

St Matthias & St George Parish Church.
A member of "Christ the King" team ministry.
Week Commencing 5th January 2020, Epiphany Sunday

.. the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Ephesians 3 v 6

Fr Glenn Reading - Team Vicar

Tel 01527 894436 or 07964 282278

Curate: Mthr. Victoria Barlow email

victoriabarlow@hotmail.com

Services for today Sunday 5th January 2020

9 am The service today is not a Prayer Book Service. There is a special Order of Service to mark the high point of Christmas; the Feast of Epiphany. The liturgy will include the blessing of the church for Epiphany. There will also be a sheet of prayers available that people can take away in order to bless their own homes.

10.30 am Informal Family Service led by Irene

Services for W/C 5th January

Tuesday 7th 10.00 am said Eucharist

Sunday 12th 10.30 am sung Eucharist (Common Worship) with Sunday Stars in the hall

We pray for those who are sick: - Philippa, Rosie, Alex, Jean, Joyce, Margaret, Marion, Alexei, Dora, Margaret, Stewart, Margaret, Nesta, Hazel, Heather, Ben, Carol, Talisein and Carla.

Foodbanks: There is a box at the rear of the church in which food and toiletry gifts can be placed which will go to **Nightstop**.

A prayer notice board is available for requests at the back of the church. Please write on it prayers for those who are sick or who need our prayer support for any reason.

Fr Glenn says, "I would like to thank everyone involved in the Christmas Services, and the preparation and decoration of the church for our Christmas celebrations. All your efforts are truly appreciated."

'Open conversations' The Diocese is planning a series of meetings around the diocese to look at how ministry is going to be funded in the future in light of current budget problems. The Diocese is already planning to cut 15 stipendiary posts! Please take a leaflet from the back of the church and attend one of the meetings if you can.

Prayer Chain: If you have someone you wish to be prayed for, please contact Pauline Jones on 892650 who will then contact other members of the Prayer Group.

Home Visits: Anyone who wishes to have a home visit or receive home communion should contact Irene Hamilton on 894179

Faith at Work in Worcestershire is holding a meeting to raise awareness of the current issue of modern day slavery and human trafficking. The meeting will be on **Saturday February 8th from 10am to 1 pm at The Ark, St Laurence Church, Alverchurch**. The event is free and fully accessible. The morning will be led by two members of the West Mercia Police, Exploitation and Vulnerability Team

Tickets are available from:

Online: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/slavery-and-human-trafficking-in-our-economy-tickets-83980123811?aff=affiliate1>

Email: comms@faithatwork.org.uk

Phone: 01905 621 780

Stamps! Christmas may have gone but please put any stamps collected from Christmas cards in the box at the back of the church or in an envelope through Pam Emery's letterbox.

CTiR: This month Churches Together in Redditch is asking us to give thanks and to pray for those who encountered Jesus through his people, and in his Church, over the Christmas period. We are asked to pray for those especially known to us that this year might become a new beginning for them rather than an annual visit. We pray for all God's people, that we might be emboldened, both corporately and personally, to share Jesus with those we meet in every area of our lives.

Epiphany: Today we will learn the meaning of Epiphany from Father Glenn, but throughout Europe it is celebrated in a variety of ways with an equal variety of names. In Spain it is known as the 'Festival of the three Magic Kings' and is when children receive their presents. On Epiphany morning local bakers make a cake called a 'Roscon', a ring shaped roll filled with cream and decorated with a paper crown. In France you might eat a 'Galette des Rois' a flat almond cake with a toy crown cooked inside and with a gold paper crown on top. In Portugal people take part in carol singing known as 'Janeiras', January songs. In Belgium children dress up as kings and go from door to door singing carols and get money or sweets in return. In Ireland it sometimes known as 'Women's Christmas' when men take over the household duties. Now that's something that might become popular here – amongst the women at least!

Spotlight Notices: Please give notices for inclusion in Spotlight to **Richard Porteous** by next Thursday on 01527 542620 or at richardporteous@yahoo.co.uk.

Log onto our website for more information www.astwoodbankchurch.org.uk

