

Welcome to Worship!

St Neots Parish Church (St Mary)
& Eynesbury St Mary

Sunday 21st January 2024

Third Sunday of Epiphany



Services today

8 a.m.	Eucharist (BCP)	St Neots Parish Church
9.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist	St Neots Parish Church
Hymns:	Jesus come (t.409); 379; 90 (vv.1,2,5); A+313; 299 Rawsthorne	
11 a.m.	Sung Eucharist	Eynesbury
Hymns:	Jesus come (t.351); 337; 56 (vv.1,2,5); 286	Thorne

Services & Events this week

Wednesday	09.30	Eucharist (<i>St Francis de Sales</i>)	SNPC
Thursday	09.30	Eucharist (<i>The Conversion of St Paul</i>)	Eynesbury
Friday	09.30	Eucharist (<i>SS Timothy & Titus</i>)	SNPC
Saturday	10.45	Informal Eucharist	SNPC
	11-1	Saturday Social	Ch.Room

Next weekend also includes Holocaust Memorial Day on Saturday 27th.

Services for next Sunday, 28th January (Epiphany 4):

8 a.m.	Eucharist (BCP)	St Neots Parish Church
9.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist	St Neots Parish Church
11 a.m.	Sung Eucharist	Eynesbury
6 p.m.	Choral Evensong	St Neots Parish Church

Collect

Almighty God,
whose Son revealed in signs and miracles the wonder of your saving presence:
renew your people with your heavenly grace,
and in all our weakness sustain us by your mighty power;
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.

Alternative Collect

God of all mercy, your Son proclaimed good news to the poor,
release to the captives, and freedom to the oppressed:
anoint us with your Holy Spirit
and set all your people free to praise you in Christ our Lord.

Opening Hymn (tune: Unser Herrscher – CP409 / NEH351)

¹ Jesus, come, for we invite you,
Guest and Master, Friend and Lord;
now, as once at Cana's wedding,
speak, and let us hear your word:
lead us through our need and doubting,
hope be born and joy restored.

² Jesus, come, transform our pleasures,
guide us into paths unknown;
bring your gifts, command your servants,
let us trust in you alone:
though your hand may work in secret,
all shall see what you have done.

³ Jesus, come in new creation,
heaven brought near in power divine;
give your unexpected glory
changing water into wine:
rouse the faith of your disciples –
come, our first and greatest Sign.

⁴ Jesus, come, surprise our dullness,
make us willing to receive
more than we can yet imagine,
all the best you have to give:
let us find your hidden riches,
taste your love, believe and live!

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New Testament Reading (used in the service): Revelation 19.6-10

Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty thunder-peals, crying out,

‘Hallelujah!

For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.

Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory,
for the marriage of the Lamb has come,
and his bride has made herself ready;
to her it has been granted to be clothed
with fine linen, bright and pure’—
for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

And the angel said to me, 'Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.' And he said to me, 'These are true words of God.' Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, 'You must not do that! I am a fellow-servant with you and your comrades who hold the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.'

Gospel Reading: John 2.1-11

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Old Testament Reading (not used in the service): Genesis 14.17-20

After his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley). And King Melchizedek of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was priest of God Most High. He blessed him and said,

'Blessed be Abram by God Most High, maker of heaven and earth;
and blessed be God Most High,

who has delivered your enemies into your hand!'

And Abram gave him one-tenth of everything.

Post-Communion Prayer

Almighty Father,

whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world:

may your people, illumined by your word and sacraments,

shine with the radiance of his glory,

that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth;

for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Services and events further into the year

- Fri 2nd Feb The Feast of the Presentation (Candlemas):
SNPC decorations will be finally removed after the 9.30 eucharist.
- Sun 4th Feb Revd Helene Tame will be our guest preacher at the 9.30 service:
*Though the day has a 'Creation Sunday' flavour,
Helene will also be reflecting on the Presentation/Candlemas story.*
- Sun 4th Feb 3.30pm Teatime Praise
*"Lost! Mary's Holiday Horror!": Revd Margaret focuses on the story of
Jesus travelling to Jerusalem with Mary and Joseph when he is 12.*
- Wed 14th Feb Lent begins**
Ash Wednesday Eucharists: 9.30am (SNPC) & 7.30pm (Eynesbury)
*The Rector will preside at both these services.
The healing eucharist at Eynesbury will not be on 14th Feb:
to ensure clergy availability, the next four healing services will be:
28th February; 27th March (Wednesday in Holy Week)
17th April & 15th May,
returning to the Second Wednesday of the month from June onwards.*

A Friends of SNPC Concert – Save the Date!

On Friday 5th April (the Friday straight after Easter) at 7pm, SNPC will hold its next Friends' Concert. The star performer is Jordan Ashman, a Cambridge-based percussionist who ****won**** BBC Young Musician of the Year in 2022. Further details about tickets etc will appear during February – but this will definitely be a night to remember!

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18th-25th January)

Today falls in the middle of the eight days of prayer. Here is one of the prayers from the official resources (which focus all week on the Good Samaritan):

Gracious God, you who are the source of all love and goodness:
enable us to recognise the needs of our neighbour.
Help us to be honest about our need for healing.
Change us, so that we can love all.
Help us to overcome the obstacles of division,
that we might build a world of peace for the common good.
Thank you for your renewing work in creation
and for leading us to a future which is full of hope:
you who are Lord of all, yesterday, today and forever. Amen.

We were saddened to learn this week of the death, on Tuesday, of Canon Bruce Curry, Vicar of St Neots 1978-94, then ten years at varying villages outward from Abbotsley, before retirement to Ely. He was also Rural Dean 1990-2002. We will publish further details of arrangements when available, and we hold his family in our prayers.