

# HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

*Joyfully serving Jesus*



*Weekly devotions, prayers and news*

## The Epiphany of the Lord

*3 January 2021*

*We have seen his star in the East and have come to adore him Matthew 2: 2*

Andrea Mantegna—Adoration of the Magi (J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles)

Dear Friends,

A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR. We still live in these strange circumstances at present, but sincere wishes from me for the ensuing year. On Sunday we are celebrating what was for many early centuries (and still is in the Eastern Church) the primary Christmas Festival of our Faith. Epiphany marks the knowledge of the universal significance of Our Lord. He came not just for his own people, but for all - bringing the knowledge of God's Love to humanity, revealing through his ministry, passion, death and resurrection that 'there is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of [us] are one in Christ Jesus.' (Gal 3: 28)

May I ask you to join with me in continuing to proclaim the joy of the Gospel in whatever way you can. An excellent foundation for this is prayer. Here is a simple reminder of our privileged call as brothers and sisters in Christ: *Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. (1 Thess 5: 16-18)*

With love

Michael (Vicar)

### **Epiphany (3 January 2021)**

**8.00 Holy Communion** (in Church)

Reader: Gerry Larner

**9.45 The Family Eucharist** (in Church and online - see website to book)

### **Services during the week:**

**Wednesday: 10.30 Holy Communion** (Common Worship) Readings: 1 John 4: 11-18; Mark 6: 45-52

**Thursday: 9.00 Holy Communion** (Iona/Celtic) Readings: 1 John 4: 19-5: 4; Luke 4: 14-22

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

### **Next Sunday: Baptism of Christ (10 January 2021)**

**8.00 Holy Communion** (in Church)

**9.45 Parish Eucharist** (in Church and online - see website to book)

**6.00 Choral Evensong** (for Epiphany - in church and online)

**All services live on Zoom: Click the blue link on the front page of the church website before services, entering a waiting 'area' before joining everyone.**

### **The Collect for Epiphany**

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.  
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

Please check the church website for details of services, etc:  
[www.holytrinitycuckfield.org](http://www.holytrinitycuckfield.org)

### 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.



### A thought

The question one might pose on the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord is which star are people to follow? Looking at aspects of modern life there seem to be so many stars and yet people have never appeared so unhappy. From the cult of youth to the altar of money or the worthless aspects of so many facets of society, it is apparent that there is such a thirst for something - anything - which will satiate the deep inner longing so many feel.

Jesus Christ **IS** the answer - no 'ifs' and no 'buts' - in following him is true freedom and the answer to all questions. This doesn't mean that it is always an easy ride being a Christian. What it does mean, is that in every circumstance, we are journeyed with and cherished by God, who is love. What could be better?

### A prayer for this time of anxiety:

**God of all compassion, your love never fails. Help us to listen to the tranquillity of your presence within our lives, so that we may grow in the knowledge that your Son, Jesus Christ, walks beside us, and your Holy Spirit comforts us at the heart of our being; for you are One God. Amen**

*Adoration of the Magi—Sir Edward Burne-Jones (tapestry) Corporation of Manchester*

### Please remember those for whom we pray:

**Immediate Need:** Clare, Barbara Booth, Wendy Boys, Carla Spear

**Long Term Need:** Young Georgia, Young Joshua, Julia Settle, Young Reggie, Ros Ayling, Wendy, Ann Went, Dave Cox, Jenny, Julie Sadler, Becky & Mark Parker, Tony Burbidge, Christopher, Jenny, Marjorie Chilton, Janet Card, Yvonne Godsmark, George Snashall, Eileen Knight, Mary Todd, Gracie & Lucy Neiff, Jo Kells, Rev. Sandra Hall, Reg Ruddock, Heather Hollis, Ryan and his mother Katherine, Stuart,

**Those in Care Homes:** Anne Norris, Alan Prebble, Stephanie Gilpin, Jill Rockey, Jean Simmons, Mary Watts, Diana Hoile Ruth Baker

### Please remember the recently departed and their families:

**In our Book of Remembrance** this week we remember: 3rd Gladys Nash, John Mullens, Arthur Lee, Claire Roberts, Colin Bugden, Cecile Sadd, 4th Peter Grimwade (Priest), 6th Phyllis Hill, Noel Scarborough, Tessa Lord, David Saunders MBE, 7th Ada Wright, William Hough, Philip Titheradge, Cyril Pike, Alan Hopper, John Dronfield, Gillian Norman, 8th Minnie Constable, Leslie Dodge, Valerie Norrish, Harold Farrant, 9th Francis Gill, Margaret Blake, Diana Cahill, Norman Roberts, Audrey Blackburn