

The parish of St André de la Pommeraye

www.standrewschurchguernsey.org



Newsletter for the feast of Epiphany, 4 January 2026

The Rector writes ...



Happy new year to all readers of this newsletter – which includes our regular congregation and those who read the newsletter in England or further afield.

We start 2026 with the feast of the Epiphany, transferred from 6 January to the nearest Sunday so that the maximum number of people are able to share in this important feast day.

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The first picture is a familiar image, like many which we have seen on Christmas cards.

The second picture is different. It's of a delicate stone carving, which shows the wise men asleep under a delicately embroidered blanket, after they have met the Holy Family and presented their gifts. They had encountered Herod on their stop in Jerusalem. As Herod's paranoid jealousy was not yet apparent, they took at face value Herod's request that they bring him word of where Jesus is to be found 'so that I may also go and pay him homage.'

But this was not to be. Instead, we read that 'having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, [the wise men] left for their own country by another road.'

The carving depicts how this came to pass. The angel delicately touches the fingers of one of the wise men, to give them the warning about the necessary change of plan.



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Epiphany is the season which unfolds how Jesus' unique identity became known and how his ministry unfolded. The manger scene remains in place throughout the season of Epiphany, until Candlemas, the feast of the presentation of Jesus in the Temple, which marks the end of the sequence of the Church's year which began with Advent.

However, our Christmas tree will be removed during the coming week. To assist in the removal of the tree, Sharon Harvey asks for assistance in removing the baubles and decorations after the 10 am service on Sunday.

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I will be appearing on BBC Radio Guernsey at 9.15 am each day in the coming week, from Monday to Friday. I am promised a light-hearted conversation rather than a formal interview, but we shall see!



This week

Sunday 4 January	Epiphany
	8.00 am Holy Communion
	10.00 am Holy Communion
Tuesday 6 January	10.30 am Parochial Church Property Management Board (Douzaine Room)
Sunday 11 January	Baptism of Christ
	8.00 am Holy Communion
	10.00 am Holy Communion

Holy Communion, and laying on of hands and prayers for healing on Wednesday at 10.30 am at the **Monnaie Chapel**. The Monnaie Chapel is a remarkable place – accessed off the Rue du Monnaie (halfway up the road, on the left, when approaching from Les Poidevins).

Prayers for the week

A prayer for the week:

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.

Please pray

- for schools and colleges in Guernsey, for students, teachers and support staff at the beginning of a new term;
- for the crew of Guernsey's lifeboats;
- for the people of Venezuela in the aftermath of the American military action on Saturday morning;
- for the people of Iran, as they await the outworking of the significant demonstrations against the government.

We pray

- in the **Guernsey churches prayer cycle**, for our work and mission over the coming year;
- for all who live in the **parish of St Andrew** and for our church community, and for our constables and douzeniers;
- for those for whom our prayers have been requested:
 - Dennis Parton, Mike O'Hara, David Harvey, Godfray Guilbert, John Barnes and Robert Whalley;
 - church members: Cathy Belcher, Audrey Gollop, Stella Machon;
 - friends and family: Emma, Jean Walsh, Stina Holmes, Elisa, Pauline, George Maiden, Georgina, David, Fletch O'Hara, and Chris and Diane Lesbirel.

Finally ...

The rota for January has been circulated. It can also be found on the website.

With my prayers and best wishes,

Tim

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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.



Hymns and liturgy at 10 am

Gloria 2 (Tune, 676, St Denio)

Creed 1 (Said)

Sanctus, etc Sung

1 105 We three kings of Orient are
2 95 Bethlehem, what greater city
3 94 As with gladness men of old
4 102 Jesus come! for we invite you

Tune: Three Kings of Orient
Tune: Stuttgart
Tune: Dix
Tune: Unser Herrscher

Readings

Old Testament reading: the prophecy of Isaiah chapter 60 verses 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.

Gospel: Matthew 2 verses 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.

Prayer after Communion

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.

