

St Mark's Parish Church,  
Shelfield & High Heath

# Epiphany

4<sup>th</sup> January, 2026



St Mark's is part of  
**Inclusive Church**



*Valerie Archer plans to host a*

## **BURNS' NIGHT SUPPER**

**on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2026 at 5 p.m.**

**Venue—to be arranged.**

*Please sign the list at the back of church if you  
would like to attend.*

## ***Please Pray...***

That the Body of Christ be a light guiding all people to salvation. . .

That all peoples share in the joy and peace of God's presence in the world. . .

That those who are poor and in need receive the revelation of God's love and care through the generosity of this community. . .

That each of us continues to search diligently for Christ along whatever pathways God leads us. . .



**Please pray for...** Myra, Annette & family, Young Andrew, Chris, Ann & Len, Andy's Father-in-Law, Elena, Lea, Tony & Sita, Trudi & Lauren & Josh, David & Marilyn, Michael, Matthew, Jhool, Pat, Steven, Martin Leech, Joy, Sue J., Margaret, Bridget, Trevor & Susan, Anne J., Andrew, Samantha, Natalie, Gary, Malcom C., Jonathon, Little Anna, Alice, Shelley & Bobby, Ann, Wayne, Elaine M., Alice, Samuel & his family, Winnie, Julia, Pamela, Pete, Kyle & family, Adam, Martin, Julie, Tina & Paul, Tanya & Ian & Anne & Olivia, Maurice & Margaret, Mavis, George & June, Ann, Pat, Mandy, Mike, Lianne & daughters

## **And those whose illness is more long term...**

Carol Coleman, Matt & Nicola, Lisa, Janet & Les, Ron W., Connie, Beryl, Kitty, Gill, Wyn, Marion C., Winnie A., Bettie, Alan, Chris, Karen, Steph, Jackie, Evelyn & Peter, Revd. Mike.



Lord we remember those we have loved but see no longer.  
*We Pray for All Those Who Grieve*

***Please pray for the people of Gaza & The Holy Land,  
Lebanon, Sudan, Ukraine, Yemen & all war zones.***



## **Lord we pray for these organisations:**

Walsall North Foodbank,  
Shelfield & High Heath Youth Support Group

**Eve is collecting children's / baby clothes,  
children's shoes and baby blankets for charity.  
For Sunnyside Dog Rescue Eve is collecting old blankets  
towels etc, (nothing feather and no pillows please).**

<b>Service times for next Sunday</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>8.30 a.m.</b>
	<b>Sung Communion</b>	<b>10.00 a.m.</b>

**St. Mark's is supporting the Rotary charity  
Books4Home.**

*1 in 8 children in the UK do not own a book of their  
own.*

*Books4Home collects pre-read books for children to  
choose, take home, read & keep forever.*

**You can help by donating pre-read children's books.**  
Please bring books to St Mark's.

#### Daily Readings for next week...

<b>Monday</b>	Ruth 3 Colossians 3: 12-4: 1
<b>Tuesday</b>	Ruth 4: 1-17 Colossians 4: 2-end
<b>Wednesday</b>	Jeremiah 23: 1-8 Matthew 20: 1-16
<b>Thursday</b>	Jeremiah 30: 1-17 Matthew 20: 17-28
<b>Friday</b>	Jeremiah 30: 18-31: 9 Matthew 20: 29-end
<b>Saturday</b> William Laud, archbishop, 1645	Jeremiah 31: 10-17 Matthew 23: 1-12
<b>SUNDAY</b> Baptism of Christ 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Epiphany	Isaiah 42: 1-9
	Acts 10: 34-43
	Matthew 3: 13-end

*We have been invited to a  
Service of Thanksgiving for the Ministry of*

**Rev. Joyce Stewardson**

11<sup>th</sup> January, 2026 at 4 p.m.

St John's, Heath Hayes, Hednesford Road, WS12 3DZ

#### **A word for the week**

Upon hearing this gospel, we can easily get side-tracked by focusing on the star and the "three kings." Over the years, much has been written about what the star actually was (Halley's Comet? two planets crossing paths?) and who the Magi really were (three? kings?). What Matthew is concerned with, however, is something more significant—the universality of salvation.

God offers salvation to all people (Magi were Gentiles). Moreover, God offers salvation through every possible avenue (the little town of Bethlehem, the machinations of an evil king). In order for us to find the newborn King (really, a description of our journey to salvation), we must not only be diligent in our search but also be open to surprising ways in which God reveals salvation to us. Perhaps the biggest surprise is when God comes to us in old places and familiar faces: members of our immediate family, next-door neighbours, even our enemies. Here is where we might encounter the newborn King today. To do so we must set aside prejudices and biases which keep our eyes from seeing God's self-revelation in unexpected persons and places.



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new page on  
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**"Marks Church"**

#### **CONTACT DETAILS**

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