

THE BENEFICE OF EAST CLEVEDON

Epiphany 3 – Sunday, 23rd January

www.eastclevedonchurches.co.uk

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.

Nehemiah 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10

All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, 'Amen, Amen', lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground. So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, 'This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep.' For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, 'Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.'

Luke 4: 14-21

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the

synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'

Hymn numbers are displayed on the boards in church

IN OUR PRAYERS...

In our benefice we pray for those who are sick; Ray Weaver, Doug Todd, David Major, Doy Marriott, Sue Roberts, Ray Willis.

We pray for those who have recently died; Michael Seeley, Derek Vowles, Michael Thomas.

In our year's mind we remember George Morris, Brenda Holman, Dorie Hagley, Donald Bishop, Doris Bishop, Barbara King and we pray for all who are mourning the loss of loved ones at this time.

Notices

Covid: As from this Thursday (27th January) Covid restrictions will be lifted. Face coverings and social distancing are not required and will be optional. Each PCC in the benefice will consider the arrangements for the chalice at the Eucharist at their next meeting.

A quarter peal will be rung at St Mary's at 12 noon on Sunday (23rd January) and at St Peter and St Paul's at 5pm on Sunday (23rd January) in memory of Michael Seeley and Derek Vowles, two long term bell ringers in our benefice who have both sadly died in the last couple of weeks.

The pulpit flowers in St Mary's this week are in loving memory of Brenda Holman (2nd January 1938-26th January 2017), requested by her husband Clive.

The Week Ahead

Wednesday communions

10.00am St Mary's
11.00am St Peter and St Paul's at Boxwood Cottage

Tuesday (25th January)

10.10am All Saints School Assembly

Thursday (26th January)

12.30pm Little Saints, All Saints Vestry

Next Sunday (30th January)

8.00am All Saints Holy Communion
10.00am St Mary's Holy Communion
10.30am All Saints Holy Communion
11.15am St Paul's Morning Prayer
6.00pm St Peter and St Paul Holy Communion (Village Hall)