

## Gospel

### Matthew 2: 1-12

### Wise Men Visit Jesus

Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, <sup>2</sup>“Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him.”

<sup>3</sup> King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem. <sup>4</sup> He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law and asked, “Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?”

<sup>5</sup> “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they said, “for this is what the prophet wrote:

<sup>6</sup> ‘And you, O Bethlehem in the land of Judah, are not least among the ruling cities of Judah, for a ruler will come from you who will be the shepherd for my people Israel.’”



<sup>7</sup> Then Herod called for a private meeting with the wise men, and he learned from them the time when the star first appeared. <sup>8</sup> Then he told them, “Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship him, too!”

<sup>9</sup> After this interview the wise men went their way. And the star they had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! <sup>11</sup> They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

<sup>12</sup> When it was time to leave, they returned to their own country by another route, for God had warned them in a dream not to return to Herod.

**NLT**



Christian Love in Action

**7th January 2018**

**Epiphany**

**Welcome to Worship**

9.30am

**Holy Communion**, St Peter's, Thornbury

11.00am

**Holy Communion**, St Mary's, Black Torrington



### Readings

Isaiah 60: 1-6

Ephesians 3: 1-12

Matthew 2: 1-12

### Collect

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.  
Amen

“Because of Christ and our faith in him,  
we can now come boldly and confidently into God's presence.”

*Ephesians 2:12*

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**PLEASE PRAY FOR:**



**The Mission Community:** Revd Preb Kathy Roberts and the Black Torrington Benefice; Revd Richard Freeman and Bulkworthy Church

**Black Torrington Electoral Roll:** Anne Gray, Joyce Hursey, Kate Inniss, Mark and Snezy Floyer, Margaret Grabham, Sheila Grabham, Brian and Carole Harrington

**Our Benefice Primary Schools** as they return at the beginning of the Spring term

**Those who are ill:** Joan Thomas, Avis Radford, Bill Smithers

**Those who are mourning the loss of loved ones;** especially the families and friends of Dorothy Chandler and Maurice Thomas, and for the family of Brian Down as he is laid to rest on Saturday

**Rest in Peace:** Maurice Thomas; Dorothy Chandler

**JANUARY DIARY**

Mon 8th	8.00am	<b>Morning Prayer</b> , St Mary's, Black Torrington
Tues 9th	8.00am	<b>Prayer Breakfast</b> , The Rectory, Black Torrington
Wed 10th	8.00am	<b>Morning Prayer</b> , St Mary's Black Torrington
Thurs 11th	8.15am	<b>Morning and Silent Prayer</b> , St Mary's, Black Torrington
	1.00pm	<b>Lunch Club</b> , Village Hall, Black Torrington
Sat 13th	10.00am	<b>Benefice Saturday Church</b> ; followed by
	11.15am	<b>Iona Holy Communion</b> , Village Hall, Bradford
	7.00pm	<b>Compline</b> , St Mary's, Black Torrington
Sun 14th	9.30am	<b>Holy Communion</b> , All Saints', Bradford
	11.00am	<b>Family Holy Communion</b> , St Mary's, Black Torrington

*To those who mourn, peace ...*

*To the despairing, hope...*

*And to the broken hearted, consolation.*

**The Global Catholic Network**

**BENEFICE SATURDAY CHURCH**

**Plough Sunday**

10.00 am Saturday 13th January  
Bradford Village Hall



Songs, stories, prayers, crafts, games and refreshments.  
Followed by a short, informal service of Holy Communion

Everybody - of any age - welcome!

**Introduction to the Readings**

**Isaiah 60:1-6.** The unknown prophet of the Babylonian exile whose poetry was included in Isaiah 40-66 actually expressed this promise of Jerusalem reconstructed after the exiles returned home. He envisioned it as the dawning of a new day and a glorious new beginning which would attract international attention.

**Ephesians 3:1-12.** While emphasizing that Paul's mission was primarily to the Gentiles, this passage defines God's purpose in bringing both Jews and Gentiles into an intimate relationship with God and each other through Jesus Christ

**Matthew 2:1-12.** The magi from afar were astrologers who studied the stars for meaningful signs of significant events. Their search for a new-born king of the Jews had great meaning for both Herod, then ruling Israel, and for the world at large. The gifts the magi offered were intended as gifts fit only for a king.

*John Shearman*

**To Think About**

We must wait and work with hope  
inside the darkness -

while never doubting the light  
that God always is -

and that we are too (Matthew 5:14)

That is the narrow birth canal of God into the world -  
Through the darkness and into an ever-greater light

*Richard Rohr*



**Mission Community Prayer**

Loving God, receive our love, refresh our vision, renew our lives, so that together our Mission Community may witness to the truth of your gospel, build up our fellowship and deepen our commitment to grow in prayer.

May our lives of discipleship draw others to follow Jesus Christ. Lead us into creative ways to serve the people of Devon with joy, to the glory of your name. Amen

