

Epiphany House Blessing

On Sunday 3rd January we will bless the church doors, and you can bless your own home today or in the days ahead.

It is an invitation for Jesus to be a daily guest in our home, our comings and goings, our conversations, our work and play, our joys and sorrows.

One way of doing this is to use chalk
and write above the home's entryway,

20 + C + M + B + 21

The letters C, M, B have two meanings.

- They are the initials of the traditional names of the three magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar.
- They also abbreviate the Latin words *Christus mansionem benedicat*, “**May Christ bless the house.**”

The “+” signs represent the cross, and 2021 is the year.

My prayer for you is ‘May this new year be one of hope, joy and comfort. Lord be with us as we continue to try and love you and our neighbours. Guide us and protect us. Amen.’

Rev John Musson, Vicar of Cudham and Downe

Blessing your home.

1. Light a candle. Its light reminds us the Jesus came as light into the darkness of the world in which we live.
2. Using the chalk write 20 + C + M + B + 21 on the lintel of your front door (front porch step or other convenient location) while saying:

The Magi (Wise Men) followed the star of God's Son who became human over two thousand years ago. May Christ bless our home and remain with us throughout the new year. Amen.

3. Then offer the following prayer:

Visit, O blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of your presence. Bless all who live or visit here with the gift of your love; and grant that we may manifest your love to each other and to all whose lives we touch. May we grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you; guide, comfort, and strengthen us in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and for ever. Amen.

“Chalking the door” is a way to celebrate and physically mark the occasion of the Epiphany and God's blessing of our lives and home. With time the chalk will fade. It is a reminder to let the meaning of the written symbols sink into the depths of our heart and be manifest in our words and actions. You may wish to mark other entrances/doorways, or rooms in the home.

Carry the candle with you as you go so the light of Christ fills the home, and say the prayer but adapted to the room (e.g. may all who rest and sleep here...)

If possible, take a photograph of you and your family blessing the house and send it to admin@pcd.org.uk so we can put it on our church facebook page facebook.com/PCDChurches and website pcd.org.uk