

Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

Visitors from the East

2 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, ²“Where is the new-born king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him.”

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

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

⁶‘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.’”

⁷Then Herod called for a private meeting with the wise men, and he learned from them the time when the star first appeared. ⁸Then 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!”

⁹After 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. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! ¹¹They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

¹²When 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.



Christian Love in Action

6th January 2019

Epiphany

Welcome to Worship

10.30 am Epiphany Holy Communion, All Saints', Bradford



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

“They were filled with joy. They bowed down and worshipped him.”

Matthew 2: 10b-11a

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PLEASE PRAY FOR:



The Mission Community: Revd Jane Lucas and the Ashwater Benefice; Revd Richard Freeman and Putford Church

Highampton Electoral Roll: Margaret Baker , Gill Bowden, Wendy Rose, Margaret Bowden, Joan Thomas

Those who are ill: David Arney, Iona Barrance, Margaret Grabham, Joan Thomas and those who love and care for them

Highampton Primary School, head teacher Angela Restall and all staff and children

Burdon Grange: for all who live and work there, and their families and friends

January Diary

- Tues 8th 10.00 am **Thornbury PCC**, at the home of Sarah Lawes
- Thur 10th 1.00 pm **Lunch Club**, Village Hall, Black Torrington
- Sat 12th 10.00 am **Benefice Saturday Church**, followed by
11.15 am **Iona Holy Communion**, Village Hall, Bradford
- Sun 13th 10.30 am **Holy Communion, St Mary's**, Black Torrington
3.30 pm **Informal Service**, Holy Cross, Highampton

To Think About the Way to the Kingdom of God

This is our primary task here: to reinvigorate the conversation about the ways and means of the kingdom of God, which will cascade over the walls of our Christian institutions to inform both Christians and non-Christians alike as to the beneficial effects and wonder-working power of God's love and goodness in every area of human existence.

Yes, the kingdom of God is to be formed "within you," but it should never be understood as limited to or confined by the human heart. The kingdom of God is as big as the range of God's omnipotent will. Nothing can stop it. Nothing will. Not even the very gates of hell itself.

From [*The Divine Conspiracy Continued: Fulfilling God's Kingdom on Earth.*](#)
By Dallas Willard and Gary Black Jr.

Introduction to the Readings

Isaiah 60:1-6. This passage has lent itself to popular artistic portrayals of the story of the magi following the star to Bethlehem. The prophet of the Babylonian exile whose poetry and that of some of his disciples 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 and for the world at large. The gifts the magi offered were intended as gifts fit only for a king. As the one true Messiah, Jesus is indeed sovereign over the hearts and lives of all people amid the social, political and religious realities of all nations. Although the story expresses an eschatological hope not yet fulfilled, it is still our faith story to proclaim.

John Shearman

Saturday Church

Plough Sunday

10.00 am Saturday 12th January
Village Hall, Bradford

Songs, stories, prayers activities and refreshments

Iona Holy Communion

Everyone of any age welcome - from 0 to 100!



Week Of Prayer For Christian Unity

Sunday 13th Jan: 10.30 am - United Holy Communion, St Mary's, Black Torrington

Friday 18th Jan: 6.30 pm for 7.00 pm - Meal at Half Moon Sheepwash
Please contact Val Letheren (01409 231430)

Sunday 20th Jan: 11.00 am - Hope Chapel Black Torrington - United Covenant Service