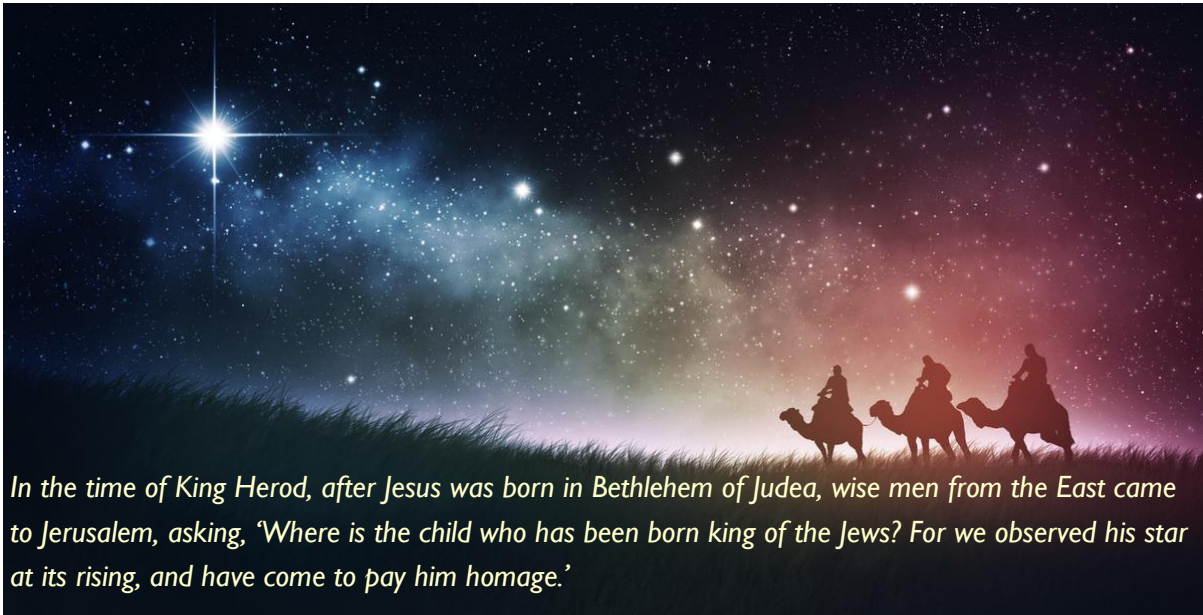


EPHIPHANY 2023: Sunday 8th – 14th January 2023

Greetings from Eileen

Dear Friends,

We seek God's favour as we journey through 2023. The Epiphany is better known as the day after the 12 days of Christmas, the 6th of January. But as a Church, we shall celebrate this special day on Sunday the 8th, and continue God's unfolding of the Christmas story.



The Epiphany highlights the visit of the far-travelled magi, signifying the manifestation of Christ to the world. This is why this season (Epiphanytide) attends to prayer for the worldwide mission of the Church. The feast of the Conversion of St Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles, is set during the Epiphany season, as is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. When Mary and Joseph return from exile and bring Jesus to the temple to be presented, two faithful Godly people Anna and Simeon recognise Jesus as the Redeemer of the world and the Messiah: *'a light to lighten the Gentiles'* and *'the glory of God's people Israel'*.

I believe we will find refreshment and energy when we choose to meet Jesus anew. Perhaps you are like an Anna or Simeon, familiar with the church and serving for many years; or perhaps you are on a journey like one of the magi or among those travelling with the magi. God has a message just for you in that star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright.

EPHIPHANY SERVICES this Sunday 8th January 2023

9.15am	St Mary's, Staindrop – Communion (Rev'd Susanne Jukes)
9.30am	St Andrew's, Winston – Communion (Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop)
10.45am	St Mary's, Gainford – Communion (Rev'd Canon Dr Chris Knights)
11am	St John's, Ingleton – Communion (Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop)
5pm	St Mary's, Gainford – Choral Evensong (Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop)

May the light of faith illumine our hearts through him who is Christ the Lord.

Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop

NOTICES:

✦ **Warm & Welcome in Gainford** are open on Friday 6th January from 10am to 12noon in the village hall.

✦ **All 4 of our Parochial Church Councils (PCC) meet in January.**

- **Staindrop** St Mary Monday 9th January 6pm at Diane's
- **Gainford** St Mary Wednesday 11th January 7pm at Geoff and Sue's
- **Ingleton** St John Thursday 26th January 3pm at St John's
- **Winston** St Andrew Monday 30th January 7pm at the Village Hall

New members are welcome. *If you wish to know more or might be interest to help in any way, I'd welcome a chat especially if you are not sure about being able to commit to being on the PCC. Call or email me: 01325 733154 ekgharrop@gmail.com*

✦ **YOUTH SAINTS meet on Thursday 12th January at St Mary's, Gainford 5.45pm Bible**

Study and 6.30pm a time of great fun: new friends, music, games, crafts, chat, and food!

Newcomers (8- to 12-year-olds) always welcome from any parish but must be accompanied by an adult to and from the church.

✦ **Please pray for loved ones of the recently departed:**

- Claire Mead, her mother and family on the passing of Claire Mead's Grandmother - Elizabeth Gilmore (service in Oakham, 14th January)
- Keith and Judith Pressley and their family on the passing of Keith's mother – Ada Pressley (service in Wear Valley Crematorium, 11th January 11.30am)
- Steve and Alison White and family on the passing of Steve's mother Isobel Appleton
- The family of Barbara Jean Hunt (service in Gainford St Mary 16th January 11.30am followed by burial in Gainford cemetery)
- Gordon Grieve on the passing of his stepfather Norman Brown (service in Gainford St Mary 25th January 2pm followed by Committal in Darlington Crematorium)
- Sylvia Watson on the passing of her beloved husband Patrick (Winston)

And pray for all for whom this is a difficult time missing loved ones departed.

✦ **Our Church Plant VISION TEAM meets on Thursday 19th January 7pm at St Mary's, Gainford.** Anyone from our parishes is welcome to find out more and if you wish to attend just call or email me: 01325 733154 ekgharrop@gmail.com

Collect for Epiphany Sunday

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

Or

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

Post Communion 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

First Reading (Principal Service): Isaiah 60:1-6 (NRSVA)

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| <p>¹ Arise, shine; for your light has come,
 and the glory of the Lord has risen upon
 you.</p> <p>² 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.</p> <p>³ Nations shall come to your light,
 and kings to the brightness of your dawn.</p> <p>⁴ Lift up your eyes and look around;
 they all gather together, they come to
 you;</p> | <p>your sons shall come from far away,
 and your daughters shall be carried on
 their nurses' arms.</p> <p>⁵ 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.</p> <p>⁶ 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.</p> |
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Gospel Reading (Principal Service): Matthew 2:1-12(NRSVA)

¹ In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ² 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.' ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ "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."

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ 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.' ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ 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. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Choral Evensong Psalm 98 (Authorised KJV)

¹ O sing unto the Lord a new song; for he hath done marvellous things: his right hand, and his holy arm, hath gotten him the victory.

² The Lord hath made known his salvation: his righteousness hath he openly shewed in the sight of the heathen.

³ He hath remembered his mercy and his truth toward the house of Israel: all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

⁴ Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing

praise.

⁵ Sing unto the Lord with the harp; with the harp, and the voice of a psalm.

⁶ With trumpets and sound of cornet make a joyful noise before the Lord, the King.

⁷ Let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.

⁸ Let the floods clap *their* hands: let the hills be joyful together ⁹ before the Lord;

for he cometh to judge the earth: with righteousness shall he judge the world, and the people with equity.

First Reading (Choral Evensong): Jeremiah 31:7-14 (New KJV)

⁷ For thus says the Lord:

“Sing with gladness for Jacob, And shout among the chief of the nations; Proclaim, give praise, and say, ‘O Lord, save Your people, The remnant of Israel!’

⁸ Behold, I will bring them from the north country, And gather them from the ends of the earth, Among them the blind and the lame, The woman with child And the one who labors with child, together; A great throng shall return there.

⁹ They shall come with weeping, And with supplications I will lead them. I will cause them to walk by the rivers of waters, In a straight way in which they shall not stumble; For I am a Father to Israel, And Ephraim is My firstborn.

¹⁰ “Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, And declare *it* in the isles afar off, and say, ‘He who scattered Israel will gather him, And keep him as a shepherd *does* his flock.’

¹¹ For the Lord has redeemed Jacob, And ransomed him from the hand of one stronger than he.

¹² Therefore they shall come and sing in the height of Zion, Streaming to the goodness of the Lord— For wheat and new wine and oil, For the young of the flock and the herd; Their souls shall be like a well-watered garden, And they shall sorrow no more at all.

¹³ “Then shall the virgin rejoice in the dance, And the young men and the old, together; For I will turn their mourning to joy, Will comfort them, And make them rejoice rather than sorrow.

¹⁴ I will satiate the soul of the priests with abundance, And My people shall be satisfied with My goodness, says the Lord.”

Second Reading (Choral Evensong): John 1:29-34 (New KJV)

²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰ This is He of whom I said, ‘After me comes a Man who is preferred

before me, for He was before me.’ ³¹ I did not know Him; but that He should be revealed to Israel, therefore I came baptizing with water.”

³² And John bore witness, saying, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. ³³ I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ ³⁴ And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.”