

# THE SUNDAY SUPPLEMENT

9<sup>th</sup> January 2022 – The Baptism of Christ (First Sunday of Epiphany)



The local Methodist congregations will hold their annual covenant service this weekend, which will take place at Kirkby Methodist Church (Marshside, Kirkby-in-Furness) at 6pm on Sunday (9<sup>th</sup> November). The service will be led by Revd Martin Williams. The Methodist congregation would be absolutely delighted to welcome guests from other denominations on this most important occasion. Please give prayerful consideration to lending your support and fellowship to this service.

## This Week

### Tuesday

**7.30pm** – House group, Broughton Methodist Church.

### Wednesday

**8.30am** – Morning Prayer, St Mary's.

**11.30am** – Midweek Communion at Broughton Mills, followed by soup lunch just after 12noon.

**4.30pm** – Evening Prayer, St Mary's.

**7.30pm** – Combined Broughton and Kirkby PCC meeting, to hear from the Diocesan Stewardship Enabler.

### Thursday

**9.00am** – Coffee to start the day at Broughton Methodist Church, open to all.

**10.00am** – Bible study. All welcome, meeting at Broughton Methodist church.

**1-3pm** – Foodbank collection point/Community Post Office and Coffee at the Browfoot Room, Ulpha.

### Friday

**5.00pm** – Choir practice, St Mary's Broughton.

## READINGS AND PRAYERS

### Collect

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.

### Isaiah 43:1-7

*A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.*

- <sup>1</sup> But now thus says the Lord,  
he who created you, O Jacob,  
he who formed you, O Israel:  
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name, you are mine.  
<sup>2</sup> When you pass through the waters,  
I will be with you;  
and through the rivers,  
they shall not overwhelm you;  
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,  
and the flame shall not consume you.  
<sup>3</sup> For I am the Lord your God,  
the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.  
I give Egypt as your ransom,  
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.  
<sup>4</sup> Because you are precious in my sight,  
and honoured, and I love you,  
I give people in return for you,  
nations in exchange for your life.  
<sup>5</sup> Do not fear, for I am with you;  
I will bring your offspring from the east,  
and from the west I will gather you;  
<sup>6</sup> I will say to the north, 'Give them up',  
and to the south, 'Do not withhold';  
bring my sons from far away  
and my daughters from the end of the earth—  
<sup>7</sup> everyone who is called by my name,  
whom I created for my glory,  
whom I formed and made.'

*This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

## Psalm 29

- <sup>1</sup> Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings,  
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.  
<sup>2</sup> Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name;  
worship the Lord in holy splendour.  
<sup>3</sup> The voice of the Lord is over the waters;  
the God of glory thunders,  
the Lord, over mighty waters.  
<sup>4</sup> The voice of the Lord is powerful;  
the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.  
<sup>5</sup> The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars;  
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.  
<sup>6</sup> He makes Lebanon skip like a calf,  
and Sirion like a young wild ox.  
<sup>7</sup> The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.  
<sup>8</sup> The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;  
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.  
<sup>9</sup> The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl,  
and strips the forest bare;  
and in his temple all say, 'Glory!'  
<sup>10</sup> The Lord sits enthroned over the flood;  
the Lord sits enthroned as king for ever.  
<sup>11</sup> May the Lord give strength to his people!  
May the Lord bless his people with peace!

## Acts 8:14-17

*A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.*

<sup>14</sup> Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. <sup>15</sup> The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit <sup>16</sup> (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). <sup>17</sup> Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

*This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

## EPIPHANY SEASON

The rather attractive diagram on the right shows our current place in the church year. Although it begins with the The Epiphany and the symbolic meanings of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh, the Epiphany Season is an occasion to examine God's revelation of himself in all its variety and fullness. This week, we celebrate the Baptism of Christ, but the Year C readings offer an interestingly oblique view, omitting the actual baptism of Jesus and looking at the spiritual significance of baptism as a point of entry into the institution of the Body of Christ.

## Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

*Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to St Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.***

<sup>15</sup> As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup> John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

*This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.***

## Prayer after Communion

Lord of all time and eternity,  
you opened the heavens  
and revealed yourself as Father  
in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son:  
by the power of your Spirit  
complete the heavenly work of our rebirth  
through the waters of the new creation;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

