

The Parishes of Adbaston, Gnosall, Knightley & High Offley, Moreton and Norbury

Sunday 4th January (Epiphany)

O come, let us worship the Lord and consider what wondrous things God has done:
The Magi who study the heavens follow a guiding star!

O come, let us worship the Lord and consider what wondrous things God has done:
The peoples who live in the shadows see a glorious light!

O come, let us worship the Lord, and consider what wondrous things God has done:
The Christ who embodies the Word unveils the hidden plan, making us joint heirs of the promise of salvation through the gospel!

O come, let us worship the Lord:
For God has done wondrous things!

Amen

CONFESSION

The grace of God has dawned upon the world through our Saviour Jesus Christ, who sacrificed himself for us to purify a people as his own.
Let us confess our sins.

We confess that sometimes it's easier to stay in the shadows, where things can stay hidden, where people can't see flaws:
Cast your light on our darkness and forgive us, God of love

We confess that we have at times brought darkness into the world by our anger and our selfishness:
Cast your light on our darkness and forgive us, God of love

We confess that we are sometimes sceptical of light and find it easier to trust its absence:
Cast your light on our darkness and forgive us, God of love

ABSOLUTION

May God who loved the world so much that he sent his Son to be our Saviour forgive us our sins and make us holy to serve him in the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

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

First Reading: 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**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew:
Glory to you O Lord

Matthew 2: 1-12

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^l 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

REFLECTION

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us declare our faith in God:

We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.

We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high.

We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen

We bring our prayers using the response: Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Merciful Father accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever.

Amen

Peace

Arise, shine out for your light is come. The glory of the Lord is risen upon you. The peace of the Lord be always with you: **and also with you.**

Offering Prayer

Living God, your radiance shines in the beauty of creation. In Christ your Son, you have given the world eternal light that burns brightly in the midst of darkness. Like the magi, when you draw us near, we are overwhelmed with joy! Lead us by your Spirit to share your warmth and grace with our neighbours. Let our lives in this new year be an offering to you. We pray this through Christ, the light of the world.

Amen

Act of Spiritual Communion

The Church of which we are members is not defined by the walls of a building but by the Body of Christ of which we are members. In making our communion spiritually, we are joining with Christians everywhere to be nourished by the one who tells us, 'I am the Bread of Life'.

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits you have given me, for all the pains and insults you have borne for me. I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your disciples, 'I am with you always'. Be with me today, as I offer myself to you. Hear my prayers for others and for myself and keep me in your care. Amen.

O God, help me to trust you, help me to know that you are with me, help me to believe that nothing can separate me from your love revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O Lord and heavenly Father, we your humble servants entirely desire your fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching you to grant, that by the merits and death of your Son, Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we and all your whole Church may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

Amen

Blessing

Christ be a bright flame before you, a guiding star above you, a kindly shepherd behind you, a supporting strength beneath you; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.

Amen

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **In the name of Christ, Amen.**

Notices

This Week's Services- 4th January

Gnosall 8am Holy Communion
10am Benefice Zoom Worship

Next Week's Services- 11th January

Gnosall 8am Morning Worship
10:30am Morning Worship
Knightley 9:30am Morning Worship
Adbaston 9:30am Family Communion
Norbury 11am Morning Worship
Moreton 11am Holy Communion

Coffee and Chat

Join us for Coffee and Chat 10:30-12:30 at St Lawrence Church. 1st Saturday of every month. All Welcome.

Rev'd Rachael's Collation Service.

The service will include Holy Communion and will be led by The Rt Revd Dr Michael Ipgrave, Bishop of Lichfield. It will be held on Wednesday 14th January at 7.00pm at St. Lawrence's Church, Gnosall. All Welcome.

Eco Tip of the Month

The RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch (Friday 23-Sunday 25 January) is the world's largest garden wildlife survey! Last year, nearly 600,000 people took part and over nine million birds were counted. We've lost a staggering 38 million birds from UK skies in the last 60 years. With birds facing so many challenges, it's more important than ever to get involved in the Birdwatch. To take part, spend one hour counting the birds you see in one location – your garden, balcony or a local park. Submit your

findings to the RSPB. You can download a free guide and ID chart to help you identify the birds you spot on the RSPB website. Find out more at: [rspb.org.uk/whats happening/big-garden-birdwatch](https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/big-garden-birdwatch)

Just Giving Pages

We have a Just Giving page for 3 of our churches so far. Please scan the correct QR code if you would like to donate this way. Giving via Lichfield Diocese means Gift Aid is reclaimed on behalf of the church and all donations are passed to us without any fees or commission.

Gnosall



Adbaston



Norbury



Contact Details for the Church Office.

Phone: 01785 822820 Benefice Administrator: Victoria Hainsworth

Office email: churchofficegnosall@gmail.com

Office hours: Tuesday and Wednesday 9-12.00, Friday 9-1:00. During the Benefice Vacancy please contact Gnosall Vicarage by phone or email with enquiries related to regular services and funerals or to book weddings or baptisms. When the office is not staffed leave a message and someone will reply as soon as possible.