

Opening Hymn 641 v1-3

Hymns are not sung at the 8.30am service

The Collect (prayer for the day)

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**

First Reading *Isaiah 60.1-6*

¹Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. ²For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. ³Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. ⁴Lift 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. ⁵Then 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. ⁶A 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.

Second Reading *Ephesians 3.1-12*

¹I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles - ²for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, ³and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵In 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: ⁶that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. ⁷Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. ⁸Although 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, ⁹and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰so 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. ¹¹This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Hymn 641 v4,5

Gospel *Matthew 2.1-12*

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, ²'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.' ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶'"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.'" ⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then 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.' ⁹When 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. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On 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. ¹²And 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.

We sing hymn 641 v6 as Sunday School leaves

Sermon Canon Janet

The Intercessions are led by

8.30 Janice Wones, 10am Hilda Pouncett

Offertory Hymn 49

During this Hymn the collection is taken or you can text a donation: - STLA02 (that's zero not the letter O) followed by a space then one of £1/£2/£3/£4/£5/£10 to 70070

Hymns during the administration of Holy Communion: 152 (2nd tune), 656

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.**

Recessional Hymn 99

NOTICES

Welcome to all who are worshipping today for School admission purposes. Please pick up an envelope which tells you more.

Welcome to the 2018 wedding couples. After the 10am service 'grab' a coffee and we gather in the chancel (near the altar).

Thank you to those who

- Cleaned or decorated the church. It looks wonderful
- Helped in any way with Christmas Services and keeping the church open.
- Helped with the Community Christmas lunch which went so well.
- Helped with and/or came to the 'Piphly Pudding Party

The January-mid February calendar is available today including information about Lent Groups.

Barbara Finch has a **walking frame** available if you know of anyone who could use it.

Mothers' Union – will meet at the Black Horse on Monday 8 January, 12noon for 12.30pm meal. Everyone welcome: grateful if you could let me know if planning to come so I can book some tables! Rowena

Holy Dusters - Church cleaning will take place on Tues 16 January at 9.30am. All welcome to help clean our wonderful church.

PCC Meeting 18 January 7pm in the Pastoral Centre.

Community Christmas Debrief and thank you supper 7pm Friday 19 January in the Pastoral Centre. Please RSVP to Rowena

Social & Fundraising Meeting 22 January 7pm in the Pastoral Centre.

All the Stations 27 January Now Sold Out!

"100" Club

Renewals are now due, and will be given out in the next few days. If you would like to continue or join this year, please return the forms and money (£12 for the year) to be entered into the January Draw. Sue and Roy Dutton are stepping down this year, after 12 years, but Linda Orchard has kindly stepped in to run the 100 club. To help in the transition, forms and monies can be handed to Linda or Roy/Sue to get this year up and running. This year gone, apart from monthly cash prizes, £261 will be

given to the "Children's Society" and Pastoral Centre upkeep. Many thanks for your continued support over the years. Sue & Roy Dutton

A Petition!

Traffic regularly travels the wrong way along Rectory Road. The local police have been diligent in monitoring this and sending out letters to offenders but it keeps happening. The PCC feels we should raise a petition about this and requesting better signage and a 'stop' line rather than 'give way' at the junction with Church Road. **Please sign the petition today – it is by the welcome desk.**

Weekly events in Pastoral Centre

'Stay and Play' (Parent/carer and baby/toddler group) Mondays in term -time 9.30-11am. Restarts on Monday 15 January.

Gridiron Christmas Coffee Morning Tuesdays 10 – 11.30am. Restarts on Tuesday 9 January.

Pauline Bannister has kindly agreed to take over managing the diary and we will be having the **annual planning meeting** at 11.45am on Tuesday 23 January. Please come along with your ideas.

Dates for the New Year

Ash Wednesday	14 Feb
Easter Sunday	1 April
APCM	Sunday 29 April
Ascension Day	Thursday 10 May

Car Boot dates

3 Feb, 3 March and 14 April

(Bookings for February start 22 January. Bookings for other dates start 2 weeks prior to date)

For your prayers

Those who are ill including: Richard Barber (now back home). Please pray for Steph and all the family too. It was lovely to see Richard in church over Christmas

Those who have died

Frederick George Needler, Terence Michael Jarvis (funeral in church 11.30am Wednesday 10 January),

Prayer requests may be left in the book by the 'Mary Altar.' They are included in Morning and Evening Prayer several times a week.

Baptism & Wedding Enquiries

Please come to the Parish Surgery on
1st & 3rd Wed of month 6-7pm
Pastoral Centre, 173 Church Road, Northfield, B31 2LX

Contact Details

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