

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.'

### We pray to the Lord

- ◆ For humanity to take more responsibility for the care of our environment
- ◆ For those named on our January prayer list: Cindy, Brian, Louisa, Jimmy, Eleanor, Sue, Maureen, James, Heather, John, Kenny, Baby Theo
- ◆ For Jess, as she moves back to the West Country to take up her new job
- ◆ For those whose anniversary of death falls at this time: Charles Murray, Teresa, Robin

### **Working with Thorpe CofE School**

#### ***(A message from a pupil at Thorpe Primary School)***

Last week, Father Stephen shared a wonderful Holy Communion event with the Junior children. They were invited to take bread and 'wine' or receive a blessing or observe. This event was a time for children to learn about what it means to take part in Holy Communion in an Anglican Church. The children's feedback was very positive and following the event, they shared their feelings. 'I was nervous about going to the front but when I got there it was peaceful, I really liked it'; 'I found it very settling'; 'It was very peaceful'; 'It made me feel really good inside'; 'it helped me learn about Holy Communion as I knew the words but didn't know what it meant'; 'It made me feel really special'; 'It made me feel more of a connection to God'; 'It made me feel happy'.

**Father Stephen and others are available to talk or pray with anyone; please just ask. God bless you this week**

*Copies of Fr Stephen's sermon available* email : [vicar@stmaryschurchthorpe.co.uk](mailto:vicar@stmaryschurchthorpe.co.uk)



# ST MARY'S THORPE

A warm welcome for everyone

**Church Family News**

Week of the 26th January

### **Greetings**

At the contemplative prayer group last Monday we were reminded that *'in every bad person there is good and in every good person there is bad'*. When it's so easy to slip into labelling someone good or bad because of what they say, or how they behave, this is a reminder to *'cut them some slack'*. Donald Trump, the new president of the nation with whom we have a 'special relationship', is someone this may apply to (depending upon our politics and how we get our news). When Jesus' followers were inclined to label people as good or bad he said *'by their fruits you shall know'*. He did not mean whether they proved successful, or popular, or did what you want or put more money in your pocket, he meant by the degree to which the results of their work align with the ways of the kingdom of God; serving the poor, healing the broken hearted, freeing the oppressed. Time will tell, meanwhile let us pray for President Trump and his advisors, and for ourselves, that the bad in us may never get the upper hand, by the grace of God.

Best wishes in Christ

Father Stephen

### **This Week:**

**Today** 8am Said Communion Service 10am Sung service of Holy Communion with baptism

**Monday/Tuesday**

**Wednesday 9am-3pm** Parish office open

11am Holy Communion (*all welcome*)

Warden: Jill Collinson Welcome: Joy Mitchiner

7.15pm-9.15pm Art Class

**Thursday** 9.00-11.30am Noah's Ark parent and toddler group  
(*all welcome*)

**Friday** Father Stephen's day off

### **Contact Us:**

Office Administrator: [stmaryschurchthorpe@outlook.com](mailto:stmaryschurchthorpe@outlook.com)

Office open: Wednesday 9.30am – 3.00pm

Vicar: Fr Stephen Girling Churchwardens: Peter Gruncell, Diana Lees

## Future Services and Events:

### **2nd February Candlemas** (with bring and Share lunch}

We shall be celebrating Candlemas on Sunday 2nd February, when we remember the presentation of Christ in the temple, as '**a light for revelation**'. You are invited to bring a candle from home to be blessed as a constant reminder of the light of Christ.

### **9th February after the 8am and 10am services**

Informal meetings over coffee and an opportunity to provide feedback on the new service and newsletter formats.

### **9th February 4.00pm—5.15pm**

Baptism families - Tea in the Rutherwyke Room

**20th February A workshop on 20th February, 2-3.30pm** in the Rutherwyke Room, St Mary's Thorpe.

### **'Beyond the Face' - Seeing the soul in a portrait**

Fr. Stephen will be leading a workshop on the theme of his 2024 book, 'Beyond the Face'. Inspired by portraits of ordinary people by Vincent van Gogh, and by religious Icons, Stephen will introduce a simple method with which we can approach a portrait with the intention to see the soul of the subject. All welcome, no prior experience necessary. Copies of Stephen's book will be on sale. Sign up with St Mary's office.

## Notices

### **LAY TRAINING**

Our diocese provides training for lay people who want to be involved with pastoral visiting, teaching, leading services, mission or evangelism. If this is something you'd like to explore further, there is more information in this video and on the diocesan website <https://www.cofeguildford.org.uk/for-leaders/formation-and-training/lay-training-pathway/> Do have a chat with Fr Stephen if you want to talk it through further.

**Family Service** held on 1st and 3rd Sundays

**Choir Practice** held on 2nd and 4th Sundays. New members needed

### **Runnymede Foodbank**

Details available with requests for urgent items.

## Sunday Worship 26th January

Third Sunday of Epiphany

We gather for worship, welcoming everyone as Christ would, learning from him through the Bible and being spiritually nourished by him through Holy Communion. We welcome Ella, who is being baptised here today, her parents Emma and Ollie, their families, friends and Ella's Godparents.

The Gospel reading and prayers for this week are below.

*Those serving us today are:*

### **8am Holy Communion**

*Server:* Andy West *Welcome/Reader:* Diana Lees

### **10am Holy Communion and baptism**

*Warden:* Jane Lowe: Jim Lowe/Grace Brown *Server:* Susi Thornton *Chalice:*

Susi Thornton/Allison Kelly

*Organist:* David Howard

### **Hymns from the orange hymn book**

Introit:	Praise my soul the King of heaven	565
Offertory:	Morning has broken	450
Communion:	Amazing Grace	29
Recessional:	Shine, Jesus, Shine	419

### **Collect** (prayer for the week)

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. **Amen**

### **Gospel Reading: Luke 4: vs 14-21**

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

### **Glory to you O Lord**

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