

Faith Comment published in the Petersfield Post

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Water and wine

It seems that every day has a special theme or cause, and just over the weekend of 18th to 20th Jan it is possible to keep hat day, Winnie the Pooh day, popcorn day, cheese day and, best of all, penguin awareness day.



The church keeps special days all through the year, to remind us of all the different things that are important. This week we are still in the season of Epiphany, the days when we remember the stories of how people first discovered Jesus. It began with the wise men who followed the star, but this week Christians remember how Jesus started his three years of ministry.

It begins not with a sermon or a story, not with healing the sick or showing his power with a miracle.

He starts at a party where the wine has run out. When he is told, he turns water into wine so that the celebrations can continue. More wine than they can possibly drink. Better tasting than anything they had had before.

Jesus starts by showing us the importance of celebration, and his willingness to brighten our lives when they seem drab and disappointing.

In the cold of January it is good to remember his promise, 'I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly'.

Whether you will be wearing a hat or sparing a thought for the penguins this weekend, whether it is easy or hard to find something to celebrate, he offers us surprising sources of joy when we need them the most.