

Notices: Please let Judy know of anyone who would appreciate a visit or Home Communion and if anyone moves in near you. Many thanks, 270227.

STITCH, CHAT AND CREATE.

Meetings are held on the first and third Thursday of the month in the afternoon in the Tower Room, 2pm – 4pm at Wittersham Church. Everyone welcome, old and young, male or female.

We are here to help:

Priest: Rev'd Judy Darkins

The Rectory, The Street, Wittersham, Tenterden,
Kent TN30 7EA

e-mail judy.darkins@btinternet.com

Telephone 01797 270227

Associate Priest: Rev'd Judith Shaw

01580 763468

e-mail shawmalthouse@aol.com

Church Wardens:

Wittersham: Terry Kirby 270844

Lee Bailey 270037

Deputy: Felicitie Sykes 270639

Ebony: Vacant

Deputy: Joyce Bates 270379

Organists: Giles Ridley 270370

Jennifer Maynard 270804

Websites: www.wittershamchurch.com

e-mail info@wittershamchurch.com

www.ebonychurch.co.uk

*From the rotas, a polite reminder for
January 14th
Coffee: Alex and Jill D
Church Cleaning: The Kirby family*

Have you thought of bellringing?

***Contact David Chesson on 270269
or come and see them in action on
Tuesday evenings, 7 – 9 pm.***

What about singing in the choir?

***Contact Jennifer Maynard 270804.
We have a junior and senior choir.***

***What about dusting & polishing?
Extra hands would be welcome!***

**St. John the Baptist, Wittersham
St Mary the Virgin, Ebony**

Sunday 7th January, 2018

The First Sunday after Epiphany

**IN WITTERSHAM THE ALTAR CANDLES ARE LIT 10
MINUTES BEFORE THE SERVICE. MAY WE
RESPECTFULLY REQUEST THAT QUIET IS THEN KEPT TO
ALLOW OTHERS TIME AND SPACE FOR REFLECTION
AND PREPARATION.**

*Welcome to our churches today, if you are a visitor or a
newcomer please make yourself known to the clergy or
those on duty. All are welcome at the altar rail to receive
the sacrament or a blessing.*

***In Wittersham Church there is a hearing induction loop
for all services and large print service books are also
available.***

*The **toilet facility** at Wittersham is located just outside the
Church, turn left and follow the path round to the building
on your right. **Activities for children are available in the
North aisle Children's area of Wittersham Church.***

Services today, Plough Sunday

9.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) Ebony

10.30 am Plough Sunday service of the Word.
Wittersham

Readings and Collect for 9.00 am

Epistle: Romans 12: 1 - 5

Gospel: Luke 2: 41 – 52

O Lord, we beseech thee mercifully to receive the
prayers of thy people which call upon thee; and grant
that they may both perceive and know what things they
ought to do, and also may have grace and power
faithfully to fulfil the same; through Jesus Christ our
Lord. Amen.

Readings, Collect and hymns for 10.30 pm

Old Testament: Genesis 1: 9 - 13

Heavenly Father at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as
your Son: may we recognise him as our Lord and know
ourselves to be your beloved children; through Jesus
Christ our Saviour. Amen.

A&M 290 We plough the fields
A&M 105 All creatures of our God and King
A&M 104 For the beauty of the Earth

Some thoughts for prayer: From the Diocesan prayer diary this week. We pray for the Churches of Madagascar, Guernsey, Enugu, Aguata, Ajayi Crowther, Akoko (Nigeria), Agra (North India) and Aipo Rongo (Papua New Guinea).

On this plough Sunday we pray for farming life,

Dear Lord as the farmers and farm workers rise with the dawn, may they taste the goodness of your creation and sense your presence watching over them as they care for the farm.

May they feel blessed to walk in the long lived rhythms of sowing, feeding and reaping and have me strength and health when they feel tired or weary.

Please bless all our local farmers, their homes, their families, their work and all animals and crops.

We pray for all who cold, hungry, alone and for the many homeless in our own country and for refugees. We remember all who have had to leave their homes for whatever reason and we give thanks for the many charities and societies who care for them.

Lord you know the secrets of our hearts and the honesty of our devotion. Keep your church open and accepting of all. We remember those who suffer for their faith and especially those who cannot worship openly. We pray for our parish churches and for our leaders Archbishops Justin and John and in our own diocese for Bishop Trevor.

We pray for our country. Give to all political leaders wisdom to understand the true purpose of government and take away all self-seeking.

In our churches this week we pray for Churchwardens, Treasurer and Sidespersons. We pray for our school in Wittersham and the children and staff .

You hold our lives, O Lord, through all the changing scenes. Be with those enduring suffering or anxiety. We remember those who are sick or lonely. We thank you for much healing and that you will bring comfort, wholeness and peace to all who suffer in body, mind or spirit. Especially we pray for **Gail, Tony, David, Tony, Elaine, Sue, Steve, Stuart, Lesley, Stephen, Shirley, Gabby, Emma, John, Margaret and Valerie** and all who watch and wait. We remember all whom we have loved but see no longer. May we live this day in the sure and certain hope of your eternal victory

Lord of all time and eternity, you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son: by the power of your Spirit complete the heavenly work of our rebirth through the waters of the new creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Services in the coming weeks.....

Sunday 14th January Second Sunday of Epiphany

9.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) Wittersham
10.00 am Active Church and Breakfast Rolls
Wittersham

Sunday 21st January Third Sunday of Epiphany

9.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) Ebony
10.30 am Matins (BCP) Wittersham

Sunday 28th January
9.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) Wittersham
10.30 am Parish Eucharist Wittersham
6.00 pm Evensong Wittersham

Weekday services at Wittersham this week:

Monday	8.30 am Morning Prayer
Tuesday	8.30 am Morning Prayer
Wednesday	8.30 am Holy Communion
Thursday	8.30 am Morning Prayer
Friday	8.30 am Morning Prayer

Village Tea

Saturday 20th January 2018

3 - 5 pm



In the Village Hall

Big Breakfast

Saturday 3rd February

In the Village Hall