

# PEW NEWS

MILBORNE PORT, MILBORNE WICK, GOATHILL, CHARLTON HORETHORNE AND STOWELL.

**Sunday 10 January 2021**

*Baptism of Christ (Epiphany 1)*

Dear friends

Traditionally on the First Sunday of Epiphany the rural church celebrates Plough Sunday. In the past we have blessed a small plough and church on this Sunday and prayed for our farmers.

Plough Sunday is the first agricultural festival of the New Year and is associated with the first working day after the twelve days of Christmas. In days when work was scarce in winter the observance looked forward to the time of sowing with the promise of a harvest to come.

In the medieval period, when there was only one plough in each village, the village plough was brought into church for a blessing before ploughing began on Plough Monday. By Victorian times, when many farms owned their own plough, a representative plough was brought into church and local farmers asked the Rector or Vicar to bless the plough. Here is the blessing:

*Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:  
for in your abundant care you have given us fertile land,  
rich soil, the seasons in their courses.  
You provide seed for sowing, water, light and warmth  
to bring forth the miracle of growth.  
You give us skill to work the land,  
to prepare and nourish it, that it may be fruitful.  
By your blessing,  
let this plough be a sign of all that you promise to us.  
Prosper the work of our hands,  
and provide abundant crops for your people to share.  
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
God speed the plough.*

After the blessing, the plough was traditionally pulled through the village led by a Fool and a 'Betsy' (a boy dressed as a woman). The procession stopped at as many pubs and friendly houses as possible for revellers to demand drinks. Pennies were also collected along the route. Anyone not paying a penny was likely to find a furrow cut across their land by morning.

# **Sunday 10 January 2021**

## *Baptism of Christ (Epiphany 1)*

### **Collect**

Heavenly Father,  
at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son:  
may we recognize him as our Lord  
and know ourselves to be your beloved children;  
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

### **Readings**

#### **Genesis 1.1–5**

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup> the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup> Then God said, ‘Let there be light’; and there was light. <sup>4</sup> And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup> God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

#### **Acts 19.1–7**

<sup>19</sup> While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the inland regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. <sup>2</sup> He said to them, ‘Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?’ They replied, ‘No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.’ <sup>3</sup> Then he said, ‘Into what then were you baptized?’ They answered, ‘Into John’s baptism.’ <sup>4</sup> Paul said, ‘John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.’ <sup>5</sup> On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup> When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied— <sup>7</sup> altogether there were about twelve of them.

#### **Mark 1.4–11**

<sup>4</sup> John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup> And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup> Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> He proclaimed, ‘The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup> I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.’

<sup>9</sup> In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup> And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. <sup>11</sup> And a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.’

# Services this week

Sunday 10th January

*Epiphany 1 (Baptism of Christ)*

## Sunday service on Zoom

Joining details

Time: Jan 10, 2021 10:30 AM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82960465833?pwd=bWtoMncweGU4VXB6YjVhZ3JHVEttdz09>

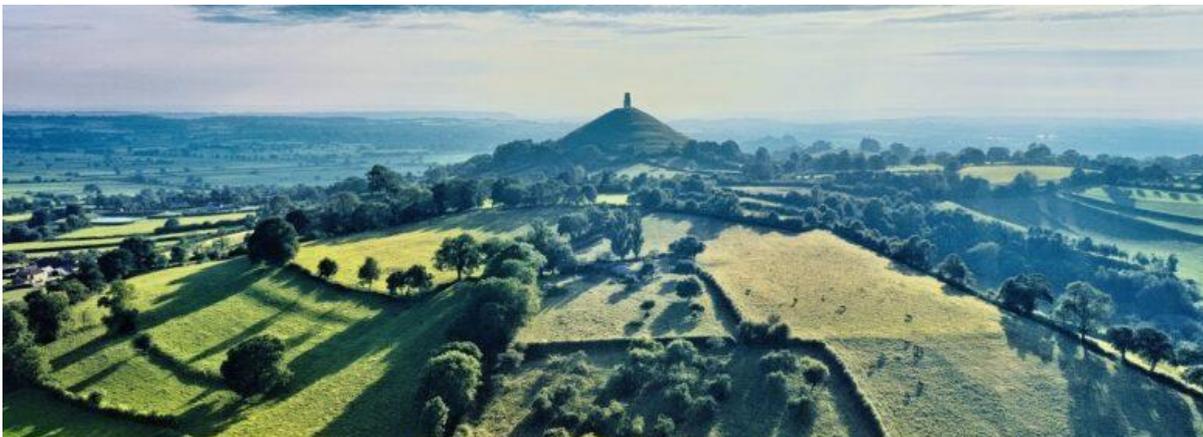
Meeting ID: 829 6046 5833

Passcode: 305361

## Diary this week:

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> Jan 7pm Milborne Port PCC meeting via Zoom.

**Prayer - Everyone, Everywhere!** Archdeaconry Days 2021 Jan 10<sup>th</sup>-16th



**It is not too late to sign up for the Diocesan Archdeaconry Prayer Event starting this Sunday.**

The 2021 Archdeaconry 'days' will explore ways of praying, wherever and whoever we are.

On 10 January, there will be a recorded service from the Cathedral, including a reflection from Bishop Ruth.

The event will run from 11 to 16 January, with accompanying prayer ideas to try each day on the theme for that day.

Prayer and People

Prayer and Nature

Prayer and the Digital World

Prayer and the Arts

Prayer and the Bible

Each weekday there will be three resources available on the website and social media (and sent to those who signed up). There are 2 videos; a short taster with some personal experiences of prayer and a video of the day

To get the resources please sign up here <https://www.bathandwells.org.uk/2020/09/ad-days-2021/>

If you want to book your place on the zoom gathering on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> lead by our archdeacon to celebrate the week of prayer please click here <https://www.bathandwells.org.uk/event/prayer-everyone-everywhere-2/>

## Epiphany - New Year Blessing our homes

The Church has a custom of blessing homes on the Feast of the Epiphany and the week following. Family and friends gather to ask God's blessing on their homes and those who live in or visit the home. It is an invitation for Jesus to be a daily guest in our home, our comings and goings, our conversations, our work and play, our joys and sorrows.

A traditional way of doing this is to use chalk blessed during the Epiphany service and write above the home's entryway, 20 + C + M + B + 21. The letters C, M, B have two meanings. They are the initials of the traditional names of the three magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. They also abbreviate the Latin words *Christus mansionem benedicat*, "May Christ bless the house." The "+" signs represent the cross and 2021 is the year.

### Instructions for Blessing the Home

*Using the blessed chalk mark the lintel of your front door (or front porch step) as follows:*

**20 + C + M + B + 21** while saying:

The three Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar followed the star of God's Son who became human two thousand and twenty one years ago. May Christ bless our home and remain with us throughout the new year. Amen.

Visit, O blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of your presence. Bless all who live or visit here with the gift of your love; and grant that we may show your love to each other and to all whose lives we touch. May we grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you; guide, comfort, and strengthen us in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and for ever. Amen.

Long after Epiphany has faded in the memory, the presence the chalk marks reminds us that every time we go through the door that God watches over our going out and our coming in, turning the door itself into a sign of God's presence.