



**Diocese
of Salisbury**
Making
Jesus Known

The Wylye and Till Valley Benefice



**Berwick St James, Great Wishford, Little Langford, South
Newton and Stoford, Stapleford, Steeple Langford, Stockton,
Winterbourne Stoke and Wylye with Fisherton de la Mere**

<https://www.wylyeandtillvalleybenefice.org/>

<https://www.wylyeandtillvalleybenefice.org/sermons>

Sunday 12th January – The Baptism of Christ ~ The 1st Sunday of Epiphany (CW), 1st Sunday after Epiphany (BCP) Isaiah 43.1-7; Acts 8.14-17; Luke 3.15-17,21,22

09:30am	Winterbourne Stoke	Holy Communion (CW)
11:00am	Steeple Langford	Holy Communion (CW)
6:00pm	Great Wishford	Evening Worship the Baptism of Christ

Dear Friends,

What is the focus of Luke’s story? Luke puts Jesus’s baptism in the past tense offering little substantial detail other than Jesus praying followed by the heavens being opened up and the Holy Spirit descending upon Jesus as he hears the Father say, “*You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.*” But who is hearing God’s words? Is God speaking to the people who “*were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah...*” Are we not those people “*filled with expectation... questioning in our hearts...*”

There will be times when we will be filled with *expectation* ~ that God is about to act, yet equally, we have doubts over God’s purposes or just find that we are wrong, and there are times when we look back and realize God has acted and we have completely missed it, hidden until the Holy Spirit decides to reveal it.

God has His plans. Luke is perhaps affirming our smallness while telling us to get on with it—time to live as God’s people, time to keep going even when we’ve been wrong, time to live in awe of what we do know or have learned along the way. Jesus’s “*winnnowing fork is in his hand,*” after all. And the proof of being the wheat and not the chaff comes in the living of our faith, sprouted in the fire and water of our baptisms by God’s very self, the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Please pray for

The long-term need for prayer	Angela and David Baldwin (South Newton), Joyce Binder (Steeple Langford), Thea Chalke; Pat Considine (Steeple Langford), Anton Funnell; Louisa Halliday (Great Wishford) June Howes (Wylye), Richard Moulding (South Newton), Valerie Palmer, Sheena Pratt (Stapleford), Pam Twitchett (Wylye)
The urgent sick	
The Departed	
Those being baptized	
Weddings	

From the Benefice Prayer Sheet

12	The Baptism of Christ (The First Sunday of Epiphany) 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. Amen
13	God, we weep for the lives lost in this conflict. We pray for all those who mourn their loved ones. We bring to you our deep sorrows and our fears for the future. God, we cry out for peace and for justice. We pray for an end to this war, for an immediate ceasefire. We pray that those in power would act to stop this violence now. We ask this in the name of the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ. Amen
14	We pray for all the local businesses of our community facing such challenges at this time; we remember all who work in our villages, in Salisbury or travel further afield to work. We give thanks for the contribution they make to our local well-being.
15	We pray for the church and village community of Great Wishford and their Local Church Council.
16	Holy Spirit, drive away from us all forms of sickness and disease, restore strength to our bodies and joy to our spirit, so that in our renewed health, we may bless and serve you, now and forevermore. Amen
17	Eternal Father, we praise you for sending your Son to be one of us and to save us. Look upon your people with mercy, for we are divided in so many ways, and give us the Spirit of Jesus to make us one in love. Amen.
18	The start of the week of prayer for Christian Unity May Your Spirit guide us on the way of peace on the way of honest dialogue on the way of reconciliation between peoples, on the way of disarmament and justice, on the way of freedom and life for all. Amen
19	The Second Sunday of/after Epiphany Lord God, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power. Please look kindly upon all animals who are in need this day, whether they are in the wild, on the streets, in captivity, or elsewhere. Deliver those who are hurt, abused, hungry, and forgotten. Amen

Sunday 19th January – Second Sunday of Epiphany

09:30am	Great Wishford	Holy Communion (CW)
11:00am	Berwick St James	Plough Sunday Service
11:00am	Wylve	Holy Communion (CW)
4:00pm	Steeple Langford	Family Christingle Service with afternoon tea
6:00pm	Stockon	Evening Worship

Thursday 23rd January

11:00am	Wylve	Midweek service with organ music followed by coffee
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