



Serving the community of Bedhampton  
by sharing God's love and friendship

***Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2024***  
*Epiphany*

**St Thomas'**  
**9.00am Holy Communion**  
Isaiah 60: 1-6  
Matthew 2: 1-12  
**4.00pm Compline**

**St Nicholas'**  
**10.30am Messy Church**

### ***Collect***

Creator of the heavens, who led the Magi by a star to worship the Christ-child: guide and sustain us, that we may find our journey's end in Jesus Christ our Lord.

### ***Rector's Reflection***

A new year is often a time that we take stock of where we are and what we hope for the future, but what is this moment in time for our God who exists throughout all time? I shared with some of our leaders this week how Suzy and I prayed a thanks to God for being the same today as he was before the new year and will be throughout this whole year. God's desire for us is the same this year as it was last year. Not that we would read the Bible in a year, although that might be good. Not that we would commit to meeting every week to worship or that we would promise daily prayer, both of which would be great. God's desire for us is that we would simply turn the whole of who we are towards him. Perhaps a couple of sentences from The Methodist Covenant Prayer sum it up. "I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to your pleasure and disposal. And now, glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, you are mine and I am yours." Now that is a new year's prayer worth saying.

## *Prayer*

### **Prayer Pointers**

1. Children, young people and families
2. The Rusty Cutter
3. Timsbury Crescent
4. Bidbury Infant School
5. Ukraine and the Middle East

### **Those requesting prayer**

Jude

We pray for the families and friends of those who have died and of those whose anniversaries fall at this time.

## *What's on*

### ***Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January***

**8.00am Parish Prayer:** Join us in the Zoom room by going to [www.bton.uk/meet](http://www.bton.uk/meet), use meeting ID 2392483013 or go to [www.facebook.com/BedhamptonNews](https://www.facebook.com/BedhamptonNews) to join us on Facebook.

**9.30am Holy Communion:** St Thomas' Church.

All are welcome. Tea, coffee and biscuits available after the service.

### ***Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January***

**9.00am Fun Club:** St Nicholas' Church

**10.00am Online Holy Communion:** [www.Bedhampton.tv](http://www.Bedhampton.tv) or Facebook and available afterwards

### ***Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January***

**10.30am Coffee & Cake:** St Nicholas' Church small hall

### **Summer Show (Advanced warning!)**

We know it's only January but the Summer Show will be on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July. It takes a lot of work to make the show a success so if you can help out in any way please speak to Chris Miller, Ann Partridge or Sandra Matthews.

### **Alpha or Confirmation?**

In February we are hosting an open and informal dialogue about faith, the person of Jesus, and what it all means. Each talk looks at a different question around faith and is designed to create conversation. Everyone is welcome. Alpha is also a great preparation if you are looking to be confirmed as an adult. Contact Max for more information.

### **Men's Lake District Week**

All men are invited for a week of chilling and walking in Keswick for 2nd-9th March. Walking options available for all abilities. Max will be there, contact him for more details.

### **Pause & Pray**

The next Pause & Pray (where we take time out to pray for Havant Borough) will be on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January, 6pm at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Crookhorn.

### **Children's Work Helpers**

We really need some more people to help with the children's work on a Sunday morning. Please speak to Max if you feel called to this valuable ministry.

### **Lent Reflections**

This Lent the Archbishops have invited us to Tarry, or to Watch and Pray expectantly for God. "Tarrying" is a time of waiting on God which involves the whole community. It encourages us to encounter God both as individuals and together. If you would like a copy of the short daily practices for Lent for a donation of £2.50 please let the office know asap.

### **2024 Holy Land Pilgrimage**

With the current unrest in Israel you will not be surprised to hear that the planned 2024 pilgrimage has been postponed for the foreseeable future. This will be revisited when it becomes appropriate to consider a pilgrimage once again in the future. Please pray for all those involved in the conflict that it will quickly come to an end.

***Next week: Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2024***

***Second Sunday of Epiphany***

**St Thomas'**

**9.00am Holy Communion**

1 Samuel 3: 1-10

John 1: 43-51

**St Nicholas'**

**10.30am Morning Worship**

1 Samuel 3: 1-10

John 1: 43-51

**Prayer Is Vital**

Our Wednesday morning prayer is at 8am every week online. We meet to pray for half an hour that God might use us in Bedhampton. I encourage you to join us, you can find details in the "What's on" section. Whatever you do, please do pray for God's mission in Bedhampton.

**The Bible Is Key**

The Bible is one major way that God communicates with us. To aid us to better understand the Bible in context and its impact on our lives we have a new sermon series over the autumn. The Bible Series introduces the overarching story of the Bible. Each week touches on key themes and relates them to universal human needs. You can find out more at <https://bedhampton.church/bible> where you will also find details of the book behind the series, which is an easy-to-read text by Bible Society's Andrew Ollerton. I encourage you to consider reading it.

*The parish office will be closed Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> - Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January*

***Contact us***

**Parish Office**

Deb Vears

Usual hours

Mon-Fri 9.30-12.30

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Rev Max Cross

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**Assistant Curate**

Rev Jill Kingston

Usual day off: Friday

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