



**9<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

We extend a warm welcome to Rev Simon Topping and to all our members, friends and visitors



**For meditation:** *The moment the Spirit of the Almighty strikes the heart of him that was till then without God in the world, it breaks the hardness of his heart, and creates all things new. The Sun of Righteousness appears, and shines upon his soul, showing him the light of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. He is in a new world. All things around him become new, such as it never before entered into his heart to conceive.*  
*John Wesley*

### **NEWS AND VIEWS**

#### **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

We have passed Twelfth Night and Epiphany and tomorrow it's Plough Monday – which marked the end of the Christmas holiday period when ploughing would begin for the next crop. In many parts of Britain it used to be a feast day and ploughmen would put on their best smocks for the occasion. The heavy linen originally used for smocks was quite waterproof and windproof and would offer considerable protection to the wearer, even in the winter. Today, though, we share in the annual Covenant service. The idea of Covenant was basic to John Wesley's understanding of Christian discipleship. In 1755 he created a form of service adapted from the works of Joseph and Richard Alleine – from the Puritan tradition linking personal devotion with corporate worship.

#### **POINTS FOR PRAYER**

We start the New Year once again in uncertain times – pray for those who need to make difficult decisions about restrictions – and for those dealing with health education and other issues with limited resources. In the circuit we are praying for the congregations at Keynsham, the students, staff and Chaplain at Kingswood school and the students at Chapel House as they prepare to resume their studies.

#### **LECTIONARY READINGS** – 16th January

Isaiah 62: 1-5

1 Corinthians 12: 1-11

John 2: 1-11

Psalms 35: 5-10

#### **THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

The voice of the Lord makes the lightning flash. His voice makes the desert shake; he shakes the desert of Kadesh. The Lord's voice shakes the oaks and strips the leaves from the trees while everyone in his Temple shouts, "Glory to God!" the Lord rules over the deep waters; he rules as king for ever. The Lord gives strength to his people and blesses them with peace.

Psalms 29: 7-11

### **DIARY**

#### **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> January**

**Compass Point 10.30am**  
led by Rev Simon. We explore the next 'Holy Habit'

**The Filling Station 7.30pm**  
Café style worship – all welcome BUT do Lateral flow test before coming.

#### **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 3.30- 5.15pm**

**Grace** – fun and games for children and an accompanying adult. Helpers always welcome. Speak to Bronwyn for details.

#### **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> January**

The Café is back. **9.30am – 12noon**

#### **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> January 11.00am**

Morning worship led by Rev Martin Slocombe

I know not how that Bethlehem's Babe  
Could in the God-head be;  
I only know the Manger Child  
Has brought God's life to me.

I know not how that Calvary's cross  
A world from sin could free:  
I only know its matchless love  
Has brought God's love to me.

I know not how that Joseph's tomb  
Could solve Death's mystery:  
I only know a living Christ  
Our immortality.

Anonymous

*We draw near to God with faith, to find that he had first drawn near to us and had inspired the very faith by which we came to him. We love him because he first loved us. When we think we are beginning to know him it is to discover that he knew us, and has known us all along. Allen Birtwhistle*

