



## Team Parish of Christ the King St Aidan's, Brunton Park

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2022  
Epiphany

Today we celebrate the Epiphany (from the Greek word meaning manifestation or showing forth). In our worship the season of joyful celebration that begins at Christmas continues through the Epiphany season until Candlemas, when we remember the presentation of Christ in the Temple.

It was only in the 4th century that the church in the western half of the Roman Empire separated out the celebration of Christ's birth to be celebrated on 25th December. Many Eastern Orthodox and Coptic churches still celebrate Christmas on 6th or 7th January. Space here does not allow for further explanation as to why but you may like to google the subject on the internet.

At Epiphany remember the visit of the magi. Matthew was a Jewish Christian writing for Jewish Christians who would have been familiar with their scriptures in which prophets foretold of the coming of a Messiah of God to bring salvation and light to both the troubled nation and to the troubled world at large. He was concerned to show that the Christ child fulfilled this long held expectation. The account of the visit is unique to Matthew's Gospel and not referred to anywhere else in the New Testament. Matthew does not indicate why he included the story in his gospel. Magi were probably magician/ astrologers and would have been held in high esteem. The appearance of a certain star would have been of particular significance for the magi to have undertaken a long arduous journey across difficult and uninviting terrain (see T.S. Elliott's poem, 'The journey of the Magi'). Symbolically the magi have come to represent the wider world. In those days such items as gold and frankincense were very expensive, gifts which might be offered to a king or a deity. Myrrh too was expensive and among other things, used for the anointing of bodies prior to burial — so symbolically foreshadowing Christ's death.

The Magi were searchers of life and wholeness, ready to follow the star in faith and trust and perseverance wherever it might take them. In doing so they found themselves in the presence of Christ. Like the Magi, God calls us constantly to follow the light of Christ in trust. Like the Magi we may find ourselves led to his presence in the most unlikely places. Our gifts for the Christ-child are our very selves offered in humble worship. As we rise from worship we in turn are called to be Epiphany people, revealing the light of Christ's presence and life to the world around us.

*From the East come men of learning,  
Rich the treasures that they hold –  
Tributes to a greater wisdom,  
Gifts of incense, myrrh and gold.*

*Jesus Christ to you be glory,  
Lord of lords whom we adore  
With the Father and the Spirit;  
God be praised for evermore*

### **First 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.

### **Gospel Reading: Matthew 2.1-12**

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.

### **THE WEEK AHEAD**

**Wed** 10.00am, Church: **BCP Midweek Eucharist**  
**Fri** 5pm, Zoom: **Food for Thought**

**Sun 9<sup>th</sup>** 9.30am, **Parish Eucharist : Epiphany**  
Rev'd Gerard Rundell  
Readings from : Isaiah 43.1-7 ; Acts 8.14-17 ; Luke 3.15-17,21,22

## **NOTICES**

**SUNDAY SERVICE** – today's live broadcast link for those wishing to watch from home is <https://bit.ly/Epiphany2022>

**JOHN WARD**– it is with sadness that we share the news that John died on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> December. Our prayers to go Julie, Martin and David and their family and friends, who thank everyone for their cards and messages. There will be a private committal at West Road Crematorium followed by a thanksgiving service at St Aidan's on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> January at 3:00pm. By John's request, please wear bright colours.

**MARGARET McMILLAN** – following the death of Margaret, Ian has confirmed that her funeral service will be held at St Aidan's on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> January at 1:45pm followed by Cremation at the West Road at 2:45pm

**'BEYOND THE COLLAR'** – there are leaflets at the back of church from Mark Edwards about the upcoming release of his new book, which is being released in early January, people are welcome to take one and buy his book when it comes out!

**LUNCH GROUP** – due to unforeseen circumstances, the lunch group will now not be meeting on the 12th January.

**PLANNED GIVING SCHEME ENVELOPE DONATIONS 2022** - to avoid Covid risks in church all the packs of envelopes for use during 2022 have been put directly into owners' letter boxes. If I have inadvertently missed someone off my list please contact me and I will remedy the situation. Howard Cleeve.

**CHRISTMAS DONATIONS** - thank you to everyone who made donations over Christmas so that we could support our two nominated charities, the Royal National Lifeboat Institution and Children NE. We have sent each of them £250. In addition, we have sent £100 to the West End Food Bank from money donated for the Christmas cards board. Earlier in December we sent £300 to the Salvation Army following Carols on the Green and £100 to the Children's Society after the Christingle service.

**SATURDAY CAFÉ** - Thank you also to everyone for donations made during the Saturday café after it was able to reopen in the summer. We have been able to send £150 to each of the four designated charities - Myaware (Myasthenia Gravis Association), Parkinson's UK, Retina UK and the Swiss Kenya Development Association.

**HELP CHOOSE OUR NEXT BISHOP** - Consultations are underway, and we have two opportunities to contribute our thoughts. Bill Lomas is a member of the Vacancy in See Committee so please speak to, or email Bill with your thoughts ([avrillo-mas@aol.com](mailto:avrillo-mas@aol.com)), so they can be added to the role description. Bill has asked us to consider three questions:

1. What are the particular challenges and opportunities facing the diocese now and in the foreseeable future?
2. What will the diocese need to do to ensure it is fit to face these challenges and to seize these opportunities?
3. What therefore are the qualities, skills and experience we are looking in our new diocesan bishop?

There is a survey for anyone who wishes to complete, which closes at midnight, Fri 14 Jan 2022. <https://www.surveymonkey.de/r/V9FGYVV> After Christmas the Crown Nominations Commission members will consult with us.

**For Our Prayers...** We give thanks for our church family here at St Aidan's and pray for our Team Parish - for God's upholding in all that lies ahead.

We pray for God's world – in times of upheaval and conflict we pray for peace- for resolutions to tensions between nations and peoples, for all caught up in tragedy, disaster and despair.

In our St Aidan's cycle of prayer we pray for Bishop Mark, Archdeacon Rachel Wood, Pauline Pearson Acting Area Dean. Within our church we pray for those who assist in our worship: lesson readers, intercessors, servers, Eucharistic assistants and sacristans

Within the wider community we pray for Catherine McKinnell, our MP, Newcastle City Councillors, North Gosforth Parish Council

We remember in our prayers Gladys Johnston, Sheila Lonie, Sylvia Hickey and all others who are unwell at home or in hospital. We pray for those who have died in recent days remembering especially Margaret McMillan, Kenneth Hilton and John Ward.

We remember with thanksgiving and joy our loved ones who are now with Our Father in the heavenly kingdom – Robert Smith, Gavin Pitkethly, Martin Orde, Arnold Venus, Dorothy Elsie Lithgow, Emily Thain, Irene Sunderland, Liz Hepplewhite, Pat Page, Doris Wilmot, Moira Osborne, Pam Cooper, Sadie James, Peter Leask

## **CONTACTS**

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