

Epiphany 3

Sunday January 21st 2024

Hymn

**Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
the Holy One is here;
come, bow before him now,
with reverence and fear.
In him no sin is found,
we stand on holy ground.
Be still for the presence of the Lord,
the Holy One is here.**

**Be still, for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around;
he burns with holy fire,
with splendour he is crowned.
How awesome is the sight,
our radiant King of Light.
Be still, for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around**

**Be still, for the power of the Lord
is moving in this place,
he comes to cleanse and heal,
to minister his grace.
No work too hard for him,
in faith receive from him.
Be still, for the power of the Lord
is moving in this place.**

Prayer for the Day

Lord of the wedding day,
passion of joining
and spirit of festival:
take our hearts of stone
and flood them with new wine
that we might savour ordinary miracles
given to sense and taste,
through Jesus Christ, the Winemaker.

Amen.

First Reading Genesis 14.17-20

A reading from the book of Genesis.

After Abram's return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley). And King Melchizedek of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was priest of God Most High. He blessed him and said,
'Blessed be Abram by God Most High,
 maker of heaven and earth;
and blessed be God Most High,
 who has delivered your enemies into your hand!'
And Abram gave him one-tenth of everything.

For the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Second Reading Revelation 19.6-10

A reading from the book of Revelation.

I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty thunder-peals, crying out,

‘Hallelujah!

For the Lord our God
the Almighty reigns.

Let us rejoice and exult
and give him the glory,

for the marriage of the Lamb has come,
and his bride has made herself ready;
to her it has been granted to be clothed
with fine linen, bright and pure’—

for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

And the angel said to me, ‘Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.’ And he said to me, ‘These are true words of God.’ Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, ‘You must not do that! I am a fellow-servant with you and your comrades who hold the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.’

For the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Hymn

**Give thanks with a grateful heart,
give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks because he's given
Jesus Christ, his Son.**

**And now let the weak say 'I am strong!'
let the poor say 'I am rich,
because of what the Lord has done for us';
and now let the weak say 'I am strong!'
let the poor say 'I am rich,
because of what the Lord has done for us'.**

**Give thanks with a grateful heart,
give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks because he's given
Jesus Christ, his Son.
Give thanks.**

Gospel Reading

John 2.1-11

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

There was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, 'Fill the

jars with water.’ And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, ‘Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.’ So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, ‘Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.’ Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you O Christ

Hymn

**Brother, sister, let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant, too.**

**We are pilgrims on a journey,
we are trav’llers on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.**

**I will hold the Christlight for you
in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.**

**I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow
till we've seen this journey through.**

**When we sing to God in heaven
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.**

**Brother, sister, let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant, too.**

Post-Communion Prayer

**Almighty Father,
whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ
is the light of the world:
may your people,
illuminated by your word and sacraments,
shine with the radiance of his glory,
that he may be known, worshipped,
and obeyed to the ends of the earth;
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.
Amen.**

Hymn

**Jesus Christ is waiting,
waiting in the streets;
no one is his neighbour,
all alone he eats.
Listen, Lord Jesus,
I am lonely too;
make me, friend or stranger,
fit to wait on you.**

**Jesus Christ is raging,
raging in the streets,
where injustice spirals
and all hope retreats.
Listen, Lord Jesus,
I am angry too;
in the kingdom's causes
let me rage with you.**

**Jesus Christ is healing,
healing in the streets;
curing those who suffer,
touching those he greets.
Listen, Lord Jesus,
I have pity too;
let my care be active,
healing just like you.**

Jesus Christ is dancing,
dancing in the streets,
where each sign of hatred
his strong love defeats.
Listen, Lord Jesus,
I feel triumph too;
on suspicion's graveyard,
let me dance with you.

Jesus Christ is calling,
calling in the streets,
"Come and walk faith's tightrope,
I will guide your feet."
Listen, Lord Jesus,
let my fears be few;
walk one step before me;
I will follow you.

6.30pm this evening a Taizé Service in St Thomas. This is the annual CTWA Service to mark the Week of Christian Unity.

Joanna Birkett is a Lay Member of Chapter and she is being installed as a Prebendary of Wells Cathedral and a Member of the College of Canons. This will take place in the service of Evensong at 5.15 on Thursday 25th January. It would be lovely if you are able to attend the service. You do not need to reserve a seat, you can just turn up. Joanna would also appreciate support through your prayers.

For our prayers

Prayers for the Parish:

St Thomas Street; Chantry Close; Woodview; Lorne Place;
Tor Street; Tor Furlong; Teulon Court

Prayers for our link churches in Zambia

Please pray for St Augustine's Church & St Monica's Church,
Livingstone East and their priest Rev Ackson Kampala

Prayers for those who are ill:

Audrey Parkes; Jean; Robert: Helen; Eva & family; Jenny & Geoff;
Alethea; Isaac; Molly Marshall; Sheila Stocker; Dorothy Dennis;
Lizzie Fox

R.I.P. Jean Cottrell; Eric Holmes

Those whose year's mind occurs at this time:

Evelyn Loder	(23-01-2000)	John Morgan	(24-01-2018)
Rose Parfitt	(25-01-1998)	William Crossland	(25-01-1977)
Frances Edwards	(26-01-1979)	Di Michell	(26-01-2004)
Richard Garton	(27-01-1985)		

*Thursdays at 11am - Pause to Pray for our legacy and for the
redevelopment project.*

Livingstone East, Zambia

Fr Ackson Kampala has written to say that they are very grateful
for our prayers and that at the moment they are trying to raise
enough funds to buy a car for the parish. They have raised a fair
sum already but they would appreciate our prayers for this
project.

The parish is very large and transport is not easy. When Jan
James and I visited in 2019 the priest borrowed a car to show us
round. *Chris Jenkins*

This week:

Tues	10 – 12	Coffee Stop in church
	2 – 4pm	<i>GA Choir rehearsals</i>
Wed	9.30-11am	ABC2 parents/carers & tots in the hall
	11am	Eucharist a quiet said service
Thurs	10 – 11am	Keep Fit in the church hall
	2 – 4pm	Snack & Chat in the community room
Sun	10am	Parish Eucharist (Candlemas)

Safeguarding Training with Coffee and Cakes

Mon 29th January 10am -12.30pm or

Thurs 1st February 10.15am – 12.45 pm

As mentioned before Christmas, Joanna and Mike have arranged 2 sessions for as many people as possible to attend the Basic Awareness Training in the Church. It is for everyone involved in helping at Crafty Church, ABC2, Coffee Stop, for all who welcome, and PCC members, if they haven't already attended a course in the last 2 years. Anyone in the congregation who is not part of a team would be warmly encouraged to come so that we all understand just how Safeguarding is part of our Christian pastoral care for each other. **Please sign up for 1 of the sessions on the list at the back of church.**

~~~~~

**The funeral service for Jean Cottrell will be held in St Thomas's church at 11.00am on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February. The family invite all of Jean's friends in the congregation to come along to the service and request that you either wear pink/purple or that you have an item that colour with you such as scarf, gloves, handbag. Jean's daughter Elaine said this was her mum's favourite colour!**

**Crafty Church - Saturday February 3rd 10.30 - 12.00.**

Crafts and worship followed by lunch of soup & bread roll and pizza. Our theme for the morning will be **Candlemas and Love**. If you would like to find out more, or feel you can help in any way, please speak to Judy or the Office. There is a list of activities and a sign-up sheet at the back of church. If you are able to make some soup that would be great!

~~~~~

The Children's Society - I should be grateful if those of you who have Children's Society collection boxes at home could please return them to Caroline in the Church Office by 31 January. I can then pay the money to the Children's Society and let you each know how much you collected. Thank you. *Celia Kennett*.

~~~~~

**A Memorial Service for Anne Minns will be held in Wells Cathedral at 2pm on Thursday 22 February. All are welcome**

~~~~~

Recycling you candles

You can bring any used candles to put in our candle recycling box at the back of church. They will the go to the **Recycled Candle Company**.

We sent 12 kg a few weeks ago. It avoids land waste and the company gives back to charity.

~~~~~

**Wells Community Day Event on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January  
Wells Cathedral from 10am to 4pm**

More than 70 stalls and a huge range of musical entertainment will be on offer. Free performances, workshops, music and activities to take part in all day long.

# Trio Paradis Café Concert

## Iberia

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February at 11am**

**in St Thomas church** (café is open 10.30am)

Trio Paradis café concerts are informal feel-good music events with a pop-up café where you can meet friends and make new ones over tea/coffee and home-made cakes.



**Iberia is a collection of music by mostly Spanish composers to bring us some sunshine during February, including Turina's Circulo and works by de Falla, Fernandez-Arbos, Albeniz, Pauline Viardot and others.**

The concert last about 45mins and entrance is free with pay-what-you-feel donation invited.

Refreshments available in the café half an hour before the concert.

*No need to book, just turn up.*