



All Saints'
Newtown Linford



Second Sunday of Epiphany

19 January 2025

10am

Holy Communion

The Revd Richard Trethewey

1 Corinthians 12.1-11

John 2.1-11

*When possible, services are streamed online at
www.facebook.com/allsaintsnewtownlinford/live*

A warm welcome to all to worship today, whether onsite or online. Please use this sheet to help you during the service and then take it away as a reminder of the notices and as a guide to prayer.



There is a loop system for those with hearing aids

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News and forthcoming events

Shaped by God Together: Journey to Minster Communities

We are invited to join the conversations which will begin in the next weeks around the formation of Minster Communities in the south and west of the diocese. The initial meeting is on Thursday 23 January, two members of the PCC will be attending to learn more about how the process will unfold, and in services on both 26 January and 2 February we will be looking at how we can all be involved in the discernment process and contribute to it.

Alpha

We are looking at running Alpha online on Zoom on a midweek evening, starting soon. Please speak to Richard if you're interested in joining this course, an opportunity to explore the basics of Christian faith. There may also be the chance to be confirmed at a deanery service later this term – attending the first few sessions of Alpha will be part of the preparation for this. Do talk to Richard about this if you'd like to explore that possibility.

Prayer

Please continue to pray for Dick and all the Lowe family in the loss of Joyce, following her funeral last Monday.

Jolly Tots

Jolly Tots, the weekly stay-and-play group for toddlers which usually meets in church on a Friday morning is currently meeting at the Village Hall during the cold weather. It runs 9.15-11am.

Giving

If you would like to give to support All Saints', please use our online donation page, <https://bit.ly/asnl-donate>. A basket and contactless giving system are available at the back of church or you can scan this QR code. If you would like to give regularly, please speak to Rebecca Hale about the Parish Giving Scheme.



If you pay tax, filling out a Gift Aid declaration will enable the church to reclaim the tax you have already paid on your gift, making each £1 you give worth £1.25 to us. This can make a truly substantial difference to the church – please consider whether you can do this, declaration forms are available at the back of church.

Prayer

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2025

At the heart of our reflections for this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is the question posed by Jesus to Martha: 'Do you believe this?' (John 11:26). This same question resonated throughout the deliberations of the first Ecumenical Council, meeting in Nicaea in 325, which gathered Christian communities from around the world to strengthen their relationships as the Church of Jesus Christ. Read in isolation the question might appear as a stark challenge, but from the Gospel story it is clear that the words of Jesus are spoken in love and experienced as invitation as well as challenge. Similarly, while the Council of Nicaea was not without its challenges as a wounded and scattered Church sought to discern the truth of the Gospel message, there was an obvious desire to deepen connection and belonging and to live faithfully as disciples of Christ.

Reflecting on these moments we are reminded that the gift of our faith brings both support and challenge. The 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea this year has been embraced with a hopeful enthusiasm in the global Church and in ecumenical bodies, inspiring a wide range of events and dialogues. It is valued as a significant moment of shared history across the different Christian traditions, despite the many ways in which our paths may have diverged in the years since.

An important question, and one to which this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity resource seeks to respond is: what is its relevance to the life and mission of the local church?

There is an opportunity to celebrate and draw strength and encouragement from the gift of our shared faith. In these troubled and turbulent times, we can take heart from the endurance of that faith. The Church that gathered in Nicaea was one that had been shaken and wounded by violence and persecution and was therefore close to the suffering of humanity. It was presented with an opportunity for dialogue with the political power which posed difficult choices about how best to share the Good News of the Gospel as faithful disciples of Christ, whose Kingdom is not of this world. In today's polarised world, when trust in the willingness of political powers and authorities, including the Church, to protect the most vulnerable has been undermined, how might a renewal of our commitment to Christian unity contribute to positive change?

Our polarised and fracturing world is in need of a new vision for peace, centred on the recognition of our inter-connectedness and shared humanity. As we mark this anniversary, we have an opportunity to ask the hard questions about what may be getting in the way of our shared identity as Christians and our collective witness to the world. We are reminded of the transformative power of our faith which gives hope in suffering through the promise that all will be renewed in Christ.

Dr Nicola Brady, General Secretary, Churches Together in Britain and Ireland

Collects

Collect: Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new: transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory; 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.

Post Communion: God of glory, you nourish us with your Word who is the bread of life: fill us with your Holy Spirit that through us the light of your glory may shine in all the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Additional Collect: Eternal Lord, our beginning and our end: bring us with the whole creation to your glory, hidden through past ages and made known in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Measures for everyone's safety

Ventilation: we continue to have windows open whenever we meet.

Space: pick up a card from the table as you enter to place next to you to indicate you wish increased space.

Hygiene: sanitizer is provided in key locations – at the entrance, where books can be collected and where communion is distributed.

Communion is available with the bread dipped in the wine.

We would prefer you not attend services if you are testing positive for COVID-19. Please join the service online.