

Our prayers are asked:

- for our parish and Cathedral Church, that we may reveal something of God to others in this Epiphany season
- for PCC members in their responsibilities
- for all front line workers
- for the staff, pupils and families of Hempsted School, the King's School & The Crypt School
- for those struggling financially at this time
- for those involved in distribution of the COVID vaccine
- for the peoples of the USA, for peace & a democratic transfer of power
- for all who are sick
- for all who have died including Pat Culley
- for all who are bereaved and mourning the death of loved ones

Please do send any prayer requests to
prayer.requests@swithunandmary.org.uk

CHURCH CONTACTS

Churchwardens

St Mary de Lode	Richard Lane	521670
St Mary de Crypt	Peter Gould	419840
St Swithun's	Nick Roberts	413105
Parish Clergy	Nikki Arthy	523808
	nikkiarthy@btinternet.com	

Day off Monday

Sandra Millar 07976 823 986

Pastoral Assistants

Mary Gould 419840
Cath Wain 521799

Parish Safeguarding Officers

Mary Gould 419840

Parish Office

Roxy Nicholls 507676
Claire Saunders 385070

admin@swithunandmary.org.uk

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The Parish of Hempsted with St Mary de Lode
and St Mary de Crypt, Gloucester
in partnership with Gloucester Cathedral



Baptism of Christ
10th January 2021

11.15am	Praying at Home	Zoom
Reading	Mark 1:4-11	
Minister	Nikki Arthy	
Reflection	Andrew Braddock	

The Zoom link should be on the email you received with this pew sheet. If not contact admin@swithunandmary.org.uk

Zoom Coffee is every Sunday at 12noon. All are welcome whether or not you attended the service.

Morning Prayer continues via Zoom on Wednesdays and Fridays at 9.00am.

Services are currently not taking place in the churches of our parish.

Virtual Messy Church meets next on Sunday 24 January at 4pm.

I woke early on New Year's Eve with the words of a poem by Minnie Louise Haskins running through my head.

*And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:
"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."
And he replied:
"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.
That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."
So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.
And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.*

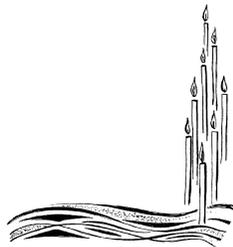
The poem is popularly called 'Gate of the Year', although the author herself entitled it 'God Knows'. King George VI quoted it in his 1939 Christmas broadcast and it remained a source of comfort to millions throughout the Second World War.

We begin a new year together yet necessarily apart as we abide by lockdown restrictions. It is a deeply challenging time, a time once again to put our hands into the Hand of God, confident that God knows and loves each and every one of us and guides us through the darkest of days. As we walk with God, we continue to reach out to one another and the wider communities we serve in care and prayer. Please do not hesitate to ring if you need a listening ear, advice or prayer.

It's heartening to hear that several people in our community have now received the vaccine. We rejoice with them and look forward to the day when we have all been vaccinated. We will meet again and in the meantime we look intentionally and with hope for the signs of 'the breaking of day in the lone East.'

Best wishes and prayers for a hope-filled new year.

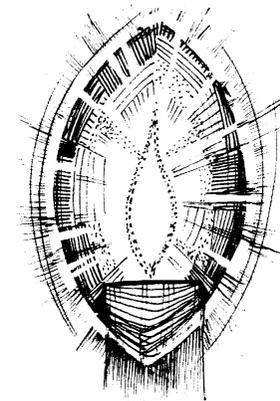
Nikki



At Epiphany, it is our custom in the parish to chalk the threshold of our churches and invite people to do the same at home. This is a custom from the Orthodox Church which invokes the traditional names of the Magi, the Three Kings. As we travel through this Epiphany season, you may wish to pray a blessing on your home by chalking the threshold and praying as you do:

We chalk the threshold of our homes 20+C+M+B+21

Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar followed the star which led them to God's Son made flesh two thousand and twenty one years ago. May Christ bless our home, we who live here and all who may visit here throughout this year.



An Epiphany prayer by Bill Braviner

Take from us Lord,
any sense that we haven't much to offer you.
Even when we feel that our gifts are meagre and ordinary,
help us to offer them joyfully to you,
that you may transform what we think is just water,
into the rich wine of your kingdom,
full of blessing. Amen.