

HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Weekly devotions, prayers and news

Epiphany

7th January, 2024

It might appear unexpected that only Matthew, who is seen as the most Jewish among the evangelists, documents the visit of the Magi from the East: non-Jewish individuals, and perhaps even astrologers, who came to pay homage to the baby Jesus while bearing both mysterious and luxurious gifts. However, both of these elements aligned with prophetic predictions and hinted at the emergence of a global church.

The visit nearly took a detrimental turn when Herod became aware of the birth of this new king; in the twisted, envious mind of the tyrant, even an infant like Jesus represented an intolerable threat, whether directly or as a focal point of messianic hopes. Nonetheless, the child remained safe as God once more guided the Magi—this time through a dream, not the guiding light of a star.

Epiphany (7th January 2024)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

Readers: Charles Solomon

9.45 Parish Eucharist *(in church & online)*

Hymns: 327(ii), 109, 507, 263, 249, 506

Readers: Susan Mayou and Wendy Bloomer Intercessor: Jane Coan

11.15 Family Praise *(in church)*

18:00 Evensong *(in church & online)*

Hymns: 104, 46, 103

Readers: Carolyn Ponder and David Spear

Services during the week:

Tuesday: 10:00 Online prayer group *(online)*

Wednesday: 10.30 Holy Communion (C. Worship) *(in church & online)*

Readings: 1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19-20; Mark 1: 29-39

Thursday: 9.00 Holy Communion (Iona/Celtic) *(in church)*

Readings: 1 Samuel 4:1-11; Mark 1:40-end

Friday: 11.00 Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) *Readings: Epiphany (in church)*

Next Sunday: Second Sunday of Epiphany (14th January 2024)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

9.45 Parish Eucharist *(in church & online)*

For services live on Zoom: Click the blue link on the front page of the church website

The Collect for Epiphany

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,
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

The Post Communion Prayer:

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

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.

Ephesians 3:1-12

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given to me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

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.

Parish News

Happy New Year to all, and may 2024 be as you would hope.

Father Daniel is taking a fortnight's leave, so this Wednesday Revd Caroline Currer will be visiting to preside and preach at the 10:30 service, while Father Stephen will take the service on Thursday and Father David on Friday, as well as next Sunday 14th.

Two funerals will be taking place this week: Mrs Gladys Constantine on Wednesday 10th at 12:45 and Mrs Ursula Moon at 12:00 on Thursday 11th. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families at this time.

Please remember those for whom we pray:

Immediate need: Martin Packham, Becky Parker, Jim Knight, Jill Knight, James Watson, Christine Claringbull, Bill Delany, John Billinghay

Long Term Need: Young Georgia, Joshua and Reggie, Wendy, Ann Went, Julie Sadler, Wendy Hibling, Carla Spear, Pam Sagar, Eileen Knight, Liz Graydon, Peter Graydon, Eileen Macdougall, George Snashall, Tina Owens, Karen Leese, Yvonne Godsmark

Those in Care Homes: Mary Watts, Ruth Baker, Rosemary Pardey, Janet Card,, Keith Card

Please remember the recently departed and their families: Helen Maher, Paul Simpson, Margaret Walker, Gladys Constantine, Sue Walder, Ursula Moon,

In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember: 7th Ada Wright, William Hough, Philip Titheradge, Cyril Pike, Alan Hopper, John Dronfield, Gillian Norman; 8th Minnie Constable, Leslie Dodge, Valerie Norrish, Harold Farrant, Brian Brown; 9th Francis Gill, Margaret Blake, Diana Cahill, Norman Roberts, Audrey Blackburn; 10th Neil Caplan, Ivar Hodges, Kathleen Taylor, Mary Jenner; 11th Walter Armstrong, Duane Alvord Rev.d, Paul Halsey, Ann Scott; 12th Judith Seabrook; 13th Robert Jameson, John Rhodes, Tom Pritchard, Samuel McCullough, Elspeth Marshall, Mary Parry, Katherine Leask, Phyllis Chatfield, Anthony Burbidge