



St. Mary Magdalene Church, Longfield
Part of the Rural North West Kent Group of Churches

NOTICES FOR WEEK COMMENCING 6th January 2019

RNWK Group Clergy: Revd. Dylan Turner, Revd. Jim Fletcher, Revd. Helen Reeves, Revd. Elizabeth Robertson

Sunday 6th January 2019 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) at St. Peter and St. Paul Church, Ash
9.00 am Morning Worship Service at St. Peter's Church, Ridley
9.00 am Holy Communion Service at All Saints' Church, Hartley
10.30 am Holy Communion Service at St. Mary Magdalene Church, Longfield
10.30 am Family Service at St. Peter and St. Paul Church, Ash
10.30 am Family Service at the Fawkham and Hartley Church Centre

Sunday 13th January 2019 8.00 am Morning Prayer Service at St. Peter and St. Paul's Church, Ash
8.00 am Mattins Service (BCP) at St. Mary Magdalene Church, Longfield
9.00 am Morning Worship Service at St. Peter's Church, Ridley
9.00 am Morning Worship Service at All Saints Church, Hartley
10.30 am Holy Communion Service at St. Peter and St. Paul Church, Ash
10.30 am Holy Communion Service at The Fawkham and Hartley Church Centre
10.30 am Morning Worship Service at St. Mary Magdalene Church Longfield
6.30 pm Evening Prayer Service at St. Mary's Church Fawkham

(Please note that tea and coffee will be available in the Jubilee Hall after most of our services, please feel free to join us)

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING - Thank you very much to all of those who attended the Safeguarding Training recently. For the remaining few who have not completed this C0 training please contact Marion Strachan to discuss your options.

MESSY CHURCH – Messy Church meets again on Saturday 19th January 2019 at 4.00pm in the Fawkham and Hartley Church Centre — please come and join us. There is also a Facebook group to follow which is at: <https://m.facebook.com/RNWKmessychurch/>

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP NEW YEAR HOLY COMMUNION - Tuesday 22nd January 7.30pm at All Saints' Church. All are welcome to attend.

COFFEE AND COMMUNION – This will be held on Wednesday 23rd January starting at 10.00am in St. Mary Magdalene Church, Longfield.

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOXES - Could all box holders please bring them to church for Liz Gale or let her know and she will collect them. Thank you.

PASTORAL CARE TEAM - If anyone would like to be a part of this ministry through prayer or visiting could they let either Steph, Wendy or Val know and speak to us for more information.

SIDESMEN, SOUND AND READING - Sunday 6th January service: For the 10.30 am service the Sidespeople will be Val Choules and Marion Stubbs, the Reader will be Gill Horner and Prayers by Susan Rogers, Sound by Peter Garrod.

Sunday 13th January services: For the 8.00 am service the Sidesperson and Reader will be Sylvia Partridge. For the 10.30am service the Sidespeople will be Barbara and Peter Darvill, the Reader will be Jane Noakes with Prayers by Marion Strachan, on Sound will be Gary Mitton. Thank you to everyone for your time and assistance.

*If you have anything to add to the notices for next week, please contact: Alan Strachan on 01474 704602
or at a.m.strachan@btinternet.com Parish website: www.longfieldchurch.org Twitter: @RNWK_Group*

CALLED TOGETHER FOR A NEW VISION

**Don't forget to pray this week in church for your 5 people who you want to come to faith in Christ.
Make a concerted effort this Sunday to pray for YOUR 5 in faith!**

'CALLED TOGETHER' - WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO FOR YOUR T FOR 2-500 PLUS CHALLENGE? - 'CALLED TOGETHER'

WE HAVE SO FAR REACHED OUT AS A GROUP TO 305 PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FOR OUR T FOR 2-500 PLUS CHALLENGE, WE STILL HAVE 195 PEOPLE TO REACH BEFORE NEXT SUMMER. WHAT'S YOUR CHALLENGE?

PLEASE LET THE MINISTRY TEAM KNOW, WE ARE CALLED TOGETHER, TO WORK TOGETHER FOR OUR COMMUNITY!

Just a thought!

Although one of the last celebrations of the Christmas season, Sunday's celebration of the Epiphany of the Lord is just as hopeful and relevant to our lives as all of the other stories that surround the birth of Jesus. At the heart of its familiar story, this is what we find: Wise Men from the east arrive in Bethlehem inquiring about the location of the new-born king of the Jews. We're told that they had observed his star at its rising and they came to pay him homage.

The story of the Wise Men and the star of Bethlehem is unique to Matthew's Gospel. If you listened carefully to it, you might have noticed that Matthew doesn't even call the Wise Men Kings – nor does he give their names – nor does he report where they came from. In fact, Matthew never even specifies the number of the magi. We traditionally have just presumed that there were three since three gifts – gold, frankincense and myrrh – were presented to the Christ child. But in stripping away the romantic layers that have been added to the story, Matthew's purpose in telling it can be better understood – a purpose that points back to us and the need to fill the emptiness that so often exists within us.

But Matthew also reminds us with his familiar words that the magi – non believers in the eyes of Israel – possess something unique – something seldom appreciated by the leaders of Israel, much less Herod. They possess the humility and the openness of mind and heart to seek and welcome Jesus. Their following of the star is a journey of faith, a constant search for meaning, for purpose, for the things of God. Nor were they deterred on that journey, even as they encountered people and events along the way that had the potential to keep them from achieving their goal. Their search mirrors our own life-long search for compassion, justice, peace and forgiveness. Therein we find the heart of the message of this Epiphany celebration.

Just a thought.....