

# St Anne with Holy Trinity, Brondesbury

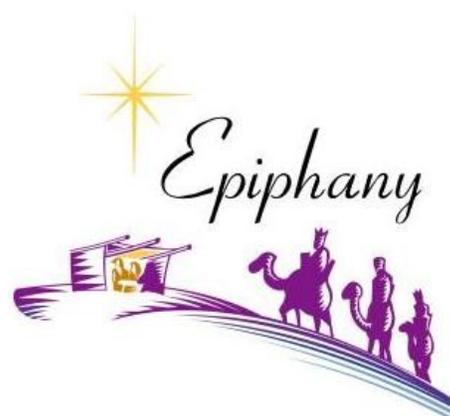
*Confidently sharing the love of Christ*

## **Readings and Notice Sheet** **Sunday 3rd January 2021** **Epiphany**

**As we continue in Tier 4, and also with the increasing infection rate in Brent we need be very careful coming physically to church. This means many of us will be worshipping at home. There are lots of options, but this service sheet provides prayers and readings for Sunday, alone with notices for the coming week.**

### ***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.**



### ***Reading from the Prophet Isaiah***

*The liturgical season that Isaiah 60 inaugurates is a season of revelation. Epiphany, in the early church, was not about the arrival of the magi but the revelation of Jesus Christ. The prophet of this part of Isaiah fills his page with stirring, glorious promises. He combines imperatives with affirmations. He exhorts the readers to “arise, shine.” These words almost certainly came to dispirited readers. The problems of returning from the Babylonian exile had worn them down. They felt insignificant against the world powers. After Christmas, in the new year, the church arises to its mission and looks out at the world to see where God has been at work among the nations. However strong the darkness, we take heart. However powerful the rest of the world seems, God has chosen to work through the church. When we recognize the need of the world, the glory of God, we can arise out of any stupor and engage in our ministry.*

### **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.**

### ***Our Second reading from the letter to the Ephesians***

*In this reading God becomes human through the birth of Christ—God both human and divine. The revelation of this unity prepared the way for another, for the Gentiles to be joined with God's people Israel. It is the revelation of this second mystery that Paul proclaims in Ephesians 3.*

### **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.**

***The Gospel is today taken from Matthew***

*The magi brought gifts of immense value, what was precious to themselves. If the Christ child is the one we love, can we give Jesus, and those who are marginalized who bear his image, not our leftovers but what is especially valuable to us? They brought gifts of immense value; they brought what was precious to themselves. They parted with what they adored to adore the Lord. We are not so wise in our giving. What do we give one another? What do we give to God?*

*Maybe the creates challenge of this passage is the tantalizing ending: “They left for their own country by another road” (verse 12). Frightened by Herod? Of course they did. But there is some mystery here—that once you have met the Christ child, you do not keep plodding along the same old pathways. It is a new day, a new road. T.S. Eliot ended his poem about the magi with “We returned to our places ... but no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation, with an alien people clutching their gods.” Jesus does not make my life easier or more comfortable. The closer we are to Jesus, the more we sense our dis-ease in this place. (Exert written by James Howell, Senior Pastor Myers Park United Methodist Church Charlotte, N.C.)*

**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 our Lord  
**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

***Take some time to reflect on the readings set for today—what might they be saying to you? What might they be saying to us as a community?***

### **Intercessions**

Today the wise men knelt before our Saviour. Let us also kneel to worship him with great joy, and to make our prayer to his heavenly Father. Creator, the Magi came from the east to worship your Son: grant to Christians everywhere a true spirit of adoration.

*(allow moment of silence)*

Lord, in your mercy

**hear our prayer.**

Creator, your Son is the King of kings and Lord of lords: grant an abundance of peace to your world. We pray for places of conflict and injustice at this time – that your peace might be a reality. We pray for those struggling this the pandemic as well as disasters this Christmas Season, bring aide to all in need.

*(allow moment of silence)*

Lord, in your mercy

**hear our prayer.**

Father, the Holy Family shared the life of the people of Nazareth: protect in your mercy our neighbours and families, together with the whole community of which we are part. We pray for all who are isolated and alone at this time, for those how mourn, for those who are fearful. We pray for all frontline workers, for those who are feel stressed by the current restrictions, and for our ability to care for each other.

*(allow moment of silence)*

Lord, in your mercy

**hear our prayer.**

Holy God , the wise men presented to your Son gold, incense and myrrh: accept the gifts we bring, and the offering of our hearts at the beginning of this new year.

*(allow moment of silence)*

Lord, in your mercy

**hear our prayer.**

Father, your Son was rich, yet for our sakes he became poor: show your love for the poor and powerless, and strengthen all who are on our hearts and minds at this time, amongst them Peter, Pearl, Yvonne, Rute, Patience, Ron, Evelyn, Linda, John, Josephine, John, Cecilia and Ruth....

*(allow moment of silence)*

Lord, in your mercy

**hear our prayer.**

Creator, you are the King of heaven, the hope of all who trust in you: give to Mifley, Sidney Hinks, Don Hawkes, Bob Lewis and Harold Hamilton. and all the faithful departed the wonders of your salvation. Rest Eternal, Grant unto them O Lord

**And may light perpetual shine upon them.**

May they rest in peace

**And rise in Glory**

Rejoicing in the fellowship of wise men, shepherds and angels, and of the Blessed Mary and Joseph, we commend ourselves and all Christian people to your unfailing love as in a moment of stillness we offer our own prayers to God.....as we pray in the words you taught us:

**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**

## Notices



### A Huge Thank you

Thank you to everyone who has assisted during Advent and Christmas from the little things, to the big things. The help we needed this year on many occasions was quite different, and most of it unseen—so thank you! Thank you for your generosity and care. Thank you too for all who contributed to our charities and support others in

their streets and networks with a hot meal on Christmas Day!!! You are amazing.

A personal Thank you from me (Mother Christine) too for the kind cards and gifts I was overwhelmed by your kindness, both over Christmas and while I was unwell.

### Tier Four changes

As you know we are now living under Tier Four restrictions This means we must not socialise with anybody outside of our household or support bubble in any indoor setting, whether at home or in a public place. **It is vital that we take care to ensure our own and each others safety. Please do not come to church if you are unwell or you feel that you are at risk. There are lots of alternatives available, and we need to limit in person contact.**

Despite this places of worship are allowed to remain open provided that they limit mixing of households AND we follow Covid Safety Guidance. We must:

- wear a mask at all times inside;
- sanitise or wash you hands as you enter;
- enter separately;
- not mingle while in church but rather move straight to our seat;
- keep our distance when receiving communion
- Enter and leave carefully with a 2 meter gap between each person or household.
- Leave the premises and grounds immediately after the service and not congregate outside the church
- While there is some heating, windows need to be open for ventilation so please wear warm clothes!
- Sign in on the Track and Trace Ap and sign- sheet

Once outside please keep a safe distance. We are not allowed congregational singing, you might hum along under your mask.

Even if you do not agree with the guidance PLEASE follow it so that we can respect each other and do the best we can for the whole of our community. *Please follow the guidance of the stewards. If you are using the NHS Track and Trace App—please use the code adjacent. We also ask that you ‘sign in’ as you enter the building for church. Please do not come to church if you have any symptoms.*

***St Anne’s and St Andrew’s will remain closed to groups for at least the next 10 days, and we will follow advise as it is received. The Nursery may be open and is following the Early Years Guidance. All weekday worship will take place on Zoom until at least the 18th January.***

### **News from Laurence’s Larder and Sufra**

As many of you know Laurence’s Larder will remain open providing a ‘takeaway’ hot meal every Thursday. If you would like to help out, please contact them first as they have to limit the number of volunteers at present to ensure they can work within the parameters of the guidance. Please see their revamped website : <https://www.laurenceslarder.org.uk/> **They have also now launched their Christmas Appeal—please see their website!**

**We are also sharing our food donations with Sufra.** You can read all about what they are doing during this period on their website <https://www.sufra-nwlondon.org.uk/> They are also looking for extra volunteer drivers.

Jane Cox shared the good experience she has had being part of the NHS Volunteer Responder scheme. This allows you to volunteer from home. They really need more! See <https://nhsvolunteerresponders.org.uk/> **We have some wonderful volunteers from St Anne’s supporting both Laurence’s Larder and Sufra.**

### **Daily Hope 24hour phonenumber**

Daily Hope offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line. The line – which is available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044.**



***For our prayers*** Peter, Pearl, Yvonne, Rute, Patience, Ron, Evelyn, Linda, John, Josephine, John, Cecilia and Ruth and for those who have died recently including Mifley; and those whose anniversary of death falls at this time including Sidney Hinks, Don Hawkes, Bob Lewis and Harold Hamilton.

**Services this coming week starting**  
**3rd January 2021**

**Sunday 3rd January 2021—Epiphany**

**8.30am—Morning Prayer in Chapel and on Zoom**

**9am—Thought for the Day on Facebook**

**9.30am— Eucharist**

**5pm Zoom Service for the day**

**Monday 4th—2pm Christian Contemplation on Zoom**

**Tuesday 5th—8.30am Morning Prayer on Zoom**

**Thursday 7th— 8.30am Morning Prayer on Zoom**

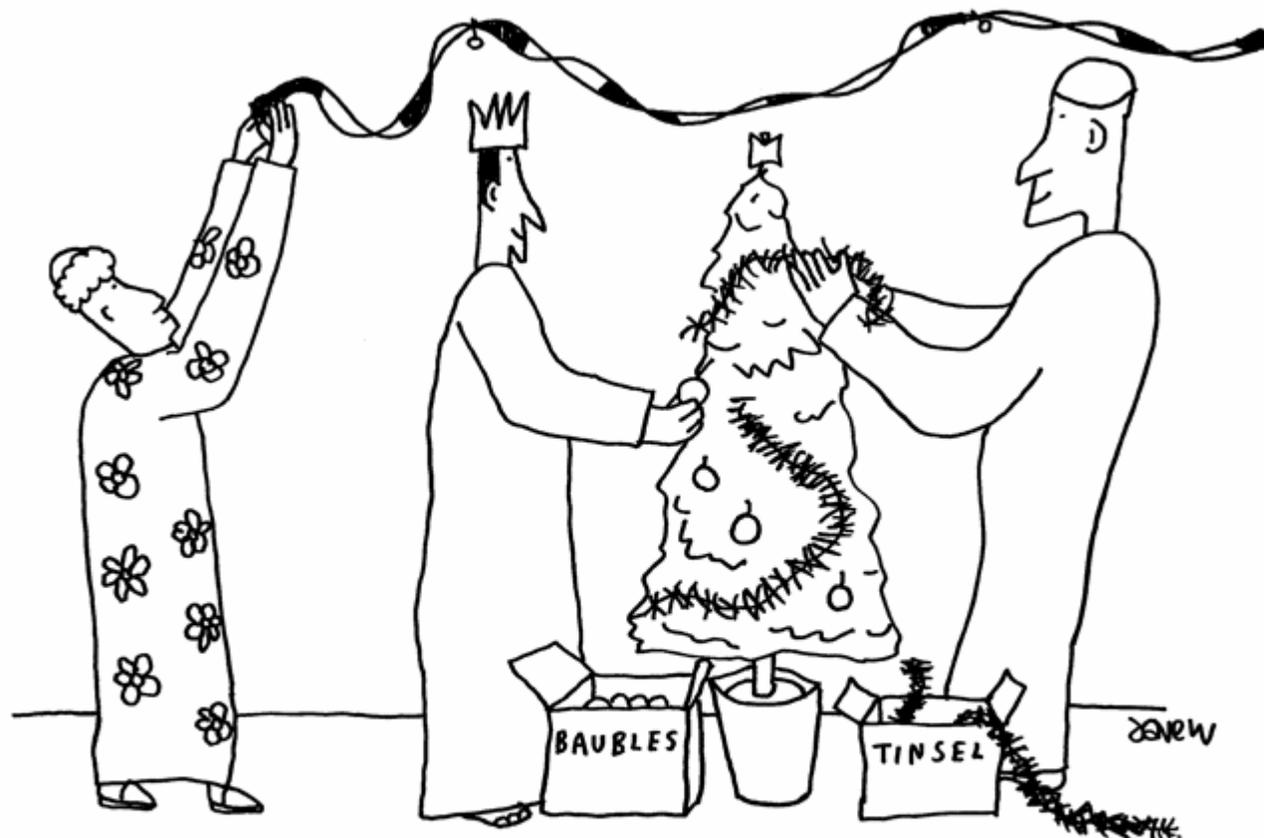
**Sunday 10th January—Baptism of Jesus**

**8.30am—Morning Prayer in Chapel and on Zoom**

**9am—Thought for the Day on Facebook**

**9.30am— Eucharist**

**5pm Zoom Service for the day**



**EPIPHANY: THE WISE MEN /  
TAKING DOWN THE CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS**