

Baptism of Christ Sunday 11th January 2026 Liturgical Colour is White

# LIGHT *At The* DOOR

Welcome to the Weekly Newsletter for The Bain Valley & Woodhall Spa Group of Churches

## Services on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January

9.30am Eucharist All Saints Horsington Revd Sall

9.30am Eucharist St Mary's Kirkby on Bain Revd Barbara

11am Eucharist Woodhall Spa Revds Sall and Michael

**No Midweek Communion on 7<sup>th</sup> January in St Peter's**  
**Stay at home in the warm and stay safe!**

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.

There is a terrible old joke that you sometimes see on birthday or Christmas cards. What do you give a man that has everything? Penicillin! Sadly, that may not work quite as effectively as it used to! Our wise men knew they were visiting a future great king – the stars foretold this. So, they took gifts that were appropriate to give to a future great king. 2000 years later, what can we give Christ Jesus – he has everything because he, with his father God and the Holy spirit is everything.

So, what can we bring to the manger? What have we got that Christ needs to bring about his kingdom? One of my favourite carols is 'In the bleak midwinter.' I particularly love the last verse, 'what can I give him, poor as I am, if I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb, if I were a wise man, I would do my part. Yet, what can I give him, give him my heart. God has given each and every one of us some very special gifts. When St Paul wrote his letter to the Romans, he listed 7 gifts that were given through God's good grace. He said, If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully. He also said be devoted to one another in love. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. Somewhere, in that list is our gift. And remember this, Jesus said, whatever you do for the least of these you do for me. So, what gift do you think that God has given you to use in the service of Christ.

This congregation, this parish, your families – each one of you has been given gifts from God that he asks you to use in His service to His son. You might have to seek out those who don't normally come to church to encourage them to use their God given gifts in His service, now there's a challenge!

Giving your gift to Christ isn't a one-way street, you don't just give and that's it. God blesses each and every one of your gifts. When he blesses what you give, he makes that gift worth even more – a bit like gift aid. And you receive the blessings from the gift that you have given just as much as the person you have blessed with the gift itself.

## Collect for the Baptism of Christ

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.



Christian Unity Week  
18<sup>th</sup> -25<sup>th</sup> January 2026

## SAFEGUARDING INFORMATION

Revd Sally Clifton

07949 556494

**Woodhall Spa Group Safeguarding Lead**

Margaret Forman 07931 574498

**Bain Valley Safeguarding Lead**

Tina Calvert 07718 884641

Childline: 0800 1111

EdanLincs (Domestic Abuse):

01522 510041

Men's Advice Line: 0808 8010327

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Safe Spaces: 0300 303 1056

Priest in Charge Revd Sally Clifton

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## Readings for Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January

Isaiah 42.1–9 “Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will bring justice to the nations. He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets. A bruised reed he will not break, and a smouldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth justice; he will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth. In his teaching the islands will put their hope.” This is what God the Lord says— the Creator of the heavens, who stretches them out, who spreads out the earth with all that springs from it, who gives breath to its people, and life to those who walk on it: “I, the Lord, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles, to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.

“I am the Lord; that is my name! I will not yield my glory to another or my praise to idols. See, the former things have taken place, and new things I declare; before they spring into being I announce them to you.”

Psalm 29 A psalm of David.

Ascribe to the Lord, you heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendour of his holiness. The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord thunders over the mighty waters. The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is majestic. The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars; the Lord breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon. He makes Lebanon leap like a calf, Sirion like a young wild ox. The voice of the Lord strikes with flashes of lightning. The voice of the Lord shakes the desert; the Lord shakes the Desert of Kadesh. The voice of the Lord twists the oaks and strips the forests bare. And in his temple all cry, “Glory!” The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord is enthroned as King forever. The Lord gives strength to his people; the Lord blesses his people with peace.

Acts 10.34-43 Then Peter began to speak: “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favouritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached— how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him. “We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross, but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen—by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

Matthew 3:13-17 Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” Jesus replied, “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfil all righteousness.” Then John consented. As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”



Want some really bad news? Shrove Tuesday is the 17<sup>th</sup> February - it is only 44 days until Lent aaarghh how did that happen, I haven't taken my christmas decs down yet... Lent Course this year will be entitled 'What did Jesus achieve on the cross?'