



Sunday 12th January 2025 — Baptism of Christ

WORSHIP TODAY

10:30am St Peter, Bromyard Holy Communion
 4:00pm St Peter & St Paul, Stoke Lacy PM Praise

TODAY'S READINGS – BAPTISM OF CHRIST

Morning: Isaiah 43.1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8.14-17;
 Luke 3.15-17, 21, 22
Evening: Psalms 46, 47; Isaiah 55.1-11;
 Romans 6.1-11; Mark 1.4-11

COLLECT FOR BAPTISM OF CHRIST

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.

REFLECTION: Mission - God's Business

Mission is an uncomfortable word. It challenges us to think outside the walls of our buildings, outside of ourselves. It says that this God who we believe in, has something for us to do as individuals, as parishes and as a Benefice. Jesus said, 'As the Father has sent me, so I send you ...'

It reminds us that God is inclusive; for God so loved **the world** ...

Central to our faith is the concept of the Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Our understanding of the Trinity is of the three persons living in a community of love; sharing, caring, knowing each other perfectly.

Sydney Carter suggested that dance is involved in the Trinity with his hymn/song 'Lord of the Dance'. It's an idea that others have taken up and explored.

Dance is a good picture of God's missional works. In dance you use your whole self; your emotions, your physicality. As you dance, the more you use your whole self, the more free you become in the dance.

And dance is invitational, it always invites others to join in.

God's emotion is clear in mission; love. Listen to God speaking through Hosea:

*"Therefore I am now going to **allure** her; I will lead her into the desert and **speak tenderly to her** ... **I will betroth** you to Me for ever; **I will betroth** you in righteousness and justice, **in love and compassion**. Hosea 2:14, 19*

Or Jesus talking with Nicodemus:

*"For God **so loved** the world that He gave His one and only Son ..."* John 3:16

Or John in his letter:

*'This is love: not that we loved God, **but that He loved us** and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.'*
 1 John 4:10

John links the emotion to physical action; '... He loved us and sent His Son ...'. We call it the incarnation, the coming of Jesus in human form, to share with us God's love; God physically present among us. And we remember that Jesus said:

"Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." John 20:21

So God's mission is about His love, and He sent Jesus, who sends us out, to share that love. And God's love is about enjoying life in all its fullness, as Jesus said:

"... I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." John 10:10

As we learn about this full life which God offers to us, so we want our families, friends and neighbours to learn about this life too.

God's mission is nothing less than an invitation to join in the dance of the Trinity, the Divine Dance.

Rev Phil

Wednesday 15th January 2025

10:00am St Peter, Bromyard Wednesday Prayers

Sunday 19th January 2025 - Epiphany 2

9:00am St Peter, Bromyard Holy Communion

10:30am St Peter, Bromyard Morning Worship

10:30am St Peter & St Paul, Stoke Lacy Holy Communion

READINGS – Epiphany 2

Morning: Isaiah 62.1-5; Psalm 36.5-10;
1 Corinthians 12.1-11; John 2.1-11

Evening: Psalm 96; 1 Samuel 3.1-20;
Ephesians 4.1-16; John 1.29-42

SERVICE PATTERN 2025

We are having to change our service pattern in 2025 in order to continue to provide a full range of worship across our churches.

1st Sunday

9:00am Bromyard Holy Communion

10:30am Stoke Lacy Holy Communion
Bromyard Gather

3rd Sunday

9:00am Bromyard Holy Communion

10:30am Stoke Lacy Holy Communion
Bromyard Morning Worship

2nd Sunday

10:30am Bromyard Holy Communion

4:00pm Stoke Lacy PM Praise

4th Sunday

10:30am Bromyard Holy Communion

3:00pm Brockhampton Evening Prayer

4:00pm Stoke Lacy Sanctuary (6:30pm April-October)

6:30pm Bromyard Come to the River

REFLECTIONS

This week we start a series of reflections on Mission and in particular our part in God's mission to the peoples of Bromyard and Stoke Lacy.

PEBBLES

Pebbles is the name of our new Parent and Toddler group which will be meeting twice a month on a Monday at The Falcon Mews. We have a team in place to work with the toddlers, but we also need a team to sit and chat with the parents. If you would be interested in helping with this, please speak to Rev David or Betty Csullog.

YEAR OF ENGAGEMENT

2025 is the Diocesan Year of Engagement, when we are encouraged to look for ways in which we can engage with our communities. Besides activities such as Party in the Park, Stoke Lacy Coffee mornings, and the range of Bromyard Festivals, we need your thoughts and ideas for ways in which we can get to know our communities better. Please let Rev Phil or Rev David know your ideas.

FOOD FOR ALL BOOKSHOP

You may have noticed that Food for All Bookshop is closed at the moment. This is for a re-fit and changes to displays. The new-look shop will be opened and re-dedicated on Saturday 1st February at 2:00pm. Please pray for the shop team and for the shops Christian witness in our town.

BROMYARD FOODBANK

Items urgently needed this week:

Food for diabetics, savoury biscuits, tinned meats, dried dog & cat food, tinned fruit, jam & spreads, pasta, tinned tomatoes, UHT milk, cereal, coffee, tinned big soup

Foodbank are always willing to welcome potential new volunteers. Please contact Emma Stapley or Rev Phil for more information.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Margaret Hamilton-Herbert, Iain Elliott, Alan Seabrook, Peter Cliff, Janet Morgan

Recently bereaved: the families of John Allan, Michael Farrell, Hilda Evans, Gillian Haines, Mary Caiger, Sylvia Darby, Philip Hodgeson, Phillip 'Rupert' Morris, Carolyn Cooper, Derek Hiles, Jeremy Holden, Alex Hoyle, Brenda 'Topsy' Bradford, Netti Evans, Claire Hollis, Peder Nielson, Revd Michael Smith, TJ Biddle, Mary Watson

CONTACTS

Revd Philip Miller - Vicar (rest day—Monday)

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The Parish Office is open Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9:30am-12noon 01885 483749 admin@stpetersbromyard.org.uk

Parish website: <https://stpetersbromyard.org.uk/>

Find us on:

