

Church Services 2013

Date	Time	Festival
Sun 6 Jan	11:00 am	Epiphany of the Lord
Tue 8 Jan	9:15 am	Mid-Week Service Rev. Mary Cottee
Sun 13 Jan	8:00 am	Baptism of the Lord
	9:15 am	Baptism of the Lord

10 January 2013 A Day of Prayer for the Mission and Unity of God's Church

O Holy Trinity,
three persons but One God,
open our minds to know your will;
open our hearts to receive your peace;
open our hands to do your work;
give your church the unity which was Christ's prayer;
help us live with conscientious difference;
forgive us when we gain the world and put our souls
in danger.

You know what is good for us:
come by your Spirit and change us,
let your church reflect the beauty, diversity and
hospitality that we see in you,
lead us to a place of graceful concord:
a self-forgetful love,
a turning back to Christ:
for with your grace to help we can be one,
and in your strength can strive to serve and bless,
and by your will can see your kingdom come.
Use us to the full;
and when we are empty, fill us afresh.
We know you love your church,
help us to love each other.

Unite us in the effervescent joy of your declaring,
but not just us – we ask it so the world may believe.
And in these days of uncertainty, we ask it in the
name of him
who is our foundation, our salvation and our end,
even Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

+Stephen Cottrell



The Parish Church of St. Andrew Sandon

www.sandon-church.info

is part of the
Chelmer Crouch Group of Churches
Priest-in-Charge: Vacant Position

Epiphany of the Lord
6th January 2013

We Welcome today Revd. Audrey Cozens

RECEIVING COMMUNION

All Baptised and Confirmed communicant members of Christian Churches are invited to receive communion. Those who do not wish to receive communion are invited to come forward for a blessing, at the Altar rail.

Communicants requiring *gluten-free wafers* are asked to identify themselves to a Sides person before the service starts.

BAPTISM and CONFIRMATION

If you are not yet Baptised and/or Confirmed and would like to make some initial enquiries, please feel free to ask one of the Church Warden
Janet Terry 472997 or Michael Puffett 222066



***For 5 minutes before our Service of worship
begins together***

PLEASE allow a time to be quiet and permit others to keep a time of prayerful quiet in preparation to worship our Lord Jesus Christ. Thank you.

Introduction and Call to Worship

Let us use this time of worship to prepare the way of the Lord and to remove all the barriers in our hearts and lives that make us unready for the coming of Christ.

Collect

O God,
who by the leading of a star
manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth:
mercifully grant that we,
who know you now by faith,
may at last behold your glory face to face;
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.

Today's Readings

Isaiah 60.1-6

The Ingathering of the Dispersed

60 Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. ² For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but- the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. ³ Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. ⁴ Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. ⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. ⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

Ephesians 3.1-12

Paul's Ministry to the Gentiles

3 This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— ² for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³ and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴ a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵ In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶ that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. ⁷ Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power. ⁸ Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹ and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰ so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹ This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom

we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Matthew 2.1-12

The Visit of the Wise Men

2 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ² asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶ "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel." ' ⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Post Communion Prayer

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.

10 January 2013 A Day of Prayer for the Mission and Unity of God's Church

Dear Friends,

The General Synod vote in November has created something of a crisis and a challenge for the Church of England. The vote was not against women bishops as such, but against a particular piece of legislation. Nevertheless, the failure of our decision making processes to deliver what is clearly the will and desire of the church has left us feeling confused and has done damage to our reputation and our mission. There must be no recriminations against those who voted against the measure. They were led by their conscience. And all of us, however we voted, want the same thing: a church where women and men can serve equally as bishops, priests and deacons, and provision for those who in conscience cannot receive women's ministry. It is hugely disappointing, that having come so close to finding legislation that would work for everyone we are back at the drawing board. But God is a redeemer, and there are important lessons to learn from what has happened and about how we do our business, and the first of these is trust. We must trust God; that he loves his church and will lead us to find the right way forward. And we must trust each other, looking for ways to live together with our disagreement. Jesus prayed for unity so that the world may believe. We need to see how unity and mission are linked together. To this end – to build trust and to wait upon God – I am inviting the diocese to **join together on 10 January 2013 for a Day of Prayer for the Mission and Unity of God's Church**. This will be centred on the Cathedral, and on the hour different people will lead us in a short act of prayer. For the rest of the day there will be other prayer opportunities available. I hope many people will come to the Cathedral, but of course most won't be able to. I am therefore issuing this prayer, (please see the attached) and asking everyone in the diocese to say it at least once on the day; and for churches to offer opportunities of prayer and to make the 'Mission and Unity of the Church' their intention that day. In the evening, I will be celebrating the Eucharist at St. Margaret's Church, Barking, at 7.30pm and the other bishops are hoping to do something similar. Further details will be available soon.

So let us look forward. Let us ask God to bless his church and for the Holy Spirit to lead us into truth.

And let us commit ourselves to each other and to God.

With warmest good wishes,

+Stephen

Outline of the Day:

The Day of Prayer will begin with Morning Prayer at 7.45am in the Cathedral. There will then be a Eucharist at 8.15am which will be led by +Stephen. Following the Eucharist there will be prayers led on the hour, every hour, between 9am and 5pm, and at 12.00 noon there will be a Eucharist led by +John. Around the Cathedral, there will also be prayer areas encouraging our reflection during the day. The Day of Prayer will conclude in the Cathedral with Evensong at 5.15pm, and then continue at St. Margaret's Church, Barking, that evening with a Eucharist at 7.30pm.

The Prayer for the Mission and Unity of God's Church

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open our minds to know your will;
open our hearts to receive your peace;
open our hands to do your work;
give your church the unity which was Christ's prayer;
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lead us to a place of graceful concord:
a self-forgetful love,
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for with your grace to help we can be one,
and in your strength can strive to serve and bless,
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