



St Anne with Holy Trinity, Brondesbury

Confidently sharing the love of Christ

Epiphany Sunday **7th January 2024**

Welcome to St Anne's today—it is great to have you with us. St Anne's is the local Church of England parish church and we are a very diverse group of people. We hope that you will feel welcome in our worship today. If you are new, please do say hello—we would love to get to know you. If you are unsure where to find something, or about what is going on, please do ask. We will be happy to help.

Our worship style is quite formal, but we hope relaxed—as we come to worship God in our midst.

All the words for the service will be on the screens at the front however, if you would prefer to have a printed copy in your hands, there are hymn books and service sheets at the back.



Today we celebrate the Feast of Epiphany—when the three Magi bring their gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh and present them to the Christ Child. Gold—which has been purified in the fire and so reminds us to be pure in our living. Frankincense—incense—a sign of our prayers rising daily unto God. Myrrh—an ointment to bring healing or to anoint those who are dying—a reminder of the healing God offers to each of us.

*Please stand as the bell is rung as we sing our opening
Hymn **89 – Brightest and Best***

We meet in the name of God who is (+) Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

The President will introduce the service

We make our confession for those things which separate us from God and from one another.

The grace of God has dawned upon the world through our Saviour Jesus Christ, who sacrificed himself for us to purify a people as his own. Let us confess our sins. *Silence is kept*

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us, forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you
in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.**

We sing together.

**Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy,
Christ have mercy, Christ have mercy,
Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.**

We are reminded of God's forgiveness.

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, (+) pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Confident in God's forgiveness we sing the Gloria during which 3 people carry the Kings for the front of the church.

**Refrain: Glory to God, Glory to God,
Glory to God in the highest.**

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to His people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship You we give You thanks,
we praise You for your glory. Refrain:**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God You take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
You are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our
prayer. Refrain:**

**For You alone are the Holy One,
You alone are the Lord,
You alone are the most high
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
In the glory of God the Father. Refrain.**

The Magi/ Kings are placed in the crib as we say

First King is placed:

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe: to you be praise and glory for ever. As gold in the furnace is tried and purified seven times in the fire, so purify our hearts and minds that we may be a royal priesthood acceptable in the service of your kingdom.

Blessed be God for ever.

Second King is placed:

At the offering of incense Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe: to you be praise and glory for ever. As our prayer rises up before you as incense, so may we be presented before you with penitent hearts and uplifted hands to offer ourselves in your priestly service.

Blessed be God for ever.

Third King is placed:

At the offering of myrrh Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe: to you be praise and glory for ever. As you give medicine to heal our sickness and the leaves of the tree of life for the healing of the nations, so anoint us with your healing power that we may be the first-fruits of your new creation.

Blessed be God for ever.

The Priest introduces a period of silent prayer before the 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.

Amen.

Liturgy of the Word (please sit as the young people leave us for their lessons. We hear a reading from the Old Testament.

Isaiah 60:1-6 commences with two imperatives, “arise” and “shine,” directed to the City of Zion (see also the feminine singular form that corresponds with Jerusalem who typically is portrayed in female terms as Daughter/Mother Zion). These verbs indicate a renewed sense of agency after a long period of inactivity, which is intrinsically connected to the good news that “your light,” equated to the glory of God (kabod), finally will come. The presence of God will be like a bright shining light, breaking into the darkness, appearing in a context in which people, for a very long time, profoundly experienced God’s absence.

A reading from the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 60: 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.

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

We hear a reading from the New Testament.

At Epiphany, the church celebrates the wonder of God becoming manifest in the person of Jesus Christ, who lived on earth among us. This gift of God-in-the-flesh came to both Jews and Gentiles, as the lectionary texts for Epiphany from Isaiah 60 and Matthew 2 suggest. Written after Jesus' death and resurrection, Ephesians 3:1-12 boldly proclaims that God's gift of Christ is still to be manifest to the world: no longer in the physical person of Jesus Christ, but in the church—Christ's own body—through the unity of its diverse members.

A reading from the letter to the Ephesians
(Ephesians 3: 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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*We sing our **Gradual Hymn 490 – love came down at Christmas** during which we stand for the Gospel procession.*

Herod the Great was well-known in the ancient world for both his paranoia and his brutality. He had one of his wives and several of his sons murdered because he thought they were plotting against him. Matthew's depiction of Herod fits very well with this picture of a paranoid and brutal despot. According to Matthew, when Herod hears of a baby born to be king of the Jews, he is troubled and begins plotting to do away with him. And it is not surprising that when Herod is troubled, all Jerusalem is troubled with him. There was no telling what a jealous, ruthless tyrant might do. As it turns out, he will have no compunction about slaughtering all the infant boys in Bethlehem. For Herod, and for all who plot evil in dark corners, the bright star of Jesus' birth is not good news. It illuminates a world much larger than Herod imagined, a world in which he is not in control. (with thanks to Elisabeth Johnson Professor, Lutheran Institute of Theology for her insights)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew
Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

(Matthew 2:1-12)

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 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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

We sit to listen to the sermon. After the sermon silence is kept.

We stand to affirm our 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.**

*We sit as we prayer for the Church, the World and for this community.
A member of the congregation will lead these*

After the biddings we pray
Lord in your mercy
Hear our prayer

Rest Eternal Grant unto them O Lord
And let light perpetual shine upon them
May they rest in peace
And rise in glory

At the conclusion of the prayers
Merciful Father,
**accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour
Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Liturgy of the Sacrament (please stand)

Christ is our peace. If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation. The old has passed away: behold, everything has become new.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

We share the peace with those around us in a way we are comfortable until the offertory Hymn is announced.

We sing Hymn 805 – We three kings during which a collection is taken.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation: through your goodness we have this bread to set before you, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life.
Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation: through your goodness we have this wine to set before you, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become for us the cup of salvation.

Blessed be God for ever.

The Lord be with you,

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

The preface continues until we sing.

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.

After the Consecration :

Great is the mystery of faith

Christ has died: Christ is risen:

Christ will come again

At the end of the Eucharistic Prayer we sing **Amen.**

We join in the prayer that Jesus taught his friends to say in our preferred version and language.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come;
thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us this day our daily bread.

**And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

We sing the Agnus Dei.

**Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us**

**Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us**

**Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world,
grant us peace.**

The Elevation

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord (+) I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

*We receive communion. All who would normally receive are welcome to, and you may choose if you are ready to receive the chalice. We receive God's grace in one kind or two. **(Please do not intinct (dip)).** You may also like to come forward for a blessing; and you may wish to light a candle. During communion we listen to Michael Adamis: *Magi, Kings of Persia - Christmas With Cappella Romana**

At the end of communion, the priest will lead us in a period of silence, and then a short 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.**

We listen to notices about our community life.

We receive God's blessing for the week ahead.

The Lord be with you

And also with you

Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with peace and goodwill and make you partakers of the divine nature; and the blessing of God almighty, the (+) Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

Go in the peace of Christ
Thanks be to God

*We join in our **final hymn 705 – The first Nowell** during which the clergy depart.*

You are invited to join us for refreshments downstairs.

Our Community Life Together and Dates for your Diary

A Huge Thank you!!

A huge thank you to everyone for all your help in making a Advent and Christmas celebrations such a success. For everyone who arranged and cleaned, served food and drink, helped in services, welcomed our guests, made donations to our charities and those who encouraged us. It really was team effort and we should be very proud of what we achieved. Thank you!

And Thank you...

Mo Christine would like to wish you a happy and safe New Year. May 2024 will bring you hope. I would like to thank you too for the lovely cards, gifts and wishes.

Laurence's Larder

You can leave your donations, tinned fish or any non-perishable food in the basket at the top of the stairs. You can see updates on this work at www.laurenceslarder.org.uk

Finance—St Anne's

Our current monthly target for congregational giving is **£2180**. In November we raised £1869. Thank you to everyone for your generosity!

We are also going contactless! From Christmas, visitors to St Anne's, or even regulars will be able to donate using a contactless

point at the back of church. For regular members, a Standing Order or Envelope is best as it helps us plan.

The funds we raise support the Mission work of St Anne's, from ensuring worship takes place to provision of Playgroup, tea and chat, bereavement support and care of the local community. We receive no funds external to support what we do, we need to raise all we need to continue our work in Queen's Park and beyond.



For our prayers— Peter, Olawale, Eunice, Marco, Irene, Patsy, Jean, Joyce, Guy and Renate, AnneMarie and Marion, Emma, Peter and Rhona, Florret, John and Josephine, Harriet, May, Mavis, Kay, Comfort, Jean, Pearl, Peter, Ruth, John and Cecilia. We remember those who have died recently including Gordon and those whose anniversary of death falls at this time Sidney Hinks, Don Hawkes, Bob Lewis and Harold Hamilton.

Services during the week 7th January 2024

Tuesday	8.30am Morning Prayer in Chapel and on Zoom
Thursday	8.30am Morning Prayer in Chapel
Friday	8.30am Morning Prayer in Chapel 9.30am My Move Playgroup 2pm Tea and Chat
Sunday 14th <i>2nd of</i> <i>Epiphany</i>	9 am Morning Prayer in Chapel and Zoom 10am Sung Mass with Sunday School

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