

JANUARY EDITION

Sunday 5th December – EPIPHANY/PLOUGH SUNDAY

This Sunday in our churches...

COMMUNION FOR EPIPHANY

9.15am



St Peter's
East Bridgford

PLOUGH SUNDAY SERVICE

11.00am

St Wilfrid's
Screveton



CELTIC EVENING PRAYER

5.00pm

Via Zoom



A Prayer for Epiphany

For those who seek a Saviour, may we lead them to the stable,
to the One who was born to bring freedom, forgiveness, liberty.
For those who seek assurance, may we lead them to the Light,
to the One who opens eyes to understanding God's Word, Truth.
For those who seek forgiveness,
may we lead them to a Grace beyond comprehension:
to wholeness, healing, peace.
Lord, make us channels of your light, love and peace –
signs of your Presence, we pray.
Amen.



Exploring Christian Art Christmas & Epiphany



Friday
10th January at 7pm
on Zoom

Please contact
revruthcolby@gmail.com
for joining details



PLOUGH SUNDAY SERVICE

SUNDAY 5th JANUARY
11am

ST WILFRID'S CHURCH,
SCREVETON

Come & join us as
we bless the plough
& our local farmers
at the start of the
new farming year &
celebrate our rural
farming heritage



January services

Wednesday, 1st January

No Communion

Sunday, 5th January – EPIPHANY/PLOUGH SUNDAY

9.15am	Communion for Epiphany	St Peter's, East Bridgford
11.00am	Plough Sunday Service	St Wilfrid's, Screveton
5.00pm	Celtic Evening Prayer	Zoom

Wednesday, 8th January

10.00am	Communion (BCP)	St Peter's, East Bridgford
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Sunday, 12th January – 1st SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY (BAPTISM OF CHRIST)

10.00am	Pancakes & Praise	St Peter's, East Bridgford
10.00am	Morning Prayer (Lay led)	St Wilfrid's, Screveton
11.00am	Said Communion	St Helen's, Kneeton

Wednesday, 15th January

10.00am	Communion (BCP)	St Peter's, East Bridgford
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Sunday, 19th January – 2nd SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity*

10.00am	United Covenant service with Methodist church	Methodist Church, East Bridgford
11.00am	Communion	St Mary's, Car Colston
6.00pm	Evensong	St Peter's, East Bridgford

Wednesday, 22nd January

10.00am	Communion (BCP)	St Peter's, East Bridgford
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Sunday, 26th January – 3rd SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

9.15am	Sung communion	St Peter's, East Bridgford
11.00am	Communion	St Augustine's, Flintham

Wednesday, 29th January

10.00am	Communion (BCP)	St Peter's, East Bridgford
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Thoughts from the Rectory – January 2025

Now that we are safely out the other side of Christmas (although technically it is still Christmas until 12th night), I wonder how your wisdom sensors are doing?

Are they telling you that you spent too much on presents this year in what is still for many a difficult economic climate? Are you sensing that you had a little too much of a good time – eating and drinking with abandon and now regretting it as you hop on the scales for a reality check? Are you drowning in a sea of Christmas decorations that you didn't really need and all seemed a good idea to buy at the time, but now need to be packed up and stored somewhere?

Wisdom is a wonderful thing but so often we only gain it by going through the challenging learning first – reflecting on our mistakes and experiences and working out how to do things better in the future.

If you have been engaged at all with the Christmas story during December, you can't have escaped the part that includes the visit of the 'Wise Men' to baby Jesus. It usually gets lumped in with the rest of the Christmas story, but the 'wise men' have a festival and season all of their own – Epiphany – which begins when Christmas ends on 6th January every year.

Over the years these wise ones have been given various titles: from magi to kings, to astrologers, to simply wise men. St Matthew's account in the Bible refers to them as magi, who were priests in Zoroastrianism and the ancient religions of the western Iranians.

Their story is a story of wisdom. It is a reminder that they travelled long distances just to see and adore the newborn king, whose coming they had seen in the stars. I like that they are referred to as wise because their gifts signify deep, spiritual references to the future life of the baby they had spent so much time and effort searching out. Gold, frankincense and myrrh related to Jesus in very specific ways: gold for a king, incense for his divinity, and myrrh for his anointing at death.

But even more than the gifts and what they represent, these wise travellers were seekers-seekers of truth. And they found it in the One who called himself the Way, the Truth, and the Life – Jesus.

The wise will always seek out the truth, especially in the midst of falsehoods and confusion. As Christians, we believe that Jesus Christ is the source of all truth, even when it is uncomfortable to hear or grasp. And 2025 will surely be a time when we must strive very hard to seek the truth, and to make wise choices.

Perhaps in this New Year you will make the wise choice to seek out Jesus for yourself.

Every blessing for January

Rev Ruth

News from our parishes...



News from the Parish of Car Colston and Screveton

The season of Advent found **St Mary's** in high spirits waiting in eager anticipation for the festivities ahead. It is always a pleasure to see the Christmas decorations and Advent Windows taking shape both in church and around the village and this year was no exception. The Christmas tree, holly and ivy were all in place thanks to many hours of work from our dedicated team and ready to welcome children and parents for the Southfields Nativity Play followed a few days later by our Third Sunday Advent communion service.



The joyful village Carol Service on December 22nd was well attended with a congregation of 65 adults and 10 children. Very many thanks to everyone who contributed with great enthusiasm and in such an accomplished manner to the traditional service of carols, poetry, Bible readings and a Reflection on 'The Word'. It was marvellous to see so many families, friends and neighbours from the community and across the generations participating in the service. **St Mary's** provided a wonderful setting with dimmed lighting and glowing candles

enhancing the festive atmosphere.

The younger children took advantage of **St Mary's Children's Corner** supplemented for the evening by the nativity costumes Rev Ruth kindly provided, the Camel Hobbyhorse proving particularly popular. The children were invited to choose a nativity figure to bring forward for blessing the Crib although at one point it seemed as though the crib would be populated entirely by a flock of sheep and very little else!

St Mary's bellringing team were out in force at the Carol Service and were joined by some of our friends from Thursday morning practice. Following the service there was a chance for the children to have a go and for some Dads to revive their bell ringing skills. The hospitality after the service worked well served from the back of the Nave. The combination of port, mince pies and cheese is always a winner.

Those who gathered at **St Mary's** on Christmas Eve to enjoy a glass of mulled wine also had the pleasure of joining the most wonderful carol singing led by a family of musicians returning home to Car Colston for Christmas. We are immensely grateful to them for leading the carols, their voices are spectacular and their singing is utterly spellbinding. It was a delight to hear them sing and a fabulous way to start Christmas!

With something of a lull in activity between Christmas and New Year there is time to recharge and look forward to the continuing mission at **St Mary's** in 2025.

Dates for your diary in January

Sunday 19th Communion Service for Epiphany 11am

Saturday 25th Burns Night at the Village Hall - a joint fundraising event for the Parish and Village Hall see poster for booking details.

The next Mustard Seed meeting is Tuesday 21st at Kinoulton

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM ALL OF US AT ST MARY'S



News from our parishes...



News from the Parish of Car Colston and Screveton

News from St Wilfrid's

Our Parish **Christmas Raffle** sold 450 tickets this year (up by 50). A large hamper, a bottle of wine and of spirits were generously donated for prizes and the draw took place at our carols by candlelight service.

St Wilfrids Screveton held a well attended **Candlelit Carol service** on Thursday 19th Dec with approx. 60 people from across the Fosse Group churches enjoying our lovely church, decorated and candlelit by our ladies from Screveton. Members of the congregation took part in placing our figures in the Crib; the service was led by Rev Ruth and it was followed by hot Mulled wine and mince pies.

On Sunday 29th December St Wilfrids hosted the **whole Fosse Group 5th Sunday** service. We followed the service with refreshments and fellowship together at the rear of the church. What a good way to end what has been a good year for St Wilfrid's.



Celebrating Plough Sunday 5th January—and remembering Stan Renshaw

Coming this Sunday 5th January we shall be celebrating our annual **Plough Sunday** service at 11am when our plough, some soil and our farming community will be blessed. Our plough has been used for more than 25 years in our services brought in each year by Stan Renshaw of Screveton. He permanently donated the plough into our keeping approximately 3 years ago; he felt the service was a very important one in the church calendar.

Stan sadly passed away in December; making this year's Service especially poignant. You are very welcome if you wish to join us.



More news from St Mary's & St Wilfrid's...

A FUNDRAISER FOR
CAR COLSTON & SCREVEYTON VILLAGE HALL
AND
CAR COLSTON AND SCREVEYTON PARISH CHURCHES



BURNS NIGHT

25th January 2025

Join us to celebrate Scotland's most famous poet,
Robert Burns



7 pm Arrival Drinks
a 'Wee Dram of Whisky'

7.30 pm Traditional Three-Course Dinner

£20 per person

Dress: Wear a Touch of Tartan
Raffle, Games and Bar



Scan to Book

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
07714 761 144
ENQUIRIES@CARCOLSTONANDSCREVEYTONVILLAGEHALL.CO.UK

News from our parishes...

News from St Peter's church



This year St Peter's welcomed over 360 people to two Christingle services, and if you've ever wondered how we get all those Christingle oranges ready Hilary explains below...

The Christingle Assembly Department at St. Peter's.



The helpers have arrived and are getting on with the job of making 175 Christingles

The task is completed – 175 oranges, requiring 700 sticks, 175 cherries, 700 raisins, 700 sultanas and 700 small sweets.



A very big thank you to all our helpers and also to those who put together the sticks, sweets and fruits before the day, all giving so generously of their time, effort and skill.

Thank you to all who attended Christingle this year and gave so generously to The Children's Society. Including Gift Aid, a total of £988.75 was raised at the two Christingle services at St Peter's and a further £75 from Flintham's

Christingle. Thanks again to our amazing Christingle Teams at both churches, who have helped raise such a fantastic sum of money, and helped families start their Christmas celebrations in such a special way.

ECO CHURCH

Looking again at your own Carbon Footprint. With the New Year upon us I thought it might be a good time to review our Personal Carbon Footprint and see if we have managed to reduce it since the early part of 2024, when we first looked at it as part of our ECO Church journey.

As a reminder, according to the World Health Organisation, a carbon footprint is a measure of

the impact your activities have on the amount of carbon dioxide (CO₂) produced through the burning of fossil fuels and is expressed as a weight of CO₂ emissions produced in tonnes.

I still find the WWF Footprint Calculator the easiest to use:-

<https://footprint.wwf.org.uk/>

Give it go, it takes about 5 to 10 minutes to complete.

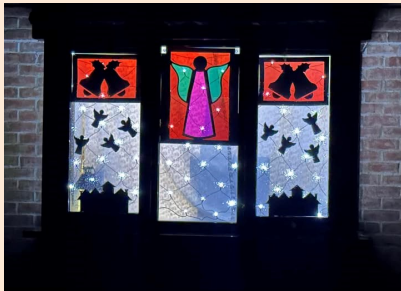
News from St Helen's church

Many thanks to Carian Marks and family who so beautifully decorated our tree for the St Peter's tree festival. What a lovely occasion it was and prepared us for our Carol Service on 8 December. Thanks to Ann Romalla-Nash for the lovely arrangements on each window for the Carol Service where traditional readings and poems were enjoyed by a congregation of 76. Sincere thanks must also go to the bellringers, Philip the organist and the choir who swelled our singing and so added to the joy of the occasion; and also to those who provided refreshments at the end of the service. It was good to see our little church so full for this traditional service.

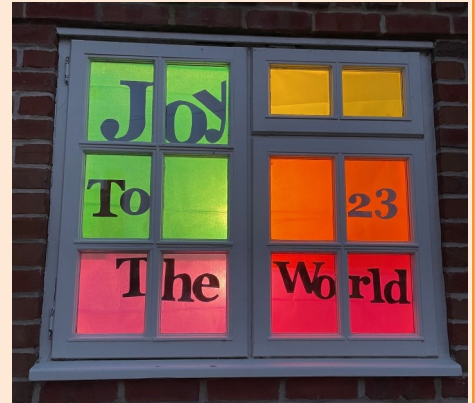
Tony and Patsy Rayner

News from St Augustine's church, Flintham

Advent Windows 2024



Flintham was lit up with Advent Windows again during December with 22 windows taking part in this year's display revealing a new window each day.



Thanks to all those households, businesses and community facilities who created some wonderful window displays including The Boot & Shoe, Flintham School, The Community Shop and FSSA.



Here are a selection of the windows depicting this year's themes—'Joy to the World', and 'Angels and Bells'.



Christmas morning at St Augustine's

There was a wonderful atmosphere of celebration on Christmas morning at St Augustine's as all ages welcomed Jesus into our midst again with words, carols, bread and wine. We shared in the story of Christmas told through 'Heros' chocolates and offered our straw prayers at the manger.



Even cats come to worship at the manger!

DIARY

correct at time of going to press
For all church services see page 2

Friday 10th January

Exploring Christian Art, 7pm–8.30pm via Zoom

Sunday 12th January

Youth Group, 5.30pm–7pm, East Bridgford Methodist church

Monday 13th January

St Peter's Bellringers, 7.30–9pm, St Peter's, East Bridgford

Thursday 16th January

St Mary's Bellringers, 10.30am–12.00pm, St Mary's, Car Colston

Messy Church, 15.15pm–16.45pm, Methodist Church, EB

St Peter's Choir practice, 6.30pm, St Peter's, East Bridgford

Monday 20th January

St Peter's Bellringers, 7.30–9pm, St Peter's, East Bridgford

Tuesday 21st January

Funeral and burial of the late Stan Renshaw, 1pm, St Wilfrid's church, Screveton

Mustard Seed Prayer Group, 2pm–3pm, Kinoulton

Thursday 23rd January

St Mary's Bellringers, 10.30am–12.00pm, St Mary's, Car Colston

Car Colston, Screveton & Flintham Mother's Union, 2pm, venue tbc

St Peter's Choir practice, 6.30pm, St Peter's, East Bridgford

Saturday 25th January

Burns Night, 7pm, Car Colston Village Hall

Monday 27th January

St Peter's Bellringers, 7.30–9pm, St Peter's, East Bridgford

Thursday 30 January

Experience Church, 9am–10.30am, St Peter's Academy Reception Class, St Peter's, East Bridgford

CONTACTS

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Flintham, NG23 5LR

Tel: 01636 924383

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Please Note:

Revd Ruth's day off is
Tuesday

Rector:

Revd Ruth Colby

Administrators:

Sherry Rudman

email: office@fossegroup.org.uk

Safeguarding

Any concerns about
safeguarding should be
directed to the Parish
Safeguarding Officers

Peter Golightly

Tel: **07768 401406**

email:

pgolightly@btinternet.com

Mandy Beeby

Tel: **07850 085055** email:

mandy@rbeeby.co.uk

Coming up in our churches in January...



PANCAKES & PRAISE
SUNDAY 12th JANUARY
10am
ST PETER'S CHURCH
EAST BRIDGFORD
*Join us for pancakes and
informal worship*



EAST BRIDGFORD METHODIST CHURCH
&
ST PETER'S CHURCH, EAST BRIDGFORD

**UNITED
COVENANT**
Service

at EAST BRIDGFORD METHODIST CHURCH
MAIN STREET, EAST BRIDGFORD

on **SUNDAY 19th JANUARY** at 10am