



Sunday 24th January 2021

Third Sunday of Epiphany

Services in Lockdown Update (24th Jan 2021)

Whilst staying under review at the current time we are offering the following:

Services via zoom: Each Sunday we will offer a service via zoom alternating between 9.30am and 11am and during the week we will hold morning prayer Monday - Thursday at 9am via zoom.

Communion (said): On Sundays we will have a short said communion service alternating between Denbury and Ipplepen (see notice sheet for details).

During the week we will continue (for the time being) to have said communions on a Tuesday at Ipplepen and Thursday at Denbury at the revised time of 10.15am.

We have reviewed our Covid precautions to ensure that our buildings and any physical services are COVID secure, especially procedures designed to avoid mingling before and after physical services. Services themselves have been pared right back to a simpler, shorter format. No one should feel any obligation to attend.

Telephone support/chat following the church services: Sheila Sheldon, Church Warden from St Andrew's, Ipplepen, will be available by phone, with joy, whether you already know Sheila or not, for an hour and a half following the services. So up to about midday following the 9.30am service and up to about 1.30pm following the 11am service, although Sheila always enjoy a chat any other time too!. Sheila's phone number is (01803) 814227.

Written materials: In addition to services, we are producing weekly written reflections on the Sundays, readings via our notice sheet and are using our Facebook pages to offer further thoughts and reflections during the week.

We will be reviewing arrangements regularly so please look at the church notice sheet, notice boards, Facebook pages and website for up to date information in this rapidly changing situation.

Readings

	This week	Next week
Readings for this Sunday:		
First Reading	Genesis 14:17-20	Melachi 3:1-5
Psalm	128	24:1-6, 7-10
Second Reading	Revelation 19:6-10	Hebrews 2:14-End
Gospel	John 2:1-11	Luke 2:22-40

Readings for the week ahead:	Day	Date	Reading
	Mon	18 th	Mark 2:18-22
	Tue	19 th	Mark 2:23-End
	Wed	20 th	Mark 3:1-6
	Thurs	21 st	Mark 3:7-12
	Fri	22 nd	Mark 3:13-19
	Sat	23 rd	Mark 3:20-21

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

Rector: Rev'd Andrew Down. Tel: 01803 813403 E: rev.andrewdown@gmail.com
Office: Church Office, St. Andrew's Church Hall, Church Path, Ipplepen, TQ12 5RZ
Office hours: Mon, Tues, Wed and Fri: 12 noon to 3pm. Thurs: 11am to 3pm
Tel: 01803 814178 E: office@beaconparishes.co.uk W: www.missioncommunity.org.uk
Facebook pages: www.facebook.com/StAndrewsIpplepen/
www.facebook.com/denburyworship www.facebook.com/Broad20/

Today's Sunday Services

9.30am	Holy Communion (said)	- At the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Denbury
11am	Mission Community Morning Prayer - Zoom	For the Zoom password, email rachelbelringer@gmail.com

Morning Prayer

9am - 9.30am Monday to Thursday
this week on Zoom email 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	10.15am	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
Thursday	10.15am	- St Mary's, Denbury

Next Sunday 31st January – Presentation of Christ in the Temple

9.30am	Mission Community Morning Prayer	- Zoom
		For the Zoom password, email rachelbelringer@gmail.com
11am	Holy Communion (said)	- At St Andrew's Church, Ipplepen

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.

Sermon for the 3rd Sunday of Epiphany - 24th Jan by the Ven. Nick Shutt

The Archdeacon of Plymouth, the Ven. Nick Shutt shares this sermon reflecting on the first sign of Jesus Christ, turning water into wine at the Wedding in Cana. <https://vimeo.com/cofedevon>



Reflection by Steve Sheldon

Third Sunday of Epiphany
John 2:1-11
Sunday 24th January 2021

A HELPING HAND by Jaunty Jack, 2008

I was on the road one night,
 when I saw in my headlights
 a lady dressed all in white.
 On the road one night.
She flagged me down, I stopped my rig,
 I offered her a ride.
 She said she'd lost her way at night
 as she stepped inside.

Tell me what it all comes down to, this precious life of mine.
 The miracle of a helping hand can turn water into wine.

When you're driving overnight,
 you yearn for the dawning light;
 but under the spell of that ol' white line
 you can lose your life.

She woke me from my startled sleep,
 I grabbed the wheel, steered it right;
 I prayed the Lord my soul to keep
 and stopped for the night.

Tell me what it all comes down to, this precious life of mine.
 The miracle of a helping hand can turn water into wine.

Then I wondered what might've happened
 if I hadn't given her a ride.
 I'd have never seen my happy home
 or my darlin' wife.

Water into wine, happens every time.
 The miracle of a helping hand is like water into wine.

So this is what it all comes 'round to:
 help each other and you might find
 The miracle of a helping hand can turn water into wine.

These lyrics were written by my song-writing partner, my life-long school buddy Jack-in-Oregon, making his wry reflection on the story in today's gospel reading [**John 2:1-11**].

I'll confess to having often struggled with this story for its seeming triviality, Jesus' mum nagging him to do a party trick by magically creating 800 bottles of wine for an already drunken crowd of revellers. It's a difficult scene to picture. But it is indeed a "miracle" that is performed by Jesus in that it is a "marvellous supernatural event". But was it an appropriate one?

We can probably disregard that question if we note that John's Gospel doesn't use the word "miracle" for the extraordinary things Jesus did, but rather "signs", which is a different thing. This action of Jesus was "*the first of his signs*" and it caused the disciples to believe in him, to have faith and trust in him that he is the person they think he might be, that is, the Messiah. So, signs are important things that lead us to the right place, that point out the way, that cause us to look away from the event to something greater, like God's Kingdom. Maybe then, water into wine was a good sign, leading others to faith in Jesus.

But what is Jack's use of this story saying? I think that it is an affirmation of the existence of *altruism*, the unselfish regard for others, which in our modern culture is under attack. There are elements in society today that would deny that humans are capable of doing good deeds for their own sake, that everything we choose to do is for our own personal benefit. We find this in libertarian politics, extreme free-market economics, in genetic science studies, and cynical, nihilistic social media. It is the foundation stone of the commercial internet, based on the amoral libertarian writings of Ayn Rand.

But if we have faith in Jesus, we know that isn't true, that humans are not just another species of animal which is capable *only* of a survival instinct. As the Oysterband sang, "*Stupidity and Glory is everybody's story*". Bumbling humans, we are nonetheless capable of the miracle of offering a helping hand with no expectation of benefit.

I was struck by the response of a young girl at a Quaker school when she was asked what the meaning of "integrity" is: *Doing the right thing even when no one is looking.* A marvellous [super]natural event we are all capable of choosing to do. Ponder, pray, discuss.

"You, creator-God, have written your great name on humankind"

Fred Kaan, hymn 186