

**Readings for this Sunday 17 January 2021**  
**The Second Sunday of Epiphany**

Rev. 5. 1-10  
John 1. 43 – end



*Photo courtesy of Nigel Hall*

**Parish Register**

There are no entries in the Parish Register this week.

**Weekly Beacon**



**News from St Hildeburgh's**  
**The Parish Church of Hoylake**  
**Sunday 17 January 2021**  
**The Second Sunday of Epiphany**

**The Collect**

Almighty God,  
in Christ you make all things new:  
transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace,  
and in the renewal of our lives  
make known your heavenly glory;  
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.

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

Due to the pandemic situation, services at St Hildeburgh's church have been suspended for the time being until further notice.

The church remains open for private individual prayer as follows:

Mondays to Thursdays and Sundays from 10am to 12 noon

The church is closed on Fridays and Saturdays.

Services are available to view on line on our website [www.sthildeburgh.net](http://www.sthildeburgh.net) and on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/sthildeburgh>

**If you are coming for individual private prayer please use the sanitiser and remember that face coverings must be worn in church at all times.**

Please check our website [www.sthildeburgh.net](http://www.sthildeburgh.net) for up to date information as the situation changes

## **Scams**

Please be aware that there are a lot of scams around at the moment including some pretending to come from Revd Paul's email address. Revd Paul's emails have not been compromised.

**If you should receive such an email please do not respond to it – if you are unsure please phone Revd Paul on 0151 632 3897.**

## **Light a Virtual Candle**

You can light a virtual candle by going to the Church of England's website [www.churchofengland.org](http://www.churchofengland.org) Enter the words 'light a candle' in the search box in the top righthand corner of the screen. Click on the search icon and then click on the heading '**Light a Candle**' then follow the links to light your virtual candle.



## **Citizens Advice Wirral**

Citizens Advice Wirral are pleased to continue to deliver information and advice to Wirral residents.

Our **Ask Us Wirral information and advice** service is being delivered by phone or email and includes specialist benefits, debt and housing advice.

To access Ask Us Wirral phone **0300 33 00 111** Please note the phone lines are likely to be busy and you may need to leave a message and our team can get back to you. If you can't get through on our local number, you can try national Citizens Advice number **03444 111 444**

You can also fill out our **webform** [www.askuswirral.org.uk/enquiry-webform/](http://www.askuswirral.org.uk/enquiry-webform/)

For **Information** about sick pay, your rights if you are off sick, self-isolating or home working and other useful information about what Coronavirus what it means to you go to [www.citizensadvice.org.uk/health/coronavirus-what-it-means-for-you/](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/health/coronavirus-what-it-means-for-you/)

If you have now become unemployed or are self-employed but your income has dropped, please call our Help to Claim team on **0800 144 8 444**

## **Wirral Foodbank Vouchers**

If you need **Foodbank** Vouchers, please contact Citizens Advice **Wirral** on 0808 278 7848 or **Wirral** Council 0151 666 5050 (selecting option 1)

## **Wirral Foodbank**

Thank you for your donations of food which have been delivered to the Foodbank. The work of the Foodbank continues and your donations are needed more than ever.

### ***Urgently Needed Items:***

Tinned meat  
tinned vegetables  
tinned fruit  
custard  
tinned fish

Please leave your donations in the porch at  
The Vicarage, 1 Stanley Road, Hoylake CH47 1HL.

Thank You!

## **Morrisons Stores, Wirral**

Morrisons Stores Wirral have started taking orders for their doorstep deliveries for the vulnerable (high risk) and elderly at their new purpose-built call centres. To see the list of essential items go to [www.morrisons.co.uk/doorstepdeliveries/vulnerable](http://www.morrisons.co.uk/doorstepdeliveries/vulnerable)

Make your choice from the essential items on the list then phone **0345 611 6111** and **select option 5.**

## **BEACON BITES!**

*Peter Ham writes:*

### **SURPRISED BY NATURE!**

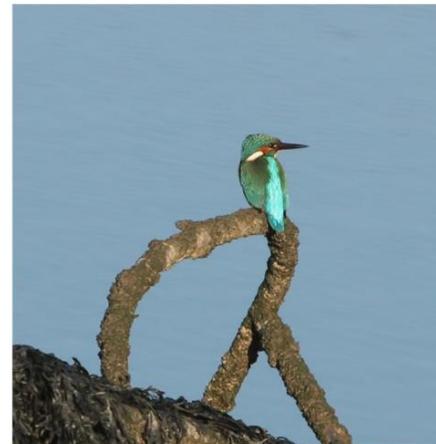
There is a lovely book by CS Lewis called "Surprised by Joy". It describes his "accidental" journey into faith in Jesus, from atheism to belief, and it's well worth reading.

On our daily exercise walk at our nearest bit of Wirral coast, we were delighted and surprised by the "Joy of nature", as we came across this Kingfisher doing its thing in the sea near Leasowe lighthouse. I hope you enjoy the pictures. A friend who is largely housebound described the photos as uplifting and that is certainly how we felt when we saw this fellow. Someone told us that his normal fishing pond was frozen over, so a fishing trip in the salty water of the Irish Sea was needed!

Two things struck and surprised me. First his size. He was tiny, quite like a humming bird in the way he hovered over the water, searching for food, and second his colour! It kept changing! a blur of striking metallic blues, then greens, then turquoise - depending on the light.

Despite our difficulties and the anxieties of our current times, God still wants to surprise us with glimpses of His kingdom beauty. So, as we go about our daily lives, restricted as they are, let's ask our Lord to give us hearts and minds that are open to such glimpses, wherever and whenever they may be, and let us give Him all the glory!

"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful." Hebrews 10:23.



## Voyagers at Home

This week in Voyagers we talked again about the star the magi followed, bringing them light and direction. It reminded us that, even when the days seem dark, God's light breaks through to light our way.



We made some stars to remind us to keep looking for God's light all through the year .....

....and some yummy epiphany tarts with stars on top!



*Love and prayers,  
Christine*

## MESSY CHURCH AT HOME



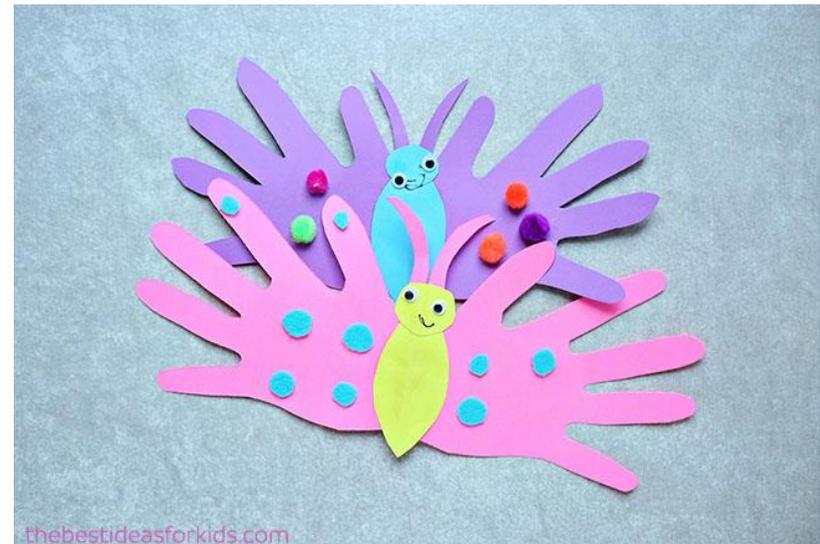
### NEW BEGINNINGS!

*Peter Ham writes:*

**YOU WILL NEED:** coloured sugar paper or card; felt-tip pens; scissors; glue; different coloured tissue paper; pipe cleaners; googly eyes; sequins to decorate (optional)

We have the book "The Very Hungry Caterpillar". In it, the caterpillar develops into a butterfly, displaying his beautiful multi-coloured wings. Draw around your hands on to coloured paper and cut them out. Stick them together into the shape of a butterfly. Decorate your butterfly with crumpled-up tissue paper and sequins. Add googly eyes and two pipe cleaners for antennae.

TALK ABOUT how, at the start of each new year, we make promises to ourselves that we will change; we call these resolutions. It could be that we change what we eat for more healthier food or decide to reduce how much we eat. We might decide to do more exercise or spend less time looking at screens and get out in the fresh air. Whatever it is, it can be hard to keep these changes up. God loves us just the way we are, but he does not want to leave us that way. He wants us to be just like him, and one way we can grow in our lives is to read his word, the Bible. Matthew 4:4 says, 'A person does not live only by eating bread. But a person lives by everything the Lord says'. Why not start reading the Bible today, and let the words of God transform your life?



## **FLOWER OF THE WEEK: SNOWDROP**

### **36th in a series**

***Text and photographs by Peter Surridge.***

THE snowdrop is the most determined harbinger of spring - one of the few plants which literally flowers in the snow. So, to lift our spirits in winter, every garden should have a clump of this cheerful flower, no matter how small.



Snowdrops are perennial bulbs with narrow, blue-green leaves which grow about 7cm (5in) tall and form clumps of a similar diameter. They are easy to grow, given rich but well-drained soil and partial shade, and look wonderful, whether as a small group in a rockery, in drifts among trailing brown carex grasses or around evergreen, white-flowered winter shrubs like *Viburnum tinus*. The common snowdrop, from eastern Europe, is *Galanthus nivalis* but there's nothing common about it for the flowers frequently differ from each other in their markings.

White and drooping, the blooms are some 2cm (0.75in) long with petals like droplets. The variable markings, which are green, are found on the tips of the small, inner tepals. As a bonus – not many people know this – the flowers have a honey-like scent. *Galanthus*, from the Greek, translates as 'milk-flower' while the term snowdrop came to us through Germany, where *Schneetropfen* were pendants and ear-drops fashionable some 300 years ago. *Nivalis* is Latin and means the plant grows near snow.



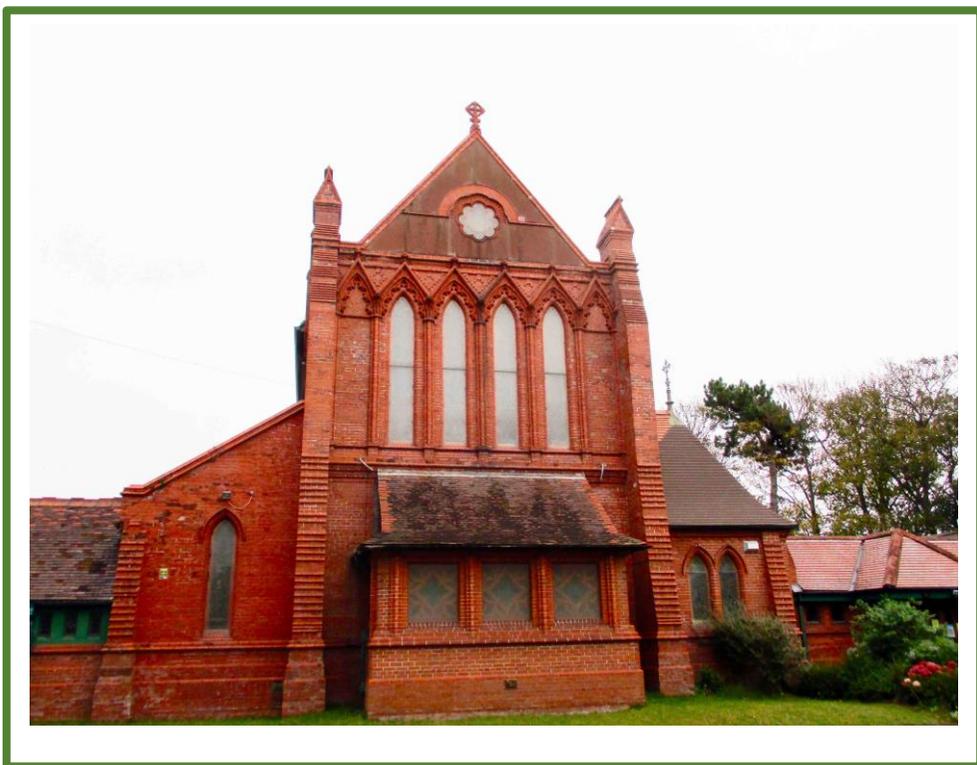
***Above: Foretelling spring – snowdrops at Hodsock Priory.***

Bulbs are best planted "in the green" – still in leaf – from established clumps which have been split after flowering. Snowdrops do not suffer from many pest or disease problems – there are not many around when they are in bloom – but narcissus flies occasionally attack bulbs preventing flowering.

Gardens open to the public, both great and small, are increasingly featuring snowdrops - Lady Newborough's garden at Rug, Corwen, is a pleasant example – but probably Britain's most spectacular display is at Hodsock Priory near Blyth, Notts, where visitors from round the world admire the sheets of snowdrops and other flowers in the five-acre garden and half-mile woodland walk.

Services are available to view on line at:

[www.sthildeburgh.net](http://www.sthildeburgh.net) and on Facebook  
<https://www.facebook.com/sthildeburgh>



*Photo courtesy of Nigel Hall*

## **Contact St Hildeburgh's**

**Vicar**

Rev'd PAUL ROSSITER

The Vicarage, 1 Stanley Road, Hoylake, Wirral CH47 1HL  
Tel: 0151 632 3897. E-mail: [p.a.rossiter@uwclub.net](mailto:p.a.rossiter@uwclub.net)

**Church Office**

e-mail: [sthildeburgh.parish.office@gmail.com](mailto:sthildeburgh.parish.office@gmail.com)  
Tel: 0151 632 5339

## **Follow St Hildeburgh's**

**Church Website**



[www.sthildeburgh.net](http://www.sthildeburgh.net)

Facebook.com/sthildeburgh

Twitter: @sthildeburgh

## **Weekly Beacon**

If you wish to contribute an article or place a notice in the Weekly Beacon please e-mail [sthildeburgh.parish.office@gmail.com](mailto:sthildeburgh.parish.office@gmail.com)

All advertising and notices are accepted at the discretion of the Editor. **Photograph policy.** We frequently take photographs at St Hildeburgh's for publicity purposes – such as printing in this "Weekly Beacon". If for any reason you would prefer us not to use photographs of any children who may accompany you to church, please mention this to our Vicar, Rev'd Paul Rossiter.