

EPIPHANY GREETINGS

Dear All

Happy Epiphany! The visitation of the Magi to the infant Jesus marks a pivotal point in the Church year, as God reveals himself to the Gentiles. It is probably not what Matthew had in mind when he wrote his Gospel account, but the gifts can be helpful symbolic reminders. Gold is the sign of kingship. frankincense, a costly incense, representing wisdom and priesthood and myrrh used in anointing the dead. Each symbolic of Jesus – his kingship, his priesthood and his sacrificial death for all of us – a foretaste of his redeeming work.

As we commence the new year, what might we have to offer?

- Gold reminds us of the things that we value and cherish. ‘All things come from you O Lord, and of your own do we give you’ – perhaps our bank statements represent this.
- Incense reminds us of holiness. The gift here is our time. God wants all our lives to be holy every day, not just Sunday. We become more holy as we allow God to enter our lives day by day. As we give our time to God – perhaps a diary or watch represents this.
- Myrrh speaks of Jesus being set aside for a special task – to die for us on the cross. We must ‘die to sin,’ and ‘taking up our cross’. Then we offer our whole lives to God for him to direct and use – perhaps the cross that we wear, or hold, or a mirror on our wall represents this.

We have all sung, and know, the last verse of ‘In the bleak mid-winter.’

‘What can I give him, poor as I am, If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.

If I were a wiseman, I would do my part – yet what I can I give him, give my heart.’

At the start of this New Year, it is a good time to take another look at our response to God. How well do we give ourselves to God in response to his wonderful gift to us? How readily and regularly do we spend time with God in worship, in prayer, in reading his Word? How readily and regularly do we give of ourselves and our time to someone who needs love and compassion? How well do we use our gifts to do our work honestly and well? How do we care for the earth and work to ensure its sustainability? How readily do we give to God, not second best, not what’s simply ‘good enough,’ but the best of what we have to offer?

The wisemen went home by another road, we too can walk a different road this year, a road where we can make the king of kings the living, active centre of everything we are and do as individuals and as a church.

Yours, *Nicholas*

DONATIONS TO THE MINISTRY AND MISSION OF THIS PARISH

Our financial year is coming to a close. It is a year in which we have had to invest a significant sum in the care of our buildings. Unfortunately, our regular giving has dropped and plate offerings at all services have been significantly reduced by not passing the plate around as part of our COVID protection measures. Traditionally, our stewardship campaign is in the autumn but we will probably bring it forward to the early part of 2022.

Donations can be made at our services by cash or cheque in the collection plate, a stewardship envelope or standing order for regular giving please speak to Nicholas, the Churchwardens, Sue Jones or Alison Mings.



We are now also offering this QR code in our printed materials. Scanning the code with the camera on your smart phone will take you to the Give a Little page for our parish. You can choose how much, whether to Gift Aid, and request a receipt.

SAFEGUARDING – VOLUNTEER ROLE AGREEMENTS

The Church of England Safeguarding Requirements expect all members who have already have a voluntary role in church to complete a Volunteer Agreement. These will start to be sent out to you by email or post. If you need a printed copy, please contact Sue Jones on 01634 296050. Please sign and return within the next week if possible. You will require two referees, and these will be provided by the Church Wardens.

VIRTUAL DROP-IN CAFÉ – ‘ZOOMOFFEE’

This continues to ‘meet’ on Wednesdays at 10.30am via the Zoom application. Message Sue for more details.



PARISH QUIZ

Our weekly parish quiz, hosted by David and Alison Mings via Zoom, has started again for 2022 on Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm. If you would like to take part contact Sue or Alison for details.

LIVING IN LOVE AND FAITH

Strood Deanery is running Living in Love and Faith: *How do questions about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage fit within the bigger picture of the good news of Jesus Christ? What does it mean to live in love and faith together as a Church?*



This is a five week course led via Zoom by Jane Winter, Assistant Director of Formation and Ministry for Rochester Diocese. It starts on Monday, 10 January at 7.30pm. Please contact Sue or Nicholas for details of how to take part.

PARISH WALK

Our next parish walk is on Saturday, 15 January 11.00am **Parish Walk to Ash Wood**
Meet at Upnor Church ME2 4UX (crossroads of Upnor Road and Upchat Road)

Anyone feeling they put on an extra couple of pounds over Christmas? Thinking it's time to get out in the fresh air? Or perhaps you're simply longing for a good walk in the countryside as an antidote to the news? We have just the thing. Our longer walk this month starts from UPNOR CHURCH and goes through footpaths and quiet roads to Ash Wood and Chattenden. This is a genuine longer walk of four miles. It is mostly rural going through woods and fields and involves crossing four stiles. There may be some mud, but it should be a great walk.

Our shorter walk is an option too. This is a circular two mile walk through Upnor, its beach and the nearby woods. There will be no stiles, but there could still be the odd muddy patch.

We regret there are no refreshments this month, but we promise good company and a few stories of the season as we walk.

All welcome. Please feel free to invite family, friends and neighbours. Dogs on leads welcome; children under 14 must be accompanied.

To avoid the need for signing in please e mail pa@allsaintsfrindsbury.org.uk to reserve a place.*

** Please note all participants walk at their own risk. We may take photos of the adults to share on social media and promote our activities, unless you let us know you do not wish your photo to be taken. High-vis straps will be available for wear (but are not compulsory)*

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The Strood World Day of Prayer Team would like a representative from All Saints/St Philip & St James to help organise the yearly service which takes place on the first Friday in March. Please speak to Nicholas or Sue if you are interested or would like to find out more.

PRAYER CHAIN

Carole Morrad has asked me to remind you that the Prayer Chain are always willing to take prayer requests. If the prayer is not for you then we do ask that you have the permission of the person you are asking us to pray for.

DEMENTIA RESOURCES

At this time, those who live with dementia are understandably disoriented and upset. It has been a difficult and concerning time for their families too. Carole and Annie, our Anna Friends, have gathered some resources which are now available on the website. In particular there are a number of online training and awareness courses available at no cost.

SAFEGUARDING RESOURCES

RELEASE THE PRESSURE - new helpline from Kent County Council

Mental well-being remains a huge concern at this time.

A new phone line is available through Kent County Council, offering 24/7 access to a highly trained and experienced team, to provide expert support no matter what a person is going through.

People are encouraged not to suffer in silence and to text the word Kent to 85258 or call the number 0800 107 0160, for free confidential support.

SAFE HAVENS

Mental Health Matters can help any resident of Kent or Medway aged 16+ by offering a warm, welcoming, safe and comfortable environment. Contact: 07850 901151 or 07808 79503

CONTACT US

Vicar: The Reverend Nicholas Cooper	01634 717580 vicar@allsaintsfrindsbury.org.uk
Pioneer Minister: The Reverend Sue Vallente-Kerr	07940 161044 pioneer@allsaintsfrindsbury.org.uk
Administrator: Sue Jones	01634 296050 pa@allsaintsfrindsbury.org.uk
Parish Safeguarding Officer: Vicki Webster	01634 515580 webstervictoria95@gmail.com

Prayer Diary 9-15 January 2022

“...in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”
(Philippians 4:6)

Church's Ministry	<i>Praying for the people, groups and mission and outreach of the churches in our parish, diocese and worldwide Anglican communion</i>
Community	<i>Praying for our community, our parish and Medway</i>
People of the Parish	<i>Praying for those who live in Frindsbury and Wainscott, (FW), Upnor (U), Chattenden (C) and those who work on Medway City Estate (MCE)</i>

	Sunday, 9 January
Church's Ministry Baptism of Christ	<i>Heavenly Father, at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son: may we recognize him as our Lord and know ourselves to be your beloved children; through Jesus Christ our Saviour.</i>
Community	Give thanks for family life and those we hold dear in our hearts, praying for their health, well-being and hope.
People of the parish	Basi Close (FW), Newenden Road (FW), Sword Grove (FW)
	Monday, 10 January
Church's Ministry	Pray for the work of Medway Foodbank – staff, volunteers and clients.
Community	Pray for all in education: teachers, support staff and administrators, pupils and students; pray for Abbey Court School
People of the parish	Beacon Hill Lane (C), Niven Close (FW), Templers Drive (FW)
	Tuesday, 11 January
Church's Ministry	Pray for our Vicar, Nicholas and family
Community	Pray for the elderly, isolated and vulnerable; pray for those who care for them that they would be strengthened and encouraged. Pray for staff and residents of Ampersand House
People of the parish	Benenden Road (FW), Old George Court (C), Terance Butler Avenue(MCE)
	Wednesday, 12 January
Church's Ministry	Give thanks for technology allowing us to meet for Wednesday fellowship over coffee and pray for those with limited or no access to technology.
Community	Pray for the economic well-being of our country – pray for all businesses in the tourism and entertainment sectors
People of the parish	Berwick Way (MCE), Old School Court (C), Thirlmere Close (FW)
	Thursday, 13 January
Church's Ministry	Pray for Bishop Simon and staff at Bishops court
Community	Pray for wisdom and discernment for all in roles of leadership and authority
People of the parish	Bill Street Road (FW), Olivier Drive (FW), Trident Close (MCE)
	Friday, 14 January
Church's Ministry	Pray for 27 th All Saints Scouting Groups – leaders, volunteers, children and young people taking part
Community	Pray for all NHS and community keyworkers - pray for staff and patients at Medway Hospital
People of the parish	Bingham Road (FW), Omaha Place (FW), Tudor Grove (C)
	Saturday, 15 January
Church's Ministry	Pray for fellowship and safety on our Parish Walk
Community	Pray for all who are struggling in body, mind or spirit
People of the parish	Bogarde Drive (FW), Parsonage Lane (FW), Upchat Road (U)