

Churchwardens' Chat

Tonight at 5pm:

A special service to mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

This will be our usual 1662 Evensong, with prayers and readings chosen for the theme of Christian Unity. Fr Denis Gallagher, the Catholic Parish Priest of Wymondham, will preach.

Midweek services:

Monday to Fridays: Morning Prayer at 10am
Christian Meditation and Contemplation every Tuesday at 10.30
Midweek Eucharist on Wednesdays at 10.30am.

Next Sunday 2 February – The Presentation of Christ (Candlemas)

8am Said Communion (BCP)
10.30am Sung Eucharist
5pm Choral Evensong for Candlemas

Lent Course: 'Godly Reading'. this will take place on Thursdays in Lent, at 7pm, beginning on March 6th. More information will be available on a special leaflet.

Confirmation preparation: if you would like to be confirmed, or are pondering it, please talk to Fr Andrew. The Confirmation service will be on Sunday 25 May at 10.30am. Preparation sessions will take place in the weeks preceding this.

Christian Meditation and Contemplation Tuesdays at 10.30 for an hour: 'The world calls us to be busy. God calls us to be. . .' Come and be still. We meet to experience the presence of God, His will and His love through silence, reflection and being fully open and present to the prompting of the Spirit within each moment.

Palm crosses: Please bring in your crosses to make ashes for Ash Wednesday.

Contact us

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Wymondham Abbey ❖ Sunday 26 January 2025

The Conversion of St Paul

Welcome to the Abbey, especially if you are newly with us or visiting. Use this sheet together with the main Eucharist booklet for the hymns and readings. Today we are using the New English Hymnal.

Hymns: NEH 155 (tune 117), Psalm 67, 216 (tune 433), 305, 486

Note to families with young children: the children will be invited during the Vicar's welcome to go into St Benedict's for Sunday Club. They will then come back into church at the Peace. The children are then welcome to be in the play area or with you in the main seating, as you prefer.

After the bell rings, the servers, choir and clergy enter and we stand to sing Hymn 155.

We begin on page 3.

Page 6: we sing the Gloria from the Mass of the Holy Angels by Chiusano.

Page 7: First Reading – Acts 9: 1–22

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' He asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' The reply came, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.'

The men who were travelling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, 'Ananias.' He answered, 'Here I am, Lord.' *continues*

The Lord said to him, 'Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.'

But Ananias answered, 'Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.'

But the Lord said to him, 'Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.'

So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, 'Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.' And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, 'He is the Son of God.' All who heard him were amazed and said, 'Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem among those who invoked this name? And has he not come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?' Saul became increasingly more powerful and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Messiah.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

We remain seated for Psalm 67. We say the response.

R. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, that your way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations.

R Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

O let the nations rejoice and be glad, for you will judge the peoples righteously and govern the nations upon earth.

R Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

Then shall the earth bring forth her increase, and God, our own God, will bless us. God will bless us, and all the ends of the earth shall fear him.

R. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

*Page 7: we stand for the **Gospel Reading** – Matthew 19: 27–end*

Then Peter said in reply, 'Look, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?' Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man is seated on the throne of his glory, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.'

*Page 7: **Sermon***

*Page 9: **Prayers of Intercession**, during which we pray especially for:*

Rainie Smith who was baptised yesterday.

The sick and housebound: Philip Aldred, Zorina Bell, Di Capocci, Vivienne Clifford-Jackson, Geoffrey Dorling, David & Marion O'Connor, Julia Parker, Elizabeth & Roy Pulsford, Jennie Rackham.

Recently departed: Audrey Clitheroe, Mark Berwick, Eric Ray,

Years' Mind: Leonard Chamberlin

*Page 9: after **The Peace**, we sing **Hymn 216**.*

*The **Eucharistic Prayer**, during which the bread and wine are consecrated, begins on page 10. Please join in the singing of the 'Holy, Holy' (p11) and 'Lamb of God' (p13) from the Mass of the Holy Angels by Gerard Chiusano.*

*Page 13: during the distribution of **Communion** the choir sing **Balulalow** by James Burton then we all sing **Hymn 305**.*

*After the **Blessing** (p15) and dismissal we sing **Hymn 486**.*

Organ Voluntary: Declamation on 'Dix' by Craig Phillips

Please join us for refreshments after the service.

Pastoral visits

If you know anyone who might welcome a pastoral visit please let Fr Andrew know: vicar@wymondhamabbey.org.uk, 07543 593903

Please note that Fr Andrew's usual day off is a Monday.