

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2026

# The Epiphany

# Holy Trinity Cuckfield

You are very welcome to our worship!



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## Reflection

Late to the party in the secular season of gift giving, Epiphany offers welcome encouragement to Christians tempted back into post-festive 'normality' that Christmastide is not yet over. The rich symbolism of the Magi's presents for the Christ-child immediately puts the Incarnation into much longer perspective as King Jesus is furnished with treasures that map the journey from stable to grave. The wise men's example of interpreting signs proves of further value as the new family's peace is soon interrupted by a dream prompting their fearful flight to Egypt, an early example of the Old Testament echoes that will infuse Matthew's account of the Messiah.

## 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.**

## 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**

## Worship this Sunday...

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January – The Epiphany

Isaiah 60.1-6

Ephesians 3.1-12

Matthew 2.1-12

8.00 am      **Holy Communion (CW)**      Reader:      Anthony Vander Willigen

9.45 am      **Said Eucharist with hymns \* live streamed on Zoom**  
Pr Hymn      94 As with gladness men of old      Readers:      Kate Berry  
Gr Hymn      103 O worship the Lord      Tim Allen  
Of Hymn      72 Joy to the world      Intercessor:      Tony Lawrence  
Cm Hymn      429 Bread is blessed & broken  
Fn Hymn      448i I come with joy  
                  95 Bethlehem what greater city

6.00 pm      **Festal Choral Evensong for Epiphany**      Readers:      Pat Montague  
Introit      O Morning star, how fair & bright      Rod Montague  
Hymn      59 Angels from the realms  
Responses      Reading in A  
Psalm      135 v 1-14  
Canticles      Brewer in D  
Anthem      In the bleak midwinter  
Hymn      72 Joy to the world  
Hymn      92 As with gladness men of old

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**First Reading**

Isaiah 60.1-6

*Arise, shine, for the light has come; gold and frankincense shall come from Sheba*

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.

**Second Reading**

Ephesians 3.1-12

*Paul, the least of the saints, is called to bring the Gentiles the good news of Christ*

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.

**Gospel**

Matthew 2.1-12

*Magi from the east come with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh for the newborn Jesus*

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 Week**

05/01 Mon	7.30 pm	Home Group (In Person)	
07/01 Wed	10.30 am	Holy Communion followed by coffee and cake	1 John 4.11-18 Mark 6.45-52
08/01 Thurs	9.00 am	Iona/Celtic Communion	1 John 4.19-5.4 Luke 4.14-22
09/01 Fri	11.00 am	BCP Communion	1 John 5.5-13 Luke 5.12-16
	7.30 pm	Choir Practice	Church

**Next Sunday...****Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January - The Baptism of Christ**

Isaiah 42.1-9

Acts 10.34-43

Matthew 3.13-end

Charles Solomon

James Sanders

8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Readers:
9.45 am	Parish Eucharist*	

Pr Hymn	99 Hail to the Lord's v1-4	Readers:	Eileen Caple
Gr Hymn	109 When Jesus comes		Peter Graydon
Of Hymn	104 Songs of thankfulness		
Anthem	Ye Princes that in might excel	Intercessor:	Caroline Currer
Cm Hymn	108 when Jesus came to Jordan		
	441 Draw nigh and take		
Fn Hymn	320 The great forerunner		

\*Also live streamed on zoom - click the blue button on the church home page

### Notices and Parish News...

- **Pilgrim Gathering** - on Sunday 4th January at 2pm in the Tudor Hall. A chance to hear about our Autumn course and find out about our next one which will be in February and March 2026. Why not join us, there are 4 groups at present, but there is always room for more.
- **Prayer Partners** - If you have been praying for someone anonymously, and haven't yet let them know, please do so. A new opportunity to join the Prayer Partners scheme will be offered in the New Year.
- **Sustainability Event - Tuesday 20th January 2026** - Haywards Heath Baptist Church are hosting a special talk, "From Scorched Earth to A Rocha", with Ed Walker MBE, Executive Director of A Rocha International. Join at 7.30pm at Haywards Heath Baptist Church, Sussex Road for an inspiring evening about Christian environmental action. Free entry, refreshments provided.
- **Bereavement Café - A Space to Talk, Listen, and Simply Be** - If you've experienced the loss of someone close, you are warmly invited to our Bereavement Café - a gentle, welcoming space to sit, share, or simply be. Whether you feel like talking or prefer quiet companionship, this is a place of understanding and care. Grief can feel isolating, but gathering with others who are walking a similar path can bring comfort and connection. Over tea and coffee, we offer space for gentle conversation and quiet presence. Our first Bereavement Café will be held on **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2pm-4pm** at The Old School, Committee Room (opposite Holy Trinity Church). It will continue the Second Tuesday of each month, at the same time and place. For more information, please email the Revd Stephen Caple [pastoral-care@holytrinitycuckfield.org](mailto:pastoral-care@holytrinitycuckfield.org) or the Parish Office: 01444 456461
- **Arts & Crafts Group** - We're delighted to say that the Arts & Crafts Group will be making a very welcome return in 2026. Meeting in the Old School Hall on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month, the group offers a friendly, relaxed and creative space for all - no experience needed. Do come along for an enjoyable afternoon of creativity and companionship. All are very welcome.
- **Lunch "n" Linger** - Makes a welcome return at the Old School on **Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January**. We gather from 12.30, **lunch is served at 1.00 pm**, the menu is to be determined. Please let Jane know or email [office@holytrinitycuckfield.org](mailto:office@holytrinitycuckfield.org) confirming your menu choices when available. We need to confirm final numbers by the Monday before the lunch (Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> January).
- **Deanery Day 2026 - Art & Prayer - Saturday 7 February 2026**. The Ascension Church, Vale Road, Haywards Heath 10am-1pm. **Speaker:** Rev Charles Pickstone, former vicar of St. Laurence, Catford, London and a trustee of Art & Christianity Enquiry. He is on the editorial board of Art & Christianity, and until recently a visiting scholar at Sarum College. Charles regularly contributes articles to books and magazines on art and spirituality, as well as lecturing in the UK and abroad. He is on the board of the UK branch of AICA (the International Association of Art Critics) and is chair of the Fabric Advisory Committee of Southwark Cathedral
- **Cuckfield Local Market** - Holy Trinity Cuckfield local market will take place on **February 14<sup>th</sup> from 9.30-12.30** providing locally sourced, sustainable goods. Support local artisans and embrace environmental stewardship with us. The church will be serving tea, coffee and soft drinks, please let Jane know if you can assist.

### Prayers...

**Those in immediate need:** Becky Parker, Ralph Colbran, Eileen Knight, Philip Chapman, Rev'd Stephen Caple, Jill Brotherton, David Meares, Pam Sutherland, Ken Sagar, Clara Spear, Mary Watts.

**Those in long term need:** Georgia, Ann Went, Julie Sadler, Wendy Hibling, Liz Graydon, Peter Graydon, George Snashall, Karen Leese, and Yvonne Godsmark

**Those in care homes:** Mary Watts, Rosemary Pardey, Janet Card, Valerie Poxon, Sally Williams

**The recently departed and those who mourn:** Olga Lydia, David Meredith

**Those whose year's mind falls at this time.** 6<sup>th</sup> Phyllis Hill, Noel Robert Scarborough 2004, Tessa Cathcart Lord 2006, David Saunders MBE 2015, 7<sup>th</sup> Ada Wright, William Hough 1999, Philip Titheradge, Cyril Pike 2002, Alan Hopper 2002, John Hurst Dronfield 2003, Gillian Loveday Norman 2014, 8<sup>th</sup> Minnie Constable, Leslie Dodge 1999 Valerie Norrish 2002, Harold Farrant 2014, Brian James Brown 2022, 9<sup>th</sup> Francis Gill 2005, Margaret Alice Elizabeth Blake 2008, Diana Iltyd Gage Cahill 2009, Norman David Roberts 2013, Audrey Blackburn 2019, 10<sup>th</sup> Neil Caplan, Ivar Stanley Hodges 2004, Kathleen Louise Taylor 2004, Mary Jenner 2010 11<sup>th</sup> Walter Armstrong, Duane Alvord Rev.d 1999, Paul Richard Halsey 2019, Ann Scott 2023.

## Praying through the week...

**Mon Jan 5<sup>th</sup>** - We pray for our Church, that we may reflect the love and mercy of God in our work and worship, that we may hold fast to the essential messages of Christ - of love for all, of hope, of mercy, of humility. Help us to work for the common good. Locally we pray for the residents of Blunts Wood Road that they may feel part of a warm, robust, safe environment, where all can thrive. May they sense God's presence with them, whatever they are facing.

**Tue Jan 6<sup>th</sup>** - As we remember the Holy Innocents, whose lives were cut short in the days of Jesus' birth, we hold before God all children who suffer through violence, neglect, or fear in our own time. We pray for wisdom, compassion, and integrity among those entrusted with power, and for hearts shaped by justice, mercy, and peace. We ask God to strengthen all who work to protect the vulnerable and to heal broken communities. Locally, we pray for the people of Bolney Road, that they may know safety, kindness, and the support of a caring and neighbourly community.

**Wed Jan 7<sup>th</sup>** - We give thanks for the gift of Jesus, the gift of Truth, Incarnate Word of God. We give thanks that the gift of Jesus is for everyone, for the whole world. We pray that we are not drawn to make God in our image to suit our own prejudices, to exclude those we struggle to hear. Locally we pray for the people of Bolnore Farm Lane, for a neighbourhood of understanding, hospitality and care.

**Thu Jan 8<sup>th</sup>** - We pray for safe drinking water for people throughout the world; we give thanks for charities and organisations working to make this a reality. We pray for greater respect for our environment with clean waterways and coastlines, for a greater accountability of industries, water boards and trustees. We give thanks for all who live on Bordehill Lane, that they may feel the benefit of a safe, caring, neighbourly community.

**Fri Jan 9<sup>th</sup>** - We give thanks for the green spaces, the wild areas of our world and pray for all who work to protect and sustain them. We pray for those environmental activists who seek to educate and hold to account all in positions of authority and leadership to enable a thriving, respectful, living environment. We give thanks for their courage and tenacity. Locally we pray for Brainsmeade, that all who live there may find peace, renewal and hope in the natural world around them.

**Sat Jan 10<sup>th</sup>** - We pray for the families affected by mental ill health. We pray for all who are coping with extreme anxiety, confusion, disconnectedness, for those who feel desperate. We pray for those who respond to people in need, for those working in and supporting mental health services. We pray for all those living with the stresses of poverty, discrimination and conflict, which exacerbate such illness and conditions. We pray for all who work to create a healthier society and world, enabling people to connect, communicate and care. We pray locally for the people of Brainsmeade Close, that they may feel the richness of a community of respect, care and inclusivity.

## Contacts

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