

St Luke's Newsletter

www.stlukeswhyteleafe.co.uk

January Edition



Conversation and Communion at St Luke's Tuesday Evening Eucharists 7.30pm

- 2nd Jan No Service
- 9th Jan Epiphany GOLD for Kingship
- 16th Jan Epiphany FRANKINCENSE for Priestly Ministry
- 23rd Jan Epiphany MYRRH for Christ's Passion

The Inklings starts again
14th January 9.30am
in the transept



The Epiphany Season – What's it all about?

Having valiantly bucked the culture and kept the Christmas feasting going for a full twelve days, it would be easy, at last, to give in and to move on. And yet, having come so far, wouldn't it be unfortunate simply to resume the standard routines of our lives as if nothing had changed?

When the Twelve Days of Christmas are over, the Church does not go into hibernation. Indeed, what comes next gives us an opportunity to move from the private ponderings of blessed Mary and the wonder and praise of the shepherds to a closer consideration of the public meaning and proper response to all that we have seen and heard. We must not be at ease, and the Church is not at ease, for the Twelve Days end with the Eve of another Feast, the Epiphany.

"Epiphany" means "manifestation." The full title of this feast that begins a new season of the Church Year is, "The Epiphany, or the Manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles." The Epiphany season, which extends from January 6th through to Shrove Tuesday, highlights various occasions when Jesus was manifested to both Jews and Gentiles. To begin with, we will focus on the very first manifestation to the Gentiles, when wise men from the East came to visit the infant Child in Bethlehem.

Tradition says that there were three wise men, or "magi," who came from the East, following a star and seeking the newborn King of the Jews. In fact, St. Matthew says nothing about the number of visitors. The number three seems to derive from the gifts they brought, which were three in number: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. The wise men are also called "kings" because of a reference in the Psalms: *The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall give presents; the kings of Arabia and Saba shall bring gifts. (Ps. 72:10)* In the course of time, they acquired names. In the West they became known as Caspar (or Gaspard or Jasper), Melchior, and Balthazar, and other Christian traditions have also found names for them.

While much has been written about who they were and what prompted them to make the journey to see Jesus, all of that seems to us to miss the point. Whether there were three of them or a hundred and three, and whether we know their names or not, the story of their journey is not about them, for their principal role is to point to Jesus, to make others aware of him, and who he is. Even they do not fully understand this. On the one hand, they bring gifts of mystical meaning that manifest the character and saving work of Jesus. On the other hand, in their desire to fulfill their quest, they seem oblivious to the potentially dangerous consequences of their very public inquiries. By alerting the jealous King Herod to the birth of a rival king, they place the life of Jesus and of every other innocent young boy of Bethlehem in jeopardy.

In the end, Jesus escapes the wrath of the tyrant, but the other boys do not. Nevertheless, the wise men have a role to play, and this they do. Thanks to them, from the very beginning of the story we know that, no matter how humble his apparent origins, this Jesus is no local hero, but the universal Saviour, destined to be known and worshiped throughout the world, and to bring salvation to all people.

Like all major feasts, the celebration of Epiphany begins on its eve, which is also Twelfth Night, the end of the celebration of Christmas. Christmas and Epiphany share the custom of giving gifts. In fact, in many countries, gifts are given on Epiphany, not Christmas. Of course, both are appropriate. On Christmas, God the Father gave us the unimaginably great gift of his only Son, and we honour that gift by giving gifts to one another. On Epiphany, the wise men gave gifts to the Holy Child. Many honour the Christ in one another by also giving gifts, but we must remember that giving gifts to one another is not really the point. As Christina Rossetti puts it in her hymn, "In the bleak midwinter,"

What can I give him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; If I were a wise man,
I would do my part; Yet what I can I give him Give my heart.

Rev Tim Goode.

PARISH REGISTER

Interment of Ashes

- 9th Dec Trevor Hibberd
- 24th Dec John Nicholls

Thanksgiving Service

- 9th Dec Sydney Wilmshurst

MORNING PRAYER 8.30am

At 8.30am on Wednesday Morning all members of Caterham Churches are welcome to join the Caterham Churches Together Morning Prayer.

Each month a different church is chosen to lead the prayers.

In January on Wednesday mornings they are meeting at St Peter and St Pauls, Chaldon

Confirmation and Enquirers Course

If you would like to join in learning about our Christian faith and exploring the possibility of confirmation we will be running 6 sessions at **8pm** in the evening at the vicarage:

Wed Jan 3rd Wed Jan 10th Wed Jan 17th
Wed Jan 24th

SATURDAY Jan 27th Confirmation Service at Southwark Cathedral

Wed 31st Jan & Feb 7th post confirmation discussions.

If you would be interested in this short course then please email Rev Helen with the subject title: *Confirmation and Enquirers* hjburnett@msn.com



The Corner House Cafe in the Transept, St Luke's Tuesday 30th January 2.30 - 4.30pm

The perfect place to make new friends,
enjoy a traditional English tea
and join in a variety of activities.
Just turn up.
You'll have a great time.

Bring and Share Lunch at St Luke's

Sunday January 7th at 1pm,

We are holding the first of our regular Bring & Share lunches.

They will be held every other month, dates for 2018 are: March 4th May, 6th July 1st October 7th (Harvest) & Dec 2nd



My Time in Uganda

Thursday 1st February at 7pm in the church

Come and join Rev Tim for an evening of slides and talk on his time in Uganda with International Needs.

£130 for St Luke's

To mark the 130th Anniversary of insuring Anglican churches, Ecclesiastical Insurance is offering to pay £130 to the church for any individual who takes out a home insurance policy with them before 31st December 2018.

St Luke's Church Council are bringing this to your attention, but **we are not particularly recommending that you take their insurance.** You will have to consider whether the cover and the cost are appropriate to your needs and represent value for money.

If you would like to know more about this, there is a notice with details on the noticeboard in the porch.

For more information, go to www.ecclesiastical.com/Trust130 or phone 0800 783 0130.

If you need to contact the vicar Rev. Tim Goode please telephone 020 8660 4015 or email: stlukeswhyteleafe@gmail.com
Please note Day of Rest Monday.



CANDLEMAS A LIGHT BULB MOMENT

Thursday 1st February
3.15pm – 4.45pm

Fun for all the family
Activities, Crafts,
& Story



Services During January

Sunday 7th January - Epiphany

8.00am BCP Eucharist
9.30am All Age Service

Tuesday 9th January

7.30pm Conversation and Communion

Sunday 14th January - 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

9.30am Eucharist & Inklings

Tuesday 16th January

7.30pm Conversation and Communion

Sunday 21st January - 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

9.30am Eucharist & Inklings

Tuesday 23rd January

7.30pm Conversation and Communion

Sunday 28th January - Presentation of Christ

9.30am Eucharist & Inklings

Tuesday 30th January

7.30pm Conversation and Communion