

The Church of St Francis  
**THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY**  
The Baptism of Christ  
9<sup>th</sup> January 2022



**Today the appointed Gospel reading is Luke recounting the story of John the Baptist baptizing Jesus in the river Jordan and the marvel of God delighting in his Son.**

**We may wonder why Jesus was baptized at all, and why it is important for all people to know that Jesus was baptized.**

**There is indeed much to think about, but it is a wonderful thing**

**that Jesus used this very public act of repentance to point to the truth that when we are obedient to God, we will be blessed with the presence of the Holy Spirit to uphold, affirm and give us strength to live a Godly life and do all that we are called to do.**

**The Church of St Francis  
Heartsease**

**FOR OUR PRAYERS**

**We pray for those who are in need of prayer at this time: Natalie; Richard; Margaret & Martin; Eileen; Hayley; Ivan and Peter; Audrey; Sheila; Megan; Riley & his mum and family; David M; Alex and Amanda; Kathryn, Willow, & Edward; Lucy.**

**We pray too for all those who are managing long term issues including: Linda R; Gayle; Charlotte, Maegan & Carson; Tom; Rosemary; Cynthia & David; John and Jane; Rosie, and Pete; Shirley. We continue to pray for Woodside House Care Home and Hebron House.**

**We remember those who have died in recent days, among them Andrew Bartley; praying too for all who mourn the loss of a loved one or a friend, especially Jill.**

**Heavenly Father  
We ask your blessing upon us.  
Hold the Heartsease Community,  
and all the world,  
in your arms of love.  
Be with us.  
Give us your strength,  
peace, and healing grace.  
Watch over us,  
protect us from harm;  
and keep in safety  
all those who care for the sick  
and attend to our needs,  
in Jesus name we pray.  
Amen**

## COLLECTS FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

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



## POST COMMUNION PRAYER FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

Lord of all time and eternity, you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son: by the power of your Spirit complete the heavenly work of our rebirth through the waters of the new creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

## READINGS FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**THE WORD OF GOD**

You may notice that we do not always use all the readings in our Sunday service – we include them in the bulletin for you to reflect upon them throughout the forthcoming week.

## ISAIAH 43:1-7

But now thus says the LORD,  
he who created you, O Jacob,  
he who formed you, O Israel:  
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name, you are mine.  
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;  
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;

when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,  
and the flame shall not consume you.  
For I am the LORD your God,  
the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.  
I give Egypt as your ransom,  
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.  
Because you are precious in my sight,  
and honoured, and I love you,  
I give people in return for you,  
nations in exchange for your life.  
Do not fear, for I am with you;  
I will bring your offspring from the east,  
and from the west I will gather you;  
I will say to the north, 'Give them up',  
and to the south, 'Do not withhold';  
bring my sons from far away  
and my daughters from the end of the earth—  
everyone who is called by my name,  
whom I created for my glory,  
whom I formed and made.'

## 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.
- 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.**

**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.**

**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**

### **ACTS 8:14-17**

Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them.

The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus).

Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

### **LUKE 3:15-17, 21-22**

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah,

John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove.

And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'



### **HOME COMMUNION**



If you live in the parish of St Francis and would like to receive the Sacrament in your home because you cannot get to church, please contact Revd Janet or Fr Tracy.

### **SERVICES NEXT WEEK ALL WELCOME**

**Monday: Morning Prayer – 9am**

**Tues: Morning Prayer – 9am  
Evening Prayer – 5pm**

**Weds: Morning Prayer – 9am  
BCP Holy Communion – 11.30am  
Evening Prayer - 5pm**

**Thurs: Morning Prayer – 9am  
Evening Prayer – 5pm**

**Sun: Holy Communion for  
EPIPHANY SEASON  
Water into Wine  
10.30am**





## FORTHCOMING SERVICES & EVENTS

The Church of St Francis  
Heartsease

### HOW ARE WE SAVED?

The Meaning of The Cross

WEDNESDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY

7.30pm

WEDNESDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY

7.30pm



Using the beautiful stained glass window in St Francis Church Fr Tracy will explore who Jesus Christ is and what he has done for us

These two teaching sessions will lead us gently from Epiphany into the Lenten season.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST FRANCIS

You may recall that in 2020 Fr Tracy led a teaching session on the San Damiano Cross, a replica of which hangs above the chancel step.

For those who were fortunate to take part at the time, Fr Tracy's teaching about the symbolism of the various motifs on the cross opened up a whole new world of opportunity in terms of using that beautiful twelfth century icon as an aid to prayer and contemplation.

We are, therefore, delighted to be able to invite allcomers to take part in two further teaching sessions led by Fr Tracy. On two evenings in February [02 & 09 Feb] Fr Tracy will be using the imagery and story as portrayed in our beautiful twentieth century stained glass window to lead us into a deeper understanding of what Jesus did for us when he surrendered himself to the cruelty of the cross.

Both sessions will take place in the church – if you would like to register your interest or need transport please speak with Fr Tracy.

## WHAT'S ON AT ST FRANCIS NEXT WEEK...

**LET IT GROW**  
EVERY WEDNESDAY  
@ 9am – 11.30am



Weeding, Sowing, Planting,  
&  
10.15 am Tea And Cake Break  
LOTS OF FRESH VEG TO BE PICKED  
COME AND GET IT!

**THURSDAY MORNING  
IS COFFEE MORNING  
In the Church Lounge  
10am – 12pm  
EVERY WEEK**



**ALL WELCOME**

**Why not pop in and catch up with  
some old friends – and maybe  
even make some new ones!**

**NextDoor@St Francis  
GOOD NEWS CAFÉ**



**NOW OPEN!**

Coffee Express Latte, Cappuccino, Flat white,  
Espresso, Hot Chocolate etc.  
All £1.50 per cup

**10am – 12pm  
EVERY  
FRIDAY  
&  
SATURDAY  
MORNING**

**St Francis Church  
Heartsease**

96 – 98 Rider Haggard Road

**ST FRANCIS FREE FOOD**

A discreet and confidential  
source of assistance supported by and offered to  
the Heartsease Community

**IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW  
IS IN NEED OF FOOD OR ESSENTIALS**

**WE ARE ABLE TO HELP**

**24HR ANSWERPHONE:**

**01603 431259**

**Call or Text: 07368 832294**

**[Mon – Thur 10am – 5pm]**

**Or call in most mornings**

**10am – 12pm**

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**Quality Vintage & Modern  
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**EVERY  
FRIDAY & SATURDAY  
MORNING**

**10am – 12pm**

Find us in 'Next Door @ St Francis'  
94 Rider Haggard Road. NR7 9UQ

**THINKING ABOUT CONFIRMATION?**

The New Year will see us beginning  
another round of preparation for  
confirmation  
sessions with a view  
to candidates being  
presented to the  
Bishop for  
confirmation at  
Easter.



If you are interested and would like to  
know more, please contact the Vicar or  
Fr Tracy who will be delighted to hear  
from you.

**ST FRANCIS CONTACT DETAILS:**

**Please note the Vicar will be taking  
a break between 15 – 29 January.  
Please refer all queries etc. to  
Fr Tracy in her absence.**

**Curate:** The Revd Tracy Williams  
07834 845623

**Church Office:** 01603 431259

**Email:** [stfheartsease@outlook.com](mailto:stfheartsease@outlook.com)

**Website:** [stfrancisheartsease.co.uk](http://stfrancisheartsease.co.uk)

**DONATIONS OF QUALITY ITEMS  
ALWAYS GRATEFULLY  
RECEIVED. ALL PROCEEDS GO  
TO CHURCH FUNDS**