



16th Jan 2022



I hope you have had a wonderful week. Last Sunday, we remembered the Baptism of Christ. As part of the readings, we heard these words: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you, I am well pleased." Although we read from Luke's Gospel, this sentence is in all the Gospels, showing how important they were for the writers. Every time I read these words, I recalled the visit from pupils from our local schools during

which one of the children asked why Christians are baptised? It is a question of utmost importance to which we must all be clear in our understanding to respond.

Our baptism signifies three things, each starting with the letter B. The first is about belief. What does belief have to do with baptism? The first section of the baptism service is a call to repentance during which those who are to be baptised (or their parents and Godparents) affirm their wish to turn away from sin, reject evil, turn to Christ and give their lives to Him. After this, those being baptised are signed with the sign of the Cross. Signing with the sign of the Cross is a way of acknowledging that we are only saved by what Jesus did on the Cross. Hence, those baptised are not saved by what they have done or could do. Instead, we are saved by the Grace that comes ONLY from what Jesus did on the Cross. It is no wonder that Saint Paul writing to the Ephesians, wrote, "For it is by Grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do". So when we confess our sins and turn to Christ, we are saved and given a fresh start, a clean slate and new opportunities. It is for this reason that our baptism is essential. Through baptism, we are saved, and Christ claims us for His own, and we are His. Next week, I will be writing about the second signification of our baptism, and I hope you will reflect on what the sign on the Cross means for you. And when next you see someone signing themselves with this glorious sign of the amazing work of God, rejoice with them, knowing they are your fellow travellers and children of the Kingdom of God. **Sunday 16th** This Sunday, we will be meeting at 8, and 10 am. Please remember that the 10 am service is a non-Holy Communion Service. There will be an opportunity to follow the 10am service online using these details <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89809783143?pwd=dzFJK0VTVmcyWGfodXFTb2VlV3JtUT09>. Meeting ID: 898 0978 3143 and Passcode: SMO2021. At 4 pm, we will have the Family Praise Service, followed by Light tea in the Halls. I hope you can join us.

I wish you a blessed week, and please remember. God loves you. Revd Folli Olokose
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We wish you a blessed, healthy and joyful 2022. One of our objectives this year is to update the information we have for all our members and subscribers. This will allow us to contact you in a timely and orderly manner. This is an obligation under GDPR laws. It also ensures that you don't miss out on church-related activities and services. We would be glad if you could fill in the Data Update Form and send it back to the Parish Office. Copies are available at the back of the church or from the Parish Office. Thanks a lot for your help. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact us The Parish Office Team. **This Week's Bible Readings:** Ezekiel 43: 27-44: 4: 1, Corinthians 13: & Luke 2: 22-40 **Praying for the world especially:** Renewed resolve in the fight against Covid & the booster vaccination programme, equitable global access to the vaccinations, the NHS and all volunteers involved. We pray for all who suffer from mental ill-health, victims of abuse and discrimination, refugees and asylum seekers, and the homeless. In our **Diocesan Calendar of Prayer**, we are praying for the vergers, administrative staff, volunteer guides and chaplains who help to keep our Cathedral as a living place of worship and from the **Anglican Cycle of Prayer** for The Church of England, also for the Revd Theresa Ricketts, Cuddington St Mary, Vicar. Please pray for: **Please pray for:** Cora Radcliffe and her family who is being baptised on 23rd January. **We Remember the Recently Departed:** Paddy Hartigan, Alfred Oliviera, Rita Clarkson, Gladys Clarkson, Janet Cradduck, Gordon Jones, John Cox, Christian Gaillard and Janet Olokose. **From the Memorial Book:** Donald Yardley, Stanley Burningham, Mary Carney-Potts, Leslie Taylor, Denis Desty, Betty McCowen, Margaret Jenkins, Freya Gordon, Marion Sims, Drene Tanner and Jennifer Evans. **Other Dates:** Family Praise Service 4pm 16th January followed by a light hot tea in the church Hall. Please contact Laura Scarr St Mary Oatlands Children and Families Worker 07881 786309 or childrenandfamilies@oatlandschurch.org.uk

SMART Mother and Toddler Group: Tuesdays during term time 10-11.30am in the Church Hall. We are back for even more fun. Could you support this friendly group of Mums and Toddlers and help them to serve refreshments at their meetings on a rota basis? **Film Night:** Wed 19th January-fellowship, drinks and a light meal from 6.30pm. The film begins at 7pm with a discussion afterwards. Please join us, especially if you have not been before. Please sign-up using the sheet at the back of the Church or contact the Parish Office if you plan to attend. We look forward to seeing you! **Knit Wits and Colouring Club:** Wed 19th Jan 12.30pm in the Octagon. Bring a packed lunch, tea and coffee served. **Meeting Point:** Wed 26th January 2 pm. A friendly over 60's lunch club is open to all-a very sociable club, offering plenty of variety including organised outings. Membership is £10 per annum plus £4 per meeting. We are always happy to welcome new faces at our monthly meetings, which usually occur in the Church Hall on the fourth Wednesday of the month, so do join us at 2 pm for the 'What's On', 'Thought for the Day and the talk. A light sandwich tea will follow. The meetings finish at 4.30 pm. Lifts are available. Please contact Jane Ruddlesdin 01932 849510 for more details. **Church Cleaning and Garden Tidy:** The dates for our biannual Church Cleaning and Garden Tidy are 9am-12noon on Saturday 26th March and Saturday 8th October. We look forward to seeing you. Coffee and cake will be served to keep us going.

Car Park Update: We are so sorry we have not been able to progress this project or update you for some time. It has been difficult getting the right contractors to provide us with an affordable quotation with a reasonable execution time. After much deliberation, we can now progress with this project as we now have a quote for the sum of £50,000. We have raised £37,000, leaving a shortfall of around £13,000. We hope to get the work completed during the February Half Term Break. Any financial assistance towards the shortfall will be appreciated. Thanks a lot. If you have any questions or comments, please speak to Liz Davies on 01932 225584