



**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

**Baptism of Christ**

## Notices:

### Sermon from the Diocese for the Baptism of Christ

Canon Chris Palmer, Canon Chancellor of Exeter Cathedral, leads this sermon reflecting on the Baptism of Jesus Christ, and what it means when we are baptised.

<https://vimeo.com/cofedevon>

### Bishop's New Year Message of Hope

The Bishop of Plymouth, the Right Reverend Nick McKinnel, shares a New Year reflection to mark the start of 2021. At a time when there is still so much anxiety and uncertainty around coronavirus and how Brexit will play out, it is a reminder that we still have good reason to be hopeful: "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Romans 15:13)

<https://exeter.anglican.org/bishops-new-year-2021-message-of-hope/>

### Joseph's Song

The Rev'd Tom Carson, Chaplain of Exeter School, who led our Quiet Day in March has written and recorded a new song about Joseph. Tom says "It tells a bit of the nativity story through the voice of Joseph who is struggling with doubts. There are notes of hope, but also a recognition that the journey is not always easy. That may have particular resonance this Christmas and New Year." [youtube.com/watch?v=IPf4VB1mwUE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPf4VB1mwUE)

### Bishop Robert's Epiphany Message of Community

"To discover how to be human now/Is the reason we follow this star" Bishop Robert quotes the poet WH Auden, writing during World War Two, in his Epiphany newsletter for this January. He also says "At its best, the Church of England is a great community-building institution. We have a lot of experience to bring to the table as our communities cope with this lockdown and, in spite of the grim litany of statistics flooding social media and our television screens, this should give us confidence and hope."

[https://mcusercontent.com/543e9623f7379d75d88235209/files/16cce9de-f178-4322-a212-527258c0a0e9/AD\\_CLERUM\\_Epiphany\\_2021.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/543e9623f7379d75d88235209/files/16cce9de-f178-4322-a212-527258c0a0e9/AD_CLERUM_Epiphany_2021.pdf)

## Readings

	This week	Next week
<b>Readings for this Sunday:</b>		
First Reading	Genesis 1:1-5	1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20)
Psalm	29	139:1-5, 12-17
Second Reading	Acts 19:1-7	Revelation 5:1-10
Gospel	Mark 1:4-11	John 1:43-51

Readings for the week ahead:	Day	Reading
	Mon	11 <sup>th</sup> Mark 1:14-20
	Tue	12 <sup>th</sup> Mark 1:21-28
	Wed	13 <sup>th</sup> Mark 1:29-39
	Thurs	14 <sup>th</sup> Mark 1:40-End
	Fri	15 <sup>th</sup> Mark 2:1-12
	Sat	16 <sup>th</sup> Mark 2:13-17

They can also be viewed/downloaded from <https://bible.oremus.org/>

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## Today's Sunday Services

9.30am	Holy Communion (Said)	- St Mary's, Denbury
11am	Celtic Morning Prayer followed by Communion	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
5pm	Evening Prayer on 'Zoom' email <a href="mailto:maggie.sercombe@hotmail.co.uk">maggie.sercombe@hotmail.co.uk</a> for a link.	

We warmly invite the children who have been baptised in our churches, along with their families, to attend our church services on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> January. All welcome.

## Morning Prayer

9am-9.30am Monday to Thursday  
this week on Zoom email [rev.andrewdown@gmail.com](mailto:rev.andrewdown@gmail.com) for a link.

## Private Prayer & Reflection

Our churches are open for private prayer and reflection throughout the week at the following times:

St Peter & St Paul's, Broadhempston	9am to 4pm	Sundays and Wednesdays
St Andrew's, Ipplepen	9am to 5pm	Daily
St Mary the Virgin, Denbury	10am to 5pm	Daily

Please note, St John the Baptist, Woodland is currently closed for private prayer and reflection.

## Mid-Week Holy Communion Services

Tuesday 10am	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
Thursday 10am	- St Mary's, Denbury

## Next Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Services for Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> January are yet to be confirmed.

## Notices:

### In memory

We keep in our prayers all who have lost loved ones in 2020

### For prayer

As we are at the start of the Third National Lockdown we pray for those who are working in the NHS especially in hospitals that are near breaking point. We also pray for all those suffering from anxiety, depression and other mental illnesses who will find life increasingly difficult during this time.

### The Beacon

The December – January Issue of the Beacon is available to pick up from churches.



## Reflection by Rev'd Tony Meek

Baptism of Christ, Year B  
Mark 1.4-11  
Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2021

The Gospel of Mark was most probably the first to be written, perhaps thirty years or so after Jesus died. In these opening verses of Chapter 1 we are given a clear indication of what it is that the author wants his readers to know about Jesus.

Note that there is no mention of the nativity stories which we find in Luke and Matthew. We cannot be sure whether or not Mark knew stories about the birth of Jesus, but clearly he had a structure in his mind for this Gospel which did not need to include them. It is unfortunate that the reading today misses out the first verses of the chapter which begins 'The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God.'

Baptism is a GOOD THING. There have been many instances of doctors and nurses looking after particularly frail babies who have said that the baby began to thrive after it had been baptised. There is much which we could say about the baptism of Jesus. Jesus is seen at this time publicly demonstrating the type of ministry which he has chosen.

When we baptise a baby, it is more than a putting off of the old self, it is a putting on of the new, perhaps this is made more explicit when we baptise a baby which it is hard to recognise as steeped in sin. So too the baptism of Jesus is not a washing away of the past, but rather a putting on of the new, preparing himself for the great task, setting out his style of ministry.

The baptism of Jesus shows God entering flesh and becoming one of us. At his baptism Jesus goes down into the waters with us. Privilege and power can remove powerful political and religious leaders from the people they are called to serve. The ordinary person can feel that leaders live in a very different world- how especially true that seems at present! But Jesus enters the waters this day, comes up close to us, lets the waters that covered the repentant sinners flow over him. He takes what is weak and wavering, makes us his disciples and strengthens us who would follow him.

The baptism of Jesus is also a symbol of his death, here is the one who came "not to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many." Baptism is a defining moment and Jesus is recognised by God as having chosen the right course for his life. What he sees and hears will bring God's life and energy to his ministry.

There must surely be a connection in the mind of the author of the Gospel of Mark between the tearing of the heavens at the baptism of Jesus (Mk 1:10) and the tearing of the temple veil at the death of Jesus (Mk 15:38). In the dramatic moment when the sky was torn apart, Mark makes the point that the old world order is being ripped up by God and a new age has come.



*Joachim Patinir (c. 1480–1524) - The Baptism of Christ*