



# The Parish of Thorpe St Andrew

## Weekly Newsletter and Service Sheet

3 January 2021

The Feast of the Epiphany



### Wise Men from the East

I wonder what they saw in the sky that first night. What was it that got them thinking? What was it that motivated them to begin a journey to who knew where? Something had been revealed to them. Was it in the sky, in their minds or in their hearts? The recent conjunction of the planets, Jupiter and Saturn, just before Christmas, which was the brightest in 800 years, is a radiant reminder to us of the star leading the wise men and us into the presence of

Christ. We do not know what was in the sky, or in the minds and hearts of the wise men. But we can, I think, all identify times when our night sky has been lit brightly, times when our minds have been illuminated and times when our hearts have been enlightened. Epiphanies are those times when something calls us and moves us, to a new place and we see the face of God in a new way; so human that it almost seems ordinary, maybe too ordinary to believe. It is possible that something stirred within the wise men which left them wondering and imagining that their lives were part of a much larger story. The journey of the wise men took them to the realisation that God notices us, knows us, lives within us, and calls us and that God is revealed in and through humanity, in the flesh. These are the stories of our lives, epiphanies that forever change who we are, how we live, and the road we travel. They are moments of ordinary everyday life in which divinity is revealed in humanity and we see God's glory face to face. God bless you all in this Epiphanytide,

**Fr James**

# The Liturgy of the Feast of the Epiphany

## Introductory Voluntary

### Carol We three kings

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

*Chorus: O, star of wonder, star of light,  
Star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect light.*

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain: Gold I bring to crown Him again,  
King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign.

*Chorus: O, star of wonder, star of light...*

Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a Deity nigh;  
Prayer and praising, all men raising, worshipping God on high.

*Chorus: O, star of wonder, star of light...*

Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone cold tomb.

*Chorus: O, star of wonder, star of light...*

Glorious now behold Him arise; king and God and sacrifice;  
Alleluia, Alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies.

*Chorus: O, star of wonder, star of light...*

## The Greeting

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**  
The Lord be with you **and also with you.**

## Welcome

*Words of welcome to those in church and those online are given.*

## **The Presentation of the Gifts**

*The three figures of the wise men are placed at the crib.*

*At the offering of the figure bearing gold*

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe:

to you be praise and glory for ever.

As gold in the furnace is tried and purified seven times in the fire, so purify our hearts and minds that we may be a royal priesthood acceptable in the service of your kingdom.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

*At the offering of the figure bearing incense*

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe:

to you be praise and glory for ever.

As our prayer rises up before you as incense, so may we be presented before you with penitent hearts and uplifted hands to offer ourselves in your priestly service.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

*At the offering of the figure bearing myrrh*

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe:

to you be praise and glory for ever.

As you give medicine to heal our sickness and the leaves of the tree of life for the healing of the nations, so anoint us with your healing power that we may be the first-fruits of your new creation.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

## **Prayers of Penitence**

### **Gloria in Excelsis**

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

## **Collect**

O God, who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## **Reading** Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel Reading** Matthew 2:1-12

### **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Christ was revealed in flesh, proclaimed among the nations and believed in throughout the world.

### **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.

They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

This is the gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Sermon**

### **The Creed**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

*The response to the bidding*

Lord in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

## **The Peace**

Our Saviour Christ is the Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there shall be no end. The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

## **The Preparation of the Table**

*The table is prepared, and bread and wine are placed upon it. Organ music is played. At the end this prayer is said.*

Lord, accept your people's gifts, not gold, frankincense or myrrh, but hearts and voices raised in praise of Jesus Christ, our light and our salvation. **Amen.**

## **The Eucharistic Prayer**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

All honour and praise be yours always and everywhere, mighty creator, ever-living God, through Jesus Christ your only Son our Lord: for at this time we celebrate your glory made present in our midst. In the coming of the Magi the King of all the world was revealed to the nations. In the waters of baptism Jesus was revealed as the Christ, the Saviour sent to redeem us. In the water made wine the new creation was revealed at the wedding feast. Poverty was turned to riches, sorrow into joy. Therefore with all the angels of heaven we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son. On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me. When supper was ended he took the cup of wine. Again he praised you, gave it to them and said: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me. So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross. Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.**

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth. Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with the Blessed Virgin Mary, St Joseph, St Andrew and all the saints to feast at your table in heaven. Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

**The Breaking of the Bread** *The minister breaks the consecrated bread.*

We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.

**God here among us, light in the midst of us,  
bring us to light and life.**

**Agnus Dei** *The Agnus Dei is said as the bread is broken.*

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.**

## **The Giving of Communion**

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

**Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord,**

**to the glory of God the Father.**

**Communion** *The sacrament is distributed. Organ music is played.*

## **Prayer after Communion**

Lord God, the bright splendour whom the nations seek: may we who with the wise men have been drawn by your light discern the glory of your presence in your Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

**Notices** *The notices and announcements are given.*

## **Hymn**

1 As with gladness men of old  
Did the guiding star behold,  
As with joy they hailed its light,  
Leading onward, beaming bright,  
So, most gracious God, may we  
Evermore be led to thee.

2 As with joyful steps they sped,  
To that lowly manger-bed,  
There to bend the knee before  
Him whom heaven and earth adore,  
So may we with willing feet  
Ever seek thy mercy-seat.

3 As they offered gifts most rare  
At that manger rude and bare,  
So may we with holy joy,  
Pure, and free from sin's alloy,  
All our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ, to thee our heavenly King.

4 Holy Jesu, every day  
Keep us in the narrow way;  
And, when earthly things are past,  
Bring our ransomed souls at last  
Where they need no star to guide,  
Where no clouds thy glory hide.

5 In the heavenly country bright  
Need they no created light;  
Thou its Light, its Joy, its Crown,  
Thou its Sun which goes not down:  
There for ever may we sing  
Alleluyas to our King.

### **The Blessing**

May God the Father, who led the wise men by the shining of a star to find the Christ, the Light from light, lead you in your pilgrimage to find the Lord. **Amen.**

May God, who has delivered us from the dominion of darkness, give us a place with the saints in light in the kingdom of his beloved Son. **Amen.**

May the light of the glorious gospel of Christ shine in your hearts and fill our lives with his joy and peace. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

### **The Dismissal**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

### **Closing Voluntary**

## ***Forthcoming Services***

*These are subject to restrictions operating at the time. Subject to regular review.*

### **Sunday 10 January**

8.00am Eucharist at the Good Shepherd Church

9.30am Family Eucharist at Parish Church

with prizegiving for Colouring Competition

### **Sunday 17 January**

9.30am Eucharist at the Parish Church

11.15am Eucharist at Good Shepherd Church

### **100 Club WINNERS DOUBLE CHRISTMAS DRAW**

**£25 each: Sue Seymour and Arthur Morley;**

**£15 each: Robert Chalmers and Margaret Hope**

# Prayer Intentions

## THE CHURCH

**Our Ministry Team** James Stewart, Taylor Wilton-Morgan, Nicole King

**Our Bishops** Graham, Alan and Jonathan. **Archdeacons** Karen Hutchinson, Steven Betts, Ian Bentley Anglican Communion The Province of Alexandria (North Africa) Archbishop Mouneer Anis and Samy Fawzy, to succeed him.

## THE WORLD

**All those affected by the Covid-19 pandemic** all key workers in NHS and all fields of frontline, particularly all our Schools – Dussindale Primary and Nursery (Headteacher: Louise Norgate), Hillside Avenue Primary and Nursery (Headteacher: Mr Phoenix), St William's Primary and Nursery (Headteacher: Sarah Shirrass), Thorpe St Andrew School and Sixth Form (Principal: Penny Bignell), remembering them particularly as they deal with an ever-changing landscape of Government guidelines. Also remembering those for whom the Tier 4 arrangements, the fast spreading nature of the virus and the rolling out of the vaccination programme are causing anxiety.

## THE COMMUNITY

**Streets of the Parish** Goodwood Close, Gordon Avenue, Gorse Road

**Our community** For all those in our community struggling with the new Tier 4 restrictions, remembering all our civic leaders at Town, District and County level. Also remembering businesses complying with new regulations following new trading arrangements with the European Union.

**THOSE IN NEED OF OUR PRAYER** including Brian Riseborough, Paul Carter, Mark Little, Monique Rowland, Jennifer Jones, Janet Fancy, Colin Hicks, Alan Harrison, Grace Howes, Peter & Gaynor Garrood, Rita Ward, Joy & Andy McCall, Jean High, Jean Mayhew, Brother Gabriel, Craig Fransham, Anthony Travis, Paul Rayner, Mark King, Fr Patrick Kerley, Chloe Smith MP, Alan Fleming

## THE DEPARTED

**The recently departed**

Sybil Nunn (5<sup>th</sup> Jan), Richard Chapple (5<sup>th</sup> Jan), Douglas Horrex (6<sup>th</sup> Jan), Joan Ducker (7<sup>th</sup> Jan), Brian Goodswen (14<sup>th</sup> Jan – PC, 12noon), Dorothy Dowcra (15<sup>th</sup> Jan, 1.15pm), Frances Parker,

**Those whose anniversary of death occurs at this time** including 1st Paul Flack, 1st Beryl Cocks, 4th Gordon Slaughter, 6th Frederick Grimes, 7th Olive Roe, 7th Ivan Frary

# Other Notices and Announcements

## **TIER 4 ARRANGEMENTS**

At the time of preparing this notice communal worship is still permitted in Tier 4. The Bishop has given permission to suspend worship but we have decided to go ahead this Sunday again. The Church of England website was updated on 30 December and still permits it. We will continue to keep this under review.

### **PLEASE ENSURE THESE GUIDELINES ARE ADHERED TO:**

- Please use hand sanitisers on entering and leaving the church.
- Please wear a face covering at all times in church, other than to receive the host. Please do make sure it covers your nose and mouth.
- Alternate pews are being used and within the pews please ensure we remember to socially distance unless from the same household/bubble.
- We will not shake hands in the peace.
- Please can you place your collection on the brass plate, as you come in.
- At communion please form a queue, ensuring 2 metres distance in order to receive the bread (host). Please fully extend your arms fully to ensure social distance. The celebrant alone will receive the wine on behalf of us all. Please return to your seats using the one-way system. The side aisle will be invited up first. The celebrant and deacon will use hand sanitiser before distribution and communicants will receive the host in their hand. For those requiring a blessing, hands will not be laid directly on the head.
- We will keep a list of those attending in order to comply with Government guidance which includes a request for names of attendees to be recorded and kept for 21 days to assist 'track and trace' if required.

**PRIVATE PRAYER** The Parish Church is open for private individual prayer.  
**Monday CLOSED Tuesday - Saturday 10am to 4pm Sunday 11am to 5pm**

**FACEBOOK** Whilst I realise that not everyone is a fan of Facebook I wanted to record the achievements we have made since our page was launched in November 2016. We have over 1040 likes and more followers. Our services are online through Facebook and offer playback facility at no charge. It is now possible to give to our mission and ministry through Facebook. Some already have, for which we are very grateful. This is available to all in our community.

**ZOOM COFFEE** Please do support this is you can. It is a great way of staying in touch. The next 'virtual coffee morning' takes place on **Thursday 7 January at 11.00am**. Zoom details will come with the email notices.

**GIFT AID** The treasury team would like to say "thank you" to all of you who have returned the completed gift aid forms so far. If you haven't done so yet, please can you get this back as soon as you can.

**THANK YOU TO YOU ALL** Thank to you all for the way in which you have responded to giving during this pandemic. Please continue to give as generously as you can. If you have a question in relation to giving please contact our Treasurer on her email: [treasurersa@gmail.com](mailto:treasurersa@gmail.com)

**'BAKING THROUGH THE LOCKDOWN' RECIPE BOOK** Copies can be purchased from church, Mazzoni's Newsagents, Gordon Barber Funeral Directors. They can also be ordered by email from Christine Cutting ([cutting248@btinternet.com](mailto:cutting248@btinternet.com)) or by phoning the Rectory or leaving a message on the answerphone **01603 439160**. We will deliver free in Thorpe St Andrew/Thorpe End. Beyond that postage and packing starts at £2.00.

**COMFORT AND JOY** The Church of England have brought out a delightful booklet. I have a good number of them. A suggested donation of £1 would be appreciated. They weren't provided free!

**THANK YOU** A huge thank you to all for your part in all our Christmas services. The people who came obtained great comfort from the services and I am a very proud Rector to have such helpful and committed people around to do all of this. It is a great achievement in a very difficult year - and you all should right feel very proud too. A particular shout out to our intrepid choir and Dominika for her lovely Midnight Mass solo, which really made my Christmas - thank you! Thank you also for all the cards, messages and gifts received, which are a great source of encouragement.

**The Rector, Churchwardens, Ministry Team and Parochial Church Council thank you all for your joyful participation in the life of our parish and wish you all a Happy New Year!**

*For further information*

*Please contact our Rector, The Revd James Stewart (Fr James)*

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