

7th January 2018

EPIPHANY

Welcome

This church is part of
The Heart of England Group of Parishes

in the villages of Bidford, Binton, Exhall,
 Salford Priors, Temple Grafton & Wixford

*A very warm welcome to anyone
 who is visiting us or is here for
 the first time*

SERVICES TODAY		
8.00am	Holy Communion	Bidford
8.45am	Holy Communion by Extension	Salford Priors
10.30am	Café Church	Bidford
10.30am	Family Service	Salford Priors
6.30pm	Evensong	Binton

SERVICES NEXT SUNDAY (14th January)		
8.00am	Holy Communion	Bidford
8.00am	Holy Communion	Temple Grafton
10.00am	Holy Communion	Bidford
10.30am	Holy Communion	Salford Priors
11.00am	Family Service	Exhall



**Worshipping God
 Making new Disciples
 Transforming Communities**



Please pray this week for:

- those who are unwell, especially Margaret Beesley, Debbie Cox, Gill Czaicka, Peter Butcher, Joanna Cotterell, Les & Joy Foster, Cheryl Jefferson, Chloe Lambert, Geoff Mullett, Linda Mullett, Andrew Mumford, Edna Philpott, Rose Turner, Jackie, Laurence, and all their families, carers and the medical staff who treat them
- those who mourn the loss of a loved one
- our schools starting back this week and especially for Salford Priors school as the new system and staff begins this term.
- St Laurence's PCC and St Matthew's Ministry Team both meeting this week
- our churchwardens as they look after the church buildings and so much more!

"..in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." Philippians 4.6

What's happening during the week around the Group:

Tuesday	7.00pm	Tuesday Prayers at St Laurence, Bidford
	7.45pm	St Matthew's Ministry Team Meeting
Thursday	9.00am	Thursday Prayers at St Matthew's Salford Priors
	7.30pm	Bidford PCC Meeting
Saturday	10.00am	Cup Cake Café at TOPS in Salford Priors

Readings:	7th January 2018	14th January	21st January	28th January
1st Reading	Isaiah 60.1-6	1 Samuel 3.1-10	Genesis 14.17-20	Deuteronomy 18.15-20
2nd Reading	Ephesians 3.1-12	Revelation 5.1-10	Revelation 19.6-10	Revelation 12.1-5a
Gospel	Matthew 2.1-12	John 1.43-51	John 2.1-11	Mark 1.21-28

Rector	Revd Peter Walker Day off: Monday	01789 772217	peter@heartparishes.org.uk
Asst. Clergy	Revd Michael Godfrey	01789 773022	michael@heartparishes.org.uk
Reader	Mrs Judith Meehan	01789 773328	judith@heartparishes.org.uk
Administrator	Roger Huggins	01386 872758	admin@heartparishes.org.uk
Email enquiries to: admin@heartparishes.org.uk			

Bishop's Certificate in Discipleship and Mission

There are 2 new modules starting in January which might be of interest to some of you:

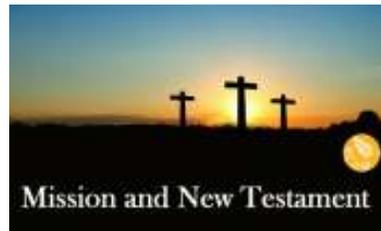


The first is a 'why-to' rather than 'how-to' module about mission, which will help you to understand what God is doing in the world and how you can join in. We'll look at the 'five marks of mission' and find that, though evangelism is an essential and important part of mission, it's not the whole story...

Dates and Time: Tuesday evenings 7.00-9.30pm, 9th January - 6th February

Venue: St Michael's House, 11 Priory Row, Coventry, CV1 5EX

This second module will explore the New Testament as 'essentially a missionary document'. You'll look at the story behind the books and the ways in which they reflect different settings for mission in the first century, starting with Jesus and the Kingdom of God. By the end of the module you should have gained a good grasp of how the different parts of the New Testament relate to each other, have read quite a lot of it with other participants, and be able to see how it might help us in our mission in today's society.



Dates and Time: Wednesday evenings 7.00-9.30pm, 17th January - 14th February

Venue: St Paul's Church, Leicester St, Leamington Spa, CV32 4TE

To register, please go to: www.dioceseofcoventry.org/BCDMregister



A Christmas message from the Bishop of Warwick

Bishop John says:

What makes us most happy? What makes us most unhappy? The answer to both questions is the same: relationships. Good relationships make us happy. Bad relationships make us unhappy. What makes for good relationships? Love. What makes for bad relationships? Lack of love.

We don't have to look far to see or to feel the pain and suffering caused by bad relationships. We see it between nations and within nations. We see it between families and within families and – if we are honest – we probably both see it and feel it in our own lives.

One of the shortest correspondences published in the Times went as follows: first letter 'What is wrong with the world?' Second letter, in response, was two words: 'I am'. Until we recognise that we can be part of the problem we can never be part of the solution. We are each capable of great selfishness and we are also each capable of great selflessness. Just after the sinking of the Titanic, there was an article in the same newspaper about one of its passengers. She was a very wealthy lady with a suite of rooms. As the Titanic was going down, she pleaded with one of the crew to go back to her rooms to pick up her valuable jewellery before getting in to the lifeboat. She rushed back to her rooms and was about to grab her jewellery box when she noticed on the table a bowl, full of fruit. She paused and then, ignoring her jewellery, picked up the fruit to take to share with the lifeboat passengers.

Each day brings us opportunities to be either selfish or selfless. But being selfish, however odd this may sound, does not make us happy, as research in Warwick and other universities has proved. Giving to others in need leads to a greater sense of wellbeing than spending our money on ourselves. For people of faith, this should come as no surprise because every human being is made in the image of God who is love and the giver of all good gifts. The way of the world tells us that the more we give the less we will have, by definition. But the teaching of God – and indeed our human experience too – shows us that when we give, we receive more. When we love, we do not have less love as a result but more.

We celebrate, this (and every) Christmas the source of all life and love, the One who comes to give each of us a new start, the One who invites us both to receive and to share this love, Jesus Christ.

