



St Peter & St Paul's Chaldon Newsletter

January 2021 Edition

Holding on to Hope in January (following on from Digging Deep in December!)

We've just lived through a festival of hope, marking the beginning of a new Christian year and the end of the secular old year. As we move from December into January, we have already passed the turning point of the winter or hibernal solstice and as Christians we are called to step out in hope.

After the **Digging Deep** of *watching and waiting* in Advent how do we **Hold onto Hope** as Christmas and Epiphany recede and we continue in lockdown?

This is precious time.... by the mid-February we will be off on our journey towards the cross and resurrection culminating in our second annual festival of hope - Easter.

Two powerful narratives - Hope in new creation and new birth with the birth of Jesus, and the journey to the cross leading to hope in the risen Christ.

The current season of Epiphany marks of course the journey of the 3 Wise Men – who brought gifts from far off places. Guided by a star they were changed by the experience and returned by another route.

Throughout Advent some of us have been considering who has guided us on our journeys of faith – who or what has acted as guiding stars in your life? Leading on from that how did your route through life change as a result of that person or experience - how did they point you towards the light of Christ?

Let's take time in these winter months to focus on the legacy of inspiration in our lives, the passages from scripture, the faithful people, the artists, scientist friends and family who have nurtured our faith.

Perhaps take time to just jot down your own wisdom gifts – who are your 3 wise men and women who have gifted you a route to a deeper relationship with God?

These are the gifts from God that we can treasure in the dark nights of January.....

Our gift from God this Christmas was Jesus Christ who walks alongside us whatever the weather, whatever the Covid restrictions. This is so beautifully expressed in the words of the 2nd verse of the Epiphany hymn written by a 19th century Surrey Vicar, John Monsell. Find it online and listen to it, sing along to it in the safety of your own home, reflect upon it and pray through it - an Epiphany gift in words and music:

- 1 O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!
Bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
with gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,
kneel and adore him: the Lord is his Name!
- 2 Low at his feet lay thy burden of carefulness,
high on his heart he will bear it for thee,
comfort thy sorrows, and answer thy prayerfulness,
guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.
- 3 Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness
of the poor wealth thou wouldst reckon as thine;
for truth in its beauty, and love in its tenderness,
these are the offerings to lay on his shrine.
- 4 These, though we bring them in trembling &
fearfulness,
he will accept for the Name that is dear;
mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness,
trust for our trembling and hope for our fear.
- 5 O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
with gold of obedience, & incense of lowliness,
kneel and adore him: the Lord is his Name!

Author: John Samuel Bewley Monsell (b. St. Colomb's, Londonderry, Ireland, 1811; d. Guilford, Surrey, England, 1875) was educated at Trinity College in Dublin and served as a chaplain and rector of several churches in Ireland after his ordination in 1835. Transferred to England in 1853, he became rector of Egham in Surrey and was rector of St. Nicholas Church in Guilford from 1870 until his death (caused by a construction accident at his church). A prolific poet, Monsell published his verse in eleven volumes. His three hundred hymns, many celebrating the seasons of the church year

Scroll down to see images of the discs hanging on our Jesse Tree – the discs show people, places and events that have pointed people towards Christ. If you would like to make your own contribution to the tree there are more discs in the church porch. *Rev Helen*

Rev Helen is Walking to Calais

Rev Helen is planning to use her daily exercise to walk the distance from Chaldon to Calais (130 miles) in aid of **Refugee Community Kitchen**.

Follow her progress on Facebook & please Sponsor at Just Giving where there are more details about her journey.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/walkingtocalais>

Evening Prayer on Zoom at 6.30pm Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays & Fridays

Night Prayer on Zoom at 9.30pm Sundays

Evening and Night Prayer with music will be offered on Zoom on each week for 30 mins & will be hosted Rev Helen, Rev Sara or Leslie, our Lay Reader.

Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82053753781>

The password is unchanged but if you require it please email: vicar@chaldonchurch.co.uk

Photos of Christmas at Chaldon



Jesse Tree at Chaldon



