

# **Sunday 3 January 2021**

## ***The Feast of the Epiphany***

**Happy New Year!**

**Welcome to everyone today – wherever you are!**

**Please remember that all Covid safeguards in church remain in place.**

### **The 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.

### **First 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 Reading** 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.

### **Prayer after Communion**

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.

# The Week Ahead & Information

## Monday-Saturday

- 9am Morning Prayer *live on St Thomas' Facebook page*  
5pm Evening Prayer *live on St James' Facebook page (not on Saturday)*

## Wednesday

- 11am Funeral service for Keith Lord RIP at St Thomas'  
12pm Lunch Deliveries *see note below*

## Thursday

- 11am St Thomas' Standing Committee *via Zoom*  
1pm Funeral service for David Biggs RIP at Burnley Crematorium

## Friday

- 9.30-10.30 St Thomas' Cleaning – *volunteers welcome*

## Next Sunday (10 January – *The Baptism of Christ*)

- 9.15am The Eucharist at St Thomas'  
10.45am The Eucharist at St James'

## Thank you

A very sincere *thank you* to everyone who supported, promoted, encouraged and resourced our Advent and Christmas services and outreach during December. Despite being restricted in many ways there was a huge outpouring of goodwill and friendship across our parishes. Thank you, also, to those who took on a new role in Christmas week to lead our on-line services.

## Magazine/Bulletins

January editions of the bulletin/magazine are now available on our websites, Facebook pages, and in hard copy. If you can't find one – please ask!

### **Wednesday Lunches *continued***

Whilst we remain in Tier 3 we have decided to continue our weekly lunch deliveries. Thank you to all who continue to volunteer to deliver for us. If you, or anyone you know, would like to receive a hot, homemade lunch on a Wednesday, please book in with Fr Andrew by the previous Saturday. Absolutely **anyone** is eligible. No charge but donations of £5 welcome. Fr Andrew – [andrewinhaslingden@gmail.com](mailto:andrewinhaslingden@gmail.com), 07460 899451

### **St Thomas' Gift Day**

We were delighted with our Gift Day in December. The current total is now in excess of £7,800.

### **From Fr David**

Thank you to everyone who included me/us on their Christmas card and gift list. It was very good to relax during Christmas week surrounded by so much goodwill and kind thoughts.

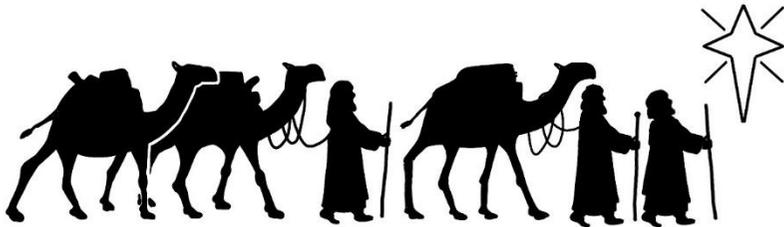
### **Prayers**

Please let Fr David know of anyone who should be included on our weekly prayer list. ([frdavidstephenson@gmail.com](mailto:frdavidstephenson@gmail.com), 07539264279)

### **For your prayers**

Ian, Alan, Denzil, Edna Charley, Rita, Dorothy, Jim, Matthew, Jean, Mary, Mother Enid, Judith, Julie

**RIP:** David Biggs, Keith Lord, Sandra Valentine



# EPIPHANY