

3rd January 2021

WELCOME

Epiphany

to

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST



Covid 19 Notice

Sadly we have had to take the decision to suspend communal worship at this time whilst we are in Tier 4 and the Bishop has agreed this. We made the decision based on the new variant of the virus which is far more transmissible and the fact that a number of our congregation are clinically vulnerable and others who are working as key workers fear spreading. We shall of course keep this very much under review and inform you as soon as possible of any changes.

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.

Readings

Isaiah 60 vv 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.

Ephesians 3 vv 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 vv 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 have 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 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.

Psalm 72 vv 10-15

Hymns

- We three kings of Orient are (91)
- O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness (89)
- As with gladness men of old (83)
- Earth has many a noble city (85)
- Brightest and best of the sons of the morning (84)

EVENSONG

Psalm 98

Hymns

- Why, impious Herod, shouldst thou fear
- Bethlehem, of noblest cities

Readings

Baruch 4 v 36 – end of Chapter 5

Look towards the east, O Jerusalem, and see the joy that is coming to you from God. Look, your children are coming, whom you sent away; they are coming, gathered from east and west, at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing in the glory of God.

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on for ever the beauty of the glory from God. Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting; for God will show your splendour everywhere under heaven. For God will give you evermore the name, 'Righteous Peace, Godly Glory'. Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height; look towards the east, and see your children gathered from west and east at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them. For they went out from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne. For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up, to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God. The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command. For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that comes from him.

John 2 vv 1-11

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it, When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' Jesus did this, the first of his signs in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Thank you from Elaine.

Thank you to all those who have been involved in making the church look so beautiful for our Christmas Celebrations – the Christmas Trees and the Flowers looked splendid. The music was wonderful - especially the singing for the Carol Service; so thank you to the Choir and to Andy. Thank you also to all those who work so hard behind the scenes to make us all feel safe – to our church Wardens and Deputies and to those who assist them in this.

Thank You from Barbara Chambers

Barbara would like to thank everyone for their cards, messages and prayers following the death of Peter after a long illness. She would also like to thank Maureen for taking the funeral service and Andy and members of the choir respectively who played and sang at the service. It was very much appreciated.

Christmas Socks and Jumpers

Thank you to everyone who joined in by wearing their Christmas attire on Sunday 20th December. We hope you checked out the photos on Facebook. You helped to raise £62.45 for church funds.

Annual Raffle

This is called a Valentine's Raffle. The draw will take place in church at 11 a.m. on Sunday, 7th February 2021. There will be a cash prize, Valentine Spring Hamper, wine, spirits and goodies galore. If you have not received any raffle tickets to sell or need some more please see either Mary Bucknell or Brenda Green.

Used Postage Stamps

In this Christmas time just a reminder that Pat Gregory would like your used postage stamps please. These go to help The Bransby Home for Horses. There will be baskets in each porch so any donation of stamps can be left there. Thank you.

Mission of St. John's Church

To be a caring community striving to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ;
sharing in the love of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
and to love our neighbour, having the Eucharist at the centre of our worship.