

# Sunday

*in the Parish of Honley with Brockholes*

15 January 2017 | The Second Sunday of Epiphany



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

Diocese of Leeds

**Welcome** If you are a newcomer or visitor, we welcome you and want you to feel at home. Please introduce yourself and join us for refreshments after the 9.30 and 11 a.m. services.

TODAY we begin a series of sermons in Ephesians. As with any book of the Bible, we need to ask ourselves why God breathed out the words of this particular book for us. As with most of Paul's letters, it is a letter in two halves. The first half, chapters one to three, is about how God is bringing all things together under Christ. The second half, chapters four to six, is about what our church life together should look like as a result of that. My hope is that as we are reminded of God's reconciling love in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we shall be moved to live together as the people of God in a mature, loving, and gospel-centred way.

Tragically, there are churches where the Bible is never or seldom taught. They are churches where unity has to be sought around something other than the good news about Jesus. Unity ends up being about a united devotion to a particular type of music, or a certain set of rituals, or even, sadly, about belonging to a particular clique of people, to the exclusion of those who are different. Gospel unity is so much better, because it comes not from us but from God. It is not easily won, for it involves us each, individually, recognising our need of Jesus, turning away from everything in our lives that stops us from trusting in him, and coming to him in faith. When we have done that, we find ourselves reconciled to God and each other, by God's grace – 'God's Riches At Christ's Expense'.

There are easier ways, according to the wisdom of the world. We could conduct our life together like that of a social club, in which it is what we have in common that brings us together. But the gospel of Jesus Christ unites people who have nothing in common at all. His good news is for everyone, because he is for everyone. As we hear in this morning's Epistle at 9.30 and 11 a.m., God has chosen us unconditionally. Ephesians is breathed out by God's Spirit. Let's make sure we pay attention to it, and pray that by God's Spirit we would be changed by it.

## Today's Worship

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (1662) – St Mary's  
9.30 a.m. HOLY COMMUNION with Sunday Club – St Mary's  
11.00 a.m. HOLY COMMUNION – St George's  
6.00 p.m. Evening Service – St George's

## Readings at 9.30 and 11 a.m.

Ephesians 1.1-14 (p. 1173)  
John 1.14-18 (p. 1063)

## Hymns at 9.30 a.m.

619, 702, 678, 756, 818

## Hymns at 11.00 a.m.

93, 101, 814, 818

## The Collect of Epiphany 2

Eternal Lord,  
our beginning and our end:  
bring us with the whole creation  
to your glory, hidden through past ages  
and made known  
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## DIARY

### Monday 16th January

**Tuesday 17th January** 7.00 p.m. 'Water of Life' – St Mary's

*Antony of Egypt, Hermit, Abbot, 356*

*Charles Gore, Bishop, Founder of the Community of the Resurrection, 1932*

**Wednesday 18th January** 9.00 a.m. Morning Prayer (1662) – St Mary's  
9.30 a.m. Holy Communion – St Mary's  
10.30 a.m. Bible Study – St Mary's  
5.00 p.m. PRAYER GATHERING – Parish Rooms

**Thursday 19th January** 9.00 a.m. Let's Play – Parish Rooms

*Wulfstan, Bishop of Worcester, 1095*

### Friday 20th January

*Richard Rolle of Hampole, Spiritual Writer, 1349*

### Saturday 21st January

*Agnes, Child Martyr at Rome, 304*

**Sunday 22nd January** 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (1662) – St Mary's  
*The Third Sunday of Epiphany* 9.30 a.m. HOLY COMMUNION – St Mary's *Ephesians 1.15-23*  
11.00 a.m. HOLY COMMUNION – St George's *Ephesians 1.15-23*  
6.00 p.m. Evening Service – St George's  
6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer (1662) – St Mary's

## PRAYERS

1. Among the sick and the housebound, we pray for <deleted from online edition>
2. Our Parish Growth Prayer – please use this in your daily prayers:

Father, you have called us to be disciples of your Son in Honley and Brockholes. May your word be spoken and heard in our parish, and accepted by many with lasting joy. Give us the gift of growth: growth in discipleship, and growth in the number of disciples, to the praise of your glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## NOTICES

1. There will be a meeting about the 'Water of Life' science and faith project at St Mary's this Tuesday, 17th January, at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome.
2. Jenny Lockwood is organising a Picnic Concert at St Mary's. It will be in the evening of Saturday 6th May.
3. My apologies for not having noticed that I cannot make the Bible study this Thursday lunchtime. I have therefore inserted a Bible study on Wednesday morning following the Communion Service. I hope that is all right.
4. Our brothers and sisters at Trinity Methodist and United Reformed Church in Honley have kindly invited us to a prayer meeting for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, on 25th January at 10.30 a.m. Everyone is welcome.