

Sunday 10th January 2021

Toothill Church Newsletter

Issue 696

'To Know Christ and to make him Known'



Sunday 10th January 2021 Notices, Readings, Prayers

John the Baptist



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In Partnership (The Partnership Monthly magazine): <http://wswinlyd.org.uk/news>

Prayers for today



Do please let us know if there is someone you would like to add to the list for prayer, remembering that we must have the permission of the person for whom we would be praying. Please pray for Graham's cousin Hayley, Norris, Sarah, Hazel, and all those you know who are in need of God's special love, care and healing.

We pray for our ministers Clive, Rachael, Trevor and Teresa and all our worship leaders across the Partnership. May God bless us all with wisdom and strength for the challenges of each day of this New Year. Please pray for your home congregation that they may be sustained until we can meet together again and for the continuing work with our children, young people and families in West Swindon. We pray for Grace, Peace and a way forward in your Love in these uncertain times in our lives. May we continually thank God for his great Love and Faithfulness.

This Sunday URC Online Service: dailydevotions@urc.org.uk

Dear Friends,

Sunday's service will be looking at the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan. It is led by The Revd. Memona Shahbaz. Memona is a minister in Eastbourne in the URC's Southern Synod. We are returning to our 'traditional' format of services. Hymns include Summoned by the God who made us, a wonderful Robin Mark rendition of All to Jesus I surrender, Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God Almighty and What a friend we have in Jesus.

The service will be sent out, as normal, at 9.45 on Sunday morning for a 10am start. If you have any problems receiving it please read on for advice.

with every good wish

Dan

Dan Morrell

One of the wise men, Daily Devotions from the URC

Church Christmas Update

I hope everyone managed to enjoy Christmas and the New Year celebrations in spite of the restrictions placed upon us by the government due to the Pandemic situation. We now find ourselves back in lockdown. Through the pages of the Newsletter and the Weekly Ramble I will keep you informed about what we are doing as a church. At the moment it would be inadvisable to hold services in the church so we will continue to use Zoom for our worship until further notice.

Preparing the church for Christmas we had a display in the entrance of the church which could be seen by everyone standing outside the front door.

The nativity scene was on display in the window of the entrance to the church, thank you David and Nicola.



The Christmas display on the notice board inside the entrance, thank you Jan and Gordon.

For the decorations on the Christmas tree in the entrance area and the decorations outside on the grounds and in the trees, thank you Rebecca, Ed and the ladies.

Looking back over the Christmas period we managed to organise a number of worship Zoom meetings and one carol evening.

Every Sunday in Advent we held a Zoom service.

Monday 30th November Music group met via Zoom for a get together, thank you Nicola for arranging this.

Friday 11th December We held a 'Carols by Zoom' evening when we sang carols and had a short interval for chatting, eating and drinking before continuing with the singing. Thank you to everyone who took part it was an enjoyable evening.

Thursday 24th December Outside the church we held an evening of carols for Christmas Eve which was well attended with everyone being socially distanced. Many people were so happy to have a Christmas event which was open to all. An excellent evening and many thanks must go to Rebecca Ed and the ladies of Toothill Tinies and Friday Club.

WaterAid

We have received a thank you letter from WaterAid for our contribution to them of £53.59. Please see attached letters.

Day-group for Jesus Spring Programme Jan 21 to Mar 21

Meeting– 1:30pm to 3:30pm

Monday, 11th January 21 - Counsel – Leader Pete

Monday, 25th January 21 - Fortitude – Leader Edward

Monday, 8th February 21 – Reverence – Leader tbd

Monday, 22nd February 21 – Fear of the Lord – Leader tbd

Monday, 8th March 21 – When we were still far off – Leader tbd

Monday, 22nd March 21 – The Lamb of God – Leader tbd

For further details contact:

Edward Glennie – edglennie@hotmail.com - 07598482538

Peter Rogers – peter.rogers5599@ntlworld.com – 07500355201

We will be continuing with our Zoom calls until further notice. Zoom Meeting details are:

Click on link below to join meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/92404636497?pwd=bFJlbFM5TFdsalppekdRV2o1QzJEZz09>

Meeting ID: 924 0463 6497

Passcode: 181042

Dial-in Number: 0330 088 5830

Motto:

The Armour of God - Ephesians 6: 10 to 11 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armour of God, ...

The dates for meetings can also be found on Holy Trinity Shaw's website:

Website: <http://htschurch.org.uk/>

Reading - Mark 1: 4-11 living Bible

4 This messenger was John the Baptist. He lived in the wilderness and taught that all should be baptized as a public announcement of their decision to turn their backs on sin, so that God could forgive them.

5 People from Jerusalem and from all over Judea travelled out into the Judean wastelands to see and hear John, and when they confessed their sins, he baptized them in the Jordan River.

6 His clothes were woven from camel's hair and he wore a leather belt; locusts and wild honey were his food.

7 Here is a sample of his preaching:

"Someone is coming soon who is far greater than I am, so much greater that I am not even worthy to be his slave. 8 I baptize you with water but he will baptize you with God's Holy Spirit!"

9 Then one day Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee, and was baptized by John there in the Jordan River.

10 The moment Jesus came up out of the water, he saw the heavens open and the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove descending on him,

11 and a voice from heaven said, "You are my beloved Son; you are my Delight."

Prayer

I can barely believe it God,

that those words, spoken by Jesus affirmed by John the Baptist could possibly apply to my life.

I am such a half hearted, fearful follower

you can't possibly want someone like me in your glorious kingdom of love.

Yet at my baptism I was chosen and marked with the sign of the cross –

a symbol of just how far your love would go for me –

your wayward child,

unworthy companion of Christ.

Loving father God,

parent of all, help me rise from the waters of doubt,

to new life with Jesus.

let me feel your spirit hovering close;

hear your words of hope;

and know I am forgiven,

restored, and

bathed in your amazing love for me.

Carol Dixon URC prayer handbook

From the URC - for online services dailydevotions@urc.org.uk

Now all the nations of the UK are in various forms of lockdown I thought it might be useful to remind you that, even in these difficult times, we will still be sending out a daily reading, reflection and prayer early each morning AND, every Sunday, we will still be sending out a service.

We realise that many churches will wish to suspend in person worship - out of love for their members, their minister and those who lead worship, as well love for the wider community. Many churches are able to provide some form of virtual worship but many others aren't and these, in particular, might value the Daily Devotion services.

We are also aware of many people who are shielding and limiting the occasions when they go out regardless of whether their church is offering in person worship. Of course, many people who are still attending in-person worship like to supplement that with the range of preachers that we've recruited for the Devotions services.

We don't know how long these restrictions will continue for but Dan and I have worship already produced until the end of February and preachers booked until Pentecost in May. Over the next few weeks we will have worship led by the following ministers:

Sunday 10th January, the Rev'd Meмона Shabaz
Sunday 17th January, the Rev'd Dr John McNeil Scott
Sunday 24th January, the Rev'd Mike Walsh
Sunday 31st January, the Rev'd Nicola Furley Smith

Sunday 7th February, the Rev'd Sue Fender
Sunday 14th February, the Rev'd William Young,
Sunday 21st February, the Rev'd Samuel Cyuma
Sunday 28th February, the Rev'd Jenny Mills

I hope that despite the race between virus and vaccine we all keep faith that things will get better and that God continues to hold us in the palm of His hand.

With every good wish

Andy

The Rev'd Andy Braunston

Co-ordinator, Daily Devotions from the URC

[Baptist Union of Great Britain](#)

18-25 January: Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Materials are now available for this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Prepared by the sisters of the Monastic Community of Grandchamp, Switzerland, the theme this year is 'Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit', based on John 15:1-17. The sisters invite us to join with them in their traditions of prayer and silence. Click here to [download this year's resources in English and Welsh](#).

[Peace begins with smile and some important philosophical questions on life ..](#)



Why do supermarkets make the sick walk all the way to the back of the store to get their prescriptions while healthy people can buy cigarettes at the front?

Why do people order double cheeseburgers, large fries, and a diet coke?

Why do we leave cars worth thousands of pounds on our driveways and put our useless junk in the garage?

Ever wonder... Why the sun lightens our hair, but darkens our skin?

[Toothill Church website](#)

