

Fulbourn and the Wilbrahams



St Vigor's Fulbourn, St Nicholas' Great Wilbraham,
St John's Little Wilbraham, St George's Six Mile Bottom

January 11: The Baptism of Christ/Plough Sunday

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.

Here's a question: if Jesus was the Messiah, why would he need to be baptised by John? Each evangelist struggled to answer, but Matthew's discomfort is perhaps most palpable. He solves his dilemma by two deft additions to the tradition he inherits from Mark: John protests: "I need to be baptised by you, and do you come to me?" In John's incredulity you sense Matthew's. And then, Jesus grants the awkwardness of the situation and gives both of them a way out by saying a) that this is a temporary condition ('let it be so for now') and b) that in this way they 'fulfil all righteousness.' But while the Gospels solve this initial problem of Jesus being baptised by John, Christians ever since have struggled with a second question: Why is Jesus baptised at all? Given that we typically connect baptism to forgiveness of sin, if Jesus is the sinless Son of God, why does he need baptism? On this point, however, all the evangelists agree: Baptism is not a simply a mechanism for forgiveness but rather announces God's favour and establishes Jesus' identity. In Matthew's account the voice from heaven announces that Jesus is God's Son, the One with whom God is well pleased. Baptism, for Jesus, was less about forgiveness than it was about commissioning, the inauguration of his mission and ministry and assurance of God's presence. Yet even after these two questions are addressed, a third remains: what does our baptism mean to us?



Services in the Benefice

Sunday 11 January : The Baptism of Christ

9:30 Parish Communion **LW**

11:00 Parish Communion **F**

Wednesday 14 January:

9:00 Morning Prayer (BCP) **GW**

Thursday 15 January

8:30 Morning Prayer **F**

Friday 16 January

8:30 Morning Prayer **F**

Sunday 18 January: Epiphany 2

9:30 Parish Communion **GW**

11:00 Parish Communion **F**

Readings for Sunday

The Baptism of Christ

Isaiah 42.1-9

Acts 10.34-43

Matthew 3.13-end

The 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

Isaiah 49.1-7

1 Cor. 1.1-9

John 1.29-42

Children's Ministry

There is Sunday School at every 11am service at St Vigor's. In addition, Sunday School materials are sent out each week in our weekly email.

The **St Vigor's Youth Forum**, for members of our churches between the ages of 12-18 (years 7-13) will be at 9:30pm at St Vigor's on the 4th Sunday of every month. A place to bring your hard questions about faith and society, facilitated by the two Bens and Alice.

Notices

This Sunday is Plough Sunday in Fulbourn. Time to give thanks for our farmers, and pray for a good new year on the land.

First Holy Communions: Would you like to receive Holy Communion? John Wesley described Holy Communion as 'a converting ordinance,' something which, all by itself, helps Christians become better Christians. Contact Alice or Ben about about First Communion preparation.

Home visits: If you, or someone you know is housebound and would like a visit, or to receive Holy Communion at home, please contact Alice or Ben H.

In this season of Epiphany, as we think about the gifts of the Magi, it's a good time to consider our own gifts to our churches—gifts of money, skills, and time. What has your church meant to you over the time you have worshipped here? The generosity of the people of our congregations and villages has kept our parishes as living communities of Christian worship and witness for a very long time. But the generations who inherited the habit of regular giving are passing away. If you donate to your church, might you consider giving a few pounds more? If you don't yet regularly donate, would you consider setting up a regular donation? Your church treasurer can help with this.

Contacts

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