

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



Sunday worship and weekly news  
3 January 2021



## EPIPHANY

We welcome  
Rev Canon Andrew Braddock

Joy Complete

Christ had been born! The Magi had covered many miles to come and worship 'The King of the Jews'. Kings are born in palaces, right? Not this one. He was born in humble surrounds, 'A Servant King'.

"Search for Him in Bethlehem" the Magi are told. So, determined to find Him, they go on their way following the star until it rests above the place where the Christ child is.

Can you sense their excitement and joy? They have found the Saviour of the World. They bow down and worship Him. They offer their gifts then set off home, their joy complete.

As we worship Him what gift will we offer..... 'our hearts'?  
Pete Best

### To keep us all safe Please

Use hand sanitiser  
Stay 2 metres apart  
Avoid touching  
Sing with your heart, not your voice

The Church of England "strongly advises that face coverings should be worn by all those attending worship remembering that they are mainly intended to protect other people, not the wearer, from coronavirus COVID19 and that masks are not replacement for physical distancing and regular hand washing"

On Sunday 10 January we welcome  
Rev'd Canon Dr Sandra Millar

### Processional Hymn

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;  
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;  
with gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,  
kneel and adore him, the Lord is his name!

Low at his feet lay thy burden of carefulness,  
high on his heart he will bear it for thee,  
comfort thy sorrows, and answer thy prayerfulness,  
guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.

Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness  
of the poor wealth thou wouldst reckon as thine:

truth in its beauty, and  
love in its tenderness,  
these are the offerings to  
lay on his shrine.

These, though we bring  
them in trembling and  
fearfulness,

he will accept for the name that is dear;  
mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness,  
trust for our trembling and hope for our fear.

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!  
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;  
with gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,  
kneel and adore him, the Lord is his name!



### Prayer for Today

Creator of the heavens,  
who led the Magi by a star  
to worship the Christ-child:  
guide and sustain us,  
that we may find our journey's end  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

### Ephesians 3 - Paul's Ministry to the Gentiles

 <sup>1</sup> This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles <sup>2</sup> for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given to me for you, <sup>3</sup> and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, <sup>4</sup> a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. <sup>5</sup> 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: <sup>6</sup> that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

<sup>7</sup> 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.<sup>8</sup> 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,<sup>9</sup> and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things;<sup>10</sup> 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.<sup>11</sup> This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord,<sup>12</sup> in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

*Prayer: Mighty God, use us, your church, to proclaim who you are and the good news of Jesus to all around us. Amen*

### Psalm 72

10 The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute;  
**the kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring gifts.**  
 11 All kings shall fall down before him;  
**all nations shall do him service.**  
 12 For he shall deliver the poor that cry out,  
**the needy and those who have no helper.**  
 13 He shall have pity on the weak and poor;  
**he shall preserve the lives of the needy.**  
 14 He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence,  
**and dear shall their blood be in his sight.**  
 15 Long may he live;  
 unto him may be given gold from Sheba;  
**may prayer be made for him  
 continually and may they  
 bless him all the day long.**

*Prayer: King of all nations, may you be pleased with our prayer and our blessing today. Amen.*



### Matthew 2 - The Visit of the Wise Men

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

<sup>6</sup>"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."

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared.<sup>8</sup> 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.'<sup>9</sup> 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.<sup>10</sup> When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.<sup>11</sup> 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.<sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.



*Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for providing a way for the magi to safely find the Christ child. May we also light the way for others to find him. Amen.*

### Reflection from Rev Canon Andrew Braddock

A number of years ago now, I had the privilege of being in Romania during the season of Epiphany. This was within a year or so of the fall of Nicolai Ceausescu and his corrupt communist regime. The Bucharest skyline was still dominated by his vain-glorious building projects. More hidden were the state orphanages which, with their appalling conditions, become so notorious.

That Epiphany, the orthodox churches were crowded with young and old alike. The sense of joy and excitement was infectious. During the Ceausescu era, the Romanian Orthodox Church had accommodated itself to the regime. The renaissance of the Church's life after his fall was due to the way the faith was nurtured, not by the institutional church, but in individual hearts and homes.

Herod was not so different to Ceausescu. Like Ceausescu, Herod was a ruthless political operator. He murdered even members of his own family in order to secure his throne, a place he ultimately held as a puppet of the Romans. And Herod knew the value of getting other religious groups on side, building temples for worship of the Roman gods in different parts of Judaea. In other words, Herod was ready to use the power of the state and the influence of religion to secure his own position.

All of this plays itself out in the story that Matthew tells. In Herod, he gives us a chilling portrait of the corruption of religion and politics by the pursuit of personal power. In so doing, he deliberately underlines themes that will emerge in the closing chapters of the gospel. Herod seeks to kill Jesus because he is the king of the Jews: the

charge for which Jesus is crucified is that he is the king of the Jews. Herod relies on his religious advisors as he seeks out his rival: it is an unholy alliance between the religious leaders and the Roman governor Pilate that will lead to Jesus' death.

But there are more positive resonances too. The magi offering their worship to Jesus speaks of God's Son being born for all people: at the end of the Gospel the disciples worship the risen Jesus and are sent out to proclaim good news to all nations.

And at the still heart of Matthew's Epiphany story is the infant Jesus himself - embodying everything that Herod was not - weakness, poverty, vulnerability. Yet it is Jesus, says Matthew, not Herod who is the true king; it is Jesus who embodies - quite literally - the strange power and love of God, a love made perfect in sacrifice and service. Much of the gospel that follows will be spent exploring what kind of king, and what kind of Kingdom, Jesus came to inaugurate. At this point, though, as the magi offer their worship and lay down their strange gifts, Matthew emphasises that it is in a home and in hearts open to the truth, that the Son of God is most readily known and received.

It is as if Matthew is saying, don't put your trust in political systems or religious organisations. These things are needful, but they can also become tarnished. Place your faith in Christ, let him dwell in your hearts, your homes, your daily lives. Let Christ be your strength. As we enter a new year, with all its uncertainties and anxieties, Christ invites us to open our hearts, that he may abide with us and be our strength and guide as we meet the days that lie ahead.

**We declare together our commitment to faith:**

**We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us  
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

*Intercessions from Linda Medwell*

The star that led the Magi to the stable announced to the world that its Saviour was born. Today we live in a world that is still covered in darkness and still needing to make that journey to the stable door. May our lives reflect your light day by day as we seek to serve where you have placed us that we might be the means through which others can encounter Jesus Christ.

Lord in your mercy...

Lord we pray for our combined Churches here in Tuffley at this time of upheaval as we seek to appoint a new incumbent we pray for your wisdom and guidance during this vacancy.

We pray for our world and especially for the leaders of our nations responsible for making decisions about the new coronavirus. Be with all those making decisions that affect the lives and futures of our families, communities and countries and the wider world. We pray that they can communicate clearly truthfully and calmly with each other and with the public and that the messages are received and heeded. May truth and empathy be the touchstones of people setting policies for our protection.

We pray for those parts of our world where other Natural disasters are occurring.

For all those in our own country and other countries experiencing the misery of flooding at this time and for the people of Croatia following the recent earthquake and for the emergency services in their efforts to help them. Lord in your mercy...

Lord Jesus you meet us in our suffering and hear the cries of those in need. We pray for all who are ill and troubled in body mind or spirit may they know your peace, comfort and courage. Surround them with your tenderness and support them in your everlasting arms. We pray for all our NHS workers as once again they are struggling to cope with this present virus. Give them strength and compassion and be with them when they are exhausted and dispirited.

Be with all those who cannot join with us in our worship today because they are in poor health assure them of your prayers and your tender mercy. Lord in your mercy...

We pray for all today who are grieving the loss of a loved one console them Lord as they grieve and give them your strength remind them that in the brokenness that you are with them. Carry them through this present darkness and heartache we ask this in your name Lord in your mercy...



Merciful father, accept these prayers for the sake of your son our Saviour Jesus Christ.

### Offertory Hymn

**We three kings of Orient are;**

bearing gifts we traverse afar  
field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
following yonder star



*O star of wonder, star of night,  
star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still  
proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light.*

Born a king on Bethlehem plain,  
gold I bring, to crown him again-  
King for ever, ceasing never,  
over us all to reign

Frankincense to offer have I;  
incense owns a deity nigh:  
prayer and praising, all men raising,  
worship him, God most high

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume  
breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
sealed in the stone-cold tomb

Glorious now, behold him arise,  
King and God, and sacrifice!  
heaven sings alleluia,  
alleluia the earth replies

### Preparing to receive Holy Communion

After the priest says to us all: "the body and blood of Christ keep you in eternal life", we all respond **Amen**  
A steward will guide you forward.

We each receive a wafer, the priest alone receives the wine on behalf of us all.

We receive communion with arms outstretched, and in silence.

Please maintain a 2 metre distance at all times.

### Final Hymn

**Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,**

dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid;  
star of the east, the horizon adorning,  
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Cold on his cradle the dew-drops are  
shining;  
low lies his head with the beasts of the  
stall;  
angels adore him in slumber reclining,  
Maker and Monarch and  
Saviour of all.



Say, shall we yield him, in costly devotion,  
odours of Edom, and offerings divine,  
gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,  
myrrh from the forest, or gold from the mine?

Vainly we offer each ample oblation,  
vainly with gifts would his favour secure:  
richer by far is the heart's adoration,  
dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,  
dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid;  
star of the east, the horizon adorning,  
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

**Please leave the meeting immediately after the priest and do not linger outside.**

### WHAT TO DO for THIS WEEK:

❖ Keep bringing items for the **Foodbank**; **new collection point is the Church Centre hallway on a Sunday or Friday morning. Toiletries now accepted at the foodbank.**

Thank you!

### Keep picking up the phone!

People are finding phone calls with friends invaluable to combat loneliness. Thank you everyone; please keep up the good work!



### CONTACTING US:

**Vicar:** Vacancy (please pray for new appointment)

**Reader:** Jonathan MacKechnie-Jarvis 01452 502174

**Pioneer:** Helen McGeoch 07729 615993

Email: [tuffleypioneer@gmail.com](mailto:tuffleypioneer@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.glos-stg-stm.org.uk](http://www.glos-stg-stm.org.uk)

**Facebook:** St. George's, Tuffley and St Margaret's Whaddon

**Administrator:** Glenda Stevens 01452 307456

Email: [stgeorgeschurch1@gmail.com](mailto:stgeorgeschurch1@gmail.com)

The Administration office is open on Friday mornings from 9.00am until midday until further notice. Please contact the Church Administrator by email or leave a message on the office telephone and our Administrator will get back to you.

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



## News 3 – 10 January

### In Memoriam:

Brian Woodruff RIP

### We pray for all who are ill or in need at this time mentioning by name:

Margaret, Angela, Susan, Mike and Laura, Lynne, Sarah, Pat, Sarah M, Christine, June, Daphne, Darren and family, Hedley and Rosemary, Christopher, David.

### Anniversaries of death:

Edna Kemp, Charles Townsend, Pat Hughes, Doug Nash, Denis Hill, Joyce Meech, Gloria McCoppin, Gladys Bullard, Sharon Mitchell, Richard Leighton, Gwen Hall, Ken Jones, Joyce Evans, Ann Western, Janet Woolams, Ray Collins, Amy Redfern, Ena Edwards, Harold Lewis, John Hall, Alan Berryman, Evelyn Shuker, Gilbert Holder.

### Birthdays and Anniversaries:

Aimee Brown 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### DIARY DATES – 3 -10 January

Sun 3	10.30am	St G's	Parish Communion <b>Crucifer:</b> - David <b>Readers:</b> - Dot/Derek <b>Intercessions:</b> - Linda
	10.30am	St M's	Family Praise
	5.00pm	St M's	Evensong
Tue 5	4.00pm	Z	Vacancy Steering Grp
Wed 6	8.15am	Z	Morning Prayer
	10.00am	Z	Pioneers
	3.30pm	MH	Slimming World also at 5.30pm
Thu 7	10.30am	St M's	Parish Communion
	7.30pm	tbc	Railway Society
Sun 10	9.00am	St M's	Parish Communion
Sun 10	10.30am	St G's	Parish Communion <b>Crucifer:</b> - Sylvia C <b>Readers:</b> - Susan/David <b>Intercessions:</b> - Helen

St G's = St George's St M's = St Margaret's

MH = Main Hall, Z = Zoom

### Free Food Parcels

St George's Church, Grange Road, is now open for Food Parcel collections every Tuesday from 10.00am until 12.00noon. There are 15 items per parcel, including tinned soup, pasta or rice, tea bags, cereal and other tinned or dry goods. The parcel is FREE OF CHARGE but to help with sustainability, there will be a donation basket for those who would like to give a suggested donation of £3. Please be aware of social distancing guidelines.

### Tree Planting

Our big day for planting is 16<sup>th</sup> January meeting at 10 am at 34 Randwick Road. We are unsure at the moment whether this will actually go ahead. Please look out for updates.

### Desert Island Hymns

What are your 3 favourite hymns?

Over the next few months, we are seeking to include 'favourite hymns' selected by members of the congregation in our services. To make sure yours are included, pass your 3 choices to Jonathan, Helen, Linda M, Lorraine or Pete as soon as possible.

**Artlift** are offering a free, online, arts course starting 22 February 2021 for those:

- recently diagnosed with cancer
- in treatment for cancer
- post cancer treatment

and also, for those with a terminal diagnosis but not in palliative care.

As a way to reduce barriers to participation people can now self-refer and we then seek endorsement from their GP's/ Health Workers.

It's a 10 week online course, 22 February to 3 May 2021, no interest or experience in art is necessary.

It's proven to have significant positive impacts on participants' well-being.

If you live in Gloucestershire & you're going through or recovering from cancer treatment, give yourself a lift & contact them on 03000 200102

Or email them at [referrals@artlift.org](mailto:referrals@artlift.org)

### New Directory and Cards for Contact

As our physical contact restrictions do not show any sign of easing up soon and we are becoming more isolated in our homes, we decided we need to find other ways of staying in touch.

We all love getting something positive dropping through our letter boxes. How lovely would it be to hear from our friends from church? We just need a few details to make that possible.

A new, church members only, directory will be set up for the use of our church members, to enable more contact. Cards with different prints will be available to encourage folks to write the simplest greeting without any pressure for a full letter.

Helen will be in touch to gain your permission for your details to be shared within the directory, offer cards and explain how to get involved.

**Our beautiful Carol Service**, recorded at St Margaret's, is still available to watch – follow the link on our church website: <http://www.glos-stg-stm.org.uk/>



### UP AND COMING MEETINGS

4.00pm Tuesday 5 January – Vacancy Steering Group

4.00pm Tuesday 19 January – Vacancy Steering Group

4.00pm Tuesday 2 February – Vacancy Steering Group

4.00pm Tuesday 16 February – Vacancy Steering Group

7.00pm Tuesday 16 February – Joint PCC

4.00pm Tuesday 23 February – Vacancy Steering Group