

# Beacon



[www.beaconbenefice.org.uk](http://www.beaconbenefice.org.uk)

# Light

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January**  
**A warm welcome to the**  
**Beacon Family of Churches on**  
**the Feast of the Epiphany**

## **News of the Week of Christian Unity January 18<sup>th</sup> -26<sup>th</sup> 2018**

Each January, CTAP arranges events to encourage people from all sections of the Christian faith (or none) to come together to share fellowship. EVERYONE is welcomed to each and all events.

**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January. Community Lunch.** 12 – 1.15pm  
Ashwell Centre, off Churchill Way, Painswick-Hosted this week by CTAP

**Thursday 25th January. Afternoon Tea and talk about:**  
'Gloucestershire's Asylum Seekers and Refugees'. **2.30pm in**  
**St. Mary's Church Rooms**

**Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January. Agape at The Bistro – 7pm**  
Bring your choice of readings, music, poetry etc and enjoy a light supper (provided by Catalina). There will be a cost of **£12.50**, to include tea/coffee. **Tickets** available from Terry Parker (tel.812191)

## **Beacon People**

Our prayers are asked for all who are sick, especially **Betty Barney, Helen Briggs** (*Helen has now moved into Resthaven*), **Glynnis Mayes, Jean Ryland, Will Tarbuck, and Paula Woodcock**. We also pray for all whose prayer requests are on our prayer boards. We remember before God all who have died recently especially **Laurie Smith** and those anniversaries of death which fall at this time.

## **MABEL (Mike's Adventures in BibleLand) – Minor Prophets**

The remaining twelve prophetic books are the minor prophets, ie the short books! Some of them, like Hosea and Amos are quite well-known, others you may never have even heard of. Most of them were living around the time of the exile or just before, though Haggai and Zechariah write about the time of the return from exile and Malachi later still. All I can do here is give you a flavour of each book.

Hosea from the Northern kingdom, like Ezekiel prophesies through action as well as by words. He is very concerned to communicate the depth of God's love. Joel interprets the meaning of a disastrous plague of locusts for the people. Amos is the most plain speaking of the prophets. He challenges, unthinking, automatic following of rules without understanding God's desire for holiness and care for the poor. Obadiah predicts the end of Edom. Jonah tries hard not to be a prophet but God catches him anyway. Micah warns of the consequences of injustice but also offers hope.

Nahum tells the story of the destruction of Assyria. Habakkuk tries to make sense of why the exile has happened. Zephaniah warns of the disastrous 'Day of the Lord.' Haggai tries to encourage the returned exiles, as does Zechariah, but Zechariah's visions can make strange reading. Malachi reminds the people of their importance to God, however difficult things are right now.

*Next week – Guidebooks*

## **Collects for Epiphany**

God, who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face; 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.

*(or)*

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.

## **Post Communion**

Lord God, the bright splendour whom the nations seek: may we who with the wise men have been drawn by your light discern the glory of your presence in your Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Readings: Isaiah 60. 1-6 or Ephesians 3. 1-12, Matthew 2. 1-12*

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## **Notices**

**The Plough and Gardening Service** at 6.00pm at Edge this evening traditionally marks the start of the new working year on the land as the Christmas season ends. A plough will be blessed as will the soil as we remember the farming community across our family of parishes and pray for their safety and for good crops in the coming year. We also remember at this service the many gardeners in our communities. Do come along from all our parishes to take part in this old tradition and bring your gardening tools to be blessed!

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**Christmas services at St. Mary's** collected £625 for Samara's Aid and Embrace the Middle east. £159 was collected at the Painswick Crib service for the Children's Society. Many thanks to all.

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**Christian Aid General Knowledge Quiz- 7pm Saturday 20th January, Cranham Village Hall**, first question at 7.30pm.

Support the work of Christian Aid by entering this year's Quiz. Funds raised will go to Christian Aid's Christmas Appeal, and will benefit from UK Aid Match. "For every pound raised the UK government will also give a pound" (see [caid.org.uk/Christmas](http://caid.org.uk/Christmas) for full details).

Entries £8 pp / £32 per team of 4. To book, call Sarah Taylor on 812262, Liz Davies on 812211 or Dylan Davies on 812966. Entry includes Ploughman's Platter & Chocolates, served during the intervals. Cash bar with real ale.

## What's on in the coming week

### Sunday, 7 January 2018

9.30am	Edge	3 Parish Communion
9.30am	Painswick	Parish Communion
11.00am	Cranham	Family Communion
11.00am	Sheepscombe	Morning Worship
6:00 pm	Edge	Plough Service

### Monday, 8 January - *Baptism of Christ*

11:30 am	Resthaven	Holy Communion
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### Tuesday, 9 January

9:00 am	Cranham	Morning Prayer
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### Thursday, 11 January *Mary Slessor*

9:30 am	Sheepscombe	Morning Prayer
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### Sunday, 14 January

9.30am	Painswick	Holy Communion - <i>Sharing in One Bread</i>
9.30am	Pitchcombe	3 Parish Communion
11.00am	Cranham	PSALMS Prayer and Praise
11.00am	Sheepscombe	Parish Communion
6.30pm	Cranham	Evening Worship

## Contacts

The website [www.beaconbenefice.org.uk](http://www.beaconbenefice.org.uk)

The office The Lychgate, Stroud Road, Painswick, Stroud,  
GL6 6UT 01452 814795  
[lychgateoffice@btinternet.com](mailto:lychgateoffice@btinternet.com)

The Vicar 01452 814082 [revmike.holloway@gmail.com](mailto:revmike.holloway@gmail.com)

Associate Priest 07564 448692 [ajpleach@gmail.com](mailto:ajpleach@gmail.com)

*Information for next week's Beacon Light to the Office by Wednesday 10am at the latest, please. To receive Beacon Light by email, please let the Benefice Office have your name and email.*