



Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin,
Godmanchester

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Sunday 8 January 2012

Epiphany

Holy Communion	<i>President:</i> David Busk <i>Preacher:</i> Jerry Craddock
Sung Eucharist	<i>President:</i> David Underwood <i>Preacher:</i> Jerry Craddock <i>Deacon:</i> David Busk
Readings	Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:1-12
Readers	Jean & Dai Morgan
Gospel	Matthew 2:1-12
Intercessions	Trevor Weedon
Hymns	49ii, 48, 52, We Three Kings
Communion	(51, 40) Hymns: Please omit * verses
Sung Evensong	<i>Minister:</i> Paul Sibley
Readings	Isaiah 60:1-9; John 2:1-11
Hymns	47, 23, 241 Hymns: Please omit * verses
Psalm	100

Collect

Creator of the heavens,
who led the Magi by a star
to worship the Christ-child:
guide and sustain us,
that we may find our journey's end
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Street Prayer Mission: Croftfield Road & Peate Close

Charity of the Month: Depaul Trust

Holy Communion: All are welcome at the altar rail. If you are a communicant member of your own Church, you are welcome to receive the Sacrament here, or if you would like to receive a Blessing, please come forward with a hymn book, kneel at the rail and bow your head

Children's Church

We return today after the Christmas break with our Epiphany party. After the arrival of the magi in the crib, we will be going over to the church hall for our annual Epiphany party. We will not be coming back into church to feedback, so please collect your children from the church hall at the end of the service.

Plough Monday Curfew

Tomorrow is Plough Monday (the first Monday after Epiphany), which, as mentioned in the Newsletter three weeks ago, is one of the occasions when we revive the tradition of ringing the curfew. We are delaying it by one hour on Monday, so as not to disturb the meeting of the Garden Club in the Church Hall. The curfew itself will be rung between 8.55pm and 9pm. Immediately before that you will hear the bell being rung up. You should also hear the curfew bell being struck after each of the four quarter chimes and then after each chime of the hour (this is difficult and may go wrong). Following that, you will hear the curfew bell rung down and, finally, it will be chimed nine times to indicate the day of the month.

Time to Talk

The Time to Talk meetings will be held in the QE School on the 3rd Wednesday of each month during 2012, from 2.00 to 3.30 pm on the following dates:

February 15

March 21

April 18

May 16

June 20

We look forward to seeing you there.
Gillian Bathurst Hoile

100 Club December Draw

The 100 Club winners were Dai Morgan £15 and Thelma Peacock £10.

Christmas Charities

In addition to the usual December Monthly Charities we have donated the following from the collections at the recent Christmas services:

Christingle – The Children's Society - £120

Nativity Service – East Anglia Children's Hospice - £280

Nine Lessons and Carols – Jimmy's Night Shelter - £550

Midnight and Christmas Day Services – Cruse Bereavement Care - £410

This is an increase of £155 over donations for Christmas 2010 and reflects the increased attendance at the Christmas services.

Colin Thirlwall, Treasurer

"Confirmation Classes" to begin - to be called Explorers' Club

At long last, some times have been arranged for confirmation classes for younger people. However, we are not calling them that, as the hope is that some people who are not sure whether or not they would like to be confirmed might attend, as well as some who have no interest in confirmation but who would enjoy exploring the basics of Christian faith. There will be five sessions, all taking place at **5.45 pm on Sunday evenings** - the sessions will end when the regular Youth Group gatherings begin at 6.45, so that it will be possible to attend both if so desired. The dates are **22 January, 5 February, 26 February, 11 March** and **1 April**. All sessions will be in the Church Hall apart from 5 February, which will be in the Vicarage.

It is not possible yet to say when the confirmation will take place, as Ely Cathedral has not yet set dates for the confirmation services of 2012. Anyone aged 12 or over (up to 18 yrs.) who

might like to discover more about the meaning of Christianity is very welcome - there will be no expectation that those participating will necessarily proceed to confirmation, and no need to make such a commitment until the end of the course. However, we will ask that those taking part commit themselves to all five sessions, please.

I hope to arrange classes for adults very soon. For more information, either for young people or adults, please contact me. David Busk 436400

dwbusk@hotmail.com

Beetle Drive Tickets on Sale Today

The Friends Beetle Drive will be held in the Church Hall on Saturday 14 January, at 7.00 pm for a 7.30 pm start. Tickets will be on sale in the South Porch today after the 9.30 Eucharist, or please contact John Hoile on 01480 493901 to reserve seats at a cost of £3 per person. There will be a raffle (donations welcome) and refreshments available during the interval. There are only 40 places available on the evening, so do make sure to book your seats early.

Notice boards

Peter Irving has kindly offered to be notice board monitor during the cold winter months. Please give him any notices you may want to be displayed or put them in his pigeon hole. Thank you very much.

Tea Towels

We have lost a great many tea towels from the church hall. Most of them are marked 'Church Hall' in the top left hand corner. Please could you look among your tea towels to see if you have any and if so return them to the hall. Many thanks. Jean Morgan

In Praise of Evensong!

Numbers attending Evensong these days are fairly low. The PCC has decided that rather than look at reducing the frequency of this service, we would try in the first place to encourage more people to attend. Those who do go will know the unique calm and blessing of this treasure of the Church of England. There is nothing else like it, and we are the only church locally where Evensong takes place weekly with the full support of organ and choir. Please consider giving it a go - it can become habit forming!

GBC Food Bank

In response to requests for help in crisis situations, Godmanchester Baptist Church is running a food bank project whereby tinned and packet food are left at the back of the church each week. Those of us who attend the Churches Together Tuesday Lunch Club would like to support this venture, and a box for appropriate foods has been placed by the south door. If you feel you would like to support the project, we will arrange for the goods to be moved to the Baptist Church. Liz Irving

Newsletter Compiler

Jim Heeley is Newsletter compiler for January. Please submit contributions by 8.00pm on Thursday to: 412264 or jskc@btinternet.com

Prayer Corner

"In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things". Romans 12:6

'Your talent is God's gift to you. What you do with it is your gift back to God'. Leo Buscaglia, American author and lecturer, 1924-1998.

DIARY

Sunday 8 January – Epiphany

- 08:00 Holy Communion
- 09:30 Sung Eucharist & Children's Church Epiphany Party
- 11:15 United Service (Methodist Church, Hilton)
- 18:30 Sung Evensong
- 18:45 Youth Group (Church Hall)
- 20:00 Children's Church leaders meeting (Vicarage)

Monday 9 January

- 13:30 Burial of Mollie Vickery's ashes (Ashes Plot)
- 20:00 Shalom Planning Meeting (Vicarage)

Tuesday 10 January

- 08:30 Clergy Chapter Communion – All welcome (Church)
- 12:30 Churches Together Lunch Club (Baptist Church Centre)
- 19:30 Wives Group – Beetle Drive (Church Hall)

Wednesday 11 January

- 11:00 Holy Communion (Woodley Court)

Thursday 12 January

- 09:45 Holy Communion
- 10:00 St Mary's 0 – 5s (Comrades Club)

Friday 13 January

- 19:30 Choir Practice (Church Hall)

Saturday 14 January

- 19:30 Friends of St Mary's Beetle Drive (Church Hall)

Sunday 15 January – Epiphany 2

- 08:00 Holy Communion
- 08:00 Holy Communion [CW] (St Mary Magdalene, Hilton)
- 09:30 Sung Eucharist & Children's Church
- 18:30 Sung Evensong
- 18:45 Youth Group (Church Hall)

Refreshments are served after the 9.30am Eucharist. Everyone is welcome

Visit the church website at www.stmarysgodmanchester.org