

HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Weekly devotions, prayers and news

Epiphany

8 January 2023

Dear Friends

Welcome to Epiphany, the revelation of the Incarnation of Christ to the whole world through the visit of the Magi, the Baptism of Christ and His first miracle at the Wedding in Cana. The festival has given rise to many different traditions. Twelfth Night in northern Europe, present giving in Spain, house blessings in southern Germany and eastern Europe generally, baptisms in frozen rivers in Russia and colourful processions, with a replica of the Ark of the Covenant, in Ethiopia.

For the eastern church the Baptism of Christ is the central image of Epiphany, showing that Jesus was both divine and human, whereas in the west the emphasis has been more on the visit of the Magi and the manifestation of Christ to the gentiles. Each tradition encourages us to find God working both through Jesus himself and throughout the whole of creation of which he became a part, including each one of us.

Brian & Jane

Church website: www.holytrinitycuckfield.org

Epiphany (8th January 2023)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

Readers: Charles Solomon

9.45 Family Eucharist *(in church & online)*

Readers: Wendy Bloomer & Susan Mayou; Intercessor: Tony Lawrence

Hymns: 93, 103, 452, 510, 96

12noon Holy Baptism *Canstance Jane Weavers & Bertie James Weavers*

6.00 Choral Evensong *(in church & online)*

Readers: Pat Montague & Wendy Bloomer

Hymns: 94, 96.103

Services during the week:

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

Readings: Hebrews 2: 14-end; Mark 1: 29-39

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

Readings: Hebrews 3: 7-14; Mark 1: 40-end

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

Next Sunday: Second Sunday of Epiphany (15th January 2023)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

9.45 Family Eucharist *(in church & online)*

11.15 Family Praise

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.

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:

These Magi were called by God to encounter the Saviour of the World. Interestingly, God used something very familiar to them as an instrument of their calling: the stars. It was among their belief that when someone of great importance was born, this birth was accompanied by a new star. So when they saw this new, bright, and brilliant star, they were filled with curiosity and hope. One of the most significant aspects of this story is that they responded. God called them through the use of a star, and they chose to follow this sign, embarking on a long and arduous journey.

God often uses those things most familiar to us that are part of our daily life to send forth His calling. Recall, for example, that many of the Apostles were fishermen, and Jesus used their occupation to call them, making them "fishers of men." He especially used the miraculous catch of fish to clearly indicate to them that they had a new calling.

In our own lives, God is constantly calling us to seek him out. He will often use some of the most ordinary parts of our lives to send forth that calling. How is He calling you? In what way is He sending you a star to follow?

A prayer for this time of Vacancy:

Send us your Holy Spirit at this time of change and uncertainty, to fill us with vision, energy and faithfulness in prayer that we may be true to our calling to bring new life to our community; and guide with your heavenly wisdom those who are to choose a new priest for this Benefice, so that the one whom we receive may be a wise and gentle shepherd of your people, ready to serve us with joy, to build us up in faith, and to lead us by example, in loving obedience to your Son our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen

Please remember those for whom we pray:

Immediate need: John Bernardi (priest), Paul Simpson, Martin Packham, Val Thompson, Becky Parker, George Snashall, Eileen Caple, Karen Leese, Hilary Turner-King, Jim Knight

Long Term Need: Young Georgia, Joshua and Reggie, Wendy, Ann Went, Julie Sadler, Wendy Hibling, Yvonne Godsmark, Carla Spear, Pam Sagar, Eileen Knight, Maureen Griffiths, Liz Graydon, Eileen Macdougall,

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

Please remember the recently departed and their families: Jill Rockey Paul Dupee, Jean Simmons

In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember: 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 Revd. Duane Alvord, Richard Halsey, 12th Judith Seabrook, 13th Robert Jameson, John Rhodes, Tom Pritchard, Samuel McCullough Elspeth Marshall, Mary Parry, Katherine Leask, Phyllis Chatfield, Anthony Burbidge, 14th Richard Janvrin, Leonard Starbuck, Dorothy Tuffin