

The Baptism of Jesus, Church of Enda Yesus, Axum, Ethiopia

A Service of the Word
The First Sunday of Epiphany
(The Feast of the Baptism of Jesus)
Sunday 10th January 2020



stmarysbattersea



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Welcome to St Mary's. We are also delighted to have an online congregation joining us on a Sunday morning at both our services and we are live-streaming today's service for those unable to join us, or who feel it not wise for them to meet others.

In this particularly heightened period of concern, we ask you to remain apart from others at all times and to leave the building

building with care and without engaging in conversation while in the building. The church will be closed 10 minutes after the conclusion of worship.

Canon Simon Butler, Vicar

Keeping in Touch with St Mary's

Simon Butler, Vicar: vicar@stmarysbattersea.org.uk

Aaron Kennedy, Associate Vicar: aaron@stmarysbattersea.org.uk

David Britten, Parish Manager: david@stmarysbattersea.org.uk

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Giving to St Mary's

If you are able to give even while in lockdown we would be very grateful.

Setting up Standing Order makes it really easy.

Our Bank Details are:

Battersea Parish Church PCC, Sort Code 502101, Account Number: 82127468

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A quiet voluntary is played as we gather for worship.

We prepare ourselves.

The clergy enter and take their seats.

Hymn

Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid;
star of the east, the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid;
star of the east, the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Cold on his cradle the dew-drops are shining;
low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;
angels adore him in slumber reclining,
Maker and Monarch and Saviour of all.

Say, shall we yield him, in costly devotion,
odours of Edom, and offerings divine,
gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,
myrrh from the forest, or gold from the mine?

Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
vainly with gifts would his favour secure:
richer by far is the heart's adoration,
dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid;
star of the east, the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

May the light and peace of Jesus Christ our Lord be with you.
The Lord bless you.

The priest sets the scene for our worship.

The Christ is Revealed in the Waters of Baptism

This day Jesus is revealed as the Christ in the waters of Baptism.

I will take you from the nations:
and gather you from all the countries.
I will sprinkle clean water upon you:
and you shall be clean.
A new heart I will give you:
and a new spirit I will put within you.
You shall be my people:
and I will be your God.

A flask of water is placed centrally.

In his Baptism, Christ identified himself with sinful humanity.
Through our Baptism, we are united with him, in his new Body, the Church.
Blessed be God for ever.

Confession

The story of the Wise Men challenges us about our commitment to God:

When we have grown tired of searching for truth or seeking God's will,
Lord, have mercy.
When we have strayed from the command to love and serve our neighbour,
Christ, have mercy.
When we have offered less than the best in our worship and service of God,
Lord, have mercy.

May almighty God, who sent his Son into the world to save sinners, bring us his pardon and peace, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Song of Praise

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! – who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save:
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied –
For every sin on Him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine –
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand:
Till He returns or calls me home,
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

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Cook family, songs@integritymusic.com)*

Collect

Let us pray ... *(silent prayer)*

Eternal Father,
who at the Baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son,
anointing him with the Holy Spirit:
grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit,
that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Word of God in Scripture

First Reading: Genesis 1:1-5

A reading from the book of Genesis.

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ² the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³ Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. ⁴ And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Anthem

A New Year Carol by Benjamin Britten

Sung by Marissa White

Here we bring new water from the well so clear,

For to worship God with, this happy New Year.

Sing levy dew, sing levy dew, the water and the wine;

The seven bright gold wires and the bugles that do shine.

Sing reign of Fair Maid, with gold upon her toe,

Open you the West Door, and turn the Old Year go.

Sing levy dew, sing levy dew, the water and the wine;

The seven bright gold wires and the bugles that do shine.

Sing reign of Fair Maid, with gold upon her chin,

Open you the East Door, and let the New Year in.

Sing levy dew, sing levy dew, the water and the wine;

The seven bright gold wires and the bugles that do shine.

Second Reading: Mark 1:4-11

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark.

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶ Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me;

I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸ I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

⁹ In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹ And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Reverend Aaron Kennedy

We keep a few moments of silence after the sermon

Affirmation of Baptismal Faith

At your Baptism you turned to Christ, repented of your sins, and renounced evil. Do you now, at the start of a New Year, renew your allegiance to Christ?

**We do, and with God's grace
we will follow him as our Saviour and Lord.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Father
source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

We are led in prayers of intercession

The Wise Men offered gold to Christ, the King of all. Father, we pray for all who take authority to serve their country: our Queen, and the government of this and every nation ...

Here the intercessor names particular situations in the world and in our nation.

Give wisdom and integrity to all who lead, that their service will promote justice, peace and human well-being.

Your Kingdom come,
your will be done.

The Wise Men offered frankincense to Christ, the Son of God. Father, we pray for the Church's life of worship and prayer, and for all who lead, teach and minister among us ...

Here the intercessor names concerns for God's church here and elsewhere.

Send the Holy Spirit to bless your servants with the gifts they need to build up the Body of Christ.

Your Kingdom come,
your will be done.

The Wise Men offered myrrh to Christ, the Son of Man. Father, we pray for all who suffer from the injustices of life ...

Here the intercessor names those who are seeking justice.

Bring deliverance to those who are trapped in grinding poverty, or brutal oppression ...

Here the intercessor names those who face hardship and poverty.

Strengthen your servants who go to help them. Be close to all who suffer from pain or ill-health ...

Here the intercessor names those individuals who need our prayers.

Grant healing and hope to them all.

Your Kingdom come,
your will be done.

Father God, grant that we,
with all who have lived and died in the faith of Christ,
may share in his eternal Kingdom. **Amen.**

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;

thy kingdom come;

thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,

for ever and ever. Amen.

Hymn

O for a closer walk with God,
A calm and heavenly frame,
A light to shine upon the road
That leads me to the Lamb.

What peaceful hours I once enjoyed!
How sweet their memory still!
But they have left an aching void
The world can never fill.

Return, O holy Dove! return,
Sweet messenger of rest!
I hate the sins that made Thee mourn,
And drove Thee from my breast.

The dearest idol I have known,
Whate'er that idol be,
Help me to tear it from Thy throne,
And worship only Thee.

So shall my walk be close with God,
Calm and serene my frame;
So purer light shall mark the road
That leads me to the Lamb.

Concluding Prayer & Blessing

May God the Father,
the rock of our salvation,
who has brought us to birth as his children,
by the water of Baptism and the Spirit of Life,
keep us faithful to our calling as followers of our Saviour,
Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

And may the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern by Carl Kuntz

Our Lockdown 'Retreat' and Journey with God

From tomorrow, we will offer a significantly larger number of acts of worship, to last until the end of the month. The intention is to give shape to our lockdown experience by offering opportunities for prayer, worship, bible study, fellowship and reflection with others.

*Please remember: this is not aimed at encouraging you to come to church **more** but to enable us to worship more safely with fewer people in church at any time. In any case all services will be available online, and our main Sunday 11am time will be **online only**, to reduce the risk of large groups of people mixing. As well as the weekday services below, there will be **three services** over the Saturday & Sunday period, which will include the same sermon. There is also an evening Communion Service at 6pm on Thursdays to catch those who have been working all day.*

The theme of our Lockdown 'Retreat' will be The Message of the Psalms, which will enable us to explore the all-too-real experiences of the writers of the psalms. The first week will be focused on psalms of 'Orientation' where the psalmist feels at peace with God and themselves; the second week will focus on psalms of 'Disorientation', where the experiences are hard, full of doubt and struggle and where God seems distant or absent; and the third week will focus on psalms of 'Reorientation', where the psalmist has moved through some experience of 'disorientation' to a new reality and experience.

On Wednesday evening and Thursday morning, to accompany these acts of worship, there will be opportunities to spend an hour with Simon and other church members on Zoom (if you can bear it!), sharing and listening to our different journeys. Simon will offer some reflections using the psalms and poetry.

Finally, on Wednesday mornings, Simon will be available in church from 9.30am to 12.30pm for anyone who wants a chat – about nothing or something important or significant, whatever suits you! Just turn up: the Coffee Cart will have returned by then.

This Week

Monday 11 th January	Holy Communion at 12.30pm <i>A Psalm of Creation: Psalm 8</i>
Tuesday 12 th January	Prayer During the Day at 12.30pm <i>A Psalm of the Law: Psalm 1</i>
Wednesday 13 th January	Lectio Divina at 8.30am* Prayer During the Day at 12.30pm <i>A Psalm of Wisdom: Psalm 37</i>
Thursday 14 th January	An Hour with the Vicar at 7.30pm† An Hour with the Vicar at 11am‡ Holy Communion at 6pm <i>A Psalm of Retribution: Psalm 112</i>
Friday 15 th January	Prayer During the Day at 12.30pm <i>A Psalm of Wellbeing: 131</i>
Saturday 16 th January	Vigil Eucharist at 5.00pm <i>A Psalm of Personal Lament: Psalm 13</i>
Sunday 17 th January	Holy Communion at 9.30am (Trad. Language) <i>A Psalm of Personal Lament: Psalm 13</i> A Service of the Word (Online Only) <i>A Psalm of Personal Lament: Psalm 13</i>

*You can take part in the **Wednesday Morning Lectio Divina** on Zoom
Meeting ID: 815 2706 3986; Password: 259290

† You can join in the **Wednesday Evening Hour with the Vicar** on Zoom
Meeting ID: 818 8322 2285; Passcode: 434974

‡ You can join the **Thursday Morning Hour with the Vicar** on Zoom
Meeting ID: 851 2537 3843; Passcode: 598232

A small group continue to say Morning Prayer together on Zoom at 7.30am and welcome others to join them. Contact: jenny.scott.thompson@gmail.com

For Your Prayers

The sick and those in need: Mary Paton, Lloyd & Hubert Maxwell, Graham Nunn, Penny Francis, Jane Frances, Jeremy Edwards, Mrs Cheeseman

The recently departed and their families: Zena Godfrey, Rose Marshall, Christopher Serbutt, Jean Wilson, David Fairbairn, Hubert Chesshyre

This Week's Notices

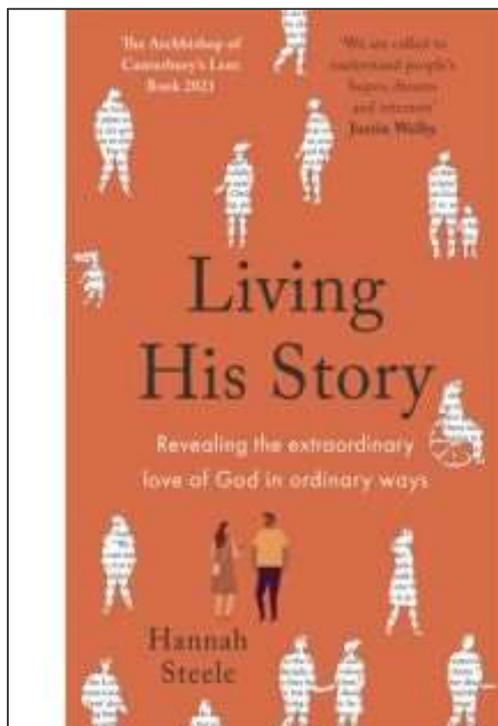
Community Action Learning Group

The Community Action Learning Group reconvenes this Thursday evening, the 14th January, at 7.30pm on Zoom. We will lift up our eyes beyond the immediate strains of this particular moment and think slightly longer-term about the listening exercise that we began at the end of last year during the November lockdown, and consider what community action we might undertake together – putting into practice the shift from programmes to people we have been talking about. All are welcome, whether you've been involved before or not. The Zoom Details are: 860 1639 6904; Passcode: 384019.

Regenerate, the Charity which works with disadvantaged young people, have returned to St Mary's Churchyard with their orange coffee cart, serving hot drinks and light refreshments.

New PCC Secretary: we are looking for someone to serve in this administrative role, which comes with PCC membership. Speak to Simon to find out more.

The Baptism and Confirmation Service has been postponed. A new date will be available soon.



Announcing our Lent Book & Course 2021

As part of St Mary's Mission Action Plan for 2020-25, we remember we are **sent to tell** the good news of Jesus Christ. Our Lent Book and Course this year will give us the opportunity to explore the call to evangelise and bear witness using Archbishop Justin's Lent Book for 2021, *Living His Story*, by Hannah Steele. We will happily order copies for anyone who wants one, at £8.99 a copy. If you are able to pay £10 for your, we can get a few copies for those for whom £9 would be a stretch. Email office@stmarysbattersea.org.uk to order your copy.