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**Church Link** No. 93  
 Epiphany I Sunday  
 9 January 2022

*Lord God,  
 the bright splendour whom the nations seek:  
 may we who with the wise men have been drawn by your light  
 discern the glory of your presence in your Son,  
 the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Post Communion prayer for Epiphany

This week sees the return of our weekday worship programme as detailed below. On Sunday there will be both a 9am service of Holy Communion in Compton Martin Church and a gathered Eucharist in St Bartholomew's Church, Ubley at 10:15am.

A new prayer group has been formed to listen to God's guidance as our local and national churches face change. All are welcome to come to St Bartholomew's, Ubley on Thursday evenings at 7pm. Please contact Jean Luckett for further details.

Ubley Churchyard Working Party would like to invite all to join them to help care for St Bartholomew's grounds at their first meeting of the year on Saturday 15th January from 9:30am. Please [contact](#) Judith Longhurst and Diana Coles for information.

Yours in Fellowship,  
 Revd. Simon Lewis  
 Laura Williams

If you would prefer not to receive electronic communications from us, please [unsubscribe](#) here.

**Listening to God**

Please join us at 7pm every Thursday evening at St Bartholomew's Church, Ubley for half an hour of reflective prayer in the Lectio Divina style.

We will have the opportunity to share our reflections with the group but not debate or judge. Both locally, nationally and globally the Church is facing great challenges and change. Come along to help discern what might be appropriate for our local area at this time.

Contact: Jean Luckett E: peterandjeanluckett@gmail.com 01761 221415



**- Epiphany I -  
 Worship this week**

- Sunday 9th January - The Baptism of Christ**
- 9:00am - Holy Communion (BCP) St Michael's, Compton Martin
  - 10:15am - Sunday Eucharist, St Bartholomew's, Ubley
  - No Messy Church this month.
- Monday 10th January**
- 8:40am - Morning Prayer, St Bartholomew's, Ubley
  - 9:15am - Intercessions Group, St Bartholomew's, Ubley
- Tuesday 11th January**
- 10:00am - Mini Melodies, a Toddler Group, St Andrew's, Blagdon
- Wednesday 12th January**
- 8:40am - Morning Prayer, St Michael's, Compton Martin
  - 5:00pm - Evensong, St Andrew's, Blagdon
- Thursday 13th January**
- 8:40am - Morning Prayer, St Andrew's, Blagdon
  - 12:00pm - In the Spirit of Iona, online via Zoom
  - 7:00pm - Listening to God, a prayer group, St Bartholomew's, Ubley

The 10:15am Eucharist on Sunday 16th January will be at St Andrew's Church, Blagdon.

Our three parish churches will be open for individual prayer every day from 9am - 5pm. Please wear a face covering inside our buildings and observe social distancing.

**Reading and Reflection  
 Epiphany I - The Baptism of Christ**

**Theme:** The Coming of the Spirit on Christ in Baptism  
**Reading:** Luke 3.15-17, 21-22

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptise you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

**The Baptism of Jesus**  
 Now when all the people were baptised, and when Jesus also had been baptised and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

**A Reflection**  
 Only Luke tells the story of Jesus' birth; he tells it as a wonderful narrative and he tells it more than sixty years after the event; he tells it after the momentous events of that first Easter and, you may suppose, because he is only one of the four Gospels to tell the story, his primary source would have been Mary, Mother of Jesus. Small wonder then, that he looks for the meaning of Jesus' birth in the light of the Resurrection; no wonder angels sang.

Today the narrative continues in a similar vein in the telling of Jesus' Baptism in the River Jordan. The Church uses this season called Epiphany (which means 'making plain' or 'showing out') to demonstrate how it was Jesus became known as 'Son of God', how his reputation spread throughout the land; how, in our language today, he became a celebrity.

Life in first century Palestine was hard; a foreign army ruled; 'Pax Romana' (Roman Peace); a nation looked for a saviour; no wonder therefore that the people were agog to know if John the Baptist was the Messiah. He said he was not and went on to tell them that one would come and that he, John, was not worthy even to tie his shoelaces. The account ends with the voice that says, 'You are my beloved son.' This is Luke's way of signifying the beginning of Jesus' ministry.

In the early days of the Christian era baptism became the sign of belonging; belonging to that community who follow Christ; who trust in Him; who worship God the Creator through Him. That is still what Christians hold true, believing by belonging. The details of Jesus' life and the working out of its meaning for people of faith is available to any who hope to know. Christians and the Church are given a 'Gospel to proclaim, Good news to all the upon earth', as the hymn puts it; they do not have privileged information; if they claim it, trouble usually follows.

Forming and belonging to the community of the Church seems to have been the strategic gift given by the Holy Spirit throughout the ages. Belonging to community is the basis of Christian living. Once, by baptism you have set your feet on a new road it is community that helps you along the way. It is a truth that you cannot be a Christian on your own; you walk the pilgrim road in company with others. It is with them the struggle for faithfulness takes place; with them a vision for the world; with them in company together the future is hammered on the anvil of faith and hope and love.

'Where there is no prophecy, the people cast off restraint,' (Proverb 29:18). Or to put it another way, *where there is no vision the people perish*: that is a vision shared by the community of the Baptised; they have heard the voice 'This is my beloved son ...'. How some act on it is another thing.

**Online Worship  
 Epiphany I - 9 January 2022**

Please join our online worship for the first Sunday after Epiphany, which will be hosted on our website from 10:30am on Sunday 9th January.

[Click here to join](#)

**Children's Corner**

This week's Young Church Mag tells the story of the baptism of Christ with colouring, codes and there are some wintry puzzles and jokes. It's available by clicking [this link](#) to download.

**Worship in January 2022**

**Sunday 2nd January - Epiphany**  
 10:15am - Sunday Eucharist, St Andrew's, Blagdon  
 3:00pm - Reflections, Creationtide to Epiphany St Bartholomew's, Ubley

**Sunday 9th January - The Baptism of Christ**  
 9:00am - Holy Communion in the Spirit of the Book of Common Prayer, St Michael's, Compton Martin  
 10:15am - Sunday Eucharist, St Bartholomew's, Ubley  
 4:00pm - Messy Church, St Bartholomew's, Ubley

**Sunday 16th January - Epiphany III**  
 10:15am - Sunday Eucharist, St Andrew's, Blagdon

**Sunday 23rd January - Epiphany IV**  
 10:15am - Sunday Eucharist, St Michael's, Compton Martin  
 5:00pm - Evening Worship, St Bartholomew's, Ubley

**Sunday 30th January - Candlemas**  
 10:15am - Sunday Eucharist, St Hugh's, Charterhouse-on-Mendip

**Weekday Worship**

**Monday 10th, 17th & 24th January**  
 8:40am - Morning Prayer, St Bartholomew's, Ubley  
 9:15am - Intercessions Group, St Bartholomew's, Ubley

**Tuesday 11th, 18th & 25th January**  
 10:00am - Mini Melodies - a Toddler Group, St Andrew's, Blagdon

**Wednesday 12th, 19th & 26th January**  
 8:40am - Morning Prayer, St Michael's, Compton Martin  
 5:00pm - Evensong, St Andrew's, Blagdon

**Thursday 13th, 20th & 27th January**  
 8:40am - Morning Prayer, St Andrew's, Blagdon  
 12:00pm - In the Spirit of Iona, online via Zoom

Please email benefice.bcm2@gmail.com for the link

**Ubley Churchyard  
 Working Party**

A big thank you to everyone who helped to weed and prune last year. The churchyard is looking so much better.

**Weather permitting we are starting again on Saturday January 15th Usual time 9.30-11.30am**

Everyone welcome

**DIocese of Bath & Wells**  
Living the story. Telling the story.

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**Archdeaconry Days 6 to 12 February 2022**

Sometimes, even in church, it can feel as if God only calls 'special people'.

But God calls us all, because God created us, knows us, and loves us.

We are all called daily to live lives that are true to our Christian faith. God also calls us at times in our life to particular roles - which sounds tidy but is often pretty messy! Often those calls are something we take up for a season only. Sometimes they are for the rest of our lives.

The 2022 Archdeaconry Days are running from Sunday 6 to Saturday 12 February. We are going to hear from a range of people from across Bath and Wells about their experience of God's call:

- What has helped people hear their call?
- Have any Bible stories inspired them?
- What about when the call has been far from straightforward?
- Who am I called to be?



Full details of this year's Archdeaconry Days, including registration, worship, podcasts and downloadable content are available on the Bath & Wells website, by clicking [this link](#).

**Prayer within our Community**

**We have been asked to pray for:**

In the Parish of Blagdon, please pray for Britta and her parents Roger and Kathy, Neil and Margaret, and Gerald.

In the Parish of Ubley, please pray for Nigel.

In the Parish of Compton Martin, please pray for Ann and Robert, for Ceinwen and Robert.

Please pray for Massimo and his family as they prepare for his baptism next month, and Mark and Carly, Matthew and Megan and Joseph and Alexandra as they prepare for marriage.

*Heavenly Father,  
 help me to see opportunities to share your love with the people I meet.  
 Show me how to serve them, and when to speak.  
 I pray too for my church and the churches in my area,  
 that we will be effective in telling the Jesus story  
 and giving people ways to find out more and to respond.  
 Amen*

If you have someone or something that you would like us to pray for, your requests can be passed on to them and included in our prayers. Please click [here](#) to send us your requests.

**Community Support and Help Details**

Support is available in all our villages for anyone who is self-isolating:

**For those who live in Ubley**

**Ubley Cares**  
 Landline: 462827 speak to Jonathan Longhurst  
 Email: [jl1andj2@sky.com](mailto:jl1andj2@sky.com)

**For those who live in Compton Martin:**

**Coronavirus support in Compton Martin Parish**  
 Email: [comptonmartin.cvx@gmail.com](mailto:comptonmartin.cvx@gmail.com)  
 Landline: 021415 speak to Jean Luckett  
 Mobile: 07968 861118 speak to Jean Luckett  
 Email: [peterandjeanluckett@gmail.com](mailto:peterandjeanluckett@gmail.com)  
 Landline: 220102 speak to Rachel Branston

