

**Collect for 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany**

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. **Amen**

**Post Communion Prayer**

God of glory, you nourish us with your Word who is the bread of life: fill us with your Holy Spirit that through us the light of your glory may shine in all the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**PRAYER POINTS:**

- For Christian Aid.
- For those affected by the Californian mud slides.
- For the all hospital staff, especially those working in intensive care.
- For David as he goes on his residential Area Dean Training course.
- For Peter Dixon currently working at the Gideon's orphanage in Uganda.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR ALL THOSE IN IMMEDIATE NEED OF HEALING AND PEACE:**

Oliver Baillie, Alexander Torrance, Steve and Debbi Barnett, Debby Cadwallader & the family, Suzie Aries, Marion Long, John Babb, Carol and Trevor Fitch, Una Harborne, Mavis Finch, Rod and Angela, Michael Hopkins, Christopher and Victoria, Mark Ackford and family, Norman Edwards, Philippa King, Kelly May, Gordon & Kathleen Plumridge, Joyce Bapty, Richard Heaney, and the frail, elderly and bereaved.

**WE HAVE ALSO BEEN ASKED TO PRAY FOR:**

Kate Quarrell, Gideon, Laura Huidekoper, Barbara Higgins, Mary Jefferies, Alex Chauhan, Rachael, Keith & Judy Brambleby, Barbara Platts, Sarah, Anne and Tony Eccleston, Jennie Lunn, Tony Mead, Hannah, Stuart Bailey.

**WE REMEMBER WITH THANKSGIVING THE LIVES OF:**

John Simmons, Voldermar Nestor and John Randall

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Open: Mon & Tues: 9:30am -1.30pm, Weds & Thurs  
9:30am -5.00pm

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St Mary's  
with  
St Peter's  
PRINCES RISBOROUGH  
& ILMER

# News

**Sunday January 14th 2018, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany****Dear Friends**

In the 1950s the author and translator J B Phillips wrote a challenging book entitled *Your God is too Small*. Emerging from the Second World War it was perhaps inevitable that our understanding of God had to be re-examined as much of the literature of previous years suggested a rather immature image perhaps caricatured by the old man with a beard in the sky.

Fast forward fifty or more years and children in the Lighthouse programme are singing that *Our God is a great big God*. Much had happened in the years in between. In the early 1960s John Robinson wrote a book entitled *Honest to God*. That caused a considerable uproar. Some pastors forbade congregations to read it, while other critics accused Robinson of saying that 'God is dead'. What he was trying to say was that our image is inadequate – too human and too personal. His emphasis lay in directing us towards a being which transcends us.

I well remember John Habgood (later to become Archbishop of York) saying that he came to see God as some sort of divine computer bank in which was contained an infinite number of elements. He described it as 'mind blowing' because it was infinitely bigger than anything he could comprehend. So the children singing at Lighthouse have got it right: *Our God is a great big God!* If we had stayed with what might crudely describe as a pre-war image of God, we wouldn't have developed spiritually at all. If however we seek further into the unknown, we shall discover more of the vastness and wonder of God and our faith will develop and we shall be stronger and more integrated as human beings. John Habgood was first trained in natural sciences and never saw any conflict between science and religion. Indeed, he gave the impression that explorations into science unfolded some, until then, unknown aspects of God. He felt that by answering questions within the unknown, our understanding of God could only increase.

Although it is being taken out of context, it reminds me of the quote that King George VI gave from Minnie Haskins' poem in his Christmas broadcast in 1939.

**Nick Molony**

## NEWS & NOTICES

**ALPHA 2018:** This started on 10<sup>th</sup> Jan and continues until 14<sup>th</sup> March. The course will be on Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm in the Chapter House. There will be a meal, a talk and a discussion. It is not too late to join in. Contact Dan on [revdbeesley@gmail.com](mailto:revdbeesley@gmail.com) for more info.

**CHURCH FAMILY BRING AND SHARE LUNCH:** On Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January there will be a Church Family Bring and Share Lunch at 12.30pm. We will be having hot food and if you are able to help with making a dish, please take a label from the label tree in Church. If you can help with setting up or clearing away, please let the Heather Hardy know on PR 347600 or [heather.hardy@live.co.uk](mailto:heather.hardy@live.co.uk). Please also sign the list in Church if you will be going.

**PANCAKE PARTY:** There will be an all age pancake party on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February from 4-6pm. More details to follow. If you can help with this please contact Stella on [stella.upton@btinternet.com](mailto:stella.upton@btinternet.com).

**HOLIDAY AT HOME 2018:** This is on Thurs 15<sup>th</sup> and Fri 16<sup>th</sup> February, 10am -4pm. If you went to the one in August, you will know it is great fun. All sorts of great activities, two course hot lunch, cakes and biscuits and of course friendship and fun. Booking now open and forms available in Church. Contact Gill on PR 346145 or [gill.sunfold@googlemail.com](mailto:gill.sunfold@googlemail.com)

**CONFIRMATION SERVICE:** St Mary's will be hosting a Confirmation Service on March 31<sup>st</sup> 2018 at 6pm. If you would like to be confirmed or know anyone who is thinking of it, please let the Office know. There will be confirmation classes arranged.

**WORSHIP TRAINING DAY AT ST MARY'S:** A full day of training for anyone interested in developing their skills as a musician or sound operator. Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb: 9.30am - 4.30pm. See [www.goo.gl/9GgmNe](http://www.goo.gl/9GgmNe) for more information, or speak to Tim Horton ([tim@sflgroup.co.uk](mailto:tim@sflgroup.co.uk)).

**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY:** This year's theme is 'Your right hand, O Lord, glorious in power' Exodus 15:6. The service is at Speen Baptist Church, Chapel Hill, Speen HP27 OSP. The service will be led by Rev Heather McIntyre with readers from our local Churches.

**LIGHTHOUSE QUIZ SHEETS:** Are available from the Office. £1 to enter and you could win £25 worth of book tokens. Deadline 31<sup>st</sup> January. All money to Lighthouse.

**AYLESBURY DEANERY LEARNING -WELCOME AND HOSPITALITY:** There will be a three part series of interactive evenings on welcome and hospitality at Holy Trinity Aylesbury (HP21 7QX). Starts Weds 24<sup>th</sup> Jan at 7.45pm. All welcome. Contact [info@aylesburydeanery.org](mailto:info@aylesburydeanery.org) for more info.

### Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2018, Second Sunday of Epiphany

#### **GRACE Sermon Series**

**Readings: 1 Samuel 3: 1-10; 1-6; John 1: 43-end**

- 8.00am** Holy Communion at St Mary's  
**9.30am** Parish Communion followed by coffee  
**11.15am** TGIS  
**3.00pm** Service at Icknield Court  
**6.00pm** Pulse in the Chapter House

### What's on in the week beginning Monday 15th January

- Weds 17<sup>th</sup>** **9.00am** Wednesday Prayers at St Mary's  
**10.30am** Holy Communion followed by coffee  
**7.30pm** Alpha Course in the Chapter House  
**Thurs 18<sup>th</sup>** **10.30am** Coffee in the Chapter House  
**Fri 19<sup>th</sup>** **2.00pm** Nursery Service in St Mary's  
**7.00pm** Puppet Club in the Church Hall

### Sunday 21st January 2018, Third Sunday of Epiphany

#### **GRACE Sermon Series**

**Readings: Acts 2:42-47; John 15: 9-17**

- 8.00am** Holy Communion at St Mary's  
**9.00am** Holy Communion at St Peter's, Ilmer  
**9.30am** Parish Communion followed by coffee  
**11.15am** TGIS  
**3.00pm** Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service at Speen Baptist  
**6.00pm** Choral Evensong at St Mary's  
**6.00pm** Later at Methodist Church

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**Rector:** Revd. David Williams 346984/07919263377

**Associate Minister:** Revd. Michael Hunt 344150;

**Curate:** Revd. Dan Beesley 345521;

**Children's & Youth Worker:** Ryan Romano 273300

**Assistant Clergy:** Revds. David & Nancy Wallace 290670;  
Revds. Steve & Rose Williams 274225; Canon Nick Molony 273895;

Revd. Jenny Deverill 274269; **LLM:** Averil Stephenson 343649

**Churchwarden:** Jim Cadwallader