

# HOLY INNOCENTS FALLOWFIELD

## EPIPHANY 2022

### 20+C+M+B+22

Keep innocency and do what is right



Contemplation – Action – Learning – Living

**W**e mark the beginning of this new year in a reflective and quite sombre mood. Our prayers are asked for Richard, our Rector, as he undergoes further treatment for myeloma. We give thanks that we are blessed with Jane, Michael, Alma and Jan in our midst, who preside at the Eucharist and preach in this church, supporting all of us and those for whom we pray at this time. We remember all those whose lives have been interrupted by Covid in so many ways – in loss, in disruption to work, or in dealing with frightening symptoms.

Epiphany began last Thursday, and goes on until the end of January, when we keep the feast of Candlemas. Until then, familiar stories of the revealing of Jesus as the Saviour and Messiah provide the colour and drama for our liturgy: after the Baptism of the Lord, we have the wedding at Cana, and the visit to the synagogue in Nazareth. This is the season of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, and on the Sunday after that week, we welcome Fr Constantin Stavar of the Romanian Orthodox Congregation as our preacher.

*This is also a season of planning and reflection about our witness. Over the years, this church has witnessed to its changing communities in a variety of ways. Some members may remember a little book published over the years and now no longer produced: Mowbrays "Church Guide". It listed all the parish churches in England and put one or more of four letters by the side of each, as appropriate: S= a sung Eucharist on a Sunday as the main service; C = a time set aside for private confessions; R showed that the Blessed Sacrament was kept in reservation and D meant that there was a daily celebration of the Eucharist. From 1980 to 2013, this church would have been in the dizzy heights of being a DSCR church – had the guide still existed! (It had an S in an earlier edition).*

The demographic of the area has changed markedly since then as has traffic in the radius of this church. It can take over half an hour to cover half a mile sometimes. As a gathered congregation, it is quite understandable that our main witness is on Sundays. But we need to think about our church being open and offering a space, and worship on weekdays and being visible locally and in our community. We used to have a good turnout on a Thursday evening, but not now. Moving the service to lunchtime brought different people, but not every week.

The Monday evening Eucharist links to the Bellringers and is attended by some of our ringing team. But we could perhaps rise to the dizzy heights of three per week if a priest and a group of worshippers felt called to run with a particular day and time. Or we could think creatively and keep Mondays and any saints' day that arose in a particular week. This would involve us keeping an eye on the calendar!

As a community, we keep a very long prayer list. It is important to people that a sense of the people on it being prayed for continually is there – a sense that we are doing it as a community. This is another reason why our weekday witness is important.

A church is a place that marks and celebrates times and seasons.

It is a responsibility that we all share.

Please look at the grid at the back of church and indicate when in a normal week you might be able to attend a weekday service. Comments to the wardens are welcome. We would also like to join forces with other churches to see if between us we could offer a service every day as our friends in local Roman Catholic parishes do. With a bit of imagination, many things are possible.

*As ever, our life – in order to mark the times and seasons – runs by rotas.*

*If you feel called to any ministries:  
reading, leading prayers,  
a role in the sanctuary team,  
being a sidesperson  
or running refreshments,  
please speak to the Wardens!*



*This month – the calendar!*

**Thursday January 13<sup>th</sup> A Quiet Place:  
A time of contemplation and discussion on a current theme,  
after a Eucharist at 9.30, coffee from 10 and discussion until 12 noon.**

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**Sunday January 16<sup>th</sup> Epiphany 2**

**Sunday in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

**President: The Revd Canon Michael Ainsworth**

**Preacher: The Revd Jane Walker**

**Readings Hymns**

Isaiah 62.1-5 Take my life and let it be

Psalms 36.5-10 Gospel Acclamation

1 Corinthians 12.1-11 Songs of thankfulness and praise

John 2.1-11 Christ from whom all blessings flow

*Other music: O thou who camest from above; Christ is our light*

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**Sunday January 23<sup>rd</sup> Epiphany 3**

**President: The Revd Richard Young**

**Preacher: The Revd Fr Constantin Stavar**

**Readings Hymns**

Nehemiah 8.1-3,5-6,8-10 Christ is the King, O friends rejoice

Psalms 19.1-6 Gospel Acclamation

1 Corinthians 12.12-31a O for a thousand tongues to sing

Luke 4.14-21 Brother, sister, let me serve you

*Other music: Like the murmur of the dove's song;*

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**Sunday January 30<sup>th</sup> Candlemas**

**President: The Revd Jane Walker Preacher: The Revd Richard Young**

**Readings Hymns**

Malachi 3.1-5 Hail to the Lord who comes

Psalms 24.7-end Gospel Acclamation

Hebrews 2.14-end Of the Father's heart begotten

Luke 2.22-40 When Mary brought her treasure

*Other music: Nunc dimittis; Like a candle flame;*

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## The Epiphany Proclamation of Easter:

Dear friends in Christ,  
the glory of the Lord has shone upon us,  
and shall ever be manifest among us,  
until the day of his return.

Through the rhythms of times and seasons  
let us celebrate the mysteries of salvation.

Let us recall the year's culmination, the Easter Triduum of the Lord:  
his Last Supper, his Crucifixion and Death, his Burial, and his Rising,  
celebrated between the evening of the 14th day of April  
and the evening of the 16th day of April,  
Easter Sunday being on the 17th day of April.

**Each Easter—as on each Sunday—the Holy Church makes present  
the great and saving deed by which Christ has forever conquered sin and death.**

From Easter are reckoned all the days we keep holy.

Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, will occur on the 2nd day of March.

The Ascension of the Lord will be commemorated on the 26th day of May.

Pentecost, the joyful conclusion of the season of Easter,  
will be celebrated on the 5th day of June.

And this year the First Sunday of Advent will be on the 27th day of November.

Likewise, the pilgrim Church proclaims the Passover of Christ  
in the feasts of the holy Mother of God,  
in the feasts of the Apostles and Saints,  
and in the commemoration of the faithful departed.

**To Jesus Christ, who was, who is, and who is to come,  
Lord of time and history, be endless praise, for ever and ever.**

**Amen**

