



St Anne with Holy Trinity, Brondesbury

Confidently sharing the love of Christ

3rd Sunday of Epiphany 21st January 2024

Welcome to St Anne's today—it is great to have you with us. St Anne's is the local Church of England parish church and we are a very diverse group of people. We hope that you will feel welcome in our worship today. If you are new, please do say hello—we would love to get to know you. If you are unsure where to find something, or about what is going on, please do ask. We will be happy to help.

Our worship style is quite formal, but we hope relaxed—as we come to worship God in our midst.

All the words for the service will be on the screens at the front however, if you would prefer to have a printed copy in your hands, there are hymn books and service sheets at the back.



We are currently in the season of Epiphany which runs from the 6th January till the 2nd February. A note on the readings for the Today's readings vary in the Church of England to the Revised Common Lectionary as we continue to observe epiphany. On the third Sunday we hear the gospel reading of the Wedding at Cana, and as such we are invited to once again consider those manifestations which help us recognise Emmanuel—God with us.

Please stand as the bell is rung as we sing our opening Hymn 328 – I come with joy omit verse 3

We meet in the name of God who is (+) Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The President will introduce the service

We make our confession for those things which separate us from God and from one another.

The grace of God has dawned upon the world through our Saviour Jesus Christ, who sacrificed himself for us to purify a people as his own. Let us confess our sins. *Silence is kept*

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us, forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you
in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.**

We sing together.

**Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy,
Christ have mercy, Christ have mercy,
Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.**

We are reminded of God's forgiveness.

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, (+) pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Confident in God's forgiveness we sing the Gloria

**Refrain: Glory to God, Glory to God,
 Glory to God in the highest.**

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to His people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship You we give You thanks,
we praise You for your glory. Refrain:**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God You take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
You are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our
prayer. Refrain:**

**For You alone are the Holy One,
You alone are the Lord,
You alone are the most high
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
In the glory of God the Father. Refrain.**

The Priest introduces a period of silent prayer before the collect.

God of all mercy,
your Son proclaimed good news to the poor,
release to the captives,
and freedom to the oppressed:
anoint us with your Holy Spirit
and set all your people free
to praise you in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Liturgy of the Word (please sit as the young people leave us for their lessons. We hear a reading from the Old Testament.

*This obscure reading from Genesis seems almost out of place—
but gives context to the image of Christ as the great High
Priest—in the order of Melchizedek! One thing that makes
Melchizedek unique was he was both a king and a priest.
History shows that it is often dangerous to combine religious*

and civic authority. God forbade the kings of Israel to be priests and the priests to be kings. Melchizedek was an exception. Melchizedek is an example of a worshipper of the true God, even a priest of God Most High yet not related to Abram or other known covenant people of God. Melchizedek served Abram bread and wine. Perhaps he even served them in a manner as the bread and wine of Passover and Holy Communion— how it takes place is unknown! Melchizedek, as priest, did two things. He blessed Abram and he blessed God. Melchizedek showed that a priest must connect with both God and humanity and has a ministry to both.

A reading from the book of Genesis
(Genesis 14: 17-20)

After his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley). And King Melchizedek of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was priest of God Most High. He blessed him and said, 'Blessed be Abram by God Most High, maker of heaven and earth; and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand!' And Abram gave him one-tenth of everything.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

We hear a reading from the New Testament.

As with our first reading this passage from the visions of the apocalypse in Revelation try to help us see the fullness of the vision of Jesus. Once again John finds his inspiration in the words of Scripture. In his mind are two things. First, he is remembering Psalms 97:1 : "The Lord reigns; let the earth rejoice." Second, he says: "Let us rejoice and exult." There is only one other place in the New Testament where these two verbs (chairein and agallian) come together--in Jesus Christ's promise to the persecuted: "Rejoice and be glad, for your reward

is great in heaven" (Matthew 5:12).

The thought of the relationship between God and his people as a marriage goes far back into the Old Testament. Again and again the prophets thought of Israel as the chosen bride of God. In this context it is believed to represent the intimate and indissoluble communion of Christ with the community.

A reading from the Book of Revelation
(Revelation 19: 6-10)

Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty thunder-peals, crying out, 'Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.

Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready; to her it has been granted to be clothed with fine linen, bright and pure'—for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

And the angel said to me, 'Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.' And he said to me, 'These are true words of God.' Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, 'You must not do that! I am a fellow-servant with you and your comrades who hold the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.'

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

We sing our **Gradual Hymn 34 – Amazing Grace omit verse 4** during which we stand for the Gospel procession.

John 2: 1-11 is the first recorded miracle of Jesus ministry as water is turned into wine at the wedding in Cana. What does it, and the other readings we have heard through Epiphany, reveal about who Jesus is and what Jesus will do? We should remember that the miracles Jesus performs in the Fourth Gospel are never called miracles but signs. In other words, the miracle

itself is not really what we are supposed to see, as miraculous as it is.

True, water into wine would be quite something, especially on a Sunday afternoon. Rather, the miracles point to a truer revelation about Jesus. This could be an important way to move through the season of Epiphany. Revelation for revelation's sake is really not the point. What deeper reality is Jesus revealing? What are we supposed to see about Jesus?

They are good questions to consider as we prepare for Candlemas next Sunday. What difference does the revelation, the ministry, the incarnation of God amongst make to our lives? How does our faith in Christ anchor our days—in good times and in bad? What do we hold onto.

Each Sunday we come to the table and share in the Eucharist together. It is an act which we share as a community, and hopefully grounds our week. It is a moment in which Jesus is revealed to us afresh each week. As Epiphany draws to a close, may we be challenged to consider how we 'hold onto' what we have learnt in faith.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John
Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

(John 2: 1-11)

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become

wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

We sit to listen to the sermon. After the sermon silence is kept.

We stand to affirm our faith:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the + resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

We sit as we prayer for the Church, the World and for this community. A member of the congregation will lead these

After the biddings we pray

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Rest Eternal Grant unto them O Lord

+ And let light perpetual shine upon them

May they rest in peace

And rise in glory

At the conclusion of the prayers

Merciful Father,

**accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our
Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Liturgy of the Sacrament *(please stand)*

Christ is our peace. If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation. The old has passed away: behold, everything has become new.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

and also with you.

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

We share the peace with those around us in a way we are comfortable until the offertory Hymn is announced.

We sing Hymn 638 – Rejoice the Lord is King (alternate 4th verse) during which a collection is taken.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation: through your goodness we have this bread to set before you, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life.

Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation: through your goodness we have this wine to set before you, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become for us the cup of salvation.

Blessed be God for ever.

The Lord be with you,
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

The preface continues until we sing.

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.**

After the Consecration :

Great is the mystery of faith
**Christ has died: Christ is risen:
Christ will come again**

*At the end of the Eucharistic Prayer we sing **Amen.***

We join in the prayer that Jesus taught his friends to say in our preferred version and language.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come;
thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

We sing the Agnus Dei.

**Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us**

**Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us**

**Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world,
grant us peace.**

The Elevation

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord (+) I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

*We receive communion. All who would normally receive are welcome to, and you may choose if you are ready to receive the chalice. We receive God's grace in one kind or two. **(Please do not intinct (dip))**. You may also like to come forward for a blessing; and you may wish to light a candle. During communion we listen to Nunc Dimitts by Paul Smith VOCES8*

At the end of communion, the priest will lead us in a period of silence, and then a short prayer:

Almighty Father, whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world: may your people, illumined by your word and sacraments, shine with the radiance of his glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen.**

We listen to notices about our community life.

We receive God's blessing for the week ahead.

The Lord be with you
And also with you

Christ the Son of God perfect in you the image of his glory and gladden your hearts with the good news of his kingdom; and the blessing of God almighty, the (+) Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

Go in the peace of Christ

Thanks be to God

*We join in our **final hymn 200 – Forth in the name of Christ** during which the clergy depart.*

You are invited to join us for refreshments downstairs.

Our Community Life Together and Dates for your Diary

Laurence's Larder

You can leave your donations, tinned fish or any non-perishable food in the basket at the top of the stairs. You can see updates on this work at www.laurenceslarder.org.uk

Finance—St Anne's

Our current monthly target for congregational giving is **£2180**. In November we raised £1869. Thank you to everyone for your generosity!

We are now contactless! Visitors to St Anne's, or even regulars are now able to donate using a contactless point at the back of church. For regular members, a Standing Order or Envelope is best as it helps us plan.

The funds we raise support the Mission work of St Anne's, from ensuring worship takes place to provision of Playgroup, tea and chat, bereavement support and care of the local community. We receive no funds external to support what we do, we need to raise all we need to continue our work in Queen's Park and beyond.

PCC meeting

The PCC will meet on Monday 22nd January. We have lots to prepare for the coming year and we would appreciate your prayers as we plan for all that is to come.

Used Christmas Wreaths

Rhona would love any used Christmas wreaths as the base of each wreath can be used again. *(please bring us the base and remove decorations first if possible)* Please bring either in for collection here!

Monthly Gardening Morning

Our next Gardening Morning is Saturday 10th February (which is the second Saturday of the month). Weather permitting! Come along anytime between 10am and 12noon and help keep our garden beautiful.



For our prayers— Peter, Olawale, Eunice, Marco, Irene, Patsy, Jean, Joyce, Guy and Renate, AnneMarie and Marion, Emma, Peter and Rhona, Florret, John and Josephine, Harriet, May, Mavis, Kay, Comfort, Jean, Pearl, Peter, Ruth, John and Cecilia. We remember those who have died recently including Evelyn and Francis and those whose anniversary of death falls at this time Charles Gabe, Bellina Gabe, Anne Crawford, Ralph Keckwick, Ferry Hillman, Geoffrey Killick and Fr Derek New.

Services during the week 21st January 2024

Tuesday	8.30am Morning Prayer in Chapel and on Zoom
Thursday	8.30am Morning Prayer in Chapel
Friday	8.30am Morning Prayer in Chapel
	9.30am My Move Playgroup
	2pm Tea and Chat
Sunday 28th	9 am Morning Prayer in Chapel and Zoom
<i>Candlemas</i>	10am Sung Mass with Sunday School

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