

The Benefice Bulletin

4th January 2026 – Epiphany

The Vicarage, Church Lane, Barton under Needwood DE13 8HU



Please take this bulletin home with you

Here for the first time? Relax. Please make yourself at home and please sit where you feel comfortable. Those who greeted you, our wardens, or the clergy will answer any practical questions that you may have. Posture notes on the service sheet and verbal instructions are intended for those who can comfortably follow them. We hope you enjoy worshipping with us.

Services this week

Sunday 4th January 2026

09:00 Holy Communion

St Mary's, Dunstall

10:30 Holy Communion

St James', Barton

10:30 Holy Communion

St Michael's, Tatenhill

13:30 Baptism of Albie

St James', Barton

Wednesday 7th January

09:15 WoW Wednesday

including informal worship at 10:00

St James', Barton

Thursday 8th January

09:15 WoW Thursday

including informal worship at 10:00

Tatenhill Village Hall

Readings and Prayers for Epiphany

Readings

Psalm

72

Old Testament

Isaiah 60.1-6

New Testament

Ephesians 3.1-12

Gospel

Matthew 2.1-12

The 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

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

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St James'	Ray Holder	☎01283 327814	✉ rayholder2006@gmail.com
St Mary's	Angela Moffat	☎01283 713735	✉ rangelamoffat@icloud.com
St Michael's	Phil & Emma Coleman	☎01283 538983	✉ stmtatenhill@gmail.com

Isaiah 60.1-6 Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. ²For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. ³Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. ⁴Lift 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. ⁵Then 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. ⁶A 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.

Ephesians 3.1-12 This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—²for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵In 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: ⁶that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. ⁷Of 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. ⁸Although 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, ⁹and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰so 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. ¹¹This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

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, ²asking, '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.' ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶"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.'" ⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then 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.' ⁹When 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. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On 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. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

For your prayers

The World: We pray for His Majesty King Charles and Queen Camilla, and the wider Royal Family. We pray for all areas of the world where there are conflicts, poverty, drought, disaster, terrorism, and humanitarian crisis.

The Anglican Communion: The Church of the Province of Central Africa

Our Diocese: We pray for Bishops Michael and Matthew and Archdeacon Megan

Our Deanery: Along with our deanery, we pray for all those who minister, worship and live in the parish of St Saviour's, Burton.

Our Benefice: We pray for those who live and work on Barton Turn, Lichfield Road, Barton Marina and The Lakeside in Barton, Lower Dunstall Farm and Fernhill Farm in Dunstall and Monk Road and Abbot Road in Tatenhill. May God be with all those who live and work in these places as they go about their daily lives this week.

Those who are not well: Mike S, Heather S, Lesley S-D, Doreen, Chris, Enid, Shirley, Phillipa, Tim S, Stephen, Sara, John G, Brian, Rosemarie, Jess, Beth, Cliff, Debbie

Those who have died: Christopher Craddock-Forrett, Ken Riddell, Mick Malpass, Velma Hodgson, Ron Stafford, Vic Warrington, Peter Bailey. We pray for all those whose anniversaries fall at this time.

In Benefice News...

- WOW! What a Christmas! A **HUGE THANK YOU** to everyone that helped in anyway to make events run so smoothly over the Christmas period. You are all amazing. In the 24 hours of Christmas Eve to the Christmas Morning services, we saw nearly 1000 people come through the doors of our churches. Simply amazing!
- Due to her ongoing ankle injury, **Beth** will be working from home for the foreseeable future. Please do bear with her, and Andy, as they navigate this new working.
- The **Joint Methodist Covenant Service** will be held on Sunday 18th January at Barton Methodist Church, starting at 10:30am. Please join us for this service if you are able to.
- The **Barton Churches Together Quiz Night** takes place on Saturday 24th January. Entry is £2 per person. Bring a team or join one on the night. BYOB and nibbles - it's always a good evening!
- Check out next week's bulletin for events coming up in January and February.

If you would like a home visit from the Ministry or Pastoral Visiting Team, please contact the Benefice Office on 01283 712359 to arrange a time.

Diary Dates for the Week Ahead

Monday 5th January

19:00 Home Group
The Vicarage, Barton

Tuesday 6th January

Wednesday 7th January

09:15 WoW Wednesday
St James', Barton

Thursday 8th January

09:15 WoW Thursday
Tatenhill Village Hall

Friday 9th January

Saturday 10th January

Sunday 11th January

09:00 Holy Communion
St Michael's, Tatenhill
10:30 Second Sunday Service
St James', Barton
13:30 Baptism of Albie
St James', Barton
16:00 Evening Prayer
St Mary's, Dunstall

Future Dates

Monday 12th January

13:30 Tea and Chat
St James' Church Hall

Thursday 15th January

19:30 Tatenhill PCC
Venue TBC

Sunday 18th January

10:30 Joint Methodist Covenant Service
Barton Methodist Church

Monday 19th January

19:00 Barton PCC
St James', Barton

Saturday 24th January

19:00 Churches Together Quiz
St James' Church Hall, Barton

Friday 23rd January

10:00 Bible Study
St James', Barton

Hello All,

Happy New Year!

Today is the feast of Epiphany when the astrologers from the east visited the baby Jesus in Bethlehem. These men were guided by stars and by their dreams but also by their gut instincts. What guides you in life? How do you know how to make the right decisions? In other words what authorities do you take heed of and in what order of significance and priority do you put them in? Traditionally the church has used 4: scripture, tradition, experience or revelation (Epiphany) and reason. I find these four help me assess my gut feelings which, I have come to learn, can be very subjective! May God guide us all to love and live more freely in 2026!



Yours in Christ, Rev Andy +