



## From the Vicar

In the great tradition of the East the Feast of the Epiphany combines three aspects. The first – as in the West – is the visitation of the Magi; the second is the Baptism of Christ – or Theophany as it is known in the East; the third the wedding at Cana where Jesus changes water into wine – the first of the ‘signs’ of John’s Gospel. Who are the magi? The story as Matthew tells it makes no mention of ‘kings’ nor does it tell us their number. It seems clear that these ‘magi’ are people of esoteric ability, able to read the stars as portents of things to come. Here they travel far to greet the newborn king Jesus. It seems the point Matthew is trying to make is that the message and work of Jesus is not only for the Jewish world, but will break out into the surrounding Gentile nations also. He is a sign of justice, peace and mercy for the whole world. The baptism of Christ – which we will celebrate next week, moves us on from consideration of Christ as an infant to Christ as a fully grown man. Here he steps into the waters of Jordan in complete solidarity with the people. In this way he commits himself to walking with them through the places of danger and risk into the promise and blessing of the future. It is truly an apocalyptic moment as the heavens open, the dove of the Holy Spirit descends and the voice of the Father is heard. This is a new departure for Israel as ancient promise and ancient hope are finally fulfilled. The wedding of Cana, where Jesus turns water into wine is to be read with an eye to the future and with the imagination of the kingdom. This isn’t some local story of Christ being kind to a host who has failed to buy enough wine, but a ‘sign’ of the in-breaking of the kingdom of God. This is the eschatological banquet where all are welcomed, a banquet of abundance where all are fed, both rich and poor alike. There is, of course, for us a Eucharistic parallel as we celebrate with bread and wine the coming of Christ’s kingdom.

*Fr Ryan*

## Giving to All Saints

**No cash? Tap to donate!**

You can donate by debit or credit card. Choose from the three donation amounts and tap your card on the reader located at the welcome desk.

**Gift Aid: Adding value to your donation**

If you are a UK taxpayer and do not have a set of planned giving envelopes, please place your donation inside a white envelope (available from the welcomers). Remember to fill in your details completely or we cannot claim Gift Aid (a further 25%) on your donation.

**Regular Giving**

Should you wish to make regular donations to All Saints, our preferred method of giving is via the Parish Giving Scheme. Further information about the scheme is available online at [www.parishgivingscheme.org.uk](http://www.parishgivingscheme.org.uk). Forms are available from the Parish Office.

### Parish Office

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### Associates

Fr David Ingledew  
Fr John Joyce

### Churchwardens

Ann Joyce  
Adrian Herbert

### Secretary of the PCC

Glo Boughton

### Children’s Church

Sarah Sutherland-Rowe

### Safeguarding officer

Sue Atkins

### Health & Safety Officer

Peter Millar

## Today's Mass

### Hymns

**83** – As with gladness men of old

**84** – Brightest and best of the sons of the morning

**88** – How brightly beams the morning star

**91** – We three kings of orient are

We have a congregational mass setting today and no anthem as the choir are away.

### 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.

## Parish Notices

### Caritas

Our next Caritas meal is next Sunday at 3pm. This month the Choir with no Name will be performing and leading a workshop for our guests. Please remember to bring puddings to the morning mass.

### Compline

Compline is taking a post-Christmas break and will return on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> January at 7pm. Everyone is welcome to experience a still point of prayer and music in the middle of the week.

### Choir

After an amazing Advent and Christmas, the choir are taking a well-deserved break and will be returning for the Baptism of the Lord next week. Cameron Evans is our organist for this morning.

### New Priest Associate

We are delighted to announce that Fr Daniel Inman is joining us as our new priest associate this month. His first Sunday with us will be the 20<sup>th</sup> January when he will be our preacher. Fr Dan will be working alongside Fr Ryan for a day a week as we begin to launch a new theological programme at All Saints. Alongside this, Fr Dan will continue his work as the Diocesan Director of Ordinands. Fr Dan will be a valuable addition to our clergy team.

### Re-Launch of the Friends

On Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> January we are relaunching the Friends of All Saints with an evening event featuring music from the choir, a presentation of our life and mission at All Saints, some jazz, drinks and canapes. Everyone welcome!

## Candlemas

We are celebrating the Feast of the Presentation on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> February where we gather in the Spirit Chapel for the blessing of candles and procession. We welcome the Venerable Edward Dowler, Archdeacon of Hastings and one-time tutor of the Vicar, as our preacher on that day.

### For our Prayers

Phoebe Bactor, Irene, Lou, Elise, Alex, Tom, Ann Wilson; Martyn, Shirley Leeves, Linda Clarke; Angela Anderson; June and Sara Cuttress; Bob; Lucinda; Stuart, Dilys Baker, Kala, David James, Shiela Dishington. Recently departed: Cecil Patton, Fr Alan Reid (priest).

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Available by appointment with the Vicar.

### Next Week's Readings (the Baptism of the Lord):

Isaiah 43.1-7

Acts 8.14-17

Luke 3.15-17, 21-22

## This Week

### The Daily Office

Morning prayer Mon–Fri, 9:00am

Evening prayer Mon–Thu, 5:00pm

### Weekly Eucharists

Tue 11:30am Said Mass

Wed 9:30am Said Mass (Healing Eucharist 1<sup>st</sup> Wed)

Fri 9:30am Said Mass

Sat 10.00am Said Mass (Stations of the Cross in Lent)

### Sunday

8:00am Said Mass

10:00am Choral Mass

### Monday

9:45am Little Fishes (term time only)

### Tuesday

10:45am Exposition (30 minutes silent prayer)

## Today's Readings

### A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

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.

*Isaiah 60.1-6*

*This passage is a vision of gathering for a people who have only known exile and dispersion. The vision is a triumphal one. Right in the midst of darkness and despair a new light will dawn. For Matthew, this vision is taken to refer to the birth of Jesus, and it is a radical interpretation, for the 'light' the prophet speaks about is now the vulnerable humanity of the tiny child Jesus, born in the obscurity of a peasant village.*

### Psalm

May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles  
render him tribute,  
may the kings of Sheba and Seba  
bring gifts.  
May all kings fall down before him,  
all nations give him service.  
For he delivers the needy when they call,  
the poor and those who have no helper.  
He has pity on the weak and the needy,  
and saves the lives of the needy.  
From oppression and violence he redeems their life;  
and precious is their blood in his sight.  
Long may he live!  
May gold of Sheba be given to him.  
May prayer be made for him continually,  
and blessings invoked for him all day long.

*Psalm 72.10-15*

*This psalm is further inspiration for Matthew in his story of the magi's visit to Jesus. In its original context this is an enthronement psalm, imagining liturgically the royal entrance of the Davidic king, a king whose splendour brings fame at a global level. Many from far away come to pay him tribute. Strange, then, that these foreign visitors from far away would find such royalty not in the palaces and centres of power but in the arms of a teenage mother.*

### **A reading from the letter to the Ephesians**

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.

*Ephesians 3.1-12*

### **The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew**

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.

*Matthew 2.1-12*

*Today's second reading expands the theme of the Gospel – that the revelation of Jesus Christ is not only for the people of Israel, but will also break out into the Gentile world as well. This is a universal promise that cannot be contained by any single tribe of humanity, a promise full to bursting with 'the boundless riches of Christ.' Let us not try to make this promise our own possession, but let us share it with all in hope and joy.*

*This is really a story of two kings, rather than three. The first is King Herod, ruling over a dangerous and volatile kingdom. His rule is characterised by violence, paranoia and political intrigue. The second king is only a child, born outside the centres of power, born in abject poverty in the squalour of the backroom of an inn. Nothing heralds this king, apart from a few subversive texts of an ancient people. The stories of the gospels are stories of the clash of these two sorts of kingdom. I wonder which kingdom we belong to?*