

# Welcome to Worship!

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2026

The Baptism of Christ (First Sunday of Epiphany)

## Services today

8 a.m.	Eucharist (BCP)	St Neots Parish Church
9.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist <i>President &amp; Preacher – The Rector</i>	St Neots Parish Church <b>Rawsthorpe</b>
<b>Hymns:</b>	<b>97; 109; 99; Anthem + 107; 108</b>	
11 a.m.	Sung Eucharist	Eynesbury
<b>Hymns:</b>	<b>97; 109; 99; 108</b>	<b>Thorne</b>

## Services & Events this week

Monday	10.30	Communion at Henbrook House	
Wednesday	09.30	Eucharist	SNPC
	19.30	Deanery Synod to discuss Parish Share at Little Paxton	
	19.30	Eucharist with Prayer for Healing	Eynesbury
Thursday	09.30	Eucharist	Eynesbury
	19.30	PCC Meeting	Upper Rm
Friday	09.30	Eucharist	SNPC
	13.00	Funeral (Martin Franklin)	SNPC

## Services for next Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup> (Epiphany 2):

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

## And forthcoming funerals:-

Monday 19 <sup>th</sup>	11.30 a.m.	Funeral of Ann Owens at SNPC
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	12 noon	Funeral of Robert Littlechild at SNPC
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	12 noon	Funeral of Stephen Ballard at SNPC
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup>	11 a.m.	Funeral of Jean Cowham at Eynesbury
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup>	p.m. tbc	Funeral of Ed Neuhauser at SNPC

## Giving for the work of the Church

We do not pass a collection plate around the congregation during the service, but we always welcome donations from those who attend worship, either in cash or by using the card reader near the door at SNPC before or after the service.

Please Gift Aid that donation if you can do so (envelopes are available).

We also encourage regular givers to become members of the Parish Giving Scheme (which is how many Church members make their donations).

Please ask at the door, or via the Office, if you want more information about this.



## **Collect for Baptism of Christ / Epiphany I**

Eternal Father,  
who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son,  
anointing him with the Holy Spirit:  
grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit,  
that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children;  
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 for Epiphany I**

Heavenly Father, at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son:  
may we recognize him as our Lord  
and know ourselves to be your beloved children;  
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

## **Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures (first in service): Isaiah 42.1-9**

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights;  
I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations.

<sup>2</sup> He will not cry or lift up his voice,  
or make it heard in the street;

<sup>3</sup> a bruised reed he will not break,  
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;  
he will faithfully bring forth justice.

<sup>4</sup> He will not grow faint or be crushed  
until he has established justice in the earth;  
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

<sup>5</sup> Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out,  
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,  
who gives breath to the people upon it  
and spirit to those who walk in it:

<sup>6</sup> I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness,  
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;

I have given you as a covenant to the people,  
a light to the nations,

<sup>7</sup> to open the eyes that are blind,  
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,  
from the prison those who sit in darkness.

<sup>8</sup> I am the Lord, that is my name;  
my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols.

<sup>9</sup> See, the former things have come to pass,  
and new things I now declare;  
before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

## **Gospel Reading: Matthew 3.13-end**

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him.

<sup>14</sup>John would have prevented him, saying, ‘I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?’ <sup>15</sup>But Jesus answered him, ‘Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness.’ Then he consented.

<sup>16</sup>And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. <sup>17</sup>And a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.’

## **New Testament Reading (not used): Acts 10.34-43**

Then Peter began to speak to them: ‘I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup>but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup>You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup>That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup>how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. <sup>39</sup>We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; <sup>40</sup>but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup>not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup>He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup>All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.’

## **Post-Communion Prayer**

Lord of all time and eternity, you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son: by the power of your Spirit complete the heavenly work of our rebirth through the waters of the new creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **Further Ahead**

Please note that there is no ‘**All Aboard**’ in January – the next will take place on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February (at the usual time of 3.30pm).

We celebrate **Candlemas** (the Feast of the Presentation) on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February, and Christmas decorations are removed from the Churches in the days following.

**Ash Wednesday** is on February 18<sup>th</sup>. As usual, there will be eucharists with unaccompanied hymns & psalm and optional imposition of ashes at:-  
9.30 a.m. at SNPC and 7.30pm at Eynesbury

*Picture overleaf – SNPC window of the Baptism of Jesus (Clayton & Bell, 1870s)*

