

Newsletter of St Laurence Parish Church, Frodsham

For week commencing Sunday January 29th 2023 – Fourth Sunday of Epiphany, Year A

Candlemas – The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

“To know God and to make God known”

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

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

This Week

January 29 th Epiphany 4/Candlemas – The Presentation of Christ in the Temple	08.00 10.00 12.30 16.00	Holy Communion (spoken) Holy Communion (with music) Baptism Evensong for Candlemas	Hebrews 2. 14 to end; Luke 2. 22-40
Monday–Friday	10.00-15.00	Church open	
Monday	10.30 16.00	Messy Church planning team meeting at the Vicarage Finance Sub Group meeting at the Vicarage	
Tuesday	19.00	Holy Communion (spoken)	
Wednesday	10.00 13.30 19.00	Toddler Praise Funeral Churches Together meeting at Frodsham Methodist Church	
Thursday	10.00-12.00 19.00	Bee Friends Coffee Morning at the Parish Hall Parish Hall Committee meeting at the Vicarage	
Friday	13.00-15.00	Craft and Chat - in the Lady Chapel – all welcome. See notices	
February 5 th 3rd Sunday before Lent	08.00 10.00 15.00	Holy Communion (spoken) Holy Communion (with music) Messy Church	

Online Podcasts



Our weekly St Laurence podcasts are currently taking a look at prayer. Everybody's experience of prayer is different, and it will be great to learn from one another! Please see notices for more details.

The link to the latest podcast is: <https://slfchurch.org/say-one-for-me>

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

Those who have died

Those whose anniversary of death falls this week

Prayer Wall - You can write a prayer and light a virtual candle on our website. <https://slfchurch.org/prayerwall>

Please pass your requests to Rev Elaine at the Vicarage if you haven't got internet access.

Dates for your Diary

Children: **Messy Church:** Next one February 5th at 3pm, in church [Read more here](#)
Toddler Praise is each Wednesday at 10am **during term time only** [Read more here](#)

EVENSING FOR CANDLEMAS This Sunday January 29th at 4pm

CRAFT AND CHAT Beginning weekly starting this week Fri 3rd February in Church 1-3pm. See Notices for more info.

PARISH HOT POT LUNCH Sunday 12th February at 12.30pm. This is now sold out. Proceeds to church funds.

Letter

(This month from Russ)

SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT LANDINGS...

When I was Vicar of Burtonwood, some local people spoke of God as 'The Man upstairs'; and of death as 'going upstairs'. That was their natural way of speaking of 'heavenly things'; and it seems natural to me to see life as a process of 'moving upstairs'. Where to? When we go upstairs, unless we live in a bungalow, we come first on to a **landing**. Which led me to think about the landings in most houses – and see them as a metaphor of life.

I then thought about travelling in an aeroplane. When it comes in **to land**, we passengers are told to sit for a while, and not even undo our safety straps. Then we slowly work our way off the plane until we reach various large areas – where we wait for baggage to start arriving. At last we reach our home, take our bags upstairs, and put them down ... on the **landing**.

I think of my 77 years on Earth as a process of acquiring luggage – or rather (and more truthfully), baggage! So I picture myself on my landing, wondering "What next? Is this the end?" I trust and hope not; for, as I look, I see several doors. I realise that the landing is a sort of passageway to all sorts of exciting places – various rooms to be explored. There is one in which to take medicines, get clean, and luxuriate; two for sleeping, storing things, or making love in; and one - my study - in which to work, pray, write, and enjoy communicating with many people.

I also realise that each room has many doors within it – each opening into something or somewhere else. This gets more and more exciting! I am reminded of the 'in between' places in "The Magician's Nephew" by CS Lewis (the prequel to "The Lion, the Witch & The Wardrobe"). His first use of this idea is when two children explore the space behind the attics in a row of terraced houses. It connects them all, but they are not used for anything. It is 'empty' space.

The second time they come across something like this is when they use magic to try and reach another world. From Digory's Uncle's attic, they come into a wood. It is a very green, quiet, and peaceful place. Nothing seems to happen there. There are several pools of still water. In the end they decide the only way back to the attic is to jump into one of the pools – which does lead to another world. Later they realise that the 'empty place' is not itself a world at all, but merely a place that connects, and from which they can enter, real worlds. It is very like a landing; or an airport.

I wonder if I have reached an 'empty place' - which may be the 'right' moment in my life to stop, reflect, and choose. Do I go on collecting increasing amounts of baggage? Shall I just repeat the routines I have inevitably developed since I was a child, or explore new things? Discard what I do not need, or save what is really important? How to tell the difference? I shall call on God to give me the gift of discernment, and the courage to choose what is best.

I realise I need to spend more of this time of my life sitting and reflecting; even making notes. It is beginning to feel rather like when a holiday is ending. You remember the best bits and plan what to share with others. After a while you think about 'life back home', and maybe plan what to do later that day, week, or year. You have 'come down to earth' and re-entered the 'real world'. Except that – just perhaps – you have encountered in that 'empty place', or at least been pointed towards, something more real; something that will enable you to live more fully, wisely, and lovingly, in your world - which is home, for the time being.

Lord, help me to be 'at home' on the landing,
in all the 'empty places' in my life;
to look at and listen to all you have given me throughout my life.
Show me which door to open next,
and open my heart to all that it may disclose.
I ask this in the love Jesus shares with us, Amen



Notices

CRAFT AND CHAT The Friday afternoon knit/crochet/craft sessions will be starting again on Friday 3rd February in church and will run each week from 1pm to 3pm (except for Good Friday or when a funeral is booked for that time). There will be some yarn and needles available but otherwise please bring your own materials; coffee, tea and biscuits provided. Keep an eye on the newsletter for any cancellations.



SAY ONE FOR ME! From the middle of January our weekly St Laurence podcasts will take a look at prayer. Everybody's experience of prayer is different, and it will be great to learn from one another!



At the moment I am looking for volunteers to answer four simple questions about prayer - not with prepared speeches but a few off-the-cuff sentences.

- What is your earliest memory of prayer?
- What's really good about prayer for you?
- What's really difficult about prayer for you?
- Is there anything else you want to say about your experience of prayer?

You could record your answers and send them to me (amrudd@gmail.com) or I could come and 'interview' you. Or, indeed, you could interview somebody else and send me the recording!

I'm looking for lots of different voices - please let me know as soon as possible if you can help! *Andrew R*

FROM PAULINE: Pauline, Jonathan and family would like to thank everybody for their cards, kind words and special memories following Geoff's sudden death. Also, for the many donations to church and the Children's Society. Special thanks to Rev. Elaine, Rev. David and Fr. Michael for their help and support. We have so many friends without whom we would be lost. Thank you.

FOODBANK Food drop-off: supermarket drop off points, in church, distribution centre on Ship Street (Fridays 1-3pm). The foodbank is currently short of: **Tinned meat, Instant Mashed Potato, Long life milk, Baby Food (not formula), Cleaning Products.** Visit <https://runconrdistrict.foodbank.org.uk> for info. on how to give or get help.



DONATIONS TO CHURCH If you would like to contribute to St Laurence, our Bank Account details are as follows: St Laurence Frodsham Parochial Church Council Sort Code: 09-01-55 Acc. No: 42559803. Alternatively, you can donate here: <https://givealittle.co/campaigns/371c0c8f-ea13-4763-9688-e0de77dd8475> or by scanning the QR code. Thank you.

Our safeguarding officer is Mary Lamb, and you can contact her on 07862 321 560

News

CAPTION COMPETITION Our photograph for the caption competition last month showed the result of the PCC creating three 'Wise Men' - for each wise man using two toilet rolls. These are the captions, in the order we received them:

See Amidst The Winters's Snow. The Magi wore camouflage So They Wouldn't Show.	David C
Read all about it in the LOOS-PAPER	Russ N
We three kings of toilet roll are, If we run out of loo roll we won't have to look far, Bring wrapped in paper, is always safer Than finding yourself caught short!	Claire H
The Three Magiteers	Beryl G
They should have read the small print in the contract!	Beryl G
Roll Models!	Betty R
Has anyone seen a yellow Labrador puppy?	Tony M
Airy B'nB received 3-star rating from undercover inspectors	John L
Do you think we will leave a paper trail	Sue D
Looks like we're on a roll now	Sue D

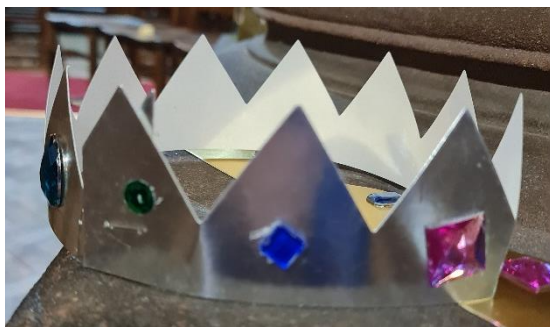
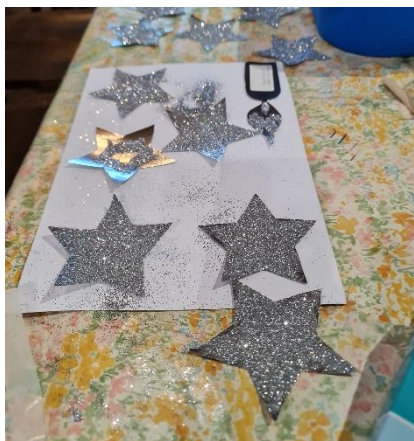


And the winner of our caption competition is.....

David C.

And our runner-up is Beryl for 'the small print' caption

Messy Church In January, Messy Church was looking at stars and wise men. Here are some pictures...



Next Messy Church - February 5th at 3pm, in church

CHURCHES TOGETHER SERVICE – for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

There was a lovely atmosphere at the Churches Together Service on Sunday 22nd Jan, with shared leadership of the service, great singing, personal stories of discrimination and some very welcome guests from Uganda. All followed by tea, coffee and biscuits. During the service we all used glass beads to build up a series of hearts as we reflected on the power of love – God's and ours - to overcome difference.



BEE FRIENDS FIRST SOUP LUNCH Most of you will now know that the community group 'Bee Friends' run a coffee morning on Thursday mornings in the Parish Hall from 10am to 12noon. They are now expanding their service to the community - on the last Thursday of each month they will be having a soup lunch from 12noon to 2pm, following their coffee morning.

If the first one is anything to go by its well worth a visit. We had home-made potato and leek soup with bread rolls, followed by cake and a cup of tea. Lovely! There were even gluten free rolls and cake for those of us with an intolerance. Thank you, Bee Friends.

Here is a photo of their first soup lunch.



An ecumenical partnership of University and Cathedral

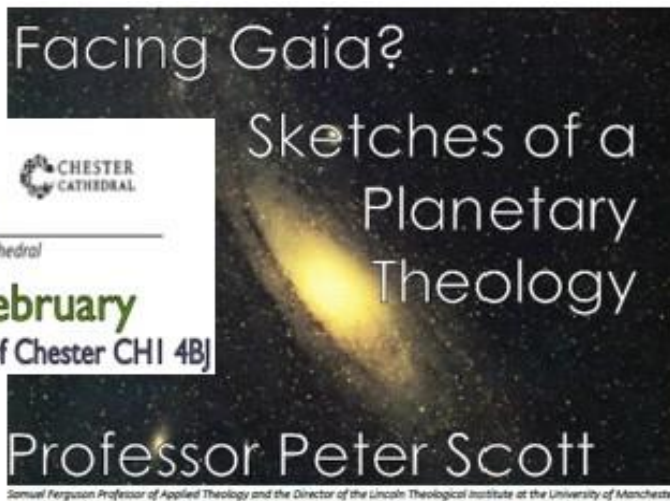
7:30pm, Tuesday 7th February
Hollybank House, Liverpool Road, University of Chester CH1 4BJ

Facing Gaia?

Sketches of a Planetary Theology

Professor Peter Scott

Samuel Ferguson Professor of Applied Theology and the Director of the Lincoln Theological Institute at the University of Manchester



A giant Gaia globe is being installed at Chester Cathedral in February.

At 6 metres tall, it is sure to provoke reaction and debate:

In this lecture, the emerging discourse of 'planetary theology' is discussed as a way of exploring what a 'conversion to Gaia' might look like.

Are we planetary beings? Are we *inside* the planet or do we, in some fashion, transcend it and are thereby responsible for it in some developed way?

What suggestions or insights does theological discourse offer about planetary conversion?

Admission at the door: £3.00 (Students: £1.00) with Wine & Refreshments

The Alternative Collect for Candlemas – The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Lord Jesus Christ,
light of the nations and glory of Israel:
make your home among us,
and present us pure and holy
to your heavenly Father,
your God, and our God.
Amen



Rembrandt 1669

The words of Simeon at the Presentation

Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;
for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.

From Luke Ch 2 NRSV

Contributions for the Newsletter should be emailed to saintells@gmail.com by 7pm on Wednesday. General articles will appear once a month in the last newsletter of each month. Thank you.

If you wish to be unsubscribed from this weekly newsletter, please email saintells@gmail.com with 'Unsubscribe' in the heading.