

Newsletter of St Laurence Parish Church, Frodsham

For week commencing Sunday 24th January 2021 – Epiphany 3, Year B

“To know God and to make God known”

Vicar: Rev Elaine Atack – revelaine@nym.hush.com

Website: <https://slfchurch.org/> Facebook: www.facebook.com/saintells/

This week

Sunday 24 ^h Jan Epiphany 3	Church closed Virtual service only – CD and online	John 2:1-11
Mon-Sat	Church closed	
Sunday 31 st Jan Epiphany 4 – The presentation of Christ in the Temple	Church closed Virtual service only – CD and online	

Notices

For the time being, it is in everyone’s best interest that church remains **closed** until infection levels are substantially lower. We have kept safe so far and we want to keep it that way. I have discussed this with the Archdeacon and a resolution has been passed by the PCC, Wardens, sub-warden and me. Further updates will be circulated via the Newsletter and our website.

Whilst our church is closed, you might like to write a prayer and light a virtual candle on our new Prayer Wall which you will find on our website. **Services will continue online and CD as at present.** The link to the service is currently <https://slfchurch.org/advent-20-epiphany-21>. If you, or anyone you know would like to receive our weekly service on a CD – please contact Rev Elaine or Andrew and Wendy Rudd to arrange this. Please remember that I am available by phone or email (Fridays excepted), or even via zoom should you wish to chat “face to face”.

Many thanks for your continued prayers, patience, and support at this unpredictable time. I look forward to the time when we can celebrate together. Please keep safe and well - and keep in touch with each other.

Prayers

Our prayers for those who are sick: If you know of anyone whom you feel needs our prayers – please ask permission from them or their family and then pass their name to Rev Elaine:
revelaine@nym.hush.com

Please pray for –

Those who are sick

For those who have died:

Those whose anniversary of death falls at this time:

Dear Friends,

Letter

In this week’s Gospel reading, Jesus, his mother and disciples are all guests at a wedding. I’m sure you will agree that weddings are (or should be!) joyful occasions, as families gather to celebrate love and toast the future happiness of Bride and Groom.

The Galilean wedding tradition of Jesus’ time was important in asserting community solidarity and making alliances with extended families; it would have lasted two or three days and there would have been plenty of wine flowing! You can imagine the likely embarrassment of the host when the wine runs out. Prompted by his mother, and evidently to his annoyance (my time has not yet come), Jesus turns water into wine of far greater quality than that which had originally been provided. John states that the miracle at Cana is the first of the “signs” that Jesus performed, revealing his glory.



We are thankful for Mary's initiative because the resulting miracle speaks of abundance to the point of excess, of quality beyond anything that has previously been experienced and of the wonderful messianic banquet of the bridegroom and his bride the church. If we think about it – Mary was the first to welcome Jesus into her life and her every action points us to Jesus. As with the bemused servants at the wedding banquet, so also to those in need she is saying: "Do as he tells you" - and her own response to God's calling reveals the same desire: "Be it unto me according to thy word." (Luke 1:38)

Let us pray that we can have the courage to do the same.

Below is a Sonnet by Rev Dr Malcolm Guite, recently retired Chaplain of Girton College Cambridge, for your reflection:

The Miracle at Cana

*Here's an epiphany to have and hold,
A truth that you can taste upon your tongue,
No distant shrines and canopies of gold
Or ladders to be clambered rung by rung,
But here and now, amidst your daily living,
Where you can taste and touch and feel and see,
The spring of love, the fount of all forgiving,
Flows when you need it, rich, abundant, free.
Better than waters of some outer weeping,
That leave you still with all kinds of hidden sin,
Here's a vintage richer for the keeping
That works a transformation from within.
"What price?" you ask me as we raise the glass,
"It cost our saviour everything he has."*



With love and blessings, Elaine

Notices

DOROTHY SMITH

Thank you to all at St Laurence for their love and support given to both Mum and me over the last years especially around Mum's 100th birthday last September and following her death on December 27th.

I have been overwhelmed by so many cards, letters and Facebook entries.

Mum was so well known and, from comments made, obviously held in high regard. She always wanted to help and to serve those around her. Just a few weeks before her death she said "I've had a wonderful life".

Thank you all so very much. God Bless, Nick

OBERRAMMERGAU PASSION PLAY, SUMMER 2022

Are you interested in being part of a group from St Laurence's to go to Austria in summer 2022 for the famous Passion Play in Oberammergau? Normally held every ten years, the plays have been postponed due to COVID-19 and will now take place between May and August 2022. Further information about the plays here:

<https://www.passionsspiele-oberammergau.de/en/visit/oberammergau>

The trip would include return air flight, all transfers and travel, accommodation and tickets to a performance. Cost would be somewhere between £1600-2000. At the moment, we'd just like an indication of interest from you, so if you'd like to find out more, please contact Elaine Graham: graham359@icloud.com.

FOODBANK Donations can be made at Morrison's, Sainsbury's and Tesco and also to Frodsham distribution centre at Guide HQ, Ship Street between 1 and 3 pm on Fridays (excluding Bank Holidays). Current needs are: Shampoo, Custard, Sponge puddings, Rice pudding.

To find out about obtaining a voucher, opening times of distribution centres or how to donate financially through the online donation page, please visit the website – runconrdistrict.foodbank.org.uk

DONATIONS TO CHURCH Many people will now find it difficult to make their usual weekly contributions to the church. If you would like to contribute directly, our Bank Account details are as follows: ST LAURENCE FRODSHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL Sort Code: 09-01-55 Account No: 42559803. Alternatively, you can use our online donations page <https://givealittle.co/campaigns/371c0c8f-ea13-4763-9688-e0de77dd8475>

The work of our church during this difficult time is reliant on people's generosity, a generosity that is a hallmark of a lived-out faith and a testament to it. Thank you.

News from Church Members

WORK WITH REFUGEES – PAULINE LOWRIE

Lucy Sumner, Chris Wood (of Foxhill) and I have been supporting refugees at a local hotel. This has now extended to supporting refugees as they get moved to temporary accommodation in Runcorn, Crewe, Greater Manchester and Winsford, and of course helping new arrivals at the hotel. Local people have been amazing at donating clothing, shoes, toys for children and so on and we are very well stocked, except for 30 - 32 inch waist men's trousers and men's trainers especially sizes 7 to 9. Please text or email me if you can help with those things. pelowrie@aol.com. These refugees arrive with very little. I went to the hotel about a week ago to give clothes to a young man recently arrived from Eritrea. He stood outside the hotel in the snow wearing flip flops, thin cotton pyjama bottoms and a white short-sleeved t-shirt. He was prolific with thanks when I gave him second-hand jeans, t shirts, jumpers, a warm jacket, toiletries, second hand trainers, new underwear and socks. It made me feel sad that he could be in such need of basic things like that.

There are associated difficulties we are dealing with. One lady who speaks seven languages, and was a university lecturer in English in Iraq has been in the hotel for seven months and has had no explanation for why she hasn't been moved to accommodation. It has taken its toll on her mental health. Fortunately, Mike Amesbury MP is contacting the Home Office on her behalf to find an explanation, as well as pursuing the case of two refugees whose phones were seized by British police with a receipt saying the phones would be returned within six months. Some ten months later the phones haven't been returned, but the phones contain precious contact numbers and family photographs that mean a lot to these young men. One family in Manchester has a four year old son who was born in the Calais jungle, but the children are now in school. Another family in Manchester has a son who is profoundly deaf and has not developed language, so we are trying to get specialist support for him. A mum and her eight year old daughter, both Christians fleeing persecution in Pakistan, are now in Oldham and we are advising them on how to gain a school place for eight-year-old Ameena. She is fluent in English and reading books by Roald Dahl, the Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe, and other such stories. One lady refugee from the Gambia is appealing as her asylum claim has been refused. She has thyroid cancer and will die without her medication if she is forced to leave. We regularly help the refugees in the community with food, as their plastic cards that should allow them £35 a week often fail. There is a young man in Crewe, with a Ph.D. in molecular biology, and 20 published papers to his name. He is desperate to volunteer in a UK lab, especially as he is an expert in PCR, the 'gold standard' test for covid-19. I have contacted Keele University to see if they can find a role for him. Another young man in Crewe, a Christian from Kenya, has helped several of his fellow refugees to access badly-needed medical services since, as a Kenyan, he speaks perfect English. He hopes that one day he can train as a nurse here. This particular refugee spent Christmas with my family and it was such a pleasure to spend a special day with him. I have been amazed at the talent of these refugees: all of them have basic English but many are completely fluent. Many have degrees and qualifications in biomedical fields, engineering, teaching etc. They are immensely grateful for the help we can offer them and are desperate to participate in the community in any way possible, whether paid or voluntary, but they are not allowed to by the Home Office. Please keep these refugees in your prayers. I never cease to be amazed at their resilience. They are human beings the same as all of us: the only difference between them and us is luck. And Jesus was a refugee, too.



BERYL'S BLOG

Earlier this week I treated myself to a very tasty Lubred. Now before you start Googling or thumbing through the International Recipes you've stored in the kitchen cupboard, let me explain. My family and friends have been aware of my sleep pattern for a number of years – in a nutshell, I don't have one! I go to bed anytime from midnight to 4am and, after disturbing 2/3 times after eventually getting to sleep, I get up anytime after 9am.

Throughout the lockdowns I haven't used the alarm clock because I haven't had to be anywhere except for when I had medical appointments. As could be expected, the lack of sleep was going to catch up with me sooner or later



and a few days ago I woke up and looked at the clock – it was 11.25am! Washed and dressed, I headed for the kitchen at almost noon. Kettle switched on, fridge and cupboard raided, I decided on a cooked breakfast – but that got me thinking. I was really too late for breakfast and normally it would be referred to as 'brunch' between breakfast and lunch but what is it when you are having your breakfast between lunch and dinner? You've guessed it – I invented Lubred!!

Stay safe. Beryl x

Do you need help getting into work?

Weaver Vale Housing Trust have two services offering one-to-one specialist employment support to people living in Northwich, Winsford and surrounding rural areas in Cheshire West.

This information is also attached as a leaflet to the email.

	
<h3 style="text-align: center;">What support is offered?</h3>	
<p>1-2-1 Mentor support, for up to six months, to help you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a CV and apply for jobs • Prepare for interview • Improve your confidence • Gain practical skills • Access volunteering opportunities • Make the most of your money • Support to set up your own business • Access Mental Health support • Access training <p><small>This Project is funded by the European Social Fund and the National Lottery, through the Big Lottery Fund</small></p>	<p>1-2-1 support from an Advisor including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CV and cover letter writing • Job searching • Application forms • Interview skills and preparation • Building confidence • Training Opportunities • Referral for money advice
<h3 style="text-align: center;">How do I know if I am eligible?</h3>	
<p>The New Leaf programme is for anyone of working age that is not in education or employment.</p> <p>For more information call Emma on: 01606 813469 / 07525 668971</p>	<p>You must be a tenant in a Weaver Vale Housing Trust property. You can be unemployed or already in work.</p> <p>For more information call Heather on: 01606 813546 / 07919 566049</p>
 workteam@wvht.co.uk	 @WeaverVale  @WVHTWorkTeam

Contributions for the Newsletter should be emailed to saintells@gmail.com by 7pm on Wednesday. Thank you

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