

## THE EPIPHANY of the LORD

Behold the Lord, the Mighty One, has come; and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.

### Regular Services

St Mary's: Sundays at 8am and 9.30am, Wednesdays at 10.30am

St Paul's: Sundays at 11.15am, Thursdays at 9.30am

### Notices

**A big THANK YOU** to everyone who helped out with all of our Advent and Christmas services. We had lots of lovely comments about the delightful flowers and wonderful music, the joyful enthusiasm of the altar serving and virging team and the love and efficiency of the welcoming team, sides people and sound system operators. Thanks on your behalf to them and our hard working Churchwardens.

**Bishop Rob Wickham** will preside at St Paul's Patronal Festival on the afternoon (time tbc) of January 25<sup>th</sup> when, as well as celebrating St Paul and St Paul's church, we will also say 'farewell and thank you' to Norma Howie and Sheila Neep. The Churchwardens are organising a suitable presentation which you can support via an envelope or bank transfer marked 'office farewell'.

### Diary

Today 10.45am: Safeguarding Officers meeting, St Mary's, in the chapel.

Thursday 7.30pm: Bell Ringing practice, St Mary's

Saturday 2-8pm: Bell Ringing, Bell Ringers Evensong, St Mary's & Bell Ringers ADM & tea, St Mary's Hall

Next Sunday: The Baptism of Christ

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**Team Clergy:**

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**Team Office:**

Norma Howie Tel: 07901 359117 [admin@stmaryandstpaulhemel.org.uk](mailto:admin@stmaryandstpaulhemel.org.uk)

**Newsletter:** News to the Team Rector by last thing on Wednesday.

**Payments:** Cheques should be made payable to "St Mary and St Paul PCC".

*The Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary and St Paul, Hemel Hempstead, Reg. Charity 1130644*

## READINGS & PRAYERS

### 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.**

## FIRST READING

A reading from the letter of Paul to the 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**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.

Alleluia.

## GOSPEL

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew. (Mt 2:13-15, 19-23)

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**

## PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord, accept your people's gifts, not gold, frankincense or myrrh, but hearts and voices raised in praise of Jesus Christ, our light and our salvation. **Amen.**

## COMMUNION ANTIphon

We have seen his star in the East, and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

## POST COMMUNION

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.**