

Issue No 105 Sunday 6th January 2019

Services & events this week

Friday 4th Holy Communion 1.30 pm Weyhill
Holy Communion 2.30 Charlton

Saturday 5th Breakfast @ 9 - "Spirituality – Do all approaches lead to God?" Charlton 9 am

Wednesday 9th Holy Communion 10 am Tangley

Sunday 13th Young Church 11 am Charlton
Encounters – The Wise Men 6.30 pm Charlton

Services & events next week

Wednesday 16th Holy Communion 9.30 am HBT

Holy Communion 10 am Tangley

Friendship Group 7.30 pm Charlton

Readings This Week

Isa 60 1- 6 Ps 72 (or 72 1- 15)
Eph 3 1 – 12 Matt 2 1 - 12

Next Week

Isa 43 1 – 7 Ps 29
Acts 8 14 – 17 Luke 3 15 – 17, 21 - 22

In your Prayers please pray for.....

All the teachers and children as they return to school after the holidays may they settle back smoothly

Families affected by disasters such as that on King Arthurs Way or by mindless violence that affects so many families

Those people who are fleeing their own country and crossing the channel to seek refuge in the UK

Pastrow & Community Diary Dates

The Bible Explored

A journey through the biggest selling book of all time

Understand the Old and New Testaments better. Discover how the 66 books fit together and the key themes of this amazing book. Become more confident about reading it for yourself and finding your way around. Open up a new way for God to speak into your life.

Starts the week beginning 24th February 2019.

Twelve small groups to choose from, meeting mid-week in a fun, stimulating atmosphere (home, pub etc).

Interested:

call Revd Ian 01264 749935 or email revian@pastrowbenefice.org.uk

Words of Encouragement

By Terry Milne

The other day Jean and I went to watch a performance of Christmas Carol at the Old Vic in London. We expected to walk into the theatre and see a normal stage with some good scenery and all the action taking place there. Well we were astonished on taking our seats to find that the stage was taken up with seating and that all the action was going to take part in the very middle of the theatre. Not only that there were times when characters would appear all over the theatre including the balcony. Not at all what we expected and our eyes were opened to a very new and enjoyable experience.

So what were the magi to think when they approached Bethlehem – they were following a star and knew from the prophecies that they would find a new king. Maybe they thought that this king would have been born in a palace (even if as they approached they might have wondered where a palace might be in a small village not too far from Jerusalem). But when they got there and eventually found Jesus it was all very different – born in a stable and probably by the time they got there residing in a small rented room in a squalid inn. However that did not stop them recognising Jesus for who was (and is) – the King of Kings and Lord of all.

When we today are expecting to see something are we disappointed when what we eventually see turns out to be completely different? And it is not just the visible act of seeing – we often expect to hear, feel, taste, smell something and then find out the experience is very different. So it can be with our spiritual lives – we might expect to go down a particular path but then find out that God the Holy Spirit is taking us in a completely different direction. Do we give up at that stage because that does not meet our expectations or, as the magi did, go with the flow and follow the new path. As we celebrate the Epiphany may our eyes be fully opened to any new spiritual path before us and not let us get bound up in our own pre-conceived ideas.

Notes from Pastrow Admin

Always here to help call 07999 352585 or email eventsadmin@pastrowbenefice.org.uk office hours are 9 – 4.30 Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.