

Welcome to

ST. JAMES THE GREAT BLENDON

Please join us for private prayer, meditation and worship on the First Sunday of Epiphany.  
The Baptism of Christ.

**Jesus is the Light of the World, a light no darkness can ever put out.**

**Today's readings:**

Genesis 1:1-5      Psalm 29      Acts 19:1-7      Mark 1:4-11

**Open Church:** For the time being we have suspended the opening of church on a Wednesday. If you need a space for private prayer, please contact Ian.

**For the knitters:** 1st size baby cardigans and Moses size blankets are needed by a charity with a branch in Bromley. Details at <https://baby-basics.org.uk/> If you need baby wool, Mandy has quite a lot of spare!



**Good News of Andy and Rose Roberts.**

Andy has been awarded an MBE—this is what he says:

“Wow... a happy surprise to the end of a difficult year. Truly honoured and humbled to have been awarded an MBE in HM The Queen's New Year's Honours today. Testament to all the team have achieved over the years - it's dedicated to them and the kids who have come through Revive - may they all find their forever families. May this highlight the important work that Revive and others do working amongst the vulnerable and marginalised in Brazil and the wider work that the Church Mission Society does throughout the world.

Huge thanks to Rose without whom none of this would have happened and also to all of you.

We're really honoured to have you supporting us in this story together over the years, we really do appreciate it.”

**Prayer list:** Emma, Sheila, Ken, Thelma, Ann H, Brenda M, Hugo, George & Marie B, Ian, Mandy, Stephen R is now home from hospital. We give thanks that Mavis and Peter's son Colin is now making a good recovery.

**From the Book of Remembrance:** we give thanks for the lives of:

George Thomas, Stuart Martin, Norman Kent, Cyril Clark, Grace Hill, Bert Allen, Donald Perkins.

**Please pray for our church members and their families:** this week we remember:

John & Lindsay and all those who live and work in Sherwood Close.

**Doreen Batchelder** sends her love and good wishes to all at St. James.

**Mission Partner:** This week we pray for the work of ReVive. We also give thanks for the recognition that Andy and the team have received for their work.

Heavenly Father,

Thank you for the New Year and all the hope it brings. Help us to be a light of hope to those in need, to be an example of your love and mercy, and to tell others of your great grace and glory.

Sovereign God, ruler of all creation, you sent Jesus to testify to the truth: that you alone are the Lord of life. Help us to listen always to his voice so that we may proclaim his kingdom of justice, peace, and endless love; through Christ, who reigns forever.

Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Saviour, you pour out your power for the powerless and your salvation for the lost. Remember us in your new creation, so that we may live in peace with you in the presence of the Holy One, to whom be all honour and glory, through you, in the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Father God,

We lift up all people around the world who are unable to work or who have lost jobs due to the pandemic. We pray that you will provide for them in their time of need. Thank you for various Charity partners and churches around the world who have been able to reach so many people with vital support. Please continue to guide them to those who are most in need.

Heavenly Father, I ask you to strengthen my mind, body and spirit today. When I'm weary, may I be refreshed. When I'm worn, may I be renewed. When I'm broken, may I be restored. When I'm fearful, may I become faithful. I pray that I walk in complete confidence today knowing that the Lord Almighty is with me.

Creator God, forgive our moments of ingratitude,  
the spiritual blindness that prevents us from appreciating the wonder that is this world,  
the endless cycle of nature, of life and death and rebirth.  
Forgive us for taking without giving, reaping without sowing.  
Open our eyes to see, our lips to praise, our hands to share.  
May our feet tread lightly on the path we tread  
and our footsteps be worthy of following  
for they lead to you.

Creator God, this earth is miraculous and beautiful. Forgive our confusion and inaction as we confront the challenges of climate change. In the light of your truth, seen so clearly in the life and teaching of Jesus, help us to re-examine ourselves and our lifestyle choices and see clearly the implications of how we live, on all that sustains life on this earth. May we follow your lead in caring for every aspect of this precious world, which you made and love. We pray for world leaders to find new, just and radical agreements that will protect our fragile world for future generations.

Throughout history you have moved people to do amazing things for the sake of their neighbours. Inspire us now to work together, as your people, to change priorities in the way we live, so that we build a fair and safe world for all your creation; a world where your will is done as it is in heaven. We pray in Jesus' name.

Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay;  
give new courage to your people who trust in your love.  
By your coming, raise us to share in the joy of your kingdom  
on earth as in heaven,  
where you live and reign with the Father and the Spirit,  
one God for ever. Amen.

Heavenly Father, thank you for loving me; thank you for forgiving me. Thank you for showing me my worthiness and for pursuing me. I am in awe of you Lord! I submit my heart to you Lord. May your Holy Spirit transform me and make me like you. In Jesus' name.