

The Parish Church of St Mary Oldswinford

Sunday January 2nd 2022

The Epiphany



Our services this week are as follows:

10.00am - A Service of Holy Communion

Lead: Rev'd John Flitcroft **Preacher:** Roger King

Warden: Tony Tatford

Stewards: Sue Tatford with Toni Evans

Reader: Tony Tatford

Intercessions: Kanthi Ariaraj

10:30am Thurs. 6th January - Holy Communion (BCP)

Leader: Rev'd John Flitcroft **Preacher:** Roger King

Stewards: Sue Wakeley with Elaine Buchan

Reader: Andrew Ling

New Year, New Prayer Groups

A new series of prayer and reflection meetings begins Tuesday, 11th January for 4 weeks until 1st February. We will hold these in church from 1.30 pm, (for coffee or tea), with a start at 2 pm to finish by 3 pm. Please do come along and join us.

Living in Love and Faith

Throughout the country, Church of England parishes are being encouraged to explore the Church's teaching on marriage and sexuality before a debate at General Synod this year. The Living in Love and Faith (LLF) initiative aims to provide a safe space in which to ask "how questions about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage fit within the bigger picture of the good news of Jesus Christ?" And: "What does it mean to live in love and faith together as a Church?" If you are interested in being part of a group looking at these questions, please talk to Rev'd John. Find out more online at: [About Living in Love and Faith | The Church of England](#) or speak to Rev'd John.



Collect for this week:

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.**

Old Testament 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.

This is the Word of the Lord
THANKS BE TO GOD.



The Gospel Reading: Matthew 2. 1-12

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew
GLORY TO YOU, O LORD.

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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST.

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.

We invite you to offer prayers for

Worldwide Church: Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo: Archbishop Zacharie Masimango Katanda.

Churches Together: Society of Friends (Quakers).

From our Diocesan Prayer Diary.....

Eternal Wall of Answered Prayer

By the end of 2023, it is hoped that the Eternal Wall of Answered Prayer will be unveiled in Coleshill, Birmingham. Each of the million bricks in this gigantic Christian landmark will display an individual's story, remembering how God has answered a specific prayer amid times of challenge in their lives. Stories will be shared by Christians from all around the world, from both the past and the present and they will be made available to the public on the largest online database of hope stories in the world. The structure will be over twice the size of the Angel of the North and will be surrounded by 10 acres of landscaped ground for visitors to sit and reflect in. Reflection on answered prayer gives us a deeper understanding of who God is and helps us mature in our Christian life. Not only that, it will also encourage a national conversation about prayer and hope with people of all faiths and none.

The work of St Mary's.....

For those who will visit St Mary's this week to find sanctuary and peace. For teachers and pupils returning to local schools this week to begin a new term.

For those who have left prayers on our prayer board.

Those Living in: Winchester Drive / Eton Drive.

Local Community: Oldswinford Shops.

Among those who are ill: Ian Moore, Bob Bowen, Dorothy Gibson, Margaret Shepherd, Alan Roden, Margaret Wright, Paul Chard and June Turly.

We continue to pray for: Stephen Webb, Gill Franks, Harold Swithenbank, Peter & Angela Viner, Helen Hunt, Susan Haskew, Natalie Jones, Audrey Tranter, David Johnson, Colin Millward, Pamela & Roy Peacock, Josh Raffan, Judy Taylor, Joe and Ros Yeates, Rory Macintosh, Elian Irvine-Boden, Martin Aston, Ruth Hardy, Anna Scudamore, Jonathan, Noah, Cantius, the May family and the Rogerson family.

Those in nursing home care:

Norma Wren, Melitta Ling, Meriel Harris, Betty Shore and Betty Taylor.

The departed: Pauline Morris and Barbara Finney.

