



02 January, 2022 – Epiphany

Said Eucharists – Sunday 8.30am. and Tuesday 10.30am.

Sung Eucharist – Sunday 10.00am.

This services will be recorded, and then be available on St. Michael's YouTube Channel, https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-KJtHzLo0w2CM6ROl_50yg

A copy of Rev. Debbie's reflections has been sent with these notices.

Collect

O God, who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the people 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.**

Alternative Collect

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.**

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. For the word of the Lord, **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 72, 10-15

Response: May all nations be blessed in him.

The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute; the kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring gifts.

All kings shall fall down before him; all nations shall do him service.

Response

For he shall deliver the poor that cry out, the needy and those who have no helper. He shall have pity on the weak and poor; he shall preserve the lives of the needy.

Response

He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, and dear shall their blood be in his sight.

Long may he live; unto him may be given gold from Sheba; may prayer be made for him continually and may they bless him all the day long.

Response

Ephesians 3.1–12

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 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 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. For the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

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.

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.**

MUSIC NOTES FOR EPIPHANY - maybe something to come from Stephen

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL – until Wednesday, 05 January

The Christmas Tree Festival, featuring trees decorated by local organisations continues until January 5th. The church will be open Monday-Friday, 10.00am. – 4.00pm. this week. (closed New Year's Day) and then again Monday-Wednesday next week. No charge to look round, but donations to Wycombe Homeless Association welcomed.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

w/c January 3rd – There is unlikely to be a physical presence in the Office this week. Phone and e-mail will be monitored after the Bank Holiday.

RECYCLING CHRISTMAS CARDS

The Anglican church of St. Thomas a Becket in Hamburg has indicated that they would once again be pleased to receive cards for recycling, but as last year, we need to find a way of collecting these which minimises any risk of infection, and unnecessary physical contact.

We will publish further details of when and how this will be done later in the month.

WISE CHOICES FILM CLUB- Wheeler Room- Friday, 07 January- 2.00pm. – 4.00pm.

The Vice – An audacious and darkly comedic look at former US Vice President Dick Cheney. His quiet rise from Washington intern to the most powerful man on the planet. Stars Christian Bale. Running time – 127mins-. All welcome. Refreshments served after the showing.

TRAIDCRAFT STALL – Sunday, 09 January– after the 10.00am. service

The monthly Traidcraft stall, situated in the South Transept near the exit door, offers a selection of products available on the day. Special orders should be given to Sue Eames, or left in the Office, to ensure availability.

CRAFTY CUPPA – North Transept – Friday, 14 January – 10.30am. – 11.30am.

A new monthly drop-in session for everyone, especially those on their own. If you engage in a craft such as knitting or embroidery, bring it with you and enjoy some company while you work. Fancy just a cuppa, or would you enjoy an opportunity to chat? Then come along. You will be very welcome.

TRAIDCRAFT/FOODBANK UPDATE FOR THE END OF THE YEAR 2021 from Margaret and Bill Dykes

I find myself in the strange position of being able to look back at last year's Xmas update in preparation for this message, and it makes sobering reading. We are now 21 months into this project and, due entirely to your magnificent contributions, we have provided a further £ 27,000. worth of Fairtrade and ethically sourced goods this year, principally to the Chiltern Food Bank, making our running total in excess of £47,000. Additionally, we have delivered harvest festival gifts and surplus garden produce to Restore Hope Latimer and the Chesham Community Fridge. Through your kindness and amazing generosity we collectively have been able to make the lives of many hundreds of our fellow citizens a little easier by offering support to them in their time of greatest need.

All the organisations who benefit from your ongoing support are incredibly grateful for all that you do, as are we. None of this would be happening without your kind and generous financial support. We had an idea and your whole-hearted generosity has allowed that idea to take shape. Thank you.

If you know anyone who may be willing to join us in our mission to help those less fortunate than ourselves, please consider passing this appeal on.

If you are aware of any families or individuals, who need help from the food bank, a call to the dedicated number 01494 785660 is all they need to do to arrange an emergency delivery.

Once again many, many thanks for your generosity, and, as another different and difficult Christmas approaches, may we wish you all everything that you would wish for yourselves. Please take care and stay safe. Happy Christmas

COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS IN CHURCH

In line with the latest regulations, it is now compulsory to wear a facemask in a place of worship, unless exempt.

CHURCH OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

The church is open next week for private prayer, from 10.00am. to 4.00pm. Monday - Friday (closed New Year's Day). The Lady Chapel has been set aside as a quiet space, and the votive candle stand moved into there.

CHANGES TO DISTRIBUTION OF WEEKLY NOTICES

It has been decided to phase out the production of physical notice sheets for distribution before services, as most people receive them by email. While part of the reason for this is the current reduction in office hours, it is also to save on printing costs and waste paper. (Most weeks, the majority of sheets printed are left in church after the services.) As from this week, the notices section will be available only in electronic form, apart from a few printed copies for visitors or those unable to receive them in this format. The Welcomers will continue to give out copies of the service elements page for the time being, but the numbers printed will be run down over the remainder of the year. If you like to follow the readings (or the intercessions and sermon), please print off your own copy and bring it to church with you.

Activities and Events beyond St. Michael's

LUNCH BREAK - Amersham Free Church – Tuesday, 04 January- Midday to 2pm.

AFC's Lunch Break programme has restarted. Tea, coffee and soup are available throughout. The church is open for quiet reflection and offers a varied programme of music, worship, meditation and speakers between 1.10pm. and 1.30pm. **This week: Chat Round the Tables**

CHURCH OF ENGLAND CHRISTMAS VIDEO

The Church of England has produced a four minute video for Christmas with the title "At The Heart of Christmas". This is available free of charge on YouTube. Go to www.youtube.com and search for "church of england at the heart of christmas". It comes up as a film which lasts for 4.03mins, with a photograph on the front of a smiling vicar talking to someone.