

# Weekly Pewsheet

*Service Details and Notices*

## Baptism of Christ

Sunday 10 January 2021



Please visit our website or Facebook page for regular updates. Please use the contact details overleaf to stay in touch.

[www.oakhamteam.org.uk](http://www.oakhamteam.org.uk)  
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*Please contact one of the Ministry Team if you would like a chat or a visit.*



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# From the Team Vicar

Dear Friends,

Well, 2021 has arrived but life continues to be as challenging and unpredictable as it was in 2020! Last week I was urging us to look to the future with hope because of what God has done in the past and what he has promised for the future. We have a solid ground for hope. We are though facing a dangerous virus and want to maintain our worship and prayer, our service and witness. As I write these words decisions are being made about our pattern of services and I will communicate these to you as soon as I can.

In the meantime, I invite you to think about God's blessing as well as about hope for the future. There is a blessing which goes under various headings, including 'A non-traditional blessing' or 'A Franciscan blessing'. One version follows:

**May God bless you with discomfort,**

at easy answers, half-truths,  
and superficial relationships  
so that you may live deep within your heart.

**May God bless you with anger**

at injustice, oppression,  
and exploitation of people,  
so that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.

**May God bless you with tears,**

to shed for those who suffer pain,  
rejection, hunger, and war,  
so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and to turn their pain to joy.

**And may God bless you with enough foolishness**

to believe that you can make a difference in the world,  
so that you can do what others claim cannot be done,  
to bring justice and kindness to all our children and the poor.

**Amen.**

Not our usual request for blessing! But it suggests to me to be a genuine openness to going further on and deeper in with God and his ways. Very suitable for a new year. I wonder what you make of it?

# Sunday Worship

## Collect

Eternal Father,  
who at the baptism of Jesus  
revealed him to be your Son,  
anointing him with the Holy Spirit:  
grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit,  
that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children;  
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.

## Psalm 29

1 Ascribe to the Lord, you powers of heaven, \*  
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

2 Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name; \*  
worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

3 The voice of the Lord is upon the waters;  
the God of glory thunders; \*  
the Lord is upon the mighty waters. R

4 The voice of the Lord is mighty in operation; \*  
the voice of the Lord is a glorious voice.

5 The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; \*  
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

6 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf \*  
and Sirion like a young wild ox. R

7 The voice of the Lord splits the flash of lightning;  
the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; \*  
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

8 The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe  
and strips the forests bare; \*  
in his temple all cry, 'Glory!'

9 The Lord sits enthroned above the water flood; \*  
the Lord sits enthroned as king for evermore.

10 The Lord shall give strength to his people; \*  
the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

## **First Reading – Genesis 1.1-5**

A reading from the Book of Genesis

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **Second Reading – Acts 19.1-7**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the inland regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?' They replied, 'No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.' Then he said, 'Into what then were you baptized?' They answered, 'Into John's baptism.' Paul said, 'John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.' On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied – altogether there were about twelve of them.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel Reading – Mark 1.4-11**

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.' In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

### Reflection – Alan Rudge

*Readings - Acts 19:1-7 and Mark 1:4-11*

What's in a name and why are names so important? What do names mean to us and what did they mean in the past? Parents-to-be sometimes spend a lot of time researching the meaning of names. If they were sports fanatics they might name a boy after a famous sportsman or in the case of one Liverpool supporter the whole of the team! Some people choose aspirational names for their children, such as Elijah or even Jesus! In the past names were very important because of what they revealed about your family and its history – we see the importance of family name and history throughout the Bible. When Elizabeth and Zechariah brought their son for baptism their friends were astonished when they said his name would be John as there had been no one in their family of that name! Today some names tell us immediately about the occupations of our forebears or their family - Cooper, Farmer, Johnson etc. More importantly, God himself has given a person a new name to reflect their new identity; Abram and Sarai to Abraham and Sarah, Jacob to Israel. Jesus renamed Simon to indicate who he would be, he renamed Saul as Paul. So it's not surprising that, in the early church, naming became associated with the Baptism of new believers, often after a fairly long period of teaching, the adults frequently adopting new names for themselves. It was a public declaration of who they had become through their faith in Jesus. The Chinese Christians often have a western Christian name to identify themselves as Christians, a very obvious sign of their faith, and then their Chinese family name

When Jesus was baptised by John he was named by God

***“You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”***

How many other people heard this we do not know but Jesus did; he was given the confirmation of who he was which was affirmed by his anointing by the Holy Spirit. The Three Persons of the Trinity present together yet separate.

***As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.***

Jesus didn't need to be baptised; he was and is the only sinless person who has ever existed. So why did he insist that John baptise him? Firstly it was the acknowledgement of John as his God-ordained forerunner; secondly, he was identifying himself with humanity; Jesus fully God and fully human, the promised Messiah, became one with us. The ceremonial washing he received was the example for us to follow. Right from the beginning, Jesus never commanded from behind, he led from the front. Ultimately, Jesus became 'sin for us' through his death on the cross, taking all our shame and sin upon himself so that through our belief and trust in him we could be released from its burden.

So, for Christians, Baptism isn't just about naming; it's also about being given an identity with Christ – he in us and us in him, as Paul describes it. Our reading from Acts clearly shows that, just as when Jesus was baptised, there are two parts; water and Spirit. The people had received John's baptism, a baptism of repentance, when they took the step to be cleansed, symbolised by being immersed in water. Paul enquires:

***“Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?”***

***They answered, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.”***

So the people had been 'washed' through John's baptism – their decision – but they hadn't received the gift that God had for them. When Paul laid his hands on them God filled them with the Holy Spirit, evidenced by their speaking in tongues and prophesying! God had made them his own. If you have time read the rest of Chapter 19 of Acts – it is very revealing. It's not just the decision we make it's also God's response to our repentance and decision to allow him to deal with our shame and sin when we ask him into our lives. Of course, this isn't just a one off request; we continually need to ask to be filled with the Holy Spirit to help us to keep our new identity and to have the help to become the people God wants us to be - to fulfil our potential.

***“Therefore, I urge you brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.”***

(Romans 12:1-2)

Our ambition should be to seek an increasingly closer relationship with God; to allow him to lead us along the path he has laid out for us, so we can search and determine what his priorities are. Peter explains it like this:

***“As you come to him (Jesus) the living Stone – rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him – you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”***

Meeting together to worship, pray and celebrate, strengthens us and encourages us to allow the Holy Spirit to unlock our potential to achieve great things for God, both individually and collectively as the Body of Christ; to achieve things we never imagined we could do. Our identity in Christ is shared by all Christians throughout the world, reaching down to us in our rural churches. There are many examples of individuals or small groups of people who have done amazing things sometimes against all odds because they had the courage to follow the vision God gave them: 24/7 prayer, Jackie Pullinger and the walled city in Hong Kong, Samaritans (I vicar), Water Aid, Open Doors (I Brother Andrew), Release International (I Richard Wurmbrandt), and Send a Cow; in fact a large proportion of today's aid organisations. What about what has been achieved here; The Drop in Centre, the Food Bank and the Sukkot house? All three started with the vision of one or two people and their perseverance to see them to fulfilment.;

We read in Proverbs 19:17:

***“Whoever is generous to the poor lends to God, and he will repay them for their deed.”***

What does all of this mean for us in 2021 and beyond? What is our response to the challenges we face – climate change, independence from Europe, the pandemic, inequality - in the future? Do we sigh and say it isn't possible to do all the things we want to? Or do we put our trust in the living God, seek his will for us and for our churches pray together and have an expectation that he will give us what we need to continue his work here? God will give us what we need in his good time and in response to the sacrifices we make to further his kingdom.

***God says, “I will build my church.”***

God **will** build up his church using us as his living stones. We, for our part need to:

Be **A**ctive in worship

**C**ontinue to support the work of the church

Find **T**ime to pray each day

**S**upport those in need.



Just as the early church was identified through its acts so we too should be identifiable through our actions.

We have a significant part to play and the church here is still a focal part of the community. Let us pray and work together to keep it as such for years and centuries to come.

### **Intercessions** by *Vyv Wainwright*

With confidence and trust let us pray to the Father.

Our response this morning is  
Lord of compassion,  
**in your mercy hear us.**

For the one holy catholic and apostolic Church,  
let us pray to the Father.  
Lord of compassion,  
**in your mercy hear us.**

For the mission of the Church,  
For a Hybrid church witnessing both on line and in churches across the world,  
that in faithful witness it may preach the gospel  
to the ends of the earth, using the gifts you have given to us let us pray to the Father.  
Lord of compassion,  
**in your mercy hear us.**

For those preparing for baptism and confirmation  
and for their teachers and sponsors,  
let us pray to the Father.  
Lord of compassion,  
**in your mercy hear us.**

For peace in the world ...  
that a spirit of respect and reconciliation may grow  
among nations and peoples,  
let us pray to the Father.  
Lord of compassion,  
**in your mercy hear us.**

For the poor, the persecuted,  
for refugees, prisoners, and all-in danger; that they may be relieved and protected,  
let us pray to the Father.  
Lord of compassion,  
**in your mercy hear us.**

For those whom we have injured or offended,

the sick, and all who suffer thinking particularly for those with COVID 19 where ever they may be

for all those known to us to be ill or in need at this time

let us pray to the Father.

Lord of compassion,

**in your mercy hear us.**

For grace to amend our lives and to further the reign of God,

let us pray to the Father.

Lord of compassion,

**in your mercy hear us.**

In communion with all those who have walked in the way of holiness, giving thanks for the lives of the recently departed and those whose anniversaries occur at this time...

let us pray to the Father.

Lord of compassion,

**in your mercy hear us.**

**Merciful Father accept these prayers for the sake of your son our saviour Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.**

**RUTLAND YOUTH  
OPEN ART  
EXHIBITION**

**THEME:  
'OPEN  
THE  
DOOR'**

**We've  
gone  
virtual!**

**SUBMISSION  
DEADLINE:  
19TH MARCH  
2021**

**EXHIBITION  
DATES:  
9TH APRIL -  
6TH MAY  
2021**

An exhibition of selected artwork by artists based in Rutland & its surrounding counties.

All selected works to be shared on the Arts for Rutland website and social media sites

Entry forms available at: [www.a4r.org.uk](http://www.a4r.org.uk)

**Rutland**  
County Council

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**ARTS FOR RUTLAND**

# Praying Alone

## Praying Together

### *Daily Prayer This Week*

*Morning Prayer is streamed live on Facebook at 8.30am from Monday to Friday, and is available after that on Facebook and the website.*



### Readings

Readings & Collect Prayer for Daily Prayer in the coming week

Day	Morning Prayer	Evening Prayer
Monday 11 January	Psalm 2 1 Corinthians 1.1-17	Psalm 34 Amos 1
Tuesday 12 January	Psalm 9 1 Corinthians 1.18-end	Psalm 45 Amos 2
Wednesday 13 January	Psalm 20 1 Corinthians 2	Psalm 47 Amos 3
Thursday 14 January	Psalm 21 1 Corinthians 3	Psalm 61 Amos 4
Friday 15 January	Psalm 67 1 Corinthians 4	Psalm 68 Amos 5.1-17
Saturday 16 January	Psalm 33 1 Corinthians 5	Psalm 85 Amos 5.18-end

### Collect

**Holy Father,  
at the Jordan you revealed Jesus your Son:  
may we recognise him as our Lord  
and know ourselves to be your beloved children;  
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.  
Amen**

## **A Song of the New Jerusalem**

1 Arise, shine out, for your light has come, \*  
the glory of the Lord is rising upon you.

2 Though night still covers the earth, \*  
and darkness the peoples;

3 Above you the Holy One arises, \*  
and above you God's glory appears.

4 The nations will come to your light, \*  
and kings to your dawning brightness.

5 Your gates will lie open continually, \*  
shut neither by day nor by night.

6 The sound of violence shall be heard no longer in your land, \*  
or ruin and devastation within your borders.

7 You will call your walls, Salvation, \*  
and your gates, Praise.

8 No more will the sun give you daylight, \*  
nor moonlight shine upon you;

9 But the Lord will be your everlasting light, \*  
your God will be your splendour.

10 For you shall be called the city of God, \*  
the dwelling of the Holy One of Israel.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

# Resources for Worship

During this time when many of us are not able to worship together in church, there are a number of alternatives available:

- The Oakham Team Facebook page, where one of the ministry team will lead a live stream of **Morning Prayer at 8.30am** on weekdays and **Holy Communion or Morning Prayer at 10.30am on Sundays**. These will also be available on the Team website, together with the service sheet and Weekly Pewsheets;
- **Compline**. David Perril continues a weekly service of Compline every Wednesday at 8.30pm on the Oakham Team Facebook page. Please use the new Compline booklet which is available from the team office or the porch at All Saints Oakham. Please email Liz on [ps0@oakhamteam.org.uk](mailto:ps0@oakhamteam.org.uk) if you would like a copy.
- The Church of England has an online resources page at <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online>.
- **Lectio Divina**. Vyv Wainwright has produced a booklet as a quick guide to us all in the practice of daily prayer. The booklet is available directly from Vyv or there are some copies available in the south porch of All Saints Oakham.
- **Bishop Donald's Youtube channel**. All of Bishop Donald's sermons, Psalm talks, and other material, are available on his [YouTube channel](#)
- **Daily Hope** A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers. 0800 8048044

## Services this week

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> 8.30am Morning Prayer at All Saints Oakham – you are welcome to attend in person or watch online.

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> 9am Holy Communion at All Saints Oakham

## Online Services

Morning Prayer – 8.30am Monday to Friday

Compline – Wednesday at 8.30pm

## Next Sunday – 17 January – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany

Readings: Psalm 139.1-9; 1 Samuel 3.1-10; Revelation 5.1-10; John 1.43-51

10.30am Holy Communion at All Saints Oakham and online.

6pm Evening Prayer at All Saints Oakham

[www.facebook.com/oakhamteam](http://www.facebook.com/oakhamteam) or on the church website

[www.oakhamteam.org.uk](http://www.oakhamteam.org.uk). Live services can be found on the bottom right hand side of the homepage of the website.

# BIBLE IN A YEAR – EXODUS

From Pharaoh to Freedom.

Exodus takes Jacob's family, who have settled in Egypt and prospered, into a time of adversity and enslavement when the ruling powers see the Hebrew people as a threat. God raises up Moses and prepares him for the task of bringing His people out of slavery and into the promised land. Exodus tells us of the life of Moses, his meeting with God at the burning bush, his confrontation with Pharaoh, of the Passover and how God works to enable his purposes. Exodus ends with Moses meeting with God on Mount Sinai and receiving the Law.

If you would like to find out more about the book of Exodus and engage with it prayerfully go to this weblink (<https://bit.ly/39J6W00>) where you will find readings, art, links to music, David Suchet reading the passages of scripture and to the Bible Project animated outline of the book of the week.

## New Curate for the Oakham Team – summer 2021



Hi, my name is Shakeel Nurmahi, I'm 24 years old, and I am delighted to be joining the Oakham team as Assistant Curate in June 2021. I grew up in Southampton in a Christian home and attended a South-Asian Church with my family, which later evolved to be an international free church. At 18 years old I moved to Bristol to read Theology at Trinity College Bristol. After three years in Bristol, I moved to Kettering, where I was serving as an intern as a part of Peterborough Diocese's Echo Ministry Experience Scheme. During the two years I was in Kettering, I was exploring a sense of calling to ordained ministry with Peterborough Diocese DDO, Steve Benoy. In April 2019 I was recommended for training and moved to Durham in the

Autumn to begin training at Cranmer Hall. After two years of training, I will be moving back to Peterborough Diocese to serve my title post as a part of the Oakham team. I will be moving to Rutland with Cecily, my fiancée, after our wedding next June. We met in Durham at Cranmer Hall, where we have both been training for ordination. We will be getting married in the summer just before we move to Rutland. Cecily will be weekly boarding in Durham as she completes her final year of training and will be back in Rutland on the weekends and the holidays, so you will still see her around.

I am very excited about joining the Oakham team, and I am very much looking forward to meeting you all. I hope that I can bring my passion for Jesus to the ministry across the churches. In my spare time, I enjoy snooker, tennis, reading and audio production. Thank you for all you have been doing in preparation for our arrival. Please continue to pray for us in the run-up to next summer. We can't wait. See you in June 2021! - Shakeel Nurmahi

## News from the Team

### Prayer for the Sick

We pray to you Lord Jesus Christ for those suffering in body, mind or spirit, amongst them: Nicholas Wainwright, Trevor Griffiths, Michael Parsons, Archie Crookston, Keith Thomas, Melville Youell, and June Churchill  
*Please phone the Team office or email [notices@oakhamteam.org.uk](mailto:notices@oakhamteam.org.uk) to add names to this list.*

### Remembering the recently departed

We remember with thanksgiving those recently departed this life, and those bereaved, amongst them: Revd. Peter Moseling, Victoria Cadmore.  
*Please phone the Team office or email [notices@oakhamteam.org.uk](mailto:notices@oakhamteam.org.uk) to add names to this list.*

### Revd Canon Moseling

I am sorry to announce that Revd Peter Moseling died recently. He provided

service cover in the Oakham Team from time to time. Peter was priest-in-charge and then vicar of Holy Trinity and St Paul's Northampton in Peterborough Diocese. He also served as a chaplain at Northampton University. Before retirement Peter served as a vicar and area dean in Southwark Diocese. Please remember Peter's wife Ann.

### Latest lockdown instructions:

Public worship is permitted under the latest lockdown instructions and churches are allowed to remain open for private prayer. The instructions will no doubt be updated as the month goes on. Sunday services will continue in line with the pattern outlined above.

10.30am services will be broadcast online. In addition there will be public services of Morning Prayer at All Saints Oakham at 8.30am on Tuesdays and

Thursdays and a service of Holy Communion at All Saints Oakham at 9am on Tuesdays. Please consider all the Government guidance as you decide whether to join in public worship, and continue to observe all the social distancing instructions if you do attend.

## **Churches Together in Oakham Prayer Breakfast**

I write on behalf of Churches Together in Oakham and District to invite you to the annual breakfast meeting during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Unfortunately we cannot meet in person, but rather than miss a year the CTiO committee has arranged a Zoom gathering on Saturday 23rd January 9am-11am. The theme is 'Responding to COVID19 - the present and future of online and in person church'.

We will be guided through our thinking and discussion by The Venerable Bob Jackson, who has researched and written on the church's response to COVID19 over the last year <https://www.cpas.org.uk/browse-everything/everybody-welcome-online>. In preparation for our event, each church has submitted a questionnaire to help Bob understand our strengths and weaknesses.

To access the event you will need to email me at [stephen@oakhamteam.org.uk](mailto:stephen@oakhamteam.org.uk) by Wednesday 20th January. I will send you the joining instructions and the format of the session. We will have some time

for discussion in small groups. If you are new to Zoom or will need any assistance accessing the event please indicate this in your email. The CTiO committee realises that not everyone can, or wants to, join in church events online. The discussion will cover the broader picture of church life. We hope and pray our time together will equip us to support one another in our mission and ministry to Oakham and District.  
Stephen

## **Hope into Action tenants**

A big thank you for your generosity in providing items for the hamper or donating money to help them buy their Christmas presents and gain access to the internet in the house. This plus the cards were very much appreciated and your love and support felt by them both.

*Heather and Gary*

## **Keeping in Touch**

I am usually at home at my desk Wednesdays 2pm-4pm and happy to take calls if you would like to share news and chat. Please feel free to call 869483. *Stephen*

## **Bereavement Support**

If you would like ongoing support while the Bereavement Group is not meeting, please leave your name, phone number and email one of the contacts below. Sian Cheverton (01572 755286); Madeleine Morris (07754 414437); Parish Office (01572 724007) or email [bereavementsupport@oakhamteam.org.uk](mailto:bereavementsupport@oakhamteam.org.uk).