

An Open Letter to our Parishioners

I have mentioned before how much I enjoy receiving comments and conversations about these letters. I was delighted to receive the following last week:



A friend has sent me information about the ancient Epiphany custom of the chalking of doors which her daughter's church are going to do. I've never heard of it before but it sounds like a nice thing to do. They were encouraging people to think of their home as a sanctuary Rather than a prison during lockdown and this led on to doing this.

You may have noticed some chalk marks on the Rectory Lintel and wondered what they were. Well, they are the remains of our 'chalking' from 2016 (we may need to update it!). Although the Feast of Epiphany has come and gone, the season lasts a bit longer, so don't feel you have missed the boat if you would like to do this.

*For this reason we are **publicising the ancient epiphany custom of the chalking of doors** and inviting you to do this yourself as a blessing on your own house or flat or room. Chalking is usually done ... by writing the inscription 20 + C + M + B + 21 in chalk above or beside your front door... The inscription uses the date of the year, the cross of Christ, and the letters C, M, B. The letters have two meanings: the traditional names of the wise men (Caspar, Melchior, Balthazar) and the Latin words *Christus mansionem benedicat*, "May Christ bless the house."*

Sunday Services

Six of our seven parishes have made the decision not to open for public worship whilst Covid is on the rise once again. Regular worshippers will have been informed by churchwardens. All our churches are retaining their patterns for private worship and you will be most welcome, following precautions, to spend a moment or two in quiet contemplation in our beautiful churches, and we pray that you find comfort from God's presence. Online worship continues, as does worship on TV and Radio. We are working towards a more interactive form of online worship using that new-fangled blessing, Zoom! More details will be available on Friday along with the usual link for worship.

With love and blessings,

Vanessa

A reminder that **Compline** is livestreamed each evening at 6pm here www.facebook.com/thewallopingvicar/live

Little Angels Toddler Group www.facebook.com/littleangels/live