



Willen Church Newsheet

The Third Sunday of Epiphany



Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership
St Mary Magdalene, Willen
Sunday 26th January, 2025
The Third Sunday of Epiphany



Today: The Third Sunday of Epiphany

Theme: Gifts for Mission

9.30am Holy Communion led by Rev. Hannah Akibo-Betts

Thank you, Hannah, for leading us this morning

10.00am – 11.45am Sunday Family Breakfast Club at Cross & Stable.

Service details for SEP churches are on SEP website and in monthly newsletter

This week

St Mary Magdalene church is open for private prayer or quiet reflection on Mondays from 9.30am until c.3.00pm. Also open on Sunday until 4.00pm if volunteer available to close church – please sign rota in church foyer.

ChatterboxMK at Cross & Stable each Wednesday 10.30am to 12.30pm. All Welcome - tea - coffee - cakes - chat. Come and meet others.

Next week February 3rd The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

9.30am All Age Morning Worship led by Margaret Moakes LLM

Thurs 6th February 7pm Bible Study Group Meeting **Quaker Centre** Downs Barn Lifts can be arranged if needed. If you wish to join, please see Margaret Moakes or e-mail margaret.moakes@btinternet.com.

The Collect: 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

God of all mercy,

your Son proclaimed good news to the poor, release to the captives,

and freedom to the oppressed:

anoint us with your Holy Spirit

and set all your people free

to praise you in Christ our Lord. **Amen**

HYMNS Complete Anglican Hymns Old and New

72 As we are gathered (sing through x 3)

689 Thy hand, O God, has guided

88 Brother, sister, let me serve you

72 Bind us together, Lord

<p>Pastoral contact: Revd Dr Sam Muthuveloe <i>Email: sam@willenchurch.org</i> Revd Canon Chi Okpala <i>Email: chi@willenchurch.org</i></p>	<p>Margaret Moakes Licensed Lay Minister <i>Telephone: 01908 237915</i> Margaret@willenchurch.org <i>Church website: www.willenchurch.org</i></p>
<p>Churchwardens Brad Stone, Janet Hawkins. To contact about weddings, funerals and baptisms please ring 01908 382458 (10 - 12 Mon - Sat); or E. warden@willenchurch.org</p>	
<p>Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership: www.stantonbury.net and Facebook Please email short succinct notices to notices@willenchurch.org by 5pm on the preceding Thursday</p>	

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Nehemiah 8: 1 – 3; 5 – 6, 8 – 10 (NRSV)

A reading from the Book of Nehemiah

¹all the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. ²Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. ³He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. ⁵And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. ⁶Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, 'Amen, Amen', lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground. ⁸So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. ⁹ And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, 'This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep.' For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. ¹⁰Then he said to them, 'Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.'

Hear the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

NEW TESTAMENT READING

1 Corinthians 12: 12-31a

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴ Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵If the foot were to say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶And if the ear were to say, 'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰As it is, there are many members, yet one body. ²¹The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you', nor again the head to the feet, 'I have

no need of you.’²² On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable,²³ and those members of the body that we think less honourable we clothe with greater honour, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect;²⁴ whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honour to the inferior member,²⁵ that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another.²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it.

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.²⁸ And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues.²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles?³⁰ Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret?³¹ But strive for the greater gifts.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

GOSPEL READING

Luke 4: 14 – 21

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John

Glory to you, O Lord

¹⁴ Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country.¹⁵ He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

¹⁶ When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read,¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸ ‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,

because he has anointed me

to bring good news to the poor.

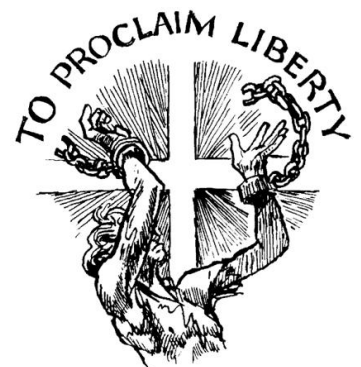
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives

and recovery of sight to the blind,

to let the oppressed go free,

¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.’

²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him.²¹ Then he began to say to them, ‘Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.’



This is the gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ.

PSALM 19 (The Archbishops' Council, 2000)

- 1 The heavens are telling the glory of God ♦
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
- 2 One day pours out its song to another ♦
and one night unfolds knowledge to another.
- 3 They have neither speech nor language ♦
and their voices are not heard,
- 4 Yet their sound has gone out into all lands ♦
and their words to the ends of the world.
- 5 In them has he set a tabernacle for the sun, ♦
that comes forth as a bridegroom out of his chamber
and rejoices as a champion to run his course.
- 6 It goes forth from the end of the heavens and runs to the very end again, ♦
and there is nothing hidden from its heat.
- 7 The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; ♦
the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.
- 8 The statutes of the Lord are right and rejoice the heart; ♦
the commandment of the Lord is pure and gives light to the eyes.
- 9 The fear of the Lord is clean and endures for ever; ♦
the judgements of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.
- 10 More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, ♦
sweeter also than honey, dripping from the honeycomb.
- 11 By them also is your servant taught ♦
and in keeping them there is great reward.
- 12 Who can tell how often they offend? ♦
O cleanse me from my secret faults!
- 13 Keep your servant also from presumptuous sins lest they get dominion over me; ♦
so shall I be undefiled, and innocent of great offence.
- 14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in your sight, ♦ O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS - Please pray for

- Health Care in the Community: The NHS and private providers work together to give community care to people of all ages Please pray for all community based health care professionals. Please also pray for residential care homes in the city.
- scriptureunion.org.uk which aims to provide opportunities, activities and resources for children and young people to explore the Bible, respond to Jesus and grow in faith.

Sick: Louise Folley, Mark & Janice Earls, Fr Edmund Wheat SSM, Lyn Coppendale, Alison Read, Gill Farrow, Cindy Williams

World Prayers: 26 Jan [International Day of Clean Energy](#) 27 Jan [International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust](#)