



Team Spirit News Sheet

January 2019

Dear Friends,

The season of Epiphany begins on the 6th January by recalling the visit of the wise men (Magi) to the Christ Child in Bethlehem.

I recently came across this beautiful sonnet by Malcolm Guite entitled Epiphany from his book *Sounding the Seasons* (2012):

*It might have been just someone else's story,
Some chosen people get a special king.
We leave them to their own peculiar glory,
We don't belong, it doesn't mean a thing.
But when these three arrive they bring us with them,
Gentiles like us, their wisdom might be ours;
A steady step that finds an inner rhythm,
A pilgrim's eye that sees beyond the stars.
They did not know his name but still they sought him,
They came from elsewhere but still they found;
In temples they found those who sold and bought him,
But in the filthy stable, hallowed ground.
Their courage gives our questing hearts a voice
To seek, to find, to worship, to rejoice.*

The line that caught my attention this time was 'A pilgrim's eye that sees beyond the stars'. It's believed that Magi were early scientists with an interest in the stars and magic. The wise men teach us that the use of science (symbolised by the star) can be both helpful (guiding them) and limiting (not preventing them from visiting power-mad Herod).

An aim for all our churches this year might be to develop our use of technology. Does our use of websites and social media help people to find God at work in our churches? However, as important as technology undoubtedly is in today's world I believe we also need to be aware of the dangers of technology. Like science, technology can be helpful and limiting in our quest towards God.

In the coming year and especially during the season of Epiphany I invite you to develop 'a pilgrim's eye that sees beyond the stars'.

Peace in all things, Revd. Ricky (Team Vicar).

Confirmation Service at The Priory

On November 25th, five of our church members were confirmed by the Bishop of St Albans at the Priory Church – Paula McGoldrick, Lara Haddock, Chris Byham, Allana Smart and Tony Hopper.

It was a truly joyous service, supported by families and friends of the candidates, as well as members of each of our churches, with music provided by the Girls' Choir. The Confirmation was followed by a celebration of Holy Communion.

Refreshments, provided by each of the churches, were much enjoyed by all there and provided a welcome opportunity to meet with the Bishop, our own clergy and families and friends.

Thank you to all those who ensured that this was a memorable and enjoyable occasion.

From the Registers



Baptisms

At the Priory, 2nd Dec
Delilah Ivy-Ann Coleman



Funerals

Clive Edward Everett
Ellen Botton
Florence Price
Reginald Leslie Fossey
Darren Thomas Jay
Derrick Chappell
Beryl Chandler

Priory Ramblers Dates 2018 / 2019

Priory Ramblers meet approximately once a month, normally on Sunday afternoon. We walk for about 4 miles, using circular routes with a starting point no more than about 20 minutes' drive from Dunstable. All welcome!

Dates for your diary:

Fri December 28th

Sun January 27th

Contact Jackie Shaw or Gill Short via the Priory office for further details.





From St Augustine's

Games Evening on Saturday 26th January at 6.00pm . Please bring your own games to enjoy with others and bring and share finger food. Only £1 each.



From St Fremund's

Saturday 26th January 2019 5-7 p.m - Burns Night Supper.



From St Katherine's

Grand after Christmas bonanza on 19th Jan at 10.30 am followed by soup and a roll lunch at 12 noon. Other goodies are bric a BRAC and exchange of unwanted or duplicate Christmas presents.

From St Peter's

The local National Trust Association is visiting the Priory for a guided tour with Hugh Garrod at 2.30pm on 17th January

Hugh Garrod is giving a talk to Dunstable Downs Rotary club about Chew's Charity School and its connections with the Priory on 31st January

Dunstable Churches Together

Prayer Meetings - Saturday Mornings 9am **CALLING ALL CHRISTIANS!**

We are called to be one in Christ. We are all members of Christ's body and should express our unity by worshipping together whenever we can. The prayer meetings last for about half an hour. We pray in each other's churches at 9.00am once a month so that we can meet our fellow Christians and worship the Lord.

Forthcoming meetings are on:

Tues January 1st at 12 noon, The Town Clock

Sat February 2nd, Edward Street URC

On behalf of Dunstable Churches Together, we look forward to seeing you at our meetings, so that we can have the opportunity to bring the Christians who worship in Dunstable churches together. dunstablechurchestogether.org.uk

'Pilgrim's Badge'

In Medieval times, Dunstable's Augustinian Priory had its own shrine to St Fremund. We now have a modern 'pilgrim's badge'. It depicts St. Fremund, as shown in the prior's 1297 seal and in the West windows. It is made of lead-free pewter and is available, in a box with a description, @ £9.95. Details from Hugh Garrod.

Parish Diary January 2019

4th	10am-12pm	Community Coffee Morning	St A
7th	12.30 pm	Eucharist followed by a soup and sandwich lunch.	St F
8th	2pm	Priory's Little Angels	St P
12th	4pm	Farewell Service St Paul's, for Archdeacon Paul	Bedford
13th	3pm	Beds W I Centenary Service (Bp Bedford)	St P
18th	10am-12pm 2pm-4pm	Community Coffee Morning Priory Ladies	St A Parish hall
19th	10.30am	Grand after Christmas Bonanza	St K
	1.30pm	'Be a Chorister for the Afternoon'	St P
	5pm	Evensong	St P
20th	4pm	DCT Week of Christian Unity Service	Salvation Army
22nd	7.45pm	BRF Meeting	3 Pen. Ave
26th	10.00am	Coffee Morning	St P
26th	6pm	Games Evening	St A
27th	2.15pm	Priory Ramblers (3 miles)	TBC