

own lives. This is the five-week course that the benefice will be running during Lent and in which I invite all congregation members to participate.

The course will be available on more than one day of the week and at different times of day so people can choose a time that's convenient to them. Most sessions will be run on Zoom but, recognising that not everyone has access to the internet, one of the sessions will be over the phone.

It is in listening to others' opinions, particularly ones with which we disagree, in an open and gracious manner that we can take our own views, which are like the ordinary of life, and find the true meaning of blessedness – the meek, merciful, pure in heart and peacemakers, as Jesus reminds us in the Beatitudes – which seeks not its own view but God's voice in the views of others. That truly is to find the miraculous in the every day.

To have a look at the materials, search online for 'Living in love and faith' or follow this link

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/living-love-and-faith>

Blessings,

Andy

### **Online and phone-in services etc during lockdown 3**

**Sundays at 10am** – services will be broadcast on YouTube (available later as a recording). Services will be followed by a Zoom coffee and chat at 11am. The links for both will be emailed the evening before.

**Sundays at 6pm** – the phone-in prayer service continues, offering an opportunity to socialise as well as worship. To access the service, phone 0330 336 0036 (local call rate) and enter the PIN 716 416.

**Wednesdays at 11am** – Morning Prayer with a reflection, followed by a chance to chat and socialise, on Zoom. The Zoom link can be accessed by phone as well as online. **The same link will be used each week.** To join: by phone – dial 0203 051 2874 and then dial the Meeting ID: 873 4803 0764 Join the Zoom meeting by clicking on <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87348030764> and keying the Meeting ID: 873 4803 0764 (if requested).



**SUNDAY 24<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2021**

**EPIPHANY 3**

Readings for Sunday

Revelation 19:6 -10 and John 2:1-11

### **Collect**

God of all mercy,  
your Son proclaimed good news to the poor,  
release to the captives,  
and freedom to the oppressed:  
anoint us with your Holy Spirit  
and set all your people free  
to praise you in Christ our Lord. Amen

### **'Coffee and Chat' telephone conversations**

We have 2 'Coffee and Chat' sessions at the moment

- 1) Thursdays at 11am with Revd. Kathryn and
- 2) Thursdays at 2pm with Carole

If there is anyone who would enjoy a chat - you need to provide your own coffee - but can't make a Thursday, please let Carole or Leslye know and we will see if we can arrange another time.

To join a 'Coffee and Chat' dial **0330 336 0036**, you will hear a voice asking you to input your participant PIN after the tone -

dial **716 416** and the voice will repeat the number - a short pause while you are connected then Kathryn/Carole will welcome you, and ask who you are. get ready to chat.

If you pay for your phone calls you will be charged at local rate.

## Bob's leaving collection


We're taking a collection for a leaving present to mark Bob's departure next month to be team rector of a neighbouring benefice.

A community card has been set up at <https://www.groupcards.co.uk/AddMessageFromLink.aspx?EventCode=gofNR2ZWohhmARV6goQL> where people can write a message to Bob, and make a donation to the collection. Messages and donations need to be left by Wednesday 17 February.

If people either can't, or don't want to, donate or send a message online, they can send the message and/or donation to either Andy (tel. 0113 289 2437) or a churchwarden. Please make cheques payable to Barwick PCC.

### For people in Barwick

I have made a leaving card for Bob, and would like as many people as possible to write a message. The card is big, but not big enough for everyone to write in, so, to make life easier I would like everyone to write their message on A5 paper that can be put into a folder that will go with the card.

If you receive this by email please see the attached message blank, and use the paper this way round -  landscape. No printer? ask for a message blank.

Please keep the paper flat and don't forget your name. Return to Carole at 34 Main Street, or Leslye at 10 The Close, or we can collect next week if you contact us, Carole on 0113 281 2149 and Leslye on 013 281 2488.

I think Bob will be really moved to receive our messages (and he will probably cry), but I am sure he will treasure them and keep them always.

Please keep John and Anne Oliver in your prayers.

Please pray for those affected by the floods.

Please pray for everyone who is home schooling.

**KEEP SAFE**

Andy's letter

Saturday 23 January 2021

Dear all

This Sunday's Gospel reading tells the story of Jesus turning water into wine during the wedding at Cana. It's ironic that we're hearing about a wedding at a time when virtually no weddings are allowed to take place. Of course, the reading isn't really about weddings, but about Jesus. It's about his ability to transform the ordinary into the extraordinary, the everyday into the miraculous.

Turning water into wine is both a miracle and a symbol. As a miracle it is an historic event, but as a symbol it has power to transform our lives today. It reminds us of God's power to take our ordinary lives and make of them something extraordinary. It reminds us that there is in every day something miraculous when we see that day through God's eyes. That is both a joy and a challenge.

Lent, which starts on 17th February is one of those times to let God challenge us to see through his eyes, and I would like to take this opportunity to give advance notice of the Lent study groups that will be running across the benefice each week during Lent.

For the past decade (or five!) the Church of England has struggled with the issue of sex, and more specifically the rise of LGBTQI+ movements in society and in the Church. How do we as Christians respond both pastorally but also biblically, to issues such as homosexual Christians, gay couples, gay marriage and trans-gender people? These are not easy questions to answer and require much thought, prayer and listening.

It would be easy to find a position I am happy with and reject anyone who disagrees with me as either losing their faith or bigoted. That would be a mistake.

In the past year the Church of England has produced an excellent resource (or rather a stable of resources, with videos, courses, books and podcasts) that invites congregation members to wrestle with difference in a spirit of love and faith. The course doesn't give easy answers but rather states the questions and invites us to listen to each other's answers, as well as listening to the stories of people who have had to wrestle with these issues in their