



## Sunday 19th January 2025 — Epiphany 2

### WORSHIP TODAY

9:00am St Peter, Bromyard Holy Communion  
 10:30am St Peter, Bromyard Morning Worship  
 10:30am St Peter & St Paul, Stoke Lacy Holy Communion

### TODAY'S 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

### COLLECT FOR EPIPHANY 2

Almighty God,  
 in Christ You make all things new:  
 transform the poverty of our nature  
 by the riches of Your grace,  
 and in the renewal of our lives  
 make known Your heavenly glory;  
 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 - Our Part (I)

Mission is nothing less than God's invitation to all peoples to join in the Divine Dance.

So if mission is God's invitation, what's our part?

In Matthew's gospel we read:

*When He saw the crowds, He had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field."*

*He called His twelve disciples to Him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness. These twelve Jesus sent out ... Matthew 9: 36 - 10: 1,5*

Our first part in mission is to recognise that there is a need; a need for people to know the love of God for themselves. Jesus saw the crowds and had compassion on them.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that during COVID many people turned to prayer, praying to an 'Otherness', a 'Universal Spirit'. We have the privilege of knowing this 'Otherness', this 'Universal Spirit' as the God who loves us because He loves us because He loves us.

Next, we are to pray. The Message version of the Bible has Jesus saying, 'On your knees and pray for harvest hands!' This suggests two possible meanings to 'hands'. It could mean 'hands' as in hired hands, hired workers, which would be lovely as it leaves mission to someone else. Or it could mean that **we** must be prepared to get our hands dirty and participate in the harvest.

We pray that God would send people out to share His love. But notice that having told the disciples to pray, Jesus sends **them** out. We have to be ready to be the answer to our prayers! When we pray, God often says, 'Yes, I hear you. What are **you** going to do?' As Jesus said at the feeding of the five thousand, '**You** give them something to eat.'

As we pray, God sends us out.

*'... go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them ..., and teaching them...'* Matthew 28:19-20

We are sent out to be witnesses (Acts 1:7), ambassadors (2 Corinthians 5:20), with beautiful feet (Isaiah 52:7).

Teresa of Avila wrote:

*Christ has no body now on earth but yours, no hands, no feet but yours.  
 Yours are the eyes with which Christ looks out His compassion to the world.  
 Yours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good.  
 Yours are the hands with which He is to bless us now.*

*Rev Phil*

### Wednesday 22nd January 2025

10:00am St Peter, Bromyard Wednesday Prayers

### Sunday 26th January 2025 - Epiphany 3

10:30am St Peter, Bromyard Holy Communion

3:00pm Brockhampton Chapel Evening Prayer

4:00pm St Peter & St Paul, Stoke Lacy Sanctuary

6:30pm St Peter, Bromyard Come to the River

### READINGS – Epiphany 3

*Morning:* Nehemiah 8.1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19\*  
1 Corinthians 12.12-31a; Luke 4.14-21

*Evening:* Psalm 33; Numbers 9.15-23;  
1 Corinthians 7.17-24; Mark 1.21-28

### 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, starting on Monday 10th February. 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.

We have a 'wish list' of items of equipment:

*Ball pit pool; Baby floor mats; musical instruments for toddlers; 'tuff' tray for sensory activities; toddlers kitchen playset; stroller and doll.*

Please talk to Betty if you have one of these which you might be willing to give to Pebbles, or would like to make a donation towards the purchase of these.

### 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.

### GOOD NEWS

We rejoice with Jenny Franklin as she completes five years in remission from cancer and so can be declared healed! We give thanks to our God for His unfailing love and care for Jenny. And we continue to hold Mark in our prayers, for full healing, and for all his ministry and work for God's church and the community of Bromyard.

*Your love, O LORD, reaches to the heavens, Your faithfulness to the skies.  
Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, Your justice like the great deep.*

*Psalm 36: 5-6*

### BROMYARD FOODBANK

*Items urgently needed this week:*

**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, Mark Franklin

*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, Don Griffiths

### CONTACTS

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

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

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