

SUNDAY 4th JANUARY 2026 (EPIPHANY, Lectionary Year A)

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

THE LESSON: ISAIAH 60:1-6

- ¹ Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon
you.
- ² 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.
- ³ Nations shall come to your light
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
- ⁴ 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 in
their nurses' arms.
- ⁵ 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.
- ⁶ 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 72:1-8

- 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.

EPHESIANS 3:1-12

*(A reading from the Letter of Paul to the
Ephesians)*

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
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 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 in boldness and confidence through
faith in him.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 2:1-12

*(Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Matthew)*

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was
born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the
east came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is
the child who has been born king of the
Jews? For we observed his star in the east
and have come to pay him homage." ³
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 magi 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 in the east, 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)

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

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.
Amen

NOTICES FOR SUNDAY 4th JANUARY 2026

CHRISTIAN WORSHIP for SUNDAY 11th JANUARY – Baptism of Christ

9.30am Boylestone Morning Worship (Rev Ed)
9.30am Hatton Morning Worship (Vickie)
11.00am Church Broughton Holy Communion (Rev Ed)
11.00am Hilton Morning Worship (Vickie)

READINGS: Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17

EVENTS AND SERVICES FOR WEEK OF THE 4th JANUARY

- Friday 10.00am – 2.00pm: Hub Community Café, at All Saints' Jubilee Hall, Station Road, Hatton

APPLETREE CHURCHES MORNING PRAYER

There is usually Zoom morning prayer each weekday morning at 8am.

The Zoom link can be found in the Teamup entry for Morning Prayer, or contact Vickie for the link.

If you would like help with setting up Zoom for Morning Prayer, please also contact Vickie:

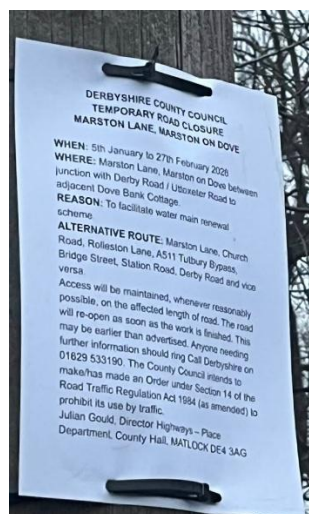
vickie@appletrreechurches.org / 07977 067 585. All are welcome to join.

Please note that as of week commencing January 12th the pattern for morning prayer will be changing. Morning prayer on a Wednesday (starting on January 14th), will be at 9.30am at All Saints Church – there will not be Zoom morning prayer on Wednesdays after this date.

ACCESS TO ST MARY'S CHURCH DURING JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

There may be some temporary road closures along Marston Lane whilst Severn Trent renew the water mains.

We have been assured that access will be provided, but there may be some delay to clear an access route. There are also alternative routes, via Tutbury and Rolleston Lane.



More information can be found on the Severn Trent Website and Derbyshire County Council have issued the above notice.

BURTON ON TRENT - ROTARY CLUB CHRISTMAS TREES

A big thank you to the Burton on Trent Rotary Club for their donations of three Christmas trees for Appletree Churches, and thank you to Phil for transporting them from Egginton to their destinations.

CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

Last Year many of us used St Giles Hospice Treecycle, to collect our trees after Christmas , they then take them somewhere where they are eventually made into compost for a soil improver. They raised £85,000 which was a fantastic amount. Treecycle are doing it again this year, so if you have a real tree to dispose of go onto St Giles Treecycle website and book a slot and for a donation volunteers will come and collect it.

stgileshospice.com/treecycle/

DERBY CITY MISSION – FOOD BANK

Dear St. Marys church

Thank you so much for your generous donation of £92.00 to our Christmas appeal.

Your gift will bring hope to someone in Derby who really needs it - showing them love, keeping them warm, or helping them along the journey of transforming their life for good.

Thank you again and Happy Christmas!

From the Derby City Mission team

There was an additional donation of £105 sent this week, of which £95 was collected from Carols at the Scout Hut on the 21st December 2025.

VISITING PARISHIONERS

Do you know anyone who would like a visit from Rev Ed? If yes, please can you let Rev Ed know. Ed's contact details are at the top of the page.