



The Parish of Thorpe St Andrew

Weekly Newsletter and Service Sheet **10 January 2021** **The Baptism of Christ**

Making all things new

Each January, as we enter a new year, we have an opportunity to **reset** and **refocus** on the year ahead.

At the turn of 2020 to 2021 the images on social media are not just of resetting but of screwing up 2020 and throwing it in the rubbish bin, or other such pictures which make it clear that



people wanted to 'see the back of' these difficult times and that more than anything they wanted a **new** year, since the old one was well and truly broken. The announcement on Monday of a third national lockdown sadly plays havoc with immediate plans for that. The news reports are depressing and we are tired of it all and we all yearn for something that will make all things new. This Sunday, when the church remembers the Baptism of Christ, brings us an annual reminder that in Christ, as the heavens are torn apart, God is indeed doing something new, which is **for all**. In this moment we return to the beginning of all things, when the earth was separated into day and night, form and void, heavens punching out into the firmament above and the sea below. Through baptism we become part of that people who believe in and follow Jesus. And this is what brings us hope – that through our baptism we stand with Christ, as the Holy Spirit descends upon him. Some amongst our number have received a vaccine and many have not, but we journey through these dark days, self-isolated and socially distanced, knowing there are new and hopeful things stirring and beginning. Please keep safe and... **STAY AT HOME. PROTECT THE NHS. SAVE LIVES.** With every blessing, Fr James

The Liturgy of the Baptism of Christ

Introductory Voluntary

Hymn

1 Hail to the Lord's Anointed!
Great David's greater Son;
Hail, in the time appointed,
His reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
To set the captive free;
To take away transgression,
And rule in equity.

2 He comes with succour speedy
To those who suffer wrong;
To help the poor and needy,
And bid the weak be strong;
To give them songs for sighing,
Their darkness turn to light,
Whose souls, condemned and dying,
Were precious in his sight.

5 O'er every foe victorious,
He on his throne shall rest,
From age to age more glorious,
All-blessing and all-blest:
The tide of time shall never
His covenant remove;
His name shall stand for ever;
That name to us is Love.

3 He shall come down like showers
Upon the fruitful earth,
Love, joy, hope, like flowers,
Spring in his path to birth:
Before him on the mountains
Shall peace the herald go;
And righteousness in fountains
From hill to valley flow.

4 Kings shall fall down before him,
And gold and incense bring;
All nations shall adore him,
His praise all people sing;
To him shall prayer unceasing
And daily vows ascend;
His kingdom still increasing,
A kingdom without end.

The Greeting

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you **and also with you.**

Welcome

Words of welcome to those in church and those online are given.

Gloria in Excelsis

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Collect

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus 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.**

Reading Acts 19:1-7

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior 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.**

Hymn

1 Thou whose almighty word
Chaos and darkness heard,
And took their flight;
Hear us, we humbly pray,
And where the gospel day
Sheds not its glorious ray
Let there be light.

2 Thou who didst come to bring
On thy redeeming wing
Healing and sight,
Health to the sick in mind,
Sight to the inly blind,
O now to all mankind
Let there be light.

3 Spirit of truth and love,
Life-giving, holy Dove,
Speed forth thy flight;
Move on the water's face,
Bearing the lamp of grace,
And in earth's darkest place
Let there be light.

4 Blessèd and holy Three,
Glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, Love, Might,
Boundless as ocean's tide
Rolling in fullest pride,
Through the world far and wide
Let there be light.

Gospel Reading Mark 1:4-11

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

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark
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.**

Sermon

Thanksgiving for Holy Baptism

Water is poured into the bowl

God in Christ gives us water welling up for eternal life.

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

Lord, give us this water and we shall thirst no more.

Praise God who made heaven and earth,

who keeps his promise for ever.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

Father, we give you thanks and praise for your gift of water in creation; for your Spirit, sweeping over the waters, bringing light and life; for your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, baptized in the river Jordan. We bless you for your new creation, brought to birth by water and the Spirit, and for your grace bestowed upon us your children, washing away our sins. May your holy and life-giving Spirit move upon these waters. Restore through them the beauty of your creation, and bring those who are baptized to new birth in the family of your Church. Drown sin in the waters of judgement, anoint your children with power from on high, and make them one with Christ in the freedom of your kingdom. For all might, majesty, dominion and power are yours, now and for ever. **Alleluia. Amen.**

Prayers of Penitence

God of truth, you are faithful to the covenant you have made with us; look in mercy on your people. From all our sins, O Lord: **wash us, and we shall be clean.**

We have broken the pledges of our baptism and failed to be your disciples. From all our sins, O Lord: **wash us, and we shall be clean.**

We have shown indifference to those in need and have been afraid to stand up for justice and truth. From all our sins, O Lord: **wash us, and we shall be clean.**

We have been slow to forgive and have failed to remember your repeated forgiveness of our sins. From all our sins, O Lord: **wash us, and we shall be clean.**

Today we rejoice and give thanks because your Son humbled himself to be baptized in the Jordan. Through the waters you have given us the mystery of baptism for the remission of our sins. From all our sins, O Lord: **wash us, and we shall be clean.**

Through water and Spirit, you give us new life as the people of God and pour out upon us the gifts of your new covenant. From all our sins, O Lord: **wash us, and we shall be clean.**

Almighty God, in our baptism you have consecrated us to be temples of your Holy Spirit. May we, whom you have counted worthy, nurture your indwelling Spirit with a lively faith, and worship you with upright lives; through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

The water may be sprinkled over the people.

‘Come,’ say the Spirit and the Bride.

‘Come forward, you who are thirsty,
receive the water of life,
the free gift to all who desire it.’

May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

The response to the bidding

Lord in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

The Peace

God has made us one in Christ. He has set his seal upon us and, as a pledge of what is to come, has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts. The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

The Preparation of the Table

The table is prepared, and bread and wine are placed upon it.

Organ music is played. At the end this prayer is said.

Open the heavens, Lord our God, and send your transforming Spirit on us and on these gifts. May we who are baptized into Christ be ready to share his cup of suffering and strengthened to serve him for ever. **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, holy Father, almighty and eternal God. You celebrated your new gift of baptism in signs and wonders at the Jordan. Your voice was heard from heaven to awaken faith in the presence among us of your Word made flesh. Your Spirit was seen as a dove, revealing Jesus as your servant, and anointing him with the oil of gladness to preach the good news to the poor. Therefore, as we celebrate the union of earth and heaven, we rejoice to echo the song of the angels in heaven for ever praising you and saying:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son. On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me. When supper was ended he took the cup of wine. Again he praised you, gave it to them and said: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross. Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth. Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with the Blessed Virgin Mary, St Andrew and all the saints to feast at your table in heaven. Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread *The minister breaks the consecrated bread.*

We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.

**God here among us, light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.**

Agnus Dei *The Agnus Dei is said as the bread is broken.*

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.**

The Giving of Communion

God's holy gifts for God's holy people. **Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

Communion *The sacrament is distributed. Organ music is played.*

Prayer after Communion

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.

Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

Notices *The notices and announcements are given.*

Hymn

1 Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided:
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.

2 Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us:
Lord of the word, receive Your people's praise.

3 Lord, for our land in this our generation,
spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care:
for young and old, for commonwealth and nation,
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.

4 Lord, for our world when we disown and doubt him,
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain,
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without him:
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.

5 Lord for ourselves; in living power remake us -
self on the cross and Christ upon the throne,
past put behind us, for the future take us:
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

The Blessing

May God, who in Christ gives us a spring of water welling up to eternal life, perfect in you the image of his glory; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Closing Voluntary

Prayer Intentions

THE CHURCH

Our Ministry Team James Stewart, Taylor Wilton-Morgan, Nicole King
Our Bishops Graham, Alan and Jonathan **Archdeacons** Karen Hutchinson, Steven Betts, Ian Bentley **Ecumenical** The people of the Diocese of Luleå, our link Diocese in Sweden, their Bishop Åsa Nyström
Anglican Communion Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia.

THE WORLD

All those affected by the Covid-19 pandemic all key workers in NHS and all fields of frontline, particularly all those working in the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital and also our local doctors' surgeries and healthcare provision, including all partners, staff and patients of: Thorpe Health Centre (St William's Way); Thorpewood Surgery (Woodside and Dussindale); Lionwood Surgery. Remembering them, in particular, as they continue to roll out the vaccine to eligible groups.

THE COMMUNITY

Streets of the Parish Green Court, Green Lane North, Griffin Lane
Our community For all those in our community struggling with the third national lockdown, remembering all our civic leaders at Town, District and County level.

THOSE IN NEED OF OUR PRAYER including Paul Carter, Mark Little, Monique Rowland, Jennifer Jones, Janet Fancy, Colin Hicks, Alan Harrison, Grace Howes, Peter and Gaynor Garrod, Rita Ward, Joy and Andy McCall, Jean High, Jean Mayhew, Brother Gabriel, Craig Fransham, Anthony Travis, Paul Rayner, Mark King, Fr Patrick Kerley, Chloe Smith MP, Alan Fleming

THE DEPARTED

The recently departed

Brian Goodswen (14th Jan – PC, 12noon), Dorothy Dowcra (15th Jan), Malcolm Smith (20th Jan), Frances Parker (21st Jan), Kathleen Eglinton (2nd Feb), Tony Towers (5th Feb), Brian Riseborough

Those whose anniversary of death occurs at this time including (10th Jan) Kenneth Reed, (15th Jan) Lucy Wright

Other Notices and Announcements

IMPORTANT STATEMENT: Keeping safe in the third lockdown. Following the announcement of a third national lockdown, and encouraged by the Bishop of Norwich, we have undertaken a review of arrangements for services and church opening, in consultation with our churchwardens and the Standing Committee of the PCC. The Bishop has written that “our priority must be to look out for our neighbours and protect the vulnerable”, urging us to be exceptionally careful and at the same time acknowledging real concerns about isolation, loneliness and mental well-being. The Government restrictions do not prevent church services and places of worship may remain open for certain purposes including funerals and 'communal worship'. The Bishop has made it possible to suspend public worship. With this in mind the following will take place:

- The church will remain open between 10 and 4 Tuesday to Sunday, but be closed on Mondays. Covid-19 precautions are in place and seating is limited.
- The church will stream the Parish Eucharist online at 9.30am **LIVE** on Facebook each Sunday from the Parish Church. We strongly encourage all those with online facilities to **STAY AT HOME, SAVE LIVES and PROTECT THE NHS**. The new strain of the virus is more infectious and you are safest in your own home. Those who do not have internet may, if they feel safe and being very careful, attend the filming of the service. This is likely to be a very small number and the fewer people there the safer it will be. We are asked to ensure that there is no mingling before or after the service, and that face coverings should be worn at all times.
- Other services are suspended for the safety of all during this current time.
- Funerals will continue to go ahead in both churches limited to 30 people.
- Morning Prayer on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays will continue at 8.30am and will be streamed LIVE on Facebook on Thursdays at 8.45am.
- Our Zoom Coffee Morning will take place at 11.00am on Thursdays. The Zoom code for today is at the end of this email.
- Details of our Lent Course on Zoom will follow in the weeks ahead.
- Parish Life will continue, with all distributors taking Covid-19 precautions.
- Pastoral care will continue to be offered by the clergy and others. Any specific needs should be communicated to the Rector on 01603 439160.

You are all in our prayers at this exceptionally difficult time - and please do be in touch if you need anything. With every blessing

Fr James

FACEBOOK Whilst I realise that not everyone is a fan of Facebook, I wanted to record the achievements we have made since our page was launched in November 2016. We have over 1040 likes and more followers. Our services are online through Facebook and offer playback facility at no charge. It is now possible to give to our mission and ministry through Facebook. Some already have, for which we are very grateful. This is available to all in our community.

ZOOM COFFEE Please do support this if you can. It is a great way of staying in touch. The next 'virtual coffee morning' takes place on **Thursday 14 January at 11.00am**. Zoom details will come with the email notices.

GIFT AID The treasury team would like to say "thank you" to all of you who have returned the completed gift aid forms so far. If you haven't done so yet, please can you get this back as soon as you can.

THANK YOU TO YOU ALL Thank to you all for the way in which you have responded to giving during this pandemic. Please continue to give as generously as you can. There is a lot to do this year and we will need as much financial support as possible. If you have a question in relation to giving please contact our Treasurer on her email: treasurersa@gmail.com

'BAKING THROUGH THE LOCKDOWN' RECIPE BOOK Copies can be purchased from church, Mazzoni's Newsagents, Gordon Barber Funeral Directors – both still able to be open in the national lockdown. They can also be ordered by email from Christine Cutting (cutting248@btinternet.com) or by phoning the Rectory or leaving a message on the answerphone **01603 439160**. We will deliver free in Thorpe St Andrew/Thorpe End. Beyond that, postage and packing starts at £2.00.

THANK YOU and HAPPY NEW YEAR A huge thank you to all for your part in all our Christmas services. The people who came obtained great comfort from the services and I am a very proud Rector to have such helpful and committed people around to do all of this. It is a great achievement in a very difficult year - and you should all feel very proud too. A particular shout out to our intrepid choir and Dominika for her lovely Midnight Mass solo, which really made my Christmas - thank you! Thank you also for all the cards, messages and gifts received, which are a great source of encouragement. The Rector, Churchwardens, Ministry Team and Parochial Church Council thank you all for your joyful participation in the life of our parish and wish you all a Happy New Year! Keep safe – and speak up, if you need anything.

Some Prayer Resources

A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, whose years never fail and whose mercies are new each returning day: let the radiance of your Spirit renew our lives, warming our hearts and giving light to our minds; that we may pass the coming year in joyful obedience and firm faith; through him who is the beginning and the end, your Son, Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

SOME PERSONAL PRAYERS

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your disciples, 'I am with you always'. Be with me today, as I offer myself to you. Hear my prayers for others and for myself, and keep me in your care.

Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me.
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

from St Patrick's Breastplate

I am giving you worship with all my life,
I am giving you obedience with all my power,
I am giving you praise with all my strength,
I am giving you honour with all my speech.
I am giving you love with all my heart,
I am giving you affection with all my sense,
I am giving you my being with all my mind,
I am giving you my soul, O most high and holy God.
Praise to the Father, Praise to the Son, Praise to the Spirit,
The Three in One.

adapted from Alexander Carmichael, Carmina Gadelica (1900)

O God, the protector of all who trust in you,
without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy:
increase and multiply upon us your mercy;
that with you as our ruler and guide,
we may so pass through things temporal
that we lose not our hold on things eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Common Worship

Be with us, Lord, in all our prayers,
and direct our way toward the attainment of salvation,
that among the changes and chances of this mortal life,
we may always be defended by your gracious help,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Common Worship

O gracious and holy Father,
give us wisdom to perceive you,
diligence to seek you,
patience to wait for you,
eyes to behold you,
a heart to meditate upon you,
and a life to proclaim you,
through the power of the spirit
of Jesus Christ our Lord.

St Benedict

Some January Jokes...!!

Q: Where do you find Google during January?

A: The Winternet.

Q: How did Jack Frost get to work on New Year's Day?

A: By icicle.

Q: What did the chimney resolve to do for the new year?

A: Stop smoking.

Knock, knock. Who's there?

Noah. Noah who? Noah good joke about January?

Q: What's for breakfast on really cold January days?

A: Snowflakes.

OUTDOOR COMMUNITY NATIVITY This is not coming down and the lights are remaining on, as a sign of light and joy in these dark and difficult days. Remaining until at least Candlemas (2 February)!

NATIVITY COLOURING COMPETITION EXTENDED For the last few years we have held a colouring competition in conjunction with our annual Crib Services. We held two services on Crib Services on Christmas Eve but the congregations were limited due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The entries for the colouring competition have been rather limited, so we have decided to extend the competition for two weeks. Please spread the word. Please print off these last two pages of the notices with form and colouring sheet. This competition is for those aged 11 and under. For those aged 12 and over – a slightly different challenge!! Please produce a piece of artwork of any sort which links the Christmas story to the Covid-19 pandemic. Please use the same form or ensure that we know name, address and email. Entries for both competitions close at 11.59pm on Friday 22 January.



The Parish of Thorpe St Andrew Nativity Colouring Competition

*Please colour in the picture on the front and return this leaflet to
The Rectory, 21a South Ave., Thorpe St Andrew, NR7 0EY by no later than
Friday 22 January, or scan it and email it to rector@thorpeparishchurch.org.*

*Prizes will be awarded at the Parish Online Eucharist on **Sunday 24 January 2021**.*

Name.....Age.....

Address.....

Email of parent/carer.....



For further information

Please contact our Rector, The Revd James Stewart (Fr James)
Tel: 01603 439160 or email: rector@thorpeparishchurch.org



The Parish of Thorpe St Andrew



Nativity Colouring Competition