

 The
Messenger

Wallingford Methodist Church

February 2019 Issue 371



Sunday Worship

	10.30am	6.30pm
Feb 3rd	Rev John Rowland	4pm Songs of praise
Feb 10th	Libby Bolton	Rev Jocelyn Bennett C
Feb 17th	Rev Jocelyn Bennett C	Rev John D Anderson
Feb 24th	Andrew Dixon	Marlene Chalkley
	A - All Age Worship C - Communion Service	P - Parade U - United Service

Lectionary Readings

Feb 3rd	Jeremiah 1:4-10 1 Corinthians 13:1-13	Psalms 71:1-6 Luke 4:21-30
Feb 10th	Isaiah 6:1-8§ 1 Corinthians 15:1-11	Psalms 138 Luke 5:1-11
Feb 17th	Jeremiah 17:5-10 1 Corinthians 15:12-20	Psalms 1 Luke 6:17-26
Feb 24th	Genesis 45:3-11, 15 1 Corinthians 15:35-38	Psalms 37:1-11, 39-40 Luke 6:27-38

Church Stewards

Feb 3rd	Daphne Savage
Feb 10th	W Warrick/D Savage
Feb 17th	B Kaur
Feb 24th	Carol Hill

Door Stewards

	10.30am	6.30pm
Feb 3rd	A&A Lowe	L Bolton
Feb 10th	S&D Shepperson	R Atkinson
Feb 17th	P Smail/ G Hall	S Scrivener
Feb 24th	P Maskrey/H Brown	B Calcutt

Christmas Lunch

When we decided to cook a meal on Christmas Day it was before we knew what help we would have in the kitchen. But I had faith that Wallingford Methodists would be willing to take part. Margo, Pauline M, Belinda, Delia and Philip were on hand and on the day most of the preparation was done before the service.

I came in on Christmas Eve to arrange the tables in a square so that everyone could see everyone else and feel amongst friends. White tablecloths, crackers, flowers, candles and the Christmas tree helped to make it a lovely, festive occasion.

We all enjoyed a three course meal with coffee and sweets afterwards. While we were washing up Nev and Annette provided a quiz which kept everyone amused. About half past three we had a cup of tea and a mince pie and it was time to tidy up.

As with many other situations the hard work is in the planning and preparation but once that is done there is time to do the job properly and enjoy it. We definitely had a good time and I think everyone else did too.

Joan and Bill Oscroft

Fund raising events planned for 2019

March 2nd 10am-1pm

Book sale and pancakes morning Profits to charity

April 6th 2-4pm

Jumble sale - Profits to church

June

Anniversary lunch - Profits to church

June, July, August

Teas in the garden - Host to choose charity

September 14th 2-4pm

Jumble sale Profits to church

October 18th

Bake Off with Chris Wallace Profits to charity

November 9th

Christmas card sale, coffee and cakes Profits to STC and church

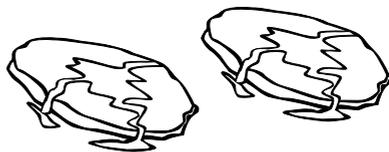
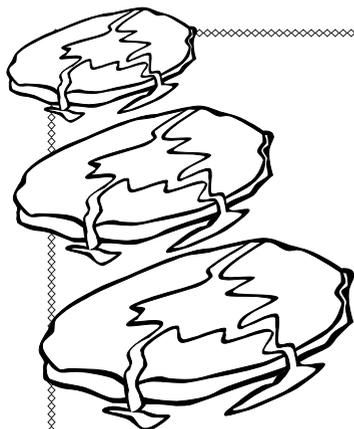
December 5th

Christmas Wreath Making Evening

A 17th Century Nun's Prayer

Lord God, though knowest better than I know myself that I am growing older and that one day I will be old. Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and on every occasion. Release me from craving to straighten out somebody's affairs. Make me thoughtful but not moody, helpful but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom it seems a pity not to use it all, but thou knowest Lord that I want a few friends at the end. Keep my mind free from the recital of endless detail, give me wings to get to the point. Seal my lips upon my aches and pains. They are increasing and the love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by. I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of other's pains but help me to endure them with patience. I dare not ask for improved memory but for a growing humility and not a lessing cocksureness when my memory seems to clash with the memories of others. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken. Keep me reasonably sweet, I do not want to be a saint, some of them are so hard to live with, but a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the devil. Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places, and talents in unexpected people and give me Lord the grace to tell them so.

Contributed by Wendy Moorin



Book sale and pancakes Saturday March 2nd 10 am - 1 pm

Our big book sale and pancake morning is fast approaching. Saturday March 2nd could be your last opportunity to sample a pair of pancakes with indulgent fillings - if you are giving up sweet things for Lent.

Once you have browsed and hopefully purchased some books from the many fiction and non fiction items on offer, you can enjoy your pancakes with traditional lemon and sugar, golden syrup or chocolate, accompanied by tea or coffee.

Gluten and dairy free pancakes will be available as usual. The sale runs from 10 am - 1 pm.

If you, your friends or family have surplus books, we would love to receive them. They can be left under the atrium stairs in the weeks before the sale or brought in between 2 pm and 4 pm on Friday March 1st, when members of the fundraising team will be sorting the books. If you would like someone to collect books from your home please see me or call me on (01491) 836649.

If you are able to help with sorting or selling the books please add your name to the list when it appears in the atrium.

Proceeds from this event will benefit international medical charity MSF and a UK based charity yet to be chosen by the church council.



A new venture
Age UK Cinema for the over 50's -
in conjunction with the Corn Exchange

Why not come for a social afternoon, tea/coffee, cake and a film on the second Thursday of each month

2.00pm - 4.30pm
at the Corn Exchange Theatre
in the Market Place, Wallingford.

The cost is **£5** per person.
There is no need to book, just turn up at about
2pm for a cup of tea/coffee and cake and
the film will start at 2.30pm



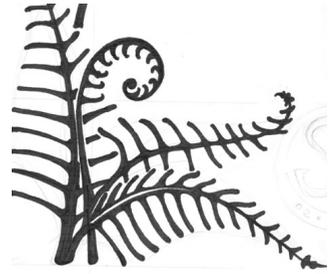
We hope to show a variety of films.

The next film will be
14th February and is

'Finding your Feet',
a truly feel-good film.

For more information please ring Rachel poole,
Community Information and Activity Worker on 07827 23546

Thoughts for February



The Glorious Unfolding

This is the title track of an album by Steve Curtis Chapman - and a wonderfully pertinent way of describing Epiphanytide. The Season of Epiphany, the 40 days between Christmas and Candlemas, 40 days when the work of God incarnate is gradually revealed, 40 days where week by week more pieces are put into the jigsaw which makes up a picture of the ministry of Jesus.

We may feel that Christmas is long gone, everything packed away, everything eaten, pine needles hoisted up and looking forward to the next thing. But the Christmas Season, the 12 days between Christmas and Epiphany, is full of the joy of the newborn. Then we have the weeks from Epiphany to Candlemas, Epiphanytide, which take us into February. Although Jesus was born in uncertain circumstances, far from home and in a country under foreign occupation, the first few days of 2019 remind us that most babies are born into situations of powerlessness and poverty. Especially those where families rely on universal credit, the goodness of others and the work of charities and aid agencies. The humanity of Jesus is emphasised. The Epiphany Season by contrast, emphasises the divinity of Jesus, and it is done in that glorious unfolding.

The glorious unfolding of the divinity of Jesus begins with the visit of the wise men to the infant, bringing those gifts symbolising kingship, priesthood and the suffering servant. He is then recognised by John the Baptist as the 'lamb of God' and baptised in the River Jordan. The Holy Spirit descends on him like a dove and the words 'this is my Son, whom I love, with him I am well pleased' are heard. Words of God to confirm his calling and set him on the path to Jerusalem. Jesus as the beloved Son of God who enters the muddy waters of humanity.

And then we have the first sign, the turning of water into wine at the wedding at Cana in Galilee. Through the season of Epiphany we have the chance to reflect on the ways in which God was revealed in Jesus, and on how we experience that revelation of God in our own lives, the lives of others and through the created order. Moments of divine revelation when we see God face to face.

So when we feel Christmas is over, perhaps read these words by the theologian Howard Thurman ...

When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,
the work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among the people,
to make music in the heart. Amen.

with love - Jocelyn

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Organists

	10.30am	6.30p
Feb 3rd	Gill Hall	Gill Hall
Feb 10th	Gill Hall	James Garnett
Feb 17th	Libby Bolton	James Garnett
Feb 24th	Gill Hall	Gill Hall

PA Operatives

	10.30am	6.30pm
Feb 3rd	Graham Ifill	Iain Revell
Feb 10th	Ian Scrivener	Norman Atkinson
Feb 17th	Iain Revell	Ian Scrivener
Feb 24th	Wendy Warrick	Iain Revell

Coffee Rota

	(Sunday Morning)
Feb 3rd	Nicky/Sarah
Feb 10th	Pauline/Joan
Feb 17th	Sue/Mary
Feb 24th	Angela/Belinda



The Messenger

Any items for the next issue of the Messenger should be sent to Pauline Ainley no later than

Wednesday 20th February.
paulineainley@btinternet.com

The following pages contain the afterwards session of 'Journeying with the Magi' - which Jocelyn has forwarded for us to use either in our fellowship groups or on our own.

Journeying with the Magi – Afterwards.

Read again Matthew 2:1 – 12

- What positive effects did the visit of the Magi have on Jesus, Mary and Joseph, the authorities and local community, and Herod?
- And negative effects?
- What do you think were the lessons for the Magi - what did they think as they returned by another route?

Now read these passages and think about the questions

Samhain - Celtic Autumn

Increasing darkness and cold means we must accept that winter is fast approaching and we must adjust to this changing season. Leaves have fallen off the trees, birds have migrated, animals have gone into hibernation, frosts have come. Darkness was important to the Celts. To them it was as important as the light. Darkness and death had power which they did not fear. This dark phase of the year's cycle is when the mystery of transformation occurs.

This process involves a death of something old in preparation for something new to be reborn; a journey into the unconscious and the spirit within each of us. We have been taught to fear our inner world and to mistrust the information we may receive through insights, intuition and our connection to our own inherent wisdom.

We need to understand our unconscious selves, and to learn to listen to our inner voice. We can use the energy of the dark time of the year to explore these inner parts. Turn and look at what you fear, and the understanding this brings.

The seeds of our ideas and future direction in life are incubated in our unconscious during the winter months, ready for rebirth in the spring. We can

honour the cycle by being aware that each end and death of the old will bring an opportunity for a new start as each beginning holds within it an end. This endless cycle of change is necessary, bringing renewal of cells, of ourselves, our understanding and our ideas. It means there are always new opportunities to start again, to stay healthy. Seek the truth in the darkness, look for ways to find the Divine within. Out of a difficult situation comes power, hope, rebirth, inner strength, wisdom and maturity. *Glennie Kindred*

Celtic Journeying - St Brendan The Navigator

Born in 489 in Tralee, Brendan was brought up on stories of biblical travellers and learned about the mystical Island of Promise over the horizon, a place full of light, fragrant flowers, fruit, and where all the stones were jewels. After consulting with his fellow monks, he fasted for forty days, during which time he saw a vision in which an angel assured him he would see this island. He built a coracle, covering the frame with ox-hides, and set off with fourteen companions.

They encountered many islands and experienced hospitable hermits, a fish as large as an island (a whale), an island of sparkling crystal (an iceberg), a barren island with a mountain spitting fire (a volcano), and great swarms of glittering fish. His descriptions tell us he went to the Faroes, Iceland, Greenland and Newfoundland, and possibly North America, the Azores and Spain.

He returned enriched, but sad he had not found the Island of Promise after five years. His mother explained that using the skins of animals on the coracle would prevent his landing on the ideal island, for he would spoil its innocence! He set out again, this time in a wooden boat, and discovered the island, which was a place of health, joy, feasting, meadows and angels. But to his great sadness, he was asked to leave before he tainted it. Two years later, he returned home . . . this time a fulfilled person. *Martin Wallace*

Shall I abandon, O King of mysteries, the soft comforts of home? Shall I turn my back on my native land, and my face towards the sea?

Shall I put myself wholly at the mercy of God, without silver, without horse, without fame and honour?

Shall I throw myself wholly on the King of kings without sword and shield, without food and drink, without a bed to lie on?

Shall I say farewell to my beautiful land, placing myself under Christ's yoke?

Shall I pour out my heart to him, confessing my manifold sins, and begging forgiveness, tears streaming down my cheeks? Shall I leave the prints of my knees on the sandy beach, a record of my final prayer in my native land?

Shall I then suffer every kind of wound the sea can then inflict? Shall I take my tiny coracle across the wide, sparkling ocean? O King of glorious heaven, shall I go of my own choice upon the sea? O Christ will you help me on the wild waves?

'Brendan's Prayer on the Mountain', by Robert Van de Weyer

Journeying

As Dag Harnmarskjild once said, 'The longest journey is the journey inward.' It is here that I need help, and this is one of the reasons why I have found it such a source of strength and inspiration on my own journey to look at the Celtic understanding of peregrinatio, a word and concept that is found nowhere else in Christendom. The word itself is almost untranslatable, but its essence is caught in the ninth-century story of three Irishmen drifting over the sea from Ireland for seven days in coracles without oars, coming ashore in Cornwall and then being brought to the court of King Alfred.

When he asked them where they had come from and where they were going, they answered that they 'stole away because we wanted for the love of God to be on pilgrimage, we cared not where'. This wonderful response and this amazing undertaking comes out of the inspirational character of early Irish spirituality. It shows at once how misleading is that word 'pilgrimage' and how very different indeed is the Celtic peregrinatio from the pilgrimages of the middle ages or the present day.

There is no specific end or goal, such as that of reaching a shrine or holy place, which allows the pilgrim at the end of the journey to return home with a sense of mission accomplished. Peregrinatio is not undertaken at the suggestion of some monastic abbot or superior but because of an inner

prompting in those who set out; a passionate conviction that they must undertake - what was essentially an inner journey.

Ready to go wherever the Spirit might take them, and seeing themselves as hospites mundi 'guests of the world', what they are seeking is the 'place of their resurrection', the resurrected self, the true self in Christ, which is for all of us our true home . . . However passionate the desire and however total the commitment, this way of peregrinatio is bound to be costly.

Esther de Waal

- What have we learned personally from the Magi, for our own journey?
- Reflect for a moment where you were at the beginning of Advent - are there areas where you feel aspects of the Advent and Christmas seasons may no longer be appropriate? How might you change these in years to come - personally and in church?
- Are there other aspects of our spiritual journey you would like to change?
- Where are we going to journey next, and who with?

