

### **Please Pray for Peace in our troubled world**

God, our refuge and strength, bring near the day when wars shall cease.  
and poverty and pain shall end, that earth may know the peace of heaven.  
Through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen

#### **A Prayer**

God in Trinity,  
eternal unity of perfect love:  
gather the nations to be one family,  
and draw us into your holy life  
through the birth of Emmanuel,  
our Lord Jesus Christ.  
Amen.

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**Supporting St Bartholomew's** – There is a donations plate by the door at every service, and if you can Gift Aid your donation, please use & complete a yellow Gift Aid envelope with your details.  
There's also a "Contactless Collection Plate" if you prefer, also by the south door.

Or here's a QR code, which will take you straight to our donations page –



If you would like to find out how to support St Bartholomew's on a regular basis, then please go to our website for more information, or phone the Parish Office on 01793 853272. And thank you!

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#### **Keep in touch, or let us know if any help is needed at:**

Telephone: 01793 853272

Email: [churchadmin@stbartholomews-wb.com](mailto:churchadmin@stbartholomews-wb.com)

**Please visit our website:** [www.stbartholomews-wb.com](http://www.stbartholomews-wb.com)

for more information and links to Facebook & YouTube



**We seek to grow through prayer and share Christ's love through engagement with all.**

# **Weekly News**

## **4<sup>th</sup> January 2026**



### **8:00 am Holy Communion BCP**

Followed by refreshments in the Croft.

### **10:00 am All Age Service for Epiphany**

**Church Children** meet in the children's area and Lady Chapel in church

Followed by refreshments in the Croft.

### **4:00pm Epiphany Carols**

A service of music, readings and prayers as we celebrate the arrival of the Magi and the revelation of the Christ Child to the world.

Followed by refreshments

### **Wednesday**

#### **10:30 am Holy Communion**

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**Christingle 2025** – Thank you for two very successful Christingle Services on Christmas Eve. Thank you to all who organised, celebrated and attended, together you raised £692.57 which will be donated to The Children's Society. Thank you.

**St Bart's Walking Group** - a very Happy New Year to everyone and as you start to look forward to longer daylight hours and snowdrops, bluebells and daffodils, maybe think about joining our walk on Saturday 24th January. If you are interested, please contact [pat.jeanes@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:pat.jeanes@hotmail.co.uk).

**Church Croft** – now back to usual hours, open Monday – Saturday, 10:00am – 12 noon. Please pop in where a warm welcome awaits along with a cuppa.



# Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2026

## Epiphany

### 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.

### FIRST READING: *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.

### SECOND READING: *Ephesians 3.1-12*

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 to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

### GOSPEL READING: *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.