



www.cofebishopstoke.com

Showing and Sharing God's Love

12 January 2025

The Baptism of Christ – Epiphany 1

And a very special welcome if it's your first time here!

- You are very welcome to stay for refreshments at the end of the service if you can.
- If you would like to know about other things that happen in our church life, please see our website – www.cofebishopstoke.com
- During one of the songs in our service a collection is normally made. If you are able to use one of the Gift Aid envelopes, it really does make a difference and is most appreciated. At St Mary's we are also able to take card donations following the service. If you would like to find out about regular, tax-efficient giving, please let us know or take a look at <https://www.cofebishopstoke.com/giving-to-our-church>.

Today

St Mary's

8 am Holy Communion

Service starts on p.229

Collect on p.456

10.45 am Church Together

St Paul's

9.15 am Holy Communion

Bible Readings

[Psalm 29]

Acts 8.14-17 (p.1101)

Luke 3.15-17,21-22 (p.1029)

Contact: Revd Richard Wise on 8061 2192, email. rwise@talktalk.net

The Lighting of the Epiphany Candle

From the rising of the sun to its setting

All **your glory is proclaimed in all the world.**

Collects / Prayers for this week

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. **Amen.**

Heavenly Father,
at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son:
may we recognize him as our Lord
and know ourselves to be your beloved children;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

Items for prayer...

- **the unwell** – Emmanuel, Molly, Pam, Fiona, Denise, Pauline, Bob, Edna, Joy, Chris, Margaret, David, Jocelyn, Shane, Amelia, Margaret, Glyn, Finn, David, Karen, Joan, Tracy, Maureen, Liz, Charlotte, Janet, Brenda, Tommy
- **we commend Michael Maloney & Tim Hines to God**, and pray for their families and friends
- **baptisms** – Arthur and Annabelle next Sunday; their families and friends who come
- **our parish** – those who live in West Drive, Sedgwick Road, Escombe Road
- **School Pastors** – Tuesday lunchtime at Stoke Park Juniors
- **Open the Book assemblies** – Wednesday morning at Stoke Park Infant and Junior Schools

- **those getting married this year** – their first marriage evening on Wednesday
- **Fledge Youth Support** – all the young adults being supported by them, the staff and volunteers
- **the ecological and climate emergency** – those suffering most from this; the decisions and actions of world leaders in response to COP 29; for each of us to do whatever we can to make a positive difference
- **peace** – for all whose lives have been shattered and for a just, lasting peace in Israel-Palestine, Syria, Lebanon, and across the Middle East; for peace between Ukraine and Russia, and in other parts of the world where there is conflict

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

This Week

Mon	2.30 pm	Prayer Healing Fellowship (St Paul's)
Tues	9 am	Morning Prayer (Methodist Church)
	9.30 am	Tots and Tinies (St Mary's)
	8 pm	Home group (St Mary's)
Wed	8 pm	Compline / Night Prayer (Zoom)
Thurs	9.30 am	Holy Communion (St Paul's)
Sun	9.15 am	Morning Worship (St Paul's)
	10.45 am	Church Together <i>with communion</i> (St Mary's)

Christmas Charities This year, we have been supporting Fledge Youth Support, a Christian charity which operates in Eastleigh, and our own Urgent Repairs as our Christmas charities. All donations will be divided equally between the two causes. You can find out about Fledge on their [website](#). You can still give to the charities TODAY in church and online [here](#) until Thursday. Please put your donation in an envelope marked 'Christmas Charities' and place it in the offering. Please use a church Gift Aid envelope or slip if you possibly can, and cheques should be made payable to 'Bishopstoke PCC'. Many thanks for whatever you are able to give or have already given!

Home group on Zoom Would you like to join a 'home group' to get to know others more, support each other, look at the Bible, share your thoughts and pray together – but cannot easily leave home during evenings? You'd be very welcome to try our online home group, which meets on Zoom, normally on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 8 pm. If you're interested or would like to find out more, please have a word with Margaret Ward or phone / text her on 07778 691302.

Church treasurer Mike Harris has now stepped down from the role of treasurer, so please do not contact him about this any longer. The PCC will appoint a new treasurer at their meeting on 20 January. In the meantime, please send anything to do with finances (reimbursements of expenses etc.) to Richard. Many thanks.

St Mary's Urgent Repairs Fund Thank you so much for all your giving and fundraising so far for this. We have now raised over £18,000. If you would like to make a gift, please see the leaflets or poster at the back of church, or simply put your donation in an envelope marked 'Urgent Repairs'. We would also be very grateful if you can Gift Aid it – there are Gift Aid forms at the back of church. Alternatively, please go to <https://www.cofebishopstoke.com/urgent-repairs> Many thanks!

Safeguarding in our church If you have any concerns about a child / young person or vulnerable adult in our church, please contact our Parish Safeguarding Officer, Margaret Ward, on 07778 691302 or by emailing cofebishopstokesafeguarding@gmail.com. You can find out more about Safeguarding and other people who may be contacted on the posters at the back of each church or [on our website](#).



Your contact details If you come to church regularly but have never completed a Church Contact Consent form, we would really encourage you to do so. There are copies at the back of each church.

Eco Actions for January - In the Kitchen



Could you manage to do some of these this month – where relevant? They could soon become habits – good ones! Some might save you money, but even more important, they will all really help in caring for the world and its people.

1. Never put warm or hot food into the fridge or freezer, as this will make the fridge work extra hard to try and keep it cold; allow food to cool down first.
2. Use a bowl to wash up rather than a running tap and save £25 a year in energy bills. www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/home-energy-efficiency/energy-saving-quick-wins
3. When making a cup of tea, only boil the amount of water that you need. You waste electricity (and money) heating water you won't use.
4. Stop using aluminium foil for cooking wherever possible; use a container with a lid that can be reused. Aluminium is a rare metal, and its extraction and purification uses a lot of energy.
5. Eat less meat, particularly red meat; producing 1kg of beef produces the equivalent CO₂ to your driving a 300mile round trip while leaving all your lights on at home!

Eastleigh Basics Bank are always very grateful for our support, and at the moment, due to the rise in the cost of living, the need is greater than ever. Donations of food can be made at many local supermarkets, the Basics Bank in Wells Place, or brought to church. You can see the most up-to-date list on their [website](#) as well as the supermarkets which receive donations. They would also be very grateful for unwanted carrier bags, which are becoming scarcer! You can bring them to church too. Many thanks for whatever you are able to give.

Church compost bins We have compost bins in St Mary's churchyard (near the hedge on the east side of the church) and at St

Paul's (behind the hedge in the far corner of the grass). You are very welcome to put the following items in them: cut flowers, vegetable peelings, fruit cores and peel / skin, nettles, compostable cups. Please do not put plastic, dog poo, hedge cuttings, grass cuttings, horsetail weed or other food waste in the bin. If you have any queries, please contact Jenny on compostjen@gmail.com Many thanks.

Online giving to our church If you would like to give a one-off or regular gift online to St Mary's & St Paul's, our bank details are:

Account name: Bishopstoke PCC
Sort Code: 40-46-39
Account no.: 91780646

If you would like us to claim Gift Aid, you can download our Gift Aid declaration form from [this page](#) on our website. If you can't print it off, just let us know and we'll get a copy to you. We really encourage you to Gift Aid donations if you can – if you need any help with this, please contact our Gift Aid Secretary, Natasha Redfern, on 07739 322584.

Parish Giving Scheme This enables you to give a regular or one-off gift to our church. If you wish to Gift Aid your donations, this can be done without filling in an additional form. You can also give anonymously (if you wish), whilst still enabling us to claim Gift Aid. To join the scheme, please go to our page at [PGS](#).

Many thanks for whatever you are able to give or already give!

Please follow us on social media if you can – and like or share some of our posts! It will help us spread the word about what we're doing as a church.

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<https://www.facebook.com/CofEBishopstokeMessyChurch/>

X (formerly Twitter) <https://x.com/CofEBishopstoke>