



## Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2023 (Amended)

## Third Sunday of Epiphany

### 'Coffee Time!' At St Andrew's Church on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March from 10.30am to 12 noon (ish).

Everyone is welcome to the first 'Coffee Time!' on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March. There is no charge, donations only. We are hoping that you will come and enjoy a cup of delicious fresh coffee and tea and a piece of cake or biscuit. Bring friends and enjoy the space in our historic building. The coffee morning will be held on the 2nd Saturday of each month from March 2023.

**Dr Paul Russell, Churchwarden from Broadhempston, is running the London Marathon for Compassion UK**, a Christian charity, supporting children in extreme poverty. Please read his article in The February and March 2023 edition of The Beacon Magazine.

**Beacon Parishes Lent Reading 2023 - Time to get the book!** During lent this year we are encouraging as many people as possible to read The Book of Forgiving by Desmond & Mpho TuTu. To assist this, we will use the weekly notice sheet to ask questions to prompt reflection on what we are reading. For those who wish we, will also offer a weekly group where you discuss the book.

**February Prayer Diary.** Every month The Diocese of Exeter produce a prayer diary with daily intercessory prayers for local communities. The February Prayer Diary has just been uploaded to their website: <https://exeter.anglican.org/prayer-diary/>

**Judge Rinder to mark Holocaust Memorial Day in Exeter 27 January, 10am, Exeter Cathedral** Criminal barrister and television personality Rob Rinder, known to many as Judge Rinder, will be giving a talk as part of the Holocaust Memorial Day event at Exeter Cathedral on 27 January. Rinder's own family were affected by the Holocaust; his grandfather was sent to and survived concentration camps during the Second World War. The memorial event at Exeter Cathedral will also feature songs from local primary school children and will be an opportunity to remember the innocent lives lost along with honouring the survivors. If you would like to attend this free event, tickets are available here. [www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/holocaust-memorial-day-20230127-100000/](http://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/holocaust-memorial-day-20230127-100000/)

Readings	This week	Next week
<b>Readings for this Sunday:</b>		
1st Reading	Isaiah 9:1-4	Malachi 3:1-5
Psalm	27:1, 4-12	24:1-6, 7-End
2nd Reading	1 Corinthians 1:10-18	Hebrews 2:14-End
Gospel	Matthew 4:12-23	Luke 2:22-40
<b>Readings for the week ahead:</b>		
Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Mark 3:22-30	Thurs 26 <sup>th</sup> Luke 10:1-9
Tue 24 <sup>th</sup>	Mark 3:31-End	Fri 27 <sup>th</sup> Mark 4:26-34
Wed 25 <sup>th</sup>	Matt 19:27-End	Sat 28 <sup>th</sup> Mark 4:35-End

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

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### Today - Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January - (Week of Prayer for Christian Unity)

9.30 am	Holy Communion	- St Mary the Virgin, Denbury
11.00 am	Holy Communion	- Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston
11.00 am	Churches Together	- Ipplepen Methodist Church

### Morning Prayer

This week morning prayer will be said at the following times:

Tuesday	9.15 am	- St Andrew's Ipplepen
Wednesday	9.15 am	- Online Via Zoom (for the zoom password email <a href="mailto:rev.andrewdown@gmail.com">rev.andrewdown@gmail.com</a> )
Thursday	9.15 am	- St Mary the Virgin, Denbury
Friday	9.15 am	- Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston (A time of silent prayer and meditation)

### Reflection

All our churches are open for private prayer and reflection throughout the week from approximately 9am to 5pm each day.

### Mid-Week

Rev'd Andrew Down - Day off on Mondays.

Monday	3pm-5pm	'T-Pot'	- Church Cottage, Denbury
		Bellringing Practice	- Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston
Tuesday	10.15 am	Holy Communion	- St Andrew's Ipplepen
	12 noon	Funeral and Burial Service of Peter Byrom OBE	- St John the Baptist, Woodland
Wednesday	7.00 pm	Bellringing Practice	- St Mary the Virgin, Denbury
	7.30 pm	Bellringing Practice	- St Andrew's Ipplepen
Thursday	10.15 am	Holy Communion	- Church Cottage, Denbury
	<b>1.00 pm</b>	Funeral and Burial Service of Derek Reed	- St Andrew's Ipplepen
Friday	1.30 pm	Funeral and Burial Service of Mary Cleave	- St Mary the Virgin, Denbury

### Next Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January – Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

(Presentation of Christ in the Temple: Candlemas)

10.00 am	Mission Community Service	- St Mary the Virgin, Denbury
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**Points of Prayer:** During the season of Epiphany, we pray for... The unity of the Church.... The peace of the world... and the healing of the sick.

**In Memory:** Ian House, Frank Petty, Arthur Guppy, Jenny Buckle, Peter Byrom, Ann Hockin Higby, Mary Cleave, Derek Reed, John Harris, Ron Paston and Margaret Maddicott.



## Reflection by Rev'd Anne Burden

Epiphany 3  
22<sup>nd</sup> January 2023

As we draw closer to the end of the Christmas/Epiphany season - which comes at Candlemas (February 2nd) - it's time to gather up any insights which may have come to us this year, and where they might be leading. The crib is still in Church as the only 'decoration' remaining to the end of the season - reminding us of the central truth of Christmas, "he came down to earth from heaven". God chose to come among his people as Jesus and make his home in human hearts and lives - not just in the stable in Bethlehem, but always and forever. A dirty stable was good enough for Jesus - and so are the dark, dangerous and desperate places in our world today. That's where we'll find him now - so let's not be misguided like the magi were, and look in rich and glittery palaces. Jesus - human like us - and wanting to share our lives and fill them with his light and love. Amazing - isn't it!

But there's more to Jesus than the picture of the baby in the manger with his parents and the animals standing by. The gifts brought by the magi at Epiphany were not just strangely chosen birthday presents for a baby - but pointers to his nature and his destiny. Jesus - fully human - but also a King, symbolised by the gift of Gold - also a Holy God, symbolised by Frankincense - and also destined for suffering and death, symbolised by the gift of Myrrh. Those who know the whole of the Christian story do well to remind themselves of this is how it was from the beginning. Jesus was - and is - more than a baby in a manger - and is still living with and loving his people - especially his hurting ones.

The gospel stories for the Sundays in Epiphany take us further and deeper into the life and nature of Jesus, and the passage set for today moves into the stage when Jesus was an adult. People who know even a little about Jesus would probably talk of him as a preacher and a healer. Certainly he was - but

here at the very beginning of his ministry, he did neither of these things. Our gospel passage today tells us that Jesus's first act was to invite others to join him - to travel and share their lives with him. It was the beginning of a community - members of God's kingdom "on earth as it is in heaven". Jesus invited his followers to belong, and in turn to invite others to belong - to join in relationship with one another and with God himself. And so the kingdom grew and spread - not just among Jews, but into the Gentile world. All were welcome - all are still welcome. God invites everyone - and asks them to work with him to issue the invitation to others. A challenge of Epiphany is to decide who we are going to invite, and how we are going to accomplish this.

I could finish here - perhaps I should!! - but the New Testament reading from Paul's letter to the Corinthians deserves a brief comment. Remember that this was written after the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus, when the emerging Christian church was spreading into the Gentile world - full of different people, different places of origin, different leaders, different traditions. Members had become competitive - each thinking that their own version of the Christian story was best. Paul was concerned that in their rivalry and quarrelling, they were in danger of losing touch with the heart of their faith - that Jesus had died on the cross out of love for his people, and had risen from the dead as a sign of his gift of new life.

Paul's message is relevant to us too - 2000 years later when the community of the Christian church has become even bigger and broader. We too can be tempted to think that our way is best - or even the only true way. It can lead to disputes - which are no way of spreading God's love and acceptance. So we too must hold on to the heart of our faith - that our 'king' is a crucified and resurrected God, who still lives among his people bringing light and love. We are now in the middle of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, reminding us - I hope - that our Christian brothers and sisters from other churches and denominations are as much part of the Body of Christ as we are. We are called to be Kingdom People together - proclaiming God's love to all those we live among, and his invitation to new and eternal life.