

# PEW NEWS



## Welcome to St John the Baptist church

Our **Pew news** is our way of keeping you informed about upcoming events, services and prayer meetings. Uplifting stories, and important updates within our church family. See the final page on ways to follow us on social media.

**What to Expect at Church:** During our services we do a mixture of singing, praying, listening to a sermon and chatting to each other. You are welcome to join in however you feel comfortable, or to just sit quietly.

## Sunday Services

# EPIPHANY

4<sup>th</sup> January 2026  
Holy Communion (CW)  
with Rev Fiona Ellingham  
11AM

## SERVICES IN JANUARY



### 4th January

11:00 HC CW Epiphany

### 11th January Jesus changes everything

08:30 HC CW

11:00 M *First Disciples*

### 18th January

11:00 *Family@11*

18:00 E *Nicoedemas*

### 25th January

08:30 HC BCP Samaritan Woman

11:00 Hymns and Wings

HC- Holy Communion E- Evensong M- Morning Prayer CW- Common Worship BCP - Book of Common Prayer

## GOD'S ABIDING PRESENCE IN 2026

As we step into this New Year together, I warmly wish you a happy 2026. A new year brings hope and uncertainty, promise and challenge, yet we do not walk into it alone. God, who has been faithful in the past, goes before us into every day ahead. Whatever joys or burdens we carry, we are invited to place them in God's loving hands and trust in His renewing grace.

May we grow deeper in faith, stronger in compassion, and more generous in love toward one another and our community. Let us serve with willing hearts, listen for God's call, and walk humbly in His ways, confident of God's abiding presence among us.



**REV FIONA ELLINGHAM**

**Ministry days;** Tues – Thurs & Sun

Fiona.ellingham@4u-team.org

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# Please do pray for the various activities taking place this coming week:

| DATE                                 |       | ACTIVITY                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|-------|---|--|
| Sunday<br>4 <sup>th</sup> January    | 11:00 | Holy Communion (CW)                           | Rev Fiona Ellingham                        |
| Wednesday<br>7 <sup>th</sup> January | 10:30 | Communion service<br>Meadowside Care Home     | Rev Fiona Ellingham                        |
|                                      | 15:00 | Little Voices<br><i>Little Marlow School</i>  | Rev Fiona Ellingham                        |
| Thursday<br>8 <sup>th</sup> January  | 10:00 | Collective worship                            | Rev Fiona Ellingham &<br>Audrey Stockinger |
|                                      | 12:30 | Christian Club<br><i>Little Marlow School</i> |  |
| Friday<br>9 <sup>th</sup> January    | 10:30 | Little Saints @ Cliveden Manor Care Home      | Audrey Stockinger &<br>Fiona Ellingham     |
| Sunday<br>11 <sup>th</sup> January   | 08:30 | Holy Communion (CW)                           | Rev Graham Watts                           |
|                                      | 11:00 | Holy Communion (BCP) Mattins                  | Rev Fiona Ellingham &<br>Rev Graham Watts  |

## Events coming up

Half price breakfast  
Hillier's Garden Centre  
Saturday 3rd January 10:00

Come and gather together at the start of the year  
Look forward to seeing you there

For more information or let us know you're coming contact Fiona, Peter or Pat

**£5.49 per head**  
(Normal price £10.99)  
Voucher needed\*

\*Vouchers available from Fiona for up to 40 people



**SAVE THE DATE**

**Walk Thru' the Old Testament**

SEE THE BIG PICTURE OF GOD'S STORY

**WALK THRU ALL DAY EVENT**

**Saturday 28th February 2026**  
Venue: Bourne End Community Centre  
Cost: £20 per person  
Under 18s go FREE

**WHAT IS THIS ALL ABOUT?**

Join us for an inspiring and interactive day exploring the grand story of the Old Testament, brought to life by WTB. Their 'otLIVE'-style events take what can feel confusing — many books, people, places and events — and show you the big picture of God's story, making the Old Testament clear, relevant and memorable.

You'll discover where you fit into God's story — not just as history, but seen through the lens of God's purposes for you.

More info & sign-up details coming soon

# Hymns and Readings

## HYMNS

47 As with Gladness Men of Old

271 We three kings

431 O thou who camest from above

352 Crown him with many crowns omit v4

## READINGS

### Isaiah 60:1-6

*New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised*

**60** Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

<sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>3</sup>Nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

<sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>5</sup>Then you shall see and be radiant;  
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,<sup>[a]</sup>  
because the abundance of the sea shall be  
brought to you,  
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.  
<sup>6</sup>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.

### Matthew 2:1-12

*New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised*

**2** In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men<sup>[a]</sup> from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising,<sup>[b]</sup> and have come to pay him homage.' <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah<sup>[c]</sup> was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup>"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<sup>[d]</sup> my people Israel.””

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the wise men<sup>[e]</sup> and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>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.’ <sup>9</sup>When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising,<sup>[f]</sup> until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped,<sup>[g]</sup> they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>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. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.