

Sat 10:30 am Alderford with Attlebridge PCC meeting in Attlebridge church, to consider the electrics and plans for re-ordering of the building

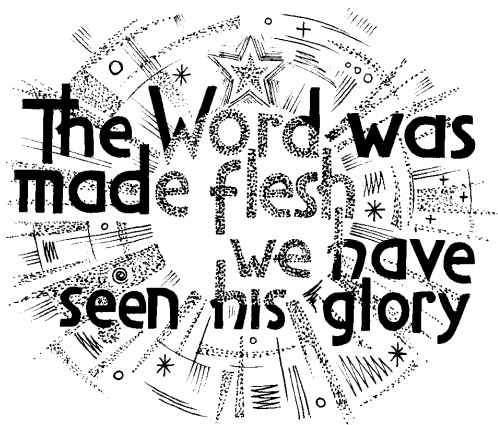
We will all probably take down our Christmas decorations at home either on Monday this week (Twelfth Night) or on Tuesday (The Epiphany). In churches, on the other hand, we leave them all up until after next Sunday's services, when we celebrate the end of the Christmas season by thinking about Jesus's first public appearance as an adult – when he came to the river Jordan to be baptised by John. All church decorations come down on Monday 12th, and if we use coloured hangings and so on they all go back into green that day as well.

Next Sunday: THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST

8:00 am Holy Communion (1662) at Weston Longville
10:00 am All Age Worship for The Epiphany at Ringland
10:00 am The Eucharist and **Renewal of Baptismal Vows** at Swannington

Sunday 18th: Epiphany 2

8:00 am The Eucharist at Swannington
9:00 am Holy Communion (1662) at Ringland (Canon Peter Halls)
10:00 am Holy Communion (1662) at Great Witchingham
10:00 am Children's service at Swannington
6:00 pm Evensong at Alderford



Sunday 4 January 2009
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS



Collect:

Almighty God,
who in the birth of thy Son
hast poured upon us the new light of thine incarnate Word
and revealed to us the fullness of thy love:
help us so to walk in his light and dwell in his love
that we may know the fullness of his joy;
who liveth and reigneth with thee,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

New Testament Reading: Ephesians 1.3-14

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. God destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of God's will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of God who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance towards redemption as God's own people to the praise of his glory.

Gospel: John 1.1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me." From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.



All regular weekday services this week will be at their usual times. In addition on **Tuesday** (The Epiphany) there will be a Eucharist with hymns at **7:30 pm** at **Alderford**. As this is a service for the whole benefice it would be good to see this important day in the Christmas season celebrated by as many as possible. Please come if you can!

All this week we pray particularly for those who live or work along **Mark's Close Lane** in Little Witchingham and **Marl Hill Road** in Morton-on-the-Hill.

Please continue to pray for the sick & those in need:

Sheila Crane; Stella Green; Eunice Hutchins; Margaret; Tottie Ottaway

RIP Ray White Enid Scott-Baker

Events this week:

Mon 7:30 pm Weston Longville PCC meets at The Rectory
Tue 7:30 pm Benefice Eucharist with hymns for **The Epiphany**
at **Alderford**
Fri 7:30 pm Friday Club in Swannington church

also on Friday at 7:30 pm
Weston Longville village hall

CHAI



a talk on tea by Roy Church with slides and anecdotes

Bring your own mug to participate in the brew-ups;
admission £5 per head;
tickets available in advance from Selwyn, Sally or Janet

Proceeds to St Mary's church &
Great Witchingham Community Hall fund