

Notices and Forthcoming Events

- **Bishop Michael** is asking that to 2026 sees a special emphasis on prayer across the diocese. He introduces the theme on this video clip.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SpozN-sXZaQ>
- **Facebook Morning Prayer** returns live on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday this week at 9.00 a.m. on the St Mary's Wedmore Facebook page.
- Thank you to everyone involved in helping with the Christmas services and who decorated our churches so beautifully.
- We know this time of year can be a difficult and lonely time for many people. Mind In Somerset are here to make sure anyone with a mental health problem has somewhere to turn for advice and support. The contact phone number for MIND is 01823 276892.
- **This Sunday** both Allerton and Holy Cross are holding their Gift Services. Allerton will donate to the Salvation Army in Bristol, with Mark donating to The Burnham and Highbridge Foodbank.
- Our next **Messy Church** in St Mary's is due to be on Saturday 24th January from 3-5pm.
- **Warm in Wedmore** returns for January and February 2026, pop into the Masonic Hall on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 7th January for coffee, soup and conversation. We'll be open between 10 a.m. and 2.00 p.m. and a different local group will host each week.
- Congratulations to **Joy Hawes**, who was commissioned as our new **Area Dean** shortly before Christmas.
- **Next Sunday** Blackford, Allerton and Mark congregations join together at 9.15 a.m. in Holy Cross Mark, with Wedmore and Theale congregations joining in St Mary's at 10.45 a.m. Both services are communions.
- **Theale Café** returns on Saturday 17th January.
- **Sunday 8th February** sees a joint service to mark the beginning of our new benefice. There will be an **evensong** at St Mary's at 6.00 p.m. followed by a social gathering.
- **Online services and contact details**

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/10871> for Updates, newsletters and more.

[https://www.facebook.com/St-Marys-Wedmore-384215139101196/Daily Prayer at 9.00 a.m. Click here for the order for service](https://www.facebook.com/St-Marys-Wedmore-384215139101196/Daily-Prayer-at-9.00-a.m.-Click-here-for-the-order-for-service) (also available on our website)

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCocp711gYgJ2q0YJ5O2Qifg/> Our YouTube channel where you will find daily prayer and our Sunday Service videos

- You can contact us via email: stmarywedmore@gmail.com or on wedmorevic@gmail.com
- Vicarage Number: 01934 713566
- Good Neighbours Scheme: 01934 8062

Wedmore Isle and Moors Benefice
SUNDAY 4th January 2026 Epiphany

We thank God for the revelation of his glory in Jesus Christ;
that all are included in his grace and love.

We pray that we may give to God what we can – our hearts, souls, minds and strength;
for those we know who are traveling or journeying;
for the peace of the world, especially in the Middle East;
for the work of the Salvation Army and local Foodbanks;
for the children and staff of our local schools;
for our new benefice that together we may give glory to God;
for the lonely, the bereaved, the neglected, the homeless and those who find this time of year difficult;
For Mark and Florence as they begin their married life together;

The Sick: from our community –Michael (Red) Redman, Claire Clement, John Horne, Jean Winter, Noreen Stott, Thomas Hole, Iris Rowlett and others for whom we have been asked to pray - Jamie Trotham, Anne Dyer, Ruth Dyer, and Elizabeth Nicholls.

RIP: Margaret Sim (Wedmore)

What's On This Week?

Sunday 4th January: Epiphany

Holy Trinity	9.15am	Parish Communion	Revd Tony Connell
Allerton Church	9.15am	Gift Service	LWA
Holy Cross	9.15am	Morning Worship and Gift Service	LWA/Preb Richard Neill
St Mary's	10.45am	Café Church, Seekers and Creche	M Clark/C Gelder
Christchurch	10.45am	Parish Communion	Preb Richard Neill
St Mary's	6.00pm	Start the Week	Venetia Hopkins

Wednesday 7th January

St Mary's	9.45am	Midweek Communion
Holy Cross	10.30 am	Coffee Morning
Sedgemoor Crem	12 noon	Funeral of Margaret Sim

Friday 9th January

St Mary's	3.00pm	The Tea Set
-----------	--------	-------------

Saturday 10th January

Holy Trinity	10.00am	Blackford Churchyard Working Group
--------------	---------	------------------------------------

Sunday 11th January: Baptism of Christ

St Mary's	8.00am	BCP Holy Communion	Preb Richard Neill
Holy Cross, Mark	9.15am	Worship Together (Communion)	Preb R Neill/Revd J Hawes
St Mary's	10.45am	Worship Together (Communion)	Preb R Neill/Revd J Hawes
St Mary's	6.00pm	Start the Week	Claire Gelder

COLLECT

Almighty God,
in the birth of your Son
you have poured on us the new light of
your incarnate Word,
and shown us the fullness of your love:
help us to walk in his light and dwell in
his love
that we may know the fullness of his joy;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

OLD TESTAMENT

ISAIAH 60.1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon
you.
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.
Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on
their nurses' arms.
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.
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.

PSALM 72.(1-9)10-15

1 Give the king your judgements, O God, ♦
and your righteousness to the son of a
king.
2 Then shall he judge your people
righteously ♦
and your poor with justice.
3 May the mountains bring forth peace, ♦
and the little hills righteousness for the
people.

4 May he defend the poor among the
people, ♦
deliver the children of the needy and
crush the oppressor.
5 May he live as long as the sun and moon
endure, ♦
from one generation to another.
6 May he come down like rain upon the
mown grass, ♦
like the showers that water the earth.
7 In his time shall righteousness flourish, ♦
and abundance of peace
till the moon shall be no more.
8 May his dominion extend from sea to
sea ♦
and from the River to the ends of the
earth.
9 May his foes kneel before him ♦
and his enemies lick the dust.
] 10 The kings of Tarshish and of the isles
shall pay tribute; ♦
the kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring
gifts.
11 All kings shall fall down before him; ♦
all nations shall do him service.
12 For he shall deliver the poor that cry
out, ♦
the needy and those who have no helper.
13 He shall have pity on the weak and
poor; ♦
he shall preserve the lives of the needy.
14 He shall redeem their lives from
oppression and violence, ♦
and dear shall their blood be in his sight.
15 Long may he live;
unto him may be given gold from
Sheba; ♦
may prayer be made for him continually
and may they bless him all the day long

EPISTLE

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.

GOSPEL

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 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

POST COMMUNION

All praise to you,
almighty God and heavenly king,
who sent your Son into the world
to take our nature upon him
and to be born of a pure virgin:
grant that, as we are born again in him,
so he may continually dwell in us
and reign on earth as he reigns in heaven,
now and for ever.

Next Week's Readings:

Isaiah 42.1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10.34-43;
Matthew 3.13-end

Daily Readings:

Colossians 3.12-4.1; Colossians 4.2-end;
Matthew 20.1-16; Matthew 20.17-28;
Matthew 20.29-end; Matthew 23.1-12

Psalm 20