

St Canice's News

12 January 2025



Epiphany 1

WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP



Doors are an important feature of our lives, yet we rarely think about them. Today we consider another of the 7

letters of the risen Lord Jesus to his church and, in particular, his promise to the church in Philadelphia to open a door which no-one will be able to shut. What doors of opportunity might he be opening for us in St Canice's?

NEXT SUNDAY: 19 JANUARY

10am: DAYBREAK service with a special focus for children and families

11am: Morning Prayer

FUEL

Meets tonight between 6.30 and 8.00pm in the Presbyterian church. Everyone of secondary school age is very welcome.

EXODUS NW

Our partnership with Exodus NW has been developing steadily. Members of the Exodus team are helping to lead the youth groups on a Sunday evening, and hope shortly to introduce themselves to us on a Sunday morning. They will also represent the church in the local school by taking assemblies and hopefully starting an after-school club. We appreciate the leadership of Shelley and Carrienne, and the occasional involvement of others, in our Sunday groups. We're grateful to Matt Boubel and the Exodus team for their help and we encourage our young people to support the events they are involved in.



CONFIRMATION

With just 4 months to go until the Confirmation Service, we ask for your prayers for the candidates. While most of them are involved in sports on a Sunday, we hope they will make every effort to be part of our Sunday worship when possible. We also remind them that attending SPARK is part of their preparation.

PLANS FOR 2025

We've enjoyed some fun activities recently and are looking forward to more. Among our plans for the season ahead are a Spring Fashion Show and a Concert. Details soon.

BIBLE STUDY

From Monday 20th January 2pm there will be fortnightly Bible Study in the Mobile open to everyone. Don't let the word "study" put you off – it's just a chance to have a closer look at a passage in the Bible and unpack what God might be saying through it. Details next week.

PRAYER CHAIN

For confidential prayer for anyone (including yourself), please call/text Ann 07547202649.

A PRAYER FOR LOS ANGELES

"Father God, we lift up the city of Los Angeles and the surrounding areas affected by devastating fires. We ask for Your protection over those in the path of the flames and for Your strength to sustain the firefighters, first responders, and volunteers working tirelessly to save lives and homes. For the families who have lost loved ones, we pray for Your comforting presence to surround them in their grief. For those who have lost their homes, we ask for provision and restoration. Lord, may Your hand be over the entire situation, and may Your love shine through in the midst of this tragedy. In Jesus' name, Amen."

THE RECTOR WRITES ...

"The end of our financial year was 31 December 2024. While it will be April before our accounts are presented at the Easter General Vestry, I am pleased to advise that we have ended the year in a healthy financial position. Thank you to everyone who supports the ministry of St Canice's." *"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."*

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

"COUNT ME IN!" PACKS



In December "Count Me In" packs were delivered to every household. There are still a number of responses outstanding. It is really important that we receive your response, please. We need GDPR forms to be returned so that we can update our parish records – our Diocesan assessment is based on membership numbers. We would also like an updated signed form for gift aid claims. If you haven't signed a gift aid form before, please consider doing so, as long as you pay tax. It means every pound you give to the church is worth £1.25! Your response can be brought to church, left at the Thrift Shop, or delivered to the Rectory. We can also arrange collection – just let the Rector know.

CINEMA CLUB

We are planning to go to see the film *Conclave* on Tuesday night (14th Jan) at Brunswick Moviebowl at 7.10pm. The film stars Ralph Fiennes and Stanley Tucci, and centres on the politics of electing a new Pope. It's Crazy Tuesday so tickets are half price. Please let the Wardens know if you'd like to join us. Lifts can be arranged.



ALTNAGELVIN HOSPITAL CHOIR

Is performing Haydn's *Creation* in Christ Church in the city on Sunday 25th Jan at 7:30pm. Canon Paul has tickets available at £10 each. Please let the Wardens know if you would like to attend.

FREEWILL OFFERING ENVELOPES

Envelopes for 2025 are available today. Envelope users will receive a new set and retain their current number. If you'd like envelopes, please let the Wardens know.

The Collect and Readings

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: Grant to us, who are born of water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Revelation 3: 7-13

To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars—I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you. Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth. I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. The one who is victorious. I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will they leave it. I will write on them the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on them my new name. Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire. Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

BUILDING FUND ENVELOPES

Please speak to the Wardens if you need pink envelopes to donate to the Building Fund.

OCCASIONS

Hapy birthday to David Wylie. Please let the Rector know of your special occasions.

RECTOR

Canon Paul will be off on Friday this week.

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