

Sunday 4th January 2025 **Epiphany Sunday**

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion
10.00 a.m. Café-Style Altogether Worship
4.00 p.m. Tea Time Church

Collect for Today

Creator of the heavens, who led the Magi by a star to worship the Christ-child: guide and sustain us, that we may find our journey's end in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Service Readings

Isaiah 60:1-6 (*p.700*), Ephesians 3:1-12 (*p.190*) and Matthew 2:1-12 (*p.1*)

Please pray for

... Mark & Jan Knott, Jenny Powell and Mike Woodcock.
... the family and friends of John Holwill, Stephanie Bull and Archie Anderson whose anniversary of death is at this.
... those who live and work in Queen Eleanor's Road, Raymond Crescent, Reindorp Close and Ridgemount.
... the Koens family in Papua New Guinea supporting the work of Bible translation through vehicle maintenance, teaching, missionary care.

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.**

Financial Giving

We take a collection during our services. If you don't give regularly by standing order or the envelope scheme, please put your donation in the bag, tap the card reader on your way out, or use the QR code on the back of this news-sheet. Thank you.

Dear Friends

We don't have an open fireplace in our house, but I remember childhood winters, how we loved watching the flames in the fireplace burn, drinking cocoa and feeling snug and warm whatever the weather outside. The light was comforting amidst the long, dark nights, and the warmth made us feel safe and secure, whatever the weather outside.

'In the beginning was the Word,' says John at the start of his Gospel, and describes the Word as a light shining in the darkness, that the darkness cannot extinguish. Our two readings for Epiphany Sunday also speak of light: In Isaiah 60 we read: 'Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.' Many scholars think this part of Isaiah was written after God's people had returned from exile, and were beginning to rebuild their homeland, including the Temple in Jerusalem. After years of hardship in Babylon it was a new start from them, like dawn breaking after a long, cold night.

Matthew tells us how the Wise Men saw a great light, a star to guide them. They believed it was a sign of a new king being born, but needed help to find exactly where it was leading them. But when Herod apparently offered to help, they were warned not to lead him to the new King – there was a darkness in Herod, that wanted to extinguish that light, so they went home by a different route and avoided him.

Our world can seem dark and harsh at times. War rages in many places, and we see how many struggle to feed their families. At this time of year adverts and appeals remind us of this, and many of us will have given to Shelter or the Salvation Army to try to do a little to help. The darkness is real, but it cannot extinguish the light. The New Year, and the gradually lengthening days remind us of that light that cannot be overcome, and encourage us to look to the light and reflect it out to the world in our own acts of love and kindness. Like a small candle lit from a large one on the altar, we take our light from God, and can help make this New Year a time of hope, of new beginnings, of light for the World.

Jay

Mission Focus for January: ReSkilled

Reskilled works with people who have been unemployed for at least 1 year (the average of participants is almost 7 years unemployed) to learn to make things out of wood, while also learning the general skills they will need to continue on to volunteering roles or paid employment. Most of the wood they use is recycled wood (so if you are getting rid of a table or other good wood, do contact them to see if they can use it). For further information see their website at reskilled.org/ or contact piers@reskilled.org.

Notices

Tea Time Church today: Jo Dwyer will be leading and telling us more about Epiphany and what that means. Tea Time Church is an intergenerational service with music, bible stories, songs, discussion and refreshments. If you've not tried it out, why not this year?

Andy and Linda Wells: As Andy prepares for his ordination on 28th June at Guildford Cathedral, he will be embarking on a three-month placement at St Martin's, East Horsley. During this time, Andy and Linda will be worshipping at St Martin's; and we'll be welcoming them back on Easter Day. Please pray for Andy at this very significant time of his life. (Andy will continue his work as our Treasurer during this period).

Deanery Synod on Tuesday 13th January will be here at All Saints. We'll be serving coffee from 7pm for a 7.30pm meeting start. Inigo Churchill, Diocesan Director of Finance, will be leading a discussion about Parish Share. Anyone is welcome to attend this meeting.

PCC Meeting on Wednesday 14th January at 7.15pm. We'll be joined by David Senior, the Diocesan Stewardship Officer who will be telling us about the Parish Giving Scheme. Please pray for the PCC at the beginning of this very significant new year ahead.

Youth Group: Our first meeting of the new year is on Sunday 18th January at 5.30pm. Our Youth Group is open to anyone of secondary school age. Please let Jeanette know if you'd like your young one to attend.

St Martha's College: Wednesday 21st January, 7.30pm at St Mary's, Quarry Street. The Local Ministry Programme is being re-launched at St Martha's College, providing training for ordained ministry and Licensed Lay Ministry. If you'd like to find out more, speak to Beverly.

Songs of Praise 25th January at 4pm. We'll be sharing our favourite hymns and talking about what they mean to us. If you'd like to choose a hymn or song then please Jo Dwyer know on 07794 477456 or jo.dwyer19@sky.com.

Queen Eleanor's Junior School the governing body is now looking for new members and would value members from All Saints. As a Church of England school, input from practicing Christians is particularly valuable. If you have a couple of spare hours a week, please speak to Beverly.

Coffee Team: We are very short of members! We all enjoy coffee after the service, but we do need more people to keep this going. If you could offer just one Sunday a month to help, we'd be really grateful. Contact Eve if you can help.

Diary for the Coming Week

Morning prayer Mon, Tues and Weds 9.15am in the Reading Room and on Zoom. Thurs Holy Communion at 9.30am in the Reading Room.

Tues 6th Big Build Meeting, Vicarage, 7.30pm (7pm for Prayer)
Weds 7th Sharing & Learning Group, 5 Elmside, 7.45pm
Premises Team Meeting, Reading Room, 8.00pm
Thurs 8th Choir Rehearsal, Church, 8.00pm
Fri 9th Baby & Toddler Group, Church, 10.00am
Sun 11th Church Family Communion with Children's Church, 10.00am
Tea Time Church, Reading Room, 4.00pm

Daily Readings for the coming week

Mon 5th Ps. 48, Ruth 4:1-17, Colossians 4:2-end
Tues 6th Ps. 132, Jeremiah 31:7-14, John 1:29-34
Weds 7th Ps. 99, Jeremiah 23:1-8, Matthew 20:1-16
Thurs 8th Ps. 46, Jeremiah 30:1-17, Matthew 20:17-28
Fri 9th Ps. 148, Jeremiah 30:18-31:9, Matthew 20:29-end
Sat 10th Ps. 149, Jeremiah 31:10-17, Matthew 23:1-12

Service Readings for Sunday 11th January: Baptism of Christ

Isaiah 42:1-9, Acts 10:34-43 and Matthew 3:13-end

Contacts

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