

**Newsletter**  
**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021**  
**The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Epiphany**  
**Candlemas**



*Fra Angelico The Presentation of Christ in the Temple*

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## The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

### Old Testament: Isaiah 58: 9 - 12, New International Version

<sup>9</sup> Then you will call, and the Lord will answer;  
you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I.  
“If you do away with the yoke of oppression,  
with the pointing finger and malicious talk,  
<sup>10</sup> and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry  
and satisfy the needs of the oppressed,  
then your light will rise in the darkness,  
and your night will become like the noonday.  
<sup>11</sup> The Lord will guide you always;  
he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land  
and will strengthen your frame.  
You will be like a well-watered garden,  
like a spring whose waters never fail.  
<sup>12</sup> Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins  
and will raise up the age-old foundations;  
you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls,  
Restorer of Streets with Dwellings.

### New Testament: Acts 13: 44 - 48, New International Version

<sup>44</sup> On the next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. <sup>45</sup> When the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy. They began to contradict what Paul was saying and heaped abuse on him.  
<sup>46</sup> Then Paul and Barnabas answered them boldly: “We had to speak the word of God to you first. Since you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles. <sup>47</sup> For this is what the Lord has commanded us:

“I have made you<sup>[a]</sup> a light for the Gentiles,  
that you<sup>[b]</sup> may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.’<sup>[c]</sup>”

<sup>48</sup> When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honored the word of the Lord; and all who were appointed for eternal life believed.

### **The Collect for the Fourth Sunday of Epiphany**

God of heaven, you send the gospel to the ends of the earth and your messengers to every nation: send your Holy Spirit to transform us by the good news of everlasting life in Jesus Christ our Lord, *Amen*

### **PRAYERS**

We pray for all those who we know who have underlying health issues and for all those who are required to self-isolate at this time. We pray especially today for: Sophie, Doreen, Pat, Karen, Sue, Liz, Erin, Caroline, Chris, Pauline, Pat, Pete, Colin, Nick, Mike, Robert, Laura, Shirley, Diana and Bill.

### **Latest Message from Teresa and the Leadership Team**

Dear St. James Church family, again with a heavy heart and reviewing the latest statistics locally, (especially the numbers in our hospitals and those still waiting vaccination in priority groups) we have decided, and PCC has approved at the appropriate resolution, to remain closed for communal worship throughout February. We will review the situation towards the end of the month and make a further informed decision.

Our online provision and emailed newsletter will continue and we will again hold Coffee@Zoom at 11.30am on Sundays. **PLEASE NOTE NEW LINK FOR Coffee@Zoom** below. It is also possible now to simply phone in to Zoom to chat as well, details below.

### **The new link for Coffee on Zoom at 11.30am every Sunday is:**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87640732853?pwd=QWtmcUxCSHN3bFFoYWtMYzNEcHo4Zz09>

Meeting ID: 876 4073 2853

Passcode: COFFEE

One tap mobile

+442034815237,,87640732853#,,,,\*660431# United Kingdom

+442034815240,,87640732853#,,,,\*660431# United Kingdom

Dial by your location

+44 203 481 5237 United Kingdom

+44 203 481 5240 United Kingdom

+44 203 901 7895 United Kingdom

+44 131 460 1196 United Kingdom

+44 203 051 2874 United Kingdom

Meeting ID: 876 4073 2853

Passcode: 660431

If you have any problems accessing the meeting please email

at [chris.taylor@stjamesmangotsfield.com](mailto:chris.taylor@stjamesmangotsfield.com) or phone me on 07790328516 Chris Taylor

**The online service this week will be available from 9.30am. For the link, go to St James Mangotsfield Facebook page or website.**

**Having been thwarted by last week's inclement weather Chris and Teresa will attempt a livestream 8.00am Holy Communion this week, technology permitting. The link will be available on our FaceBook page and website.**

**Feedback following this would be much appreciated!**

#### **MESSAGE FROM REVD TERESA TAYLOR**

Despite the often depressing news and statistics we are definitely seeing further signs of hope in what have been very dark days. The numbers being vaccinated are rapidly increasing, yet another vaccine is awaiting UK approval for use and numbers of those becoming infected is beginning to reduce. The birds are continuing to increase their song and my amaryllis planted for the Advent display in church has shot the longest stem I have ever seen on an amaryllis and is about to flower and is in danger of looking like the illustration on the box! Also this last couple of weeks we have been informed we have secured a grant worth over £33,000 from Suez Landfill Trust towards replacement of the hall roof. The church needs to also make a 11% contribution to this and this has been underwritten by members of our church family – thank you so much – to enable us to move forward and get this project done as soon as practically possible, so hopefully soon buckets will no longer be required when it rains and the hall will again become a much more attractive venue. So some really good news this week, however, we cannot get away from the sombre statistic and milestone this week of passing 100,000 deaths from Covid related illness in our country. Our thoughts and prayers go out to those experiencing grief at this time and also not forgetting all the anxiety that has been caused to those who have received the diagnosis and recovered, their families and those having to self-isolate and their anxiety while waiting to see if symptoms develop.

I was reminded last evening of the words of the song ***He's got the whole world in his hands*** and the profound sense that amidst all the harrowing stories and great anxieties we are living through, that as people of faith, often called the Easter People, we have our ultimate horizon set towards a better day, it is the Easter message that out of death comes resurrection, out of mourning comes joy and that our trust is in a creator God who does have all the answers and power in his hands and we are called to place our hand in his and simply trust.

John in his Revelation, the book placed right at the end of the bible, writes this:  
*And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Look! God's dwelling-place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. "He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death" or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.'* Rev 21: 3-4

May God bless and comfort us all at this time. Teresa ><>

#### **NEWSLETTER**

Please send anything you wish to be included in the newsletter for **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> February**, to [stjamesmango@gmail.com](mailto:stjamesmango@gmail.com) by **11am, Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February** *Thanks, Venetia*

#### **COLLECTING STAMPS FOR RNIB**

I will be collecting used postage stamps for RNIB again this year. I'll hopefully be able to send them all off in the New Year. If you can help, please hold on to them until we can get together. *Many thanks, Peter Huzzey*

#### **CHURCH ACCOUNT DETAILS**

Here are the correct bank account details for the Church and Re-Order accounts, which will be printed regularly in the newsletter, as requested:

General church account No: **00131986**

Sort Code: **30-98-06**

Re-Order account No: **53092060**

Sort Code: **30-84-75**

**All** cheques payable to: **PCC Mangotsfield – Reserve Fund**

*(Don't forget the hyphen)*. If you have any queries call Sylvia on: 0117 956 1818

#### **Latest Message from Resound Foodbank dated 28.1.21**

Dear wonderful friends and supporters, thank you so much for your ongoing, relentless support of foodbank. Our team of volunteers are coping well here and the deliveries we make with the food you donate is very appreciated by our customers. Many people at the moment needing food are those who have been affected by redundancy or benefit changes

and when we speak to them they are often so surprised and amazed by what we are able to give them. This is ALL down to your generosity.

We received record amounts of food at Christmas (so much that we were nearly panicking about what to do with it) but nothing was wasted and any festive surpluses went to local community and family projects who could pass the food on in time for Christmas. Since early January we have been partnering with 5 local primary schools to provide child-friendly food that they can pass on to struggling families. We love the fact that we can share the food with our partners and ensure everyone is fed! We hope we can continue to work together in this way even after the children go back to full time school.

**BAGS** - We are getting a little short of .... bags! I dread asking for this as it has previously been rather like turning on Niagara-Plastic Bag Falls when we have asked for bag donations. So we are requesting just for a short period that if you have any **strong, good quality CLEAN supermarket carrier bags** (bag for life, the more sturdy long-life ones etc) that you could bring them to us. The best day to bring them is Friday morning between 9.30 - 12.30. The last day we will be able to take bags in this current bag-frenzy will be Friday 12th February. **And PLEASE PLEASE don't publicise this on any social media especially Facebook!!** Thank you for your understanding and help in this. It really is appreciated.

I suspect a new shopping list will be sent out in February, but we are currently having a tidy up and 'stock-take' so once we have done that we will have a better idea of our requirements in the coming weeks. Best wishes and love to you all, Claire and Steve **Resound Foodbank Joint Co-ordinators**, Resound, Blackhorse Road, Mangotsfield, Bristol BS16 9BP, Tel: 0117 3050969

#### **UPDATE FROM Transform Europe Network (TEN)**

**"And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4: 19 NLT**

Thank you so much for your interest in what God is doing across South East Europe. 2020 was bitter sweet for TEN. We were thrilled at the generous response of churches and supporters to help our partners reach out in practical ways to support families. Then in December we heard the very sad news of two of our partners, Lucian Tabac in Moldova, and Mirco Andreev in North Macedonia who passed away from complications with coronavirus. Please pray for their families at this difficult time. Please pray for the Baptist Union of Moldova as they consider who should take over church leadership of Badicul Baptist Church.

As I write we are again in lockdown in the UK. We recognise how hard this is for churches with the uncertainty about whether or not congregations can meet, and also the impact on church families personally, and on church giving.

Our prayers are with you this new year with the hope of the vaccine but the fear of the rapid response of Covid. May you know the peace and guidance of our faithful God during these turbulent times.

You can find out more about their work at this link:

[melanie.griffiths@ten-uk.org](mailto:melanie.griffiths@ten-uk.org) via [gmail.mcsv.ne](mailto:mcsv.ne)