

# Web - 24th January - The Parish of Cowbridge Pews News

## The Third Sunday of Epiphany (colour - white)

### Collect

Almighty God, your Son revealed in signs and miracles the wonder of your saving presence: renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your mighty power; 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 (14.17-20)

After his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley). And King Melchizedek of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was priest of God Most High.

He blessed him and said, 'Blessed be Abram by God Most High, maker of heaven and earth; and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand!' And Abram gave him one-tenth of everything.

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

### Psalm 128

R. How abundant is your goodness, O Lord. **How abundant is your goodness, O Lord.**

Blessed are all those who fear the Lord, and walk in his ways. You shall eat the fruit of the toil of your hands; it shall go well with you, and happy shall you be. **How abundant is your goodness, O Lord.**

Your wife within your house shall be like a fruitful vine; your children round your table, like fresh olive branches. Thus shall the one be blest who fears the Lord. **How abundant is your goodness, O Lord.**

The Lord from out of Zion bless you, that you may see Jerusalem in prosperity all the days of your life. May you see your children's children, and may there be peace upon Israel. **How abundant is your goodness, O Lord.**

### New Testament Reading

A reading from Revelation (19.6-10)

Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty thunder-peals, crying out, 'Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready; to her it has been granted to be clothed with fine linen, bright and pure' – for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

And the angel said to me, 'Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.'

And he said to me, 'These are true words of God.'

Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, 'You must not do that! I am a fellow-servant with you and your comrades who hold the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.'

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

### Gospel Reading

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Christ was revealed in flesh, proclaimed among the nations, and believed in throughout the world. **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to St John (2.1-11) **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

### Post Communion Prayer

Almighty Father, your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world: may your people, illumined by your word and sacraments, shine with the radiance of his glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; for he is alive and reigns now and for ever. **Amen.** *Text from the Church in Wales – Word of the Lord 2011 copyright © Church in Wales Publications 2011. Collects and Post Communion Prayers from the book New Calendar and the Collects. Copyright © The Representative Body of the Church in Wales 2003 ISBN – 1853115495. Quotations and Psalms from The New Revised Standard Version (Anglicized*

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*Readings for Evensong Psalm 33 Jeremiah 3.21-4.2 Titus 1.1-8, 11-14 This Sunday 24th January Evensong is replaced by the ecumenical service for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The readings will be different. Do please join us, using the links below.*

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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 Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas, colour - white)

Malachi 3.1-5, Psalm 24.1-10, Hebrews 2.14-18, Luke 2.22-40 (Year B) **Readings for Evensong** Psalm 122, 132, Haggai 2.1-9, John 2.18-22

## Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Sunday Evening

*1 - Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit.  
John 15:5*

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in 2021 has been prepared by the Monastic Community of Grandchamp in Switzerland. The theme that was chosen, "Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit", is based on John 15:1-17 and expresses Grandchamp Community's vocation to prayer, reconciliation and unity in the Church and the human family.

### Churches Together in Cowbridge and District

Ecumenical Service to conclude the week of prayer for Christian Unity Sunday 24th January at 6.00 pm (available from 5.45 pm) [Click here to attend](#) ; Passcode *Please email rector@cowbridgeparish.com or phone or text 07506 689450* (Meeting ID 447 849 545)

In preparation for this service you might find it useful to have a candle or tealight, real or battery, to light during the service.

### Prayer Intentions

**In the Anglican Communion** please pray for the Anglican Church of Bangladesh.

**In the Diocese of Llandaff** please pray for the Clergy and People of the Deanery of Llandaff and for Canon Jan van der Lely, Area Dean.

**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 and Terry Mayor. .

**Those who have recently departed this life.** Among them Oscar Ackerman, Peggy Long, Polly Beavon, Stuart Munro, Monica Thomas, Betty Roderick and Sarah Kiggins

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

Sun: John Bevan Hopkins, Ena Margaret Parsons, Rosemary Pamela Smith and Alan Wright. Mon: Mary James. Tue: Carol Makepeace and Kathleen Kildare Crosse-Kelly. Wed: Stan Dale, Florence Maud Davies, Owen Gordon Powell and Douglas Bensley Turner. Thurs: Stephen Philip Collett. Fri: Walter John Edwards, June Owen and Joan Sherwood.

*May they rest in peace and rise in glory.*

## Weekly Pattern of Services.

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*updated 24th January*

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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** We have protocols for holding small funerals. At present, Holy Cross, Llanblethian, Flemingston and St. Hilary are potentially available. Weddings and Baptisms will only take place in emergency.

**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*

## Farmhouse Breakfast Week - Wythnos

### Brecwast Ffermdy

A good reason to have a cooked breakfast was not to be missed so Andrew and I sat down to bacon and eggs followed by toast with homemade marmalade (not made by us!) on my day off last week.

As the bishop's advisor on rural life I have begun to find out more about what our farmers and agricultural workers cope with while supplying us with such wonderful local produce but this event was new to me this year. The Farmers Union of Wales coordinates this week and this is what they say.

*"Under normal circumstances we would be looking forward to sitting around kitchen tables with friends, family and neighbours up and down the country - sharing our thoughts, worries, concerns and anything else on our mind. Of course, given the on-going Covid-19 restrictions, our usual way of running this campaign is sadly not an option.*

*However, the ethos of sitting around the kitchen table to enjoy the wonderful produce our farmers produce from eggs, cheese, bacon, sausages to butters and yoghurts etc, is still very much do-able at home with our closest family.*

*We hope many of you will support this campaign and take time out to enjoy the wonderful, sustainably grown, breakfast food we have on offer here in Wales."* Usually those who get together support one of the charities that help the farming community with donations. If you would like to support local producers please consider buying local, buying Welsh and keep the local economy going. All our breakfast items [except the marmalade, a Christmas present from a friend] came from either The Food Collective in Cowbridge or Cowbridge Farmers Market. Other places to shop locally include Forage farm shop, Cowbridge farm shop, Strawberry Fields. If you know of others please let me have the details. Reverend Victoria Ashley Rural Life Office Team Vicar Diocese of Llandaff Cowbridge Both the FUW and NFU Cymru support farmers and rural communities in many ways, to find out more click the links below.

2 - [FUW](#)

3 - [NFU Cymru](#)

4 - *From this...*

5 - *... to this!*

6 - *Yummy*

Meet some local producers Monday 25th January 3.45pm  
BBC 1 The Farmers Country Showdown features our own

local market and 2 of the producers. You may even be on it, filmed back in October.

## Good News from the River Jordan in 2021!

In the week following our Sunday celebration of the Baptism of Christ there was some good news reported from the River Jordan.

After years of effort, supported by the UK based Halo Trust (<https://www.halotrust.org>), the area, believed to be the site where the Israelites crossed the River Jordan into the Promised Land and where Jesus was baptised, has finally been cleared of more than 650 anti-tank mines and 450 anti-personnel mines.

Abandoned churches and monasteries have become accessible for the first time since the six-day war in 1967, over fifty years ago. Orthodox and Roman Catholic Christians have once again celebrated the Epiphany and the Baptism of Christ in this sacred place.

The Franciscan priest, Father Ibrahim Faltas, who is responsible for the care of the holy sites said, "For us this is a sign not to lose hope, not to lose hope for peace."

**See more:**

<https://www.halotrust.org/latest/special-projects/baptism-site/>

<https://www.halotrust.org/latest/halo-updates/news/first-epiphany-without-landmines/>

## Covid -19 Vaccine Rollout Fraud

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### *Message from Vale of Glamorgan Council*

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**From:** Westall, Paula

<PWestall@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk> **Sent:** 14 January 2021 14:52 Sent on behalf of Karen Bowen

Criminals are using the COVID-19 vaccine as a way to target the public by tricking them to hand over cash or financial details. They are sending convincing-looking text messages letting people know they are eligible for the vaccine or phoning people directly pretending to be from the NHS, or local pharmacy

**PEOPLE ARE WARNED TO BE ALERT TO THESE SCAMS:**

The **NHS** will: **NEVER** ask for payment - the vaccine is free **NEVER** ask for your bank details **NEVER** arrive unannounced at your home to administer the vaccine **NEVER** ask you to prove your identity by sending copies of personal documents such as your passport

[click here for Vaccine Fraud guidance document English](#)

[click here for Vaccine Fraud guidance Welsh](#)

7 - *If you receive a call you believe to be fraudulent, hang up. If you are suspicious about an email you have received, forward it to*

[report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk). Suspicious text messages should be forwarded to the number 7726 which is free of charge.

8 - If you have any information relating to vaccine fraud you can stay 100% anonymous by contacting Crimestoppers COVID Fraud Hotline online; [covidfraudhotline.org](http://covidfraudhotline.org) or phone 0800 587 5030.

9 - If you believe you have been the victim of fraud or identity theft, you should report this directly to Action Fraud either online; [actionfraud.police.uk](http://actionfraud.police.uk) or via phone 0300 123 2040.

## Smile Lines

### Choir

Two choir members recently got married. They met by chants. **Advert seen in a church magazine:**

Car engine for sale by curate slightly cracked.

### Not comfortable

The vicar was praying for the sick and said: "We must remember Mrs Goodwin in our prayers. She recently had all her teeth taken out and a new gas stove put in."

### Left behind

Shortly after the funeral of a local wealthy man, two friends were discussing the Will. "How much did he leave?" wondered one. His friend thought a moment, and ventured: "Well, I suppose, everything!"

10 - Noel Ford (from Parish Pump)

## Dave Walker cartoon

11 - Reproduced under licence Cartoon Copyright © Dave Walker ([www.CartoonChurch.com](http://www.CartoonChurch.com))

## The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

12 - Image: panel from the East Window of Holy Cross, Cowbridge

In bygone centuries, Christians said their last farewells to the Christmas season on Candlemas, 2nd February. This is exactly 40 days after Christmas Day itself.

In New Testament times 40 days old was an important age for a baby boy: it was when they made their first 'public appearance'. Mary, like all good Jewish mothers, went to the Temple with Jesus, her first male child – to 'present Him to the Lord'. At the same time, she, as a new mother, was 'purified'. Thus, we have the Festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

So, where does the Candlemas bit come in? Jesus is described in the New Testament as the Light of the World, and early Christians developed the tradition of lighting many candles in celebration of this day. The Church also fell into the custom of blessing the year's supply of candles for the church on this day – hence the name, Candlemas.

The story of how Candlemas began can be found in Luke 2:22-40. Simeon's great declaration of faith and recognition of who Jesus was is of course found in the Nunc Dimittis, which is embedded in the Office of Evening Prayer in the West. But in medieval times, the Nunc Dimittis was mostly used just on this day, during the distribution of candles before the Eucharist. Only gradually did it win a place in the daily prayer life of the Church.

## Holocaust Memorial Day calls for 'light in the darkness' of today

It was 25 years ago this month, on 27th January 1996, that the first Holocaust Remembrance Day was observed in Germany. It became International Holocaust Day in 2005 when it was adopted by the United Nations. It marks the day (27th January 1945) when the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration/death camp was liberated.

The theme for Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) in 2021 is '**Be the light in the darkness**'. The aim is to encourage people to "reflect on the depths humanity can sink to, but also the ways individuals and communities resisted that darkness to 'be the light' before, during and after genocide."

**HMD is encouraging people to heed the 'Be the light in the darkness' theme as a call to action.** "The utterly unprecedented times through which we are living currently are showing the very best of which humanity is capable but also - in some of the abuse and conspiracy theories being spread on social media - the much darker side of our world as well.

"We can all stand in solidarity. We can choose to '**be the light in the darkness**' in a variety of ways and places – at home, in public, and online."

More at: [www.hmd.org.uk](http://www.hmd.org.uk)

## God in the Sciences

*This series is written by Dr Ruth M Bancewicz, who is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge. Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.*

### A Scientist's Letter to the UK Church: Power, love and self-control

I want to share a message of hope that Christians in the sciences around the world can bring to the church. Dr Francis Collins, who leads medical research in the US, spoke earlier in the pandemic about his faith and his hope in God to help us through this time. He expressed the grief that so many are experiencing, described an intensity of scientific work he has never experienced before, and shared his conviction that he is in exactly the right place just now - serving God with science. He is

holding on tight to the words of Paul in 2 Timothy 1:7, 'for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.'

### **Power**

In 2 Timothy the apostle Paul encourages his friend to 'fan into flame the gift of God' that is in him. I am thankful that scientists like Francis are using their own particular talents to understand this virus, and to help prevent or treat infection. The things they discover are not just useful, but at times they can also display the beauty and wonder of God's creation.

### **Love**

A scientist shows their love for God, for people and for the rest of creation through their work in the lab. One scientist described his experiences to me: "I study God's fingerprints in His creation to learn more of Him and the world He placed us in and to learn how we should take care of it and each other...I pray for inspiration and insight into how His creation works...and that He provides the opportunities to give the glory to Him."

### **Self-Control**

It is largely our own and others' selfish actions that can turn one animal's friendly virus into our own species' personal nightmare. Thankfully Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection are the solution to evil. Our ultimate and certain hope is that one day all Creation will be renewed. We can also have hope for today, that God is with us in our suffering. When we respond in positive ways to painful events, that is evidence that Jesus is alive and working in our lives.

Science will not solve all our problems, but with God's help and wisdom we can use the tools of science to serve him and love others. Let's pray together for the strength to cope, and for an end to this pandemic.

## **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*

## **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**

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

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## **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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:office@cowbridgeparish.com) Website: [www.cowbridgeparish.com](http://www.cowbridgeparish.com)

**Rector** Rev'd Dr Stephen Adams 01446 771625; 07506 689450 [rector@cowbridgeparish.com](mailto:rector@cowbridgeparish.com)

**Team Vicar** Rev'd Victoria Ashley 01446 775381 [vicar@cowbridgeparish.com](mailto:vicar@cowbridgeparish.com)

**Curate** Rev'd Ian Yemm 01446 311289; 07434 654312 [curate@cowbridgeparish.com](mailto:curate@cowbridgeparish.com)

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

### **Parish Wardens**

Mr Howard Perks 01446 773973 [jhperks55@gmail.com](mailto:jhperks55@gmail.com)

Mr Peter Davies 01446 775211 [daviesp99@hotmail.com](mailto:daviesp99@hotmail.com)

### **Parish Treasurer**

Mr David-Lloyd Jones 01446 772302

[office@cowbridgeparish.com](mailto:office@cowbridgeparish.com)