

# ST JAMES CHURCH CLIFTON

## THE VIEW FROM LISTER STREET



## Dear Friends

### Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

As we approach the Twelfth Night — the final evening of the Christmas season and the threshold of Epiphany — we're reminded that the story of the wise men is not just about arrival, but about revelation.

And there's another story, perhaps lesser known, that speaks to this beautifully. In 1895, Henry Van Dyke wrote *The Story of the Other Wise Man*, imagining a fourth magi — Artaban — who also saw the star and set out to find the newborn King. Like the others, he carried treasures. But unlike them, he never reached the stable.

On the way, Artaban stopped to help a dying man. He missed the caravan. Traveling alone, he was delayed again and again — by suffering, by injustice, by people in need. Each time, he gave away one of his gifts to help someone else. Years passed. Decades. In the end, he never found the child. He never gave the gifts he had prepared.

And he believed he had failed — until, at the end of his life, he heard a voice say: "Whatever you did for one of the least of these, you did for me."

Artaban's story reminds us: even when we miss the destination we hoped for, love is never wasted. Epiphany is not only about recognizing Christ in the manger — it's about discovering where Christ has been all along: in the detour, in the interruption, in the face of the one in need.

As the Christmas lights begin to dim and the year unfolds ahead of us, may we still follow the star — even if it leads us on another road.

With love and blessings

Mthr Caroline

## Dates for your Diary

1 February - 10.30am All Age Candlemas Service with Christingle

18 February - 6pm Ash Wednesday Service

*Details of Lent Courses to follow*

## Readings

*Click below to read the passages*

[Isaiah 60.1-6](#)

[Psalm 72](#)

[Ephesians 3.1-12](#)

[Matthew 2.1-12](#)

## Donate

If you would like to donate to life of the church, just click [here](#) or scan the QR code below.



## 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.

## Post-Communion

Lord God,  
the bright splendour whom the nations seek:  
may we 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.

## Pray for:

**Epiphany:** 'We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him' (Matt 2:2). Pray that the 'Quiet Revival' will continue to bring a stream of people into our churches to discover Jesus.

For all those returning to work this week after the Christmas break and for schools beginning a new term

For all those who are suffering from domestic violence, isolation and economic hardship.

If you would like us to pray for someone or something in particular, send an email to Mthr Caroline to add to the list (*please ensure you have the person's permission*)

## Contact

*Social Media links*

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W: [A Church Near You](#)

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