

The Church of St Francis
THE EPIPHANY
2nd January 2022



**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**

FOR OUR PRAYERS

We pray for those who are in need of prayer at this time: Margaret & Martin; Eileen; Hayley; Ivan and Peter; Audrey; Sheila; Megan; Riley & his mum and family; David M; Alex and Amanda; Kathryn, Willow, & Edward; Lucy.

We continue to pray for Woodside House Care Home; Hebron House and all those who are managing long term issues including: Linda R; Gayle; Charlotte, Maegan & Carson; Tom; Rosemary; Cynthia & David; John and Jane; Rosie, and Pete; Shirley.

We remember those who have died in recent days, among them Grace Moore; Andrew Bartley; praying too for all who mourn the loss of a loved one or a friend, especially Jill.

**The Church of St Francis
Heartsease**

**Heavenly Father
We ask your blessing upon us.
Hold the Heartsease Community,
and all the world,
in your arms of love.
Be with us.
Give us your strength,
peace, and healing grace.
Watch over us,
protect us from harm;
and keep in safety
all those who care for the sick
and attend to our needs,
in Jesus name we pray.
Amen**

COLLECTS FOR THE EPIPHANY

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

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



POST COMMUNION PRAYER FOR THE EPIPHANY

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

READINGS FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**THE WORD
OF GOD**

You may notice that we do not always use all the readings in our Sunday service – we include them in the bulletin for you to reflect upon them throughout the forthcoming week.

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.

PSALM 72: 10 - 15

¹⁰ The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall
pay tribute; ♦
the kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring gifts.

¹¹ **All kings shall fall down before him; ♦
all nations shall do him service.**

¹² For he shall deliver the poor that cry out, ♦
the needy and those who have no helper.

¹³ **He shall have pity on the weak and
poor; ♦
he shall preserve the lives of the needy.**

¹⁴ He shall redeem their lives from
oppression and violence, ♦
and dear shall their blood be in his sight.

¹⁵ **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.**

**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**

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.



HOME COMMUNION



If you live in the parish of St Francis and would like to receive the Sacrament in your home because you cannot get to church, please contact Revd Janet or Fr Tracy.

**SERVICES NEXT WEEK
ALL WELCOME**

Tues: Morning Prayer – 9am
Evening Prayer – 5pm

Weds: Morning Prayer – 9am
BCP Holy Communion – 11.30am
Evening Prayer - 5pm

Thurs: Morning Prayer – 9am
Evening Prayer – 5pm

Sun: Holy Communion for
EPIPHANY 1
The Baptism of Christ
10.30am



**WHAT'S ON AT ST FRANCIS
NEXT WEEK...**

LET IT GROW
EVERY WEDNESDAY
@ 9am – 11.30am



Weeding, Sowing, Planting,
&
10.15 am Tea And Cake Break
LOTS OF FRESH VEG TO BE PICKED
COME AND GET IT!

**THURSDAY MORNING
IS COFFEE MORNING
In the Church Lounge
10am – 12pm
EVERY WEEK!**



**NextDoor@St Francis
GOOD NEWS CAFÉ**



NOW OPEN!

Coffee Express Latte, Cappuccino, flat white,
Espresso, Hot Chocolate etc.

All £1.50 per cup

**10am – 12pm
EVERY
FRIDAY
&
SATURDAY
MORNING**

**Mug of Tea
£1.00**

**Cup of Coffee
[Latte, Cappuccino, flat
white, Espresso etc.]
£1.50**

Cup of Hot Chocolate £1.50

**Flapjacks
£1.00**

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**EVERY
FRIDAY & SATURDAY
MORNING**

10am - 12pm

**Find us in 'Next Door @ St Francis'
94 Rider Haggard Road. NR7 9UQ**

**A VERY HAPPY
NEW YEAR
TO YOU
&
YOURS!**



**God's Love & Blessing
be with you this
New Year & Always**

THINKING ABOUT CONFIRMATION?

**The New Year will see us beginning
another round of preparation for
confirmation
sessions with a view
to candidates being
presented to the
Bishop for
confirmation at
Easter.**



**If you are interested and would like to
know more, please contact the Vicar or
Fr Tracy who will be delighted to hear
from you.**

ST FRANCIS CONTACT DETAILS:

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ST FRANCIS CHURCH

HEARTSEASE

96 - 98 RIDER HAGGARD ROAD

**IF YOU
OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW
IS IN NEED OF A HELPING
HAND WITH FOOD ETC.**

**WE WILL DO OUR BEST
TO HELP**

**CALL OUR 24HR
ANSWERPHONE**

01603 431259

[or call/text

07368 832294

Mon - Thur 10am - 5pm]