

St Mary, Whitegate and St Peter, Little Budworth – Sunday 3rd January

Epiphany

Morning Prayer & Holy Communion

Psalm 113

1 Alleluia.

Give praise, you servants of the Lord, •
O praise the name of the Lord.

2 Blessed be the name of the Lord, •
from this time forth and for evermore.

3 From the rising of the sun to its setting •
let the name of the Lord be praised.

4 The Lord is high above all nations •
and his glory above the heavens.

5 Who is like the Lord our God,
that has his throne so high, •
yet humbles himself to behold
the things of heaven and earth?

6 He raises the poor from the dust •
and lifts the needy from the ashes,

7 To set them with princes, •
with the princes of his people.

8 He gives the barren woman a place in the house •
and makes her a joyful mother of children.
Alleluia.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

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.



Ephesians 3.1-12

3 This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—²for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given to me for you,³ and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words,⁴ a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ.⁵ 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:⁶ that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

7 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.⁸ 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,⁹ and to make everyone see* what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in* God who created all things;¹⁰ 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.¹¹ This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord,¹² in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Matthew 2.1-12

2 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men* from the East came to Jerusalem,² 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.'³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him;⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah* was to be born.⁵ They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ "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."'

7 Then Herod secretly called for the wise men* and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared.⁸ 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

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and pay him homage.’⁹When 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. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped,^{*} they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On 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. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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.

NOTICES:

At the end of the service please take this sheet home with you and place your service booklet in the box marked at the back of church.

To comply with NHS Test & Trace we ask you to fill in the contact sheet and place this in a separate box at the back of church. Please do not fold the sheet. For the time enter the time of the service you are attending. If you are using the NHS app the QR code is displayed at the back of church and in the porch.

St Mary’s RNIB Appeal: please save your stamps

There will be a collection box in church once again, for all your used stamps. The RNIB can make good use of them.

Please trim them with 1cm of envelope all round, put them in two envelopes: British and Foreign, and leave them in the box at the back of St Mary’s. At the end of January, they will be sent off to help the RNIB appeal. Thank you in advance.

St Peter’s hats & gloves for the homeless

Please place these in the container outside Cora’s house. Thank you.

Forthcoming services:

10th January The Baptism of Christ
9.30am Holy Communion at St Mary’s
11.00am Holy Communion at St Peter’s

17th January Plough Sunday
11.00am Benefice service at the Fogarty Moss Centre, Oulton Park. Bishop Mark will be visiting us for the first time.

24th January Epiphany 3
9.30am Holy Communion at St Mary’s
11.00am Morning Prayer at St Peter’s

30th January Candlemas
10.30am Benefice service of Holy Communion at St Mary’s.

