

## Worshipping, Pioneering, Caring 'Growing God's Kingdom



This week's news  
for St George's, Tuffley  
with St Margaret's, Whaddon  
5 January 2020

### EPIPHANY

## Overwhelming Joy

### WELCOME

We welcome back Revd Gordon Ripley  
who is leading our St George's service today.

Please take a moment to introduce yourself to our Vicar Bruce or one of our Churchwardens, (Mike or Sylvia at St George's) (Jonathan or Hans at St Margaret's) or the welcomees. Please join us for coffee in the small hall after the 10.30am service. Both churches are fitted with an inductive loop; to hear the service better, those with hearing aids should switch them to the appropriate setting.

#### OUR WORSHIP TODAY:

10.30am	FAMILY PRAISE at ST MARGARET'S	
10.30am	PARISH COMMUNION at St George's	
	Deacon	Derek
	Chalice	Derek & Dot
	Servers	Dot & Sylvia C +
	Intercessions	Paula
	Readers	Joceline & Dot
	JAM	Lorraine & David
	Welcomers	Mark & Margaret
	Coffee	Stella & Glenice
5.00pm	EVENSONG at St Margaret's Fr Gerry from English Martyrs will give the sermon; an historic worship event, not to be missed!	
	Readers	Lorraine or Pete, Derek
	Intercessions	Jonathan

#### PRAYER FOR TODAY:

Loving God, although the presents have been opened,  
And the decorations have gone,  
Today we remember that beyond the stable  
Wise men came from far away with gifts for the Christ Child:  
Help us to be a gift to others today and every day  
As we show your love to all we meet. **AMEN**

#### READINGS AT THE COMMUNION – Year A

Please see service sheet

#### HYMNS at the 10.30am St George's service

552 O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness  
85 Brightest and best of the sons of the morning  
729 What child is this  
202 Give thanks with a grateful heart – HC  
355 Jesus, Name above all names - HC  
370 Joy to the world!

#### 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**

#### IN MEMORIAM:

Ronald Muggleton, William Andrews, Angus Mackellar,  
Patricia Weaver RIP

#### ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH:

Gwen Hall, Ken Jones, Ann Western, Janet Woolams,  
Ray Collins, Amy Redfern, Ena Edwards, Harold Lewis,  
John Hall, Alan Berryman, Evelyn Shuker, Gilbert Holder,  
Sarah MacAlpine, Greta Welch, Ken Walden, Cyril Curtis,  
Ruby Hopson, Donald Underwood.

#### BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

Sue Winter 11<sup>th</sup>.

#### VERSE FOR THE WEEK:

"they were overwhelmed with joy... knelt down and paid  
Jesus homage" (Matthew 2:10,11)

#### THIS WEEK LET US PRAY FOR:

- All who may wish to come and explore the Christian faith through Alpha
- Our new venture in worship, 'Soul Space'
- All who are destitute at home and abroad, for help and care to come

#### SOUL SPACE:

A new relaxed opportunity to worship and to explore our faith a little more deeply – followed by food - for all ages - every month at 3.30pm on the second Sunday of each month Starting 12 January at St George's. Be there! For more information, contact Helen the Tuffley Pioneer.

#### WE'RE ALL INVITED TO ALPHA

For food, chat and talks to make you think. Alpha starts 13th January, 7pm at English Martyrs Church.  
Message 07729 615993  
Or email tuffleypioneer@gmail.com

We've now given a **Tuffley Calendar 2020** to all local schools and community groups, and nearly businesses (well over 100 of them, excluding those who work at home); and they've been warmly welcomed. Thank you to all who've taken part in this project.

Our list of **Reputable local traders** is now available on request from Glenda. Please do add to it for others' benefit.

#### FOODBANK:

Five items in need of: - Long Life Fruit Juice (not chilled), Tinned Potatoes (priority) Tinned custard, tinned Ready Meals, Instant Mash. Many thanks for your help in donating.

**LOOKING AHEAD: JANUARY**

- Mon 13 St George's funeral at 1.30pm for the late Patricia Weaver RIP followed by crematorium at 2.30pm  
 Alpha at English Martyrs at 7.00pm
- Tue 14 Coffee Pot from 9.00am until 11.30am – all welcome  
 Parish Communion at 9.30am  
 Crematorium funeral at 10.30am for the late Angus Mackellar RIP  
 Mothers' Union at 2.30pm – SH  
 Yoga at 7.30pm - SH
- Wed 15 Gardening Club Committee at 7.00pm - SL
- Thu 16 Morning Prayer at 8.15am – V  
 Parish Communion at 10.30am – St Margaret's

**TODAY**

11.45am	Coffee after the 10.30am service
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**MONDAY 6 – Window replacements this week**

	No Aphasia-Now
	No Brownies – MH
	No Rainbows – SH
	No Guides – MH
	Coffee Pot set up – MH

**TUESDAY 7**

9.00am	Coffee Pot until 11.30am – all welcome
9.30am	Parish Communion

**WEDNESDAY 8**

11.30am	Harewood Juniors Assembly (Bruce)
3.30pm	Slimming World also at 5.30pm & 7.30pm
5.30pm	Authorised Leaders – V
7.00pm	St George's Singing Group practice

**THURSDAY 9**

8.15am	Morning Prayer – t.b.c.
10.30am	Parish Communion at St Margaret's
10.30am	Day Centre – SH & SL
11.15am	Open the Book at Harewood with Lorraine, Roger, Sylvia & Dianne <i>The Wise Men's Visit</i>
7.30pm	Exploring the Bible – V

**FRIDAY 10**

12 00pm	St George's funeral for the late William Andrews RIP followed by crematorium at 1.00pm
7.30pm	Entertainers

**SATURDAY 11**

**SUNDAY 12**

	Coffee after the 10.30am service
3.30pm	<b>SOUL SPACE</b> A new worship opportunity at St George's

**SUNDAY 12 – BAPTISM OF CHRIST**

9.00am	PARISH COMMUNION at St Margaret's	
	Readers	Jill or Mike, Jenny
	Psalm	Jenny
	Intercessions	Rosie
10.30am	PARISH COMMUNION at St George's with St George's Singing Group	
	Deacon	Joceline
	Chalice	Joceline & Roger+
	Servers	Roger & Mark+
	Intercessions	Sarah
	Readers	Linda M & Derek
	JAM	Helen & Dianne
	Welcomers	Hilary & Laura
	Coffee	Sylvia & Mac

**Readings: Year A**

- Isaiah 42:1-9;  
 Psalm 29;  
 Acts 10:34-43;  
 Matthew 3:13-end

**CONTACTING US:**

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The Administration office is open on Wednesday, Thursday & Friday mornings from 9.00am – 12.00noon

We are part of the Church in Tuffley, working in partnership with English Martyrs (Roman Catholic) and Grange (Baptist)

V=Vicarage, MH=Main Hall, SH=Small Hall, SL=Softley Lounge, O=Office

## Sunday readings 5 January 2020

### Epiphany: Overwhelming Joy

#### Isaiah 60 The Glorious New Day

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

2 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.

3 Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

4 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.

5 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.

6 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.

*Lord let us shine with your glorious light as we proclaim your praise and glory. Amen*

#### Psalms 72 The Lord is King; let the earth rejoice

Give the king your justice, O God, **and your righteousness to a king's son.**

2 May he judge your people with righteousness, **and your poor with justice.**

3 May the mountains yield prosperity for the people, **and the hills, in righteousness.**

4 May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, **give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.**

5 May he live while the sun endures, **and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.**

6 May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, **like showers that water the earth.**

7 In his days may righteousness flourish, **and peace abound, until the moon is no more.**

8 May he have dominion from sea to sea, **and from the River to the ends of the earth.**

11 May all kings fall down before him, **all nations give him service.**

12 For he delivers the needy when they call, **the poor and those who have no helper.**

13 He has pity on the weak and the needy, **and saves the lives of the needy.**

14 From oppression and violence he redeems their life; **and precious is their blood in his sight.**

15 Long may he live! **May the wealth of the world be given to him.** May prayer be made for him continually, **and blessings invoked for him all day long.**

*May your kingdom come, O God, with deliverance for the needy, with peace for those made righteous, with overflowing blessing for all nations, and with glory honour and praise for Christ, the only Saviour. Amen*

#### Ephesians 3 The Divine Mystery Revealed

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles 2 for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given to me for you, 3 and how the mystery was made known to me

by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, 4 a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. 5 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: 6 that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. 7 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. 8 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, 9 and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; 10 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. 11 This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, 12 in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

*Thank You Lord for revealing your eternal wisdom and purpose to make us part of the body of Christ, our Holy Redeemer. Amen*

#### Matthew 2 The Wise Men Visit

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 2 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.' 3 When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; 4 and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. 5 They 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.'" 7 Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 8 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.' 9 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. 10 When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 11 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. 12 And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

*Lord help us share more and more in the wise men's overwhelming joy as we pay homage to Jesus, our Redeemer. Amen*

#### Going Deeper

It seems fitting that Bethlehem was the birthplace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Bethlehem had a long history being mentioned several times in scripture. It was the burial place of Rachel, Jacob's wife (Gen 35:19). It became the home of Boaz and Ruth (Ruth 4:11). It was King David's home town (1 Samuel 17:12). It was where the ruler of Israel (meaning Jesus) would come from (Micah 5:2). Micah reported

Bethlehem was 'little among the thousands of Judah', yet the greatest man 'born of woman' was born there.

- Do you ever feel small or overwhelmed by people who surround you? Take courage – Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world (1 John 4:4)

According to William Barclay the wise men from the East were given the name 'Magi'. They were Medes and had become a tribe of priests who were skilled in philosophy, medicine and natural science. They believed in astrology and that a man's destiny was settled by the star under which he was born. They believed the stars pursue an unvarying course that represented the order of the universe. If there suddenly appeared some brilliant star then the unvarying order of the universe was broken; this was looked upon as God breaking into His own order and announcing some special thing. The exact star they were following is not known, however in the years 5 to 2 BC there was an unusual astronomical event: Messori, Sirius, the dog star rose at sunrise and shone with an exceptional brilliance. The name Messori means 'the birth of a prince.'

The Medes were familiar with the book of Daniel and it is believed Daniel 9:25 served as the inspiration behind these wise men's search for the King of the Jews.

- Praise the Lord: we don't need to search the heavens for God. Instead, through his written Word (the Bible) we can find him as our Living Word.