



Jesus said

'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.' John 8:12

God's blessings for this new year to everyone who receives our news sheet. Author JM Comer writes that we are called to live in **holy uncertainty** through this pandemic. Just as the people of Israel were led by God (by a pillar of cloud or fire) and fed by God (with daily manna and quails) during the years they spent in the wilderness, so we are invited to be led and fed by Jesus Christ who is our light and is also the bread of heaven.

We don't know how things will go in our lives in the short term, and that is ok. God is with us and gives us each other for mutual support. Let's keep on reaching out to each other through phone calls and Zoom gatherings etc. And God provides 'manna' to sustain us each day. May God give us grace to live gratefully one day at a time – to notice and enjoy the 'daily bread' we receive.

In the wilderness God was forming the people of Israel for what lay ahead. I am certainly noticing God at work in my interior life at the moment, I hope you are too. The Holy Spirit is surely at work within us forming us into a people ready for whatever is in store for us as we emerge from the pandemic. May we be open and attentive to that work, and grow in our personal prayer and Bible reading and worship with others, and so grow in the godliness of our daily lives.

Bishop John, in his Epiphany sermon, invited us to step out in faith and in a spirit of adventure this new year – to be like those wise men seeking God's new work, and like Jesus welcoming these outsiders - to reach beyond our comfort zone 'bubbles' of relationships and to listen to and welcome those who are different from us, the 'outsiders'; to let the Holy Spirit stretch and enlarge our hearts. We now have limited opportunity to meet new people (!) but you might like to try one of these ideas: as you leave the house for a walk or shopping ask God to bring you into conversation with someone unexpected (and reflect on it with God afterwards); as you walk, pray for the homes and businesses and people you pass; watch or listen to a programme you would usually ignore, or read something unfamiliar, and ask God what he might be saying to you.

I think we are living in times when we see afresh the significance of small things. God is teaching us to be gentle and kind with ourselves and with others. Life is tough at the moment, let's not be surprised when we feel low, or are not achieving much. I have taken to placing a light in a window each evening as an act of trust and witness. I wonder if there are any little routines that would help you stay connected with the source of our hope.

The Lord bless you and keep you

Kate Mier

The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it (John 1)

Sunday Worship 10th January - The Baptism of Christ

10.00am Zoom service

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6792975230> or meeting ID 679 297 5230

If you do not know the password please contact Judith, Kate or Dan.

Or you can join on your landline or mobile phone by dialling 0208 080 6591 (London number – national rate applies). Enter the conference ID (679 297 5230) and password when requested.

Messy Church will be taking place on Sunday 10th at 3.30pm via Zoom.

The theme is Epiphany - The story of the 3 Kings.

Please register via Eventbrite to take part and a pre prepared pack containing craft materials, instructions and a service sheet will be delivered to you.

The Eventbrite link is this:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/messy-church-january-2021-tickets-135525503429>

You will receive the Zoom details by email once you have registered.



Worship in Church

Christians are allowed to worship in church during this lockdown. However, the PCC of Studley with Mappleborough has decided to pause public worship during January while we take stock of the developing situation. So, sadly, there will be no services in church in coming weeks.

Private prayer in church

Oldberrow Church is always open for private prayer.

Studley church will be open for private prayer between 11am and 12pm on Thursday 14th January, with music and words on a screen to help your prayer. Please come and go as you wish.

If you would like the opportunity for private prayer in a church at another time please contact Kate or Dan or a churchwarden.

Daily Prayer: weekdays 9.30am and 9.30pm on **Arden Marches Churches** Facebook page (You don't need to be a Facebook user to join, just Google the page name)



Friends of Amasango Quiz 7pm Friday 15th January

Join Kate and the national Friends of Amasango for a quiz to raise funds for Amasango School in South Africa. £5 a person, £10 a household. To buy a ticket click here:
<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/friendsofamasango1/467066>

For your prayers

Contact *Judith McLelland* to add the names of people in urgent and critical need of prayer (with their permission). People remain on the list for 4 weeks (contact Judith if they need to remain after this).

Please pray for our schools and families in such demanding times as well as for the many and varied needs of all people.

We pray for people in particular need including: **Jean Lever, Rachel Clarke, Peter Holmes, Angie Holmes, Linda Moffat, Tony Drake, Melissa Lammis, Val Greathead and Sue Ludlow**

We commend to God all who have died recently and pray for their families, including: **John Mann, Stuart Elvins**

We remember those for whom the anniversary of their death falls at this time:

Prayer for the week

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.

Making a donation to our churches

Thank you so much to the many people who are continuing to support us financially. You can make a donation anytime using a bank card by phoning Dan Corlett, or by electronic bank transfer (please include your name as the reference for Gift Aid purposes)

To give by cheque, use the church name as in this table, and send the cheque to The Vicarage or pass it directly to the treasurer. Cash donations may be taken to The Vicarage.

	Sort Code	Account
Studley Parish Church	40-43-54	61000861
Mappleborough Green Church Committee	40-43-54	00558532
Morton Bagot PCC	40-43-54	60600547
Oldberrow PCC	40-43-19	61173928

Contact details:

Rector: Revd Kate Mier

3 Manor Mews, Studley B80 7PR rector@ardenmarches.co.uk 01527 852830 *Rest Day: Friday*

Curate: Revd Dan Corlett

curate@ardenmarches.co.uk 07543 370637 *Rest day: Monday*

For safeguarding concerns:

Parish Safeguarding Officer, Kay Middleton 07867492938

Diocesan safeguarding Team (24hrs) 024 7652 1345

Church Administrator: Judith McLelland

Available 2.00pm-4.30pm Monday to Thursday parish@ardenmarches.co.uk 01527 850130

News sheet deadline 2pm Thursday

Our website is www.ardenmarches.co.uk

Find us on Facebook at the Arden Marches Churches page or join the Arden Marches Church Family private group