River Wye *
The Welsh Patient * Look You Back in Bangor * Evans
Can Wait * A Fishguard Called Rhondda * Where Eagles
Aberdare * Dial M For Merthyr

How many more waves?

How many more waves?

As the days are dark, and winter still stretches ahead, many of us find the prospect of more restrictions for months to come even harder than when we first went into lockdown.

After nine months of coronavirus, we are emotionally drained. We are financially drained. We are lonely, depressed, frightened, and facing deep uncertainty, from job losses to health problems to relationship breakdown. We are running out of steam, and the virus is still going strong.

There is a strong parallel in all this with the ancient book of Job and his experience of loss and pain. Like Job, we are discovering that we are not always entitled to health, wealth, and happiness; and like Job our suffering inexplicably goes on and on. Like the irritating moralising of Job's comforters, the constant critique of the media only seems to make things worse. And, like Job, our minds are incapable of totally grasping the meaning of all this suffering. We need hope.

Job was deprived of everything, yet even in his despair he never lost his belief that God was there. Occasionally an indestructible hope burst forth like a ray of light in the darkness of his pain. "I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end He will stand on the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God." (Job 19:26).

But the truly transformative moment for Job came when, instead of seeing his situation in front of God, he finally saw God in front of his situation. Then, even in the intensity of his suffering, the greatness of the Almighty eclipsed the problem. That is the revelation we need.

In this sad and weary time lament is therapeutic, and we can be completely real with our Father in Heaven. Yet in our lament, the path to rekindling true hope lies in the possibility of focusing on the character and immensity of God. Greater is He that is in us than the pandemic that is in the world.

Join in with the ancient words of Psalm 42: 'Why are you downcast O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise Him, my Saviour and my God.' *Editor: This article is based on a recent*

feature by Paul Valler, Chair of the LICC Board (London Institute for Contemporary Christianity.)

Sunday Club for Families - On-line

Sunday club is meeting again this week at 9.00 am for worship and activities. You can join them at this link: [Link to Sunday Club](#): Meeting ID: 842 7508 5595 Passcode: *Please email rector@cowbridgeparish.com or phone or text 07506 689450*

Martin Luther and the Diet of Worms – 500 years on

Editor: Martin Luther helped bring in the Reformation, and this month marks an important stage in that process. Tim Lenton reports. Five hundred years ago, on 3rd January 1521, German Protestant reformer Martin Luther was excommunicated from the Roman Catholic Church by Pope Leo X after he refused to recant his writings. A few weeks later, on 23rd January, the Diet of Worms was called by the Holy Roman Empire and ran until 25th May.

This amusingly titled event (Diet means assembly, and Worms is a city in the Rhineland) culminated in the Edict of the Diet of Worms, which declared that Luther was a heretic, and banned his writings.

Luther was a monk and professor of biblical interpretation at the University of Wittenberg who came to oppose the Church's corrupt practice of selling indulgences for the forgiveness of sins. His 95 theses, which he is famous for nailing to a church door in 1517 – though some historians doubt that it actually happened – were based on the belief that salvation is by grace through faith and cannot be bought by cash or actions, however good.

Luther was defiant and was supported by powerful princes. He lived until 1546 and with others brought about the Reformation, though he would doubtless have been amazed at the sheer number and variety of different Protestant denominations (including various forms of Lutheranism) that would trace their origin to his actions.

News from the Diocese of Llandaff

Each week our Diocesan Communications Officer publishes a newsletter.

To get this week's edition, email one of the clergy and we'll be happy to forward it to you.

[To receive your own copy by email each week click here](#)

Daily Prayer

During the week we are saying morning prayer together at 9.15 (Monday- Friday) using the same link as for Sunday services. All are welcome to join us for 30 minutes of spiritual refreshment. [Click here to attend](#) ; Passcode

Please email rector@cowbridgeparish.com or phone or text 07506 689450

Resources for Children and Families

The ROOTS for Churches organisation (to which the parish subscribes) provides free resources which you can find at these links – these are very good for both adults and children:

[Link to ROOTS resources](#)

A new way to support the churches of the parish

[Click here to go to Amazon Smile and support the parish each time you order from Amazon - at no cost to you.](#)

Digital Giving

Several people have been asking about how they can support our churches financially at this time. (Many, of course, are already doing so through their standing order arrangements.) To that end, we have set up a way giving by text in the same way that many charities do when they have an appeal on television.

To donate £1 please Text GIVEONE to 70085 To donate £5 please Text GIVEFIVE to 70085 To donate £7 please Text GIVESEVEN to 70085 To donate £10 please Text GIVETEN to 70085 Texts cost your donated amount plus one standard rate message

After you send the Text Message will be asked if you wish to Gift Aid your donation and then if you wish to make this a regular monthly donation. Please be assured that this information will not be used to contact you in future for any advertising or promotional reason. Thank You.

How to access our online Services

[Click here to join Cowbridge Worship](#) (don't worry if a warning shows) This will open the Zoom app (or ask you to download it, if you haven't done so already). This should be reasonably straightforward. It will also ask for a passcode to get into the meeting – see below. *Meeting ID: 447 849 545 Passcode: Please email rector@cowbridgeparish.com or phone or text 07506 689450* We've kept the same passcode for the last few weeks (for simplicity), and we will let you know when we change it. The details of how to join are also on the parish website: www.cowbridgeparish.com. We will be online fifteen minutes before each service to welcome people and help with any technical difficulties. We look forward to welcoming you.

Other ways of joining in If you're not able to follow us online, you can also download the service sheet from the parish website: www.cowbridgeparish.com.

It's also possible to telephone into the service and listen. You can choose one of the telephone numbers below. These are all national UK numbers and should incur standard rates or fall within subscription packages.

Tel: 0203 481 5237 or 0203 481 5240 or 0208 080 6591 Meeting ID: 447 849 545 Passcode: Please email rector@cowbridgeparish.com or phone or text 07506 689450

Welsh Services

For Welsh speakers, Eglwys Dewi Sant in Cardiff have been putting their services online, and you can find them at this link: [Link to Eglwys Dewi Sant](#)

THE PARISH OFFICE Holy Cross Church, Church Street, Cowbridge, CF71 7BB Tel: 01446 772302 Fax: 01446 772347 Email: office@cowbridgeparish.com Website: www.cowbridgeparish.com

Rector Rev'd Dr Stephen Adams 01446 771625; 07506 689450 rector@cowbridgeparish.com

Team Vicar Rev'd Victoria Ashley 01446 775381 vicar@cowbridgeparish.com

Curate Rev'd Ian Yemm 01446 311289; 07434 654312 curate@cowbridgeparish.com

Associate Priest Rev'd Jude Peters 07944 607006 revjude@cowbridgeparish.com **Parish Administrator** Mr David -Lloyd Jones Parish Office 01446 772302

Parish Wardens

Mr Howard Perks 01446 773973 jhperks55@gmail.com
Mr Peter Davies 01446 775211 daviesp99@hotmail.com

Parish Treasurer

Mr David-Lloyd Jones 01446 772302 office@cowbridgeparish.com