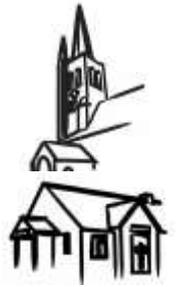


Newsletter

For 2 weeks from Sunday 8th January 2012

Our aim is to *KNOW* God through Jesus,
GROW in faith, and *SHOW* God's love in our community



Revd Lisa writes...

Epiphany

A definition of 'epiphany' is 'a sudden, intuitive perception of or insight into the reality or essential meaning of something, usually initiated by some simple, homely, or commonplace occurrence or experience.' Is this what happened to the Magi when they looked into the sky and decided to try to follow a moving star (Matt 2 v2)? Or did it happen when they came across the baby Jesus and found themselves *knowing*, instinctively, who he was? (v11) Babies and stars – even when they are moving – are not unique. And yet the Magi perceived a special 'reality' in this particular star and in this particular baby that has ever since transformed our understanding of the nature of both stars and babies, especially at Christmas. Virtually everything that happens in the Christmas story has a simple, homely tinge, except that in reality nothing at all in the story of Christmas *is* commonplace... there is an incipient excitement in each element, because of the miracle of the Incarnation.

This being the case, I find it very humbling to note that even as a baby the Lord Jesus extends a Jewish welcome to non-Jews into the Great Story of God's dealings with humankind. The Festival of Epiphany (celebrated this year on four Sundays from 8th January) commemorates the manifestation of Christ to the gentiles in the persons of the Magi. And after it we turn our faces towards the approach of Lent, a time of examination of our souls and repentance that becomes more precious year after year as age reveals just how much there is to turn from, and how much easier the yoke of life becomes the lighter the burdens that are carried become. May God bless you in 2012, and frequently use the commonplace in life to give you fresh epiphanies.

REGULAR SERVICES

Sundays: St Paul's 10am
St Andrew's 11am

A 'Still Hour' of quiet prayer, St Paul's 7–8pm

Wednesdays: St Paul's (Communion) 10am
St Andrew's 2pm

Weekday Morning Prayers, St Paul's: 9.05am

PLEASE NOTE

For the time being, and until further notice, the Parish Newsletter will be prepared and published by me, so any announcements you would like me to include please let me know as soon as possible by sending me an e-mail to mackinnon860@hotmail.co.uk.

At the end of each Newsletter I will put a 'Last Date' for notices. Any received after this date will not be included. Please be tolerant with me until I get used to doing it. As long as your announcement is entered in the Parish Diary or on the web site it will be included.

Norma MacKinnon

A big thankyou to everyone who came to or took part in our Christmas programme of services and events. Thankyou also for letting us know how much you enjoyed them. We were pleased to welcome so many new people to the Christmas services.

PARISH NOTES

Do you have good news? Something big happening? Or would you just like to share what you do in your everyday life? We want to include your story in our services - if you are willing to share please contact... Lisa or Norma

Ladies of all ages! If you enjoy singing and would like to try singing with St Paul's Ladies' choir, please see Bronwen or come along after service in St Paul's and join in with a practice.

Lisa is preparing rotas for lesson reading, assisting at communion and leading prayers for 2012. Please let her know if you'd like to come off rota(s) or to offer service on them, a.s.a.p.

DIARY DATES JANUARY

Mon. 9th 7.30 – 9 p.m. St. Paul's Committee.

Wed. 11th 7.30 p.m. Israel Evening in St. Paul's Social Area with light refreshments. All interested welcome.

Fri. 13th Men's weekend away at Abbot Hall, Grange-over-Sands.

Sun 15th 4.45 p.m. meeting of The BASE Group.

Mon. 16th 7.30 – 9 p.m. St. Andrew's Committee

Mon 23rd 7.30 p.m. Staff meeting at Rectory.

Wed. 25th at 7.30 p.m. Worship Planning Group Meeting in the Parish Office.

Mon. 30th 7 p.m. prayers for 7.30 – 9.30 p.m. PCC meeting., St Paul's Social Area

Sun. 29th 7 – 8 p.m. Healing Service

FUTURE EVENTS IN JANUARY

Wed. 18th Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins (see details below)

Sat 21st – our main January event!

The BASE Talent Show

Hot Pot Supper starting at 5 p.m. followed by performance at 6 p.m. Lots of prizes! Contact Lorraine or Andy if you want to take part or help in any way, by **Saturday 14 January**. Money raised goes to *Street Kids*, the BASE's link charity.

Holocaust Concert

26th Jan. 7.30 p.m. at Our Lady of Dolours, there will be a concert entitled 'Holocaust Cantata' in commemoration of the Jewish Holocaust. Two choirs will be performing and refreshments will be available. Further details later.

Fri. 27th Holocaust Memorial Day.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

This takes place from 18 to 25 January. May we extend an invitation to all our friends in Churches Together in Prestwich and Kersal to join us at our two services; the first on Wednesday 18th at 10 a.m. for Communion at St. Paul's and the second at 2 p.m. for prayers at St. Andrew's

Newsletter items to Norma by Tues 17th January for inclusion in Sunday 22nd edition.

by e-mail to: mackinnon860@hotmail.co.uk

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Email: revdrcath@gmail.com

For details about Homegroups contact Clergy.

Hall Bookings: St Paul's 792 5362; St Andrew's 798 6917

Emergency prayer chain: ring Maureen
(792 4873) Email requests – rober382@talktalk.net

For more information and past newsletters visit our website: www.stpaulsparish.org.uk