



to all who contributed to a very joyful Christmas at St Andrew's – cleaning, flower arranging, serving coffee, putting up Christmas trees and decorations, singing, preaching, wardening, playing the organ, and, above all, taking part in the various services. And congratulations to the choir for raising an amazing £314 from carol-singing at the King's Arms.

## Filming in the Wild

January 15th, 6-7.30pm  
in the Village Hall  
Award-winning natural history cinematographer Paul Stewart will give an illustrated talk on his travels, wildlife encounters, and the joys and challenges of capturing footage of the world's most fascinating creatures.



## AFTERNOON TEAS

in the Village Hall on the first Wednesday of the month  
**No meeting in January, next one 4<sup>th</sup> February 2.0 – 4.0**  
Cost £4. Join us by booking at [pruereynolds96@gmail.com](mailto:pruereynolds96@gmail.com)

## Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January Epiphany Sunday

10.0 a.m. Parish communion

### Children's Theatre

Whatnot Theatre return with their new show **Tea-Time with Hatter and Hare**

Saturday January 24th  
3pm

Booking details on porch noticeboard  
or in the  
December Link:  
[sandfordchurch.org.uk](http://sandfordchurch.org.uk)

### Bible study recommencing.

If interested contact Bob (748848)

**Birinus And All That..!** a musical history of Dorchester Abbey from 635AD to the present day, at the Abbey.

On 3.0 on Sunday January 11<sup>th</sup> we will perform a short cantata telling the history of the Abbey. Admission is free and there will be an exhibition of facsimiles of historic documents.

God of all people,  
by the light of a star,  
you called seekers from afar,  
revealing your Son to all nations.  
May the light of your love  
open our hearts to the whole human family.

God of compassion,  
we recall how the questions of the Magi,  
were met with Herod's violence  
and Rachel's inconsolable grief.  
May the light of your peace  
illuminate our world so full of conflict.

God of grace,  
the wise ones found the child,  
the Light of the World,  
and travelled home by another way.  
May your guiding light lead us  
to Jesus and the new ways of your kingdom.

In the days ahead,  
as we journey as pilgrims of hope,  
may we walk together in constant trust  
and faithful sharing of our gifts,  
seeking the wisdom of your word,  
and following the light of Christ.  
Amen.

### TALKING SHOP

will reopen at  
9.30am as normal  
on Friday 2nd January

### COMMUNITY LUNCH at Talking Shop

Next one 12.30 – 2.0  
on the 14th January  
A delicious three course lunch cooked by  
volunteers to save food waste.  
Pay what you can. No need to book.

## SUNDAYS in January 2026 Year A

### Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January EPIPHANY

#### 10.0 a.m. Parish Communion

*Isaiah 60.1-6 Arise, shine, for your light has come – the glory of The Lord. You shall see and be radiant – your heart shall rejoice.*

*Ephesians 3.1-12 Paul's call to include non-Jews into God's people Israel. This is the new thing in Christianity – that the Messiah is for all – the Saviour of the world. God's promise is for all who trust in Him.*

*Matthew 2.1-12 The Gentile Magi, astronomers from Persia/Iran come to worship Jesus, bearing gifts. The evil ruler in Jerusalem fails to kill Jesus, but kills lots of other babies, leaving Mary weeping.*

#### 6.30 p.m. Evening prayer

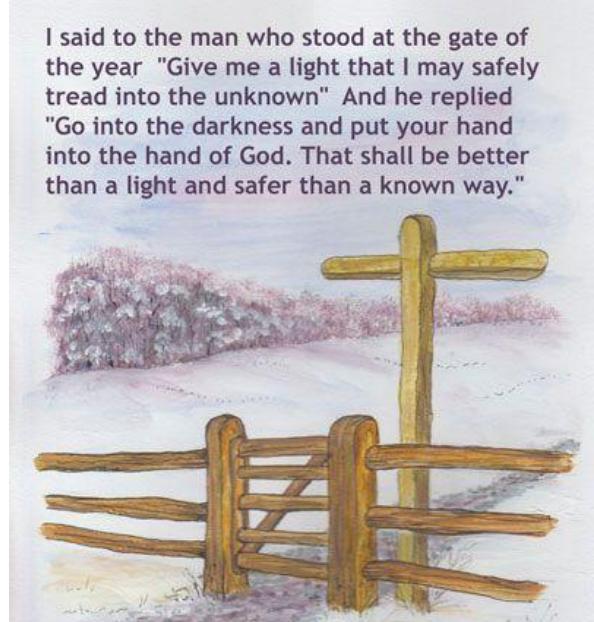
### Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January Epiphany 1 – the Baptism of Christ

#### 10.0 a.m. Parish Communion.

*Acts 10.34-43 Peter's sermon to the first Gentile converts, the Roman soldier Cornelius and co. The Spirit coming upon them is now called the Gentile Pentecost. Peter's message: Jesus empowered by the Spirit went around doing good, healing the oppressed, vindicated by God.*

*Matthew 3.13-17 John the Baptist is embarrassed about baptising a man with nothing to repent of. A voice from heaven says who Jesus is – God's beloved Son.*

#### 6.30 p.m. Evening prayer



### Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January Epiphany 2

#### 10.0 a.m. Parish Communion

*Isaiah 49.1-7 The second 'Servant Song' of Deutero-Isaiah, writing from exile in Babylon. God called him in the womb. It was a struggle – people would not listen to his good news from God. But the message was spread to Gentiles, so God's salvation would extend to the end of the earth and the Holy One of Israel would raise him up.*

*1 Corinthians 1.1-9 Paul addresses a congregation he established in Greece which has big problems – but first he reminds them of the positives – God called them and is reliable.*

*John 1.29-42 John the Baptist identifies Jesus as God's lamb who will deal with the world's sin. He recalls the Spirit coming down on Jesus and remaining on him. Two of John's disciples move on to meet and follow Jesus. One was St Andrew – the first to realize that Jesus was the Messiah here (contrast Mark 8.27-30).*

#### 6.30 p.m. Evening prayer

### Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January Epiphany 3 Conversion of St Paul

*Acts 9.1-22 On the road to Damascus the Pharisee Saul has a vision of the risen Jesus Messiah and goes to Ananias to be baptized. God has chosen this fanatic to bring the gospel to non-Jews as well. He will suffer (martyrdom in Rome). Compare Acts 22 and 26.12.*

*Matthew 19.27-30 The cost of discipleship and its rewards. Giving up family and possessions for Jesus' sake will bring miracles, and fullness of life.*

#### 6.30 p.m. Evening prayer

Among the many we know who need our prayers,  
please especially keep in mind

**Rhona Bunce, Gwen Beaver, Jennie Tinson and Ruth Tuckwell,**  
and also **John Bardwell** and the other residents, and the trustees,  
staff and other residents of Vale House.

Rest in peace

**Jane Webber   Carole Grant-Garwood   Susan Clarke**

#### St Paul

An enemy whom God has made a friend,  
A righteous man discounting righteousness,  
Last to believe and first for God to send,  
He found the fountain in the wilderness.  
Thrown to the ground and raised  
at the same moment,  
A prisoner who set his captors free,  
A naked man with love his only garment,  
A blinded man who helped the world to see,  
A Jew who had been perfect in the Law,  
Blesses the flesh of every other race  
And helps them see what the apostles saw -  
The glory of the Lord in Jesus' face.  
Strong in his weakness, joyful in his pains,  
And bound by Love, who freed him  
from his chains.

*Malcolm Guite*