



WELCOME TO BRADWELL CHURCH

WELCOME TO ST LAWRENCE

Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership (Baptist, Church of England, Methodist, URC)

Following Jesus Sharing his Love since 1223AD

Second Sunday of Christmas
4th January 2026

10.30am Morning Worship (led by Rev Phil Dunning)

Readings: Jeremiah 31:7-14 (p.750); John 1:10-18 (p.1004);

Service: Alan and Carol; Reader: Beryl; Prayers: Ann; Music: Diana; Tea: Ghislaine;



1st Sunday of Epiphany
11th January



10.30am Holy Communion & Covenant (led by Rev Tim Norwood)

Readings: Isaiah 42:1-9 (p.690); Matthew 3:13-17 (p.915);

Service: Andrew and Bernard; Reader: David; Prayers: Carol; Music: Diana; Tea: Sally;

St Lawrence is a family friendly church; Children are very welcome

Reflection

A very Happy New Year in Bradwell to you all, and welcome to the second Sunday now of Christmas, and also to Epiphany season - where instead of a focus on the Wise Men we are led to delve deeper into the significance of 'the Word made flesh' in John chapter 1. Remember to have an epiphany is really to bring profound revelation, and it seems to me that in describing our text this week further descriptive 'r-words' like 'rescue', 'redemption', 'restoration' are all noted by commentators, without necessarily using the r-word that is actually in our Gospel, which is 'received'. 'To all who received Him'. My thought would be that all of these other descriptive r-words actually point to the original; ie. what it means to truly receive Christ. In this New Year and with our latest set of resolutions (...another 'r-word'!) let's together take note of how we are doing that. **God Bless, Phil**



PRAYER POINTERS by Lesley

- That we all grow closer to God this year, as individuals, and as a church.
- For God's blessing and guidance on Tuesday's SEP meeting with Bishop Dave Bull.
- For UnityMK running the Winter Night Shelter scheme.
- For everyone returning to schools and colleges for a new term.

We pray for all those recently bereaved and those remembering bereavement anniversaries at this time. May they know God's peace and comfort.

We pray for those in particular need, including Sylvia; Jane; Mirella; David; Joan; Eileen; Nimmi; Esther; Ray; Jill; Paul; Lewis; Ann; Clare; and others known personally to us.

- To add prayers contact Beryl •

Our Mission Focus in January is Scripture Union, with its national office in Milton Keynes. It helps churches make and build on connections with children and young people, so that Jesus is revealed to the youngest generations. See www.scriptureunion.org.uk

HYMNS TODAY

146 Fill your hearts with joy
39 As with gladness, men of old
1072 In Christ alone
189 God is working His purpose out

Minister Today is Rev Phil Dunning. Please give our usual warm welcome

CHURCH THIS WEEK

Tue Ashes interment 3pm
Wed Bell ringing 7.45pm
Fri Martial Arts Club 7pm

NEWS & NOTICES

Bishop Dave Bull visit is open to all parishioners and will take place on Tues 6th Jan at 7pm St Andrew's Church. Questions for the Bishop should be submitted in advance. Please email your questions to Helen at sburyepadm@gmail.com or pass your question to Alan Potter

Did you know? If you give money to the church using our contactless machine, you can still GiftAid



your donations. To find out how, speak to Lesley at church or send an email to

THANK YOU to everyone who volunteered to keep our church going over the past year. So that's a big thank you to the Service Officers, with Sidespersons, Readers, Musicians, Prayers, Tea makers, Sound and Visual operators, Live Streamers, Church Cleaners, our Gardeners, SEP reps, Bankers, Gift Aid admin, Membership admin, Zoom Hosts, Coffee Morning organisers, Worship planners, the CLT team with all their different roles, Altar preparer and Linen cleaner, Rota admin, Flowers, Bell Ringers, Verger and even the Noticesheet team. Apologies if I missed anyone, the Church is what it is because of everything we all do.

THIS WEEK IN TIMES PAST

1642 AD Charles I was an absolutist and having suspended Parliament in 1629 so he could rule alone, was forced to recall it in November 1641 so he could obtain more money. Parliament passed a motion that made a plea for Charles to act more

reasonably, Charles was affronted and on the 4th January he arrived in Parliament with a considerable force of 400 soldiers determined to arrest the ringleaders of the motion. They had fled, Charles demanded the Speaker tell him where they were, The Speaker William Lenthal replied, "May it please your majesty, I have neither eyes to see, nor tongue to speak, in this place, but as the house is pleased to direct me". It was the first time that a speaker had declared his allegiance to the liberty of parliament rather than the will of the monarch. Charles' intended show of strength having failed, he left London less than a week later, and within months the country was plunged into civil war.

PRAYERS & READINGS

Prayer God our Father, in love you sent your Son that the world may have life: lead us to seek him among the outcast and to find him in those in need, for Jesus Christ's sake. **Amen**

From Today's Readings

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:14

HOUSEGROUPS

Sun - Diana (ask at church)

Mon - First Monday of the Month
Beryl

Thur zoom Grayham

Thur (day) Denise



COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God, in the birth of your Son you have poured on us the new light of your incarnate Word, and shown us the fullness of your love: help us to walk in his light and dwell in his love that we may know the fullness of his joy; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Bishop Dave preaches here 8th Feb
- Ash Wednesday 18th Feb

Church photocopier is now at church house

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

from Mike
There is a tide in the affairs of men, which taken at the flood, leads on to fortune. Omitted, all the voyage of their life is bound in shallows and in miseries. On such a full sea are we now afloat. And we must take the current when it serves or lose our ventures.

Julius Caesar, Act IV, Scene 3

QUIZ

set by Mike

Q. Which animal can turn its head 180 degrees?

Answer: A Praying Mantis



Bronze Eco Church Award from A Rocha for our efforts to care for God's earth.

BRADWELL CHURCH



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facebook.com/BradwellChurchMK

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CHRISTIAN SOLIDARITY WORLDWIDE

from Beryl

Nicaragua Good news for Advent! **Carmen and Lesbia have been released to house arrest.** These two women (Roman Catholic lay leaders) were detained without reason on 10 Aug 2024. They were targeted as part of a wider crackdown on fundamental freedoms in Nicaragua. Their families had had no contact with them for nearly 16 months. But Carmen and Lesbia were among a small group of political prisoners released into house arrest on Saturday 29 Nov. While they are still not free, this is without doubt an improvement on solitary confinement in a maximum-security prison. Let's give thanks for this answer to prayer and continue to remember the prisoners this Christmas (Hebrews 13:3). We will not stop praying for Carmen and Lesbia, and many others like them, until they are fully free.