

**ALL SAINTS CHURCH BOYNE HILL
MAIDENHEAD
PARISH NEWS**
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Issue 136 4 JANUARY 2023



Dear Parishioners and Friends of All Saints, Boyne Hill,



On Sunday we celebrate Epiphany – the coming of the Magi from the East to worship Jesus at Bethlehem and acknowledge him as King of the Jews. You can find the story in our Gospel reading on page 4 of this Parish News.

The Magi learned of the birth of Jesus through the appearance of a star – and they followed that star all the way to the stable in Bethlehem. They weren't content just to accept the fact of the birth of a new 'king of the Jews', but they responded by travelling to do him homage. Likewise, the shepherds in the fields weren't content just to hear the message the angels sang, but they 'went with haste' to find the child that the angels had spoken of, lying in a manger.

For the Magi, and for the shepherds, travelling to Bethlehem to see Jesus was vitally important. By doing this, the news they had received ceased to be just "information" about an external event, but this visit to "the Word made flesh", God's own being in the form of a baby, became a real part of their own lived experience. It became a happening, an encounter, "for them" - something they could reflect on, tell their friends and children about, and be changed by. It was no longer a report of something elsewhere, outside of themselves and their world. It had made its home within them and their life experience.

The Magi and the shepherds were only the beginning, for throughout his ministry the crowds sought Jesus out and followed him, hanging on his words and wondering at his actions; the disciples, his closest followers, spent time with him catching his vision for a renewal of humanity in the kingdom of God. And coming to know him as God incarnate.

If we want God to be a real part of our lived experience, someone who we "know" rather than just "know about", then we can travel in our hearts and minds to be with Christ, just as the Magi, the shepherds and the crowds travelled to be with Jesus and worshipped and adored him. For us, this journey takes place in our worship, for this is where we meet with God in our true relationship of creature to Creator – especially in the Eucharist, where the God who was made known in a baby at Bethlehem comes to us once again under the form of bread and wine in the sacrament that he himself instituted and is his gift to us his people.

It is encounter with the living God. It is encounter with the one who created us, sustains us, loves us and reaches out to call us to himself day after day.

This is how God ceases to be someone external to ourselves (or even just a 'nice idea') but becomes real within us, part of our lived experience, loving us and sustaining us through all life's ups and downs.

So at the beginning of this New Year perhaps we should ask ourselves one or two questions about the place of worship in our life of faith. Such as, how important is worship to us in our life of faith? What part does it play in developing my relationship with God? Have you made a commitment to regular worship? Have we let other things crowd it out or take its place? Would it help to learn more about our worship, why it is as it is and the depth of meaning in the prayers we use? Is there something we as clergy can do to help your life of worship? Do you feel yourself a part of this regular worshipping community, and if not then why not? Does it matter to you that several days a week we at All Saints offer prayer to God in church for the life of our congregation and parish, especially for those in need? Would you like to be a part of that life of regular prayer for church and parish in some way?

From the earliest of Christian times the church has met regularly for worship, for the breaking of bread and the teaching of the apostles and for fellowship (Acts 2:42). As we commit ourselves afresh to that at All Saints in 2023, please also be aware that at a time when all the rhetoric is about the decline of Christianity in our country, simply being seen going to church regularly is itself a valuable witness to Christ and a demonstration for those with eyes to see of the importance of Christ to you.

A Note for your 2023 Diary – Walsingham

We have booked the following dates at Walsingham for our 2023 pilgrimage: Monday 25th-Friday 29th September (4 nights). If you might be interested in joining us do put these dates into your brand new 2023 diary. I will be looking for names and deposits around Eastertime so you have a little time to think before you need to put your name down.

Fr John

RESOURCES FOR THE WEEK

Thursday 5 January

3.00pm Open the Book at All Saints School
8.00pm Choir Practice

Friday 6

9.00am Epiphany Assembly at Boyn Hill School
10.00am Tiny Saints Toddler Group in the Parish Centre
The Story of the Wise Men
3.00pm Epiphany Assembly at All Saints School

Saturday 7

10.30am Baptism Preparation in the Birinus Room

Sunday 8

10.00am Parish Eucharist for the Epiphany
Celebrant: Fr John Preacher: Fr Jeremy

6.00pm Evensong & Benediction
Fr Jeremy

Monday 9

9.30am Morning Prayer in Church

Tuesday 10

9.30am Morning Prayer in Church

Wednesday 11

10.00am Eucharist

Celebrant: Fr Jeremy

11.000am Tai Chi in the Parish Centre

3.00pm Open the Book at Larchfield School

7.30pm Sustainability Group meet at the Vicarage

PRAYER INTENTIONS

We continue to give thanks and praise for the Incarnation of Our Lord Jesus Christ as a babe at Bethlehem.

As the Shepherds and the Magi worshipped and adored Jesus in the stable at Bethlehem, may we too worship and adore Christ our Lord with our lips and with our lives. We pray for our worship at All Saints, and for all who help to make it a place of special encounter with the living God; our musicians, servers, sacristan, flower arrangers and welcomers. May we encounter Christ afresh in word and sacrament Sunday by Sunday.

We pray for our health and social care services at this difficult time, for all workers in the healthcare sector, and for those who are dependent upon NHS and social care. We pray for effective Government action on our behalf to sustain our health services, and for a long-term resolution of the many crises in this sector.

We continue to pray for the people of the Ukraine and for peace there and in all places of warfare and violence.

We pray for those of our congregation and Parish in any kind of need at this time. We pray by name for Michael, Kirsten and Maddy; for Suzette, Danielle, Paul Latham, Jenny Chua, Doris Winn, Birmta Zadinane, Kirsty Banner, Harrison Hawkes, Heidi Webb, Florence Harrison, Tadeusz, Teresa, Leigh Hutchison-May, Soheila, Silvia Denison, Cheryl Brookes, Marnos, Gordon Kerrison, Lorraine Ansell, Gerald Newth and Ruby Doughty. May they know the healing peace and presence of Christ, and we pray and give thanks for those who bring them care and comfort.

We pray for the recently departed: Dorothy Chalk, Peter Dyer and Larisa Stephenson. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

We pray for the repose of the soul of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI giving thanks for his contribution to the life of the Church over many decades. We pray for the Roman Catholic Church and for progress in Anglican-Roman Catholic dialogue and action together.

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 8 JANUARY THE EPIPHANY

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

O T READING 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.

GOSPEL 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.

MUSIC

Prelude: Allein Gott in Der Höh Sei Ehr *G F Kaufmann*

Opening Hymn: AM 103 O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness

Gradual: AM 95 Bethlehem, what greater city

AM 105 We three kings of Orient are

Offertory: AM 94 As with gladness men of old

Communion: AM 456 Now let u from this table rise

Closing Hymn: AM 96 Brightest and best are the sons of the morning

Postlude: Wie Schoen Leuchtetder Morgenstern *J S Bach*

6.00pm SUNDAYS@SIX EVENSONG & BENEDICTION

Prelude Prélude sur l'Introït de l'Épiphanie *Durufié*

Opening Hymn 104 Songs of thankfulness and praise

Psalm 46

First Reading Isaiah 60: 1-9

Office Hymn 96 Brightest and best of the sons of the morning

Second Reading John 2: 1-11

Benediction Hymn 103 O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness

Postlude Christum wir sollen loben schon, BWV 611 *J S Bach*

FLOWERS FOR 2023

The Flower Sponsors' Board for 2023 is now available on the table at the back of the Church; and we would be pleased if you would like to add your name against a week you would like to sponsor. This is a very appropriate way to remember loved ones we no longer see or to celebrate anniversaries, that special birthday or occasion. Sponsoring a week ensures that we can have flowers in the church on that Sunday and relieves the PCC funds of any cost whatsoever. We are sure you are aware of the pleasure the flowers give to everyone and would like to thank you in anticipation for your continued support.

Would you please give your Sponsor donation, prior to your chosen week, to Stella Harding and inform her of any colour or flower preference you might have, and we will do our best to accommodate. If Stella is not available, please feel free to use one of the envelopes with the board and hand it into the Church Office.

The Flower Team

NEW YEAR GREETINGS

Peter Holton wishes everyone a Happy New Year.

CHURCH POSTBOX

Before it disappears please make a point of looking to see if there are still any cards for you

FOODSHARE

In these hard times Foodshare are more in need of our help than ever. Each week in the Maidenhead Advertiser there is a list of items most wanted.