

Pews News

4th January 2026

Epiphany



The Adoration of the Magi – Fra Angelico & Fra Filippo Lippi

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.

Post 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.

Epiphany: Isaiah 60.1-6, Ephesians 3.1-12, Matthew 2.1-12

Baptism of Christ: Isaiah 42. 1-9, Acts 10.34-43, Matthew 3. 13-17

Reflection for Epiphany

The Unsearchable Riches of Christ

Rev. Mike Stear

“Someone’s knocking at your door!” The repetitive jingle of the Post Code Lottery adds! There was no post-code lottery about three excited men bubbling over with joy knocking at Mary and Joseph’s door. For Mary and Joseph, surprise and bewilderment, as these foreign nationals entered, fell prostrate before the Lord Jesus and offered him their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Here is the “mystery” referred to by Paul in the epistle for Epiphany (which we celebrate on Tuesday) unfolding more clearly on two counts. First, Christ, the Light of the world, has come to be Saviour of all, who like the Magi, fall prostrate before him in worship, adoration and surrender to him as Lord and King. The Gospel is for all nations and ethnicities.

“Worthy are you for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation,” Revelation 5:9. It is the Gospel that bridges divides. Second, a central purpose for the Church, *“that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.”* Paul, writing to the church in Corinth was specific about this wisdom. It is, *“Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.”* 1 Corinthians 1:24. A wisdom that found its expression in The Servant of God, crucified, risen, reigning and returning, our Saviour, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Wisemen came and surrendered before a young child, the One who is *“the wisdom of God”*. As another year unfolds, they serve as a reminder of the limitations of human wisdom. How we need humbly to seek his wisdom day by day, and to pray for our world leaders to humble themselves and seek the Lord’s wisdom for the problems and challenges that defy human wisdom. The Wisemen came offering their costly gifts and laid them before Christ. Yet Paul writes of *“the unsearchable riches of Christ.”* Riches of love, mercy, grace, forgiveness, hope, joy, peace, wisdom, authority, power and above all glory and holiness that find their outworking in our everyday lives and fulfilled in the life to come. Riches money cannot buy, given through the grace of God working in us by the Holy Spirit. It is Christ knocking at our door to us these *“unsearchable riches”*.

May we come in worship, adoration, fresh surrender of our lives and renewed trust in Jesus, the Light of the world, King of kings and Lord of lords.

All-powerful Father,

you have made known the birth of
the Saviour by the light of a star,

May he continue to guide us with his light,

Enlighten us with his radiance,

And strengthen us with his care,

Until with joy,

He takes us to our eternal home.

The Weekday Missal

FOR YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK:

Among those in special need: Stella Joslin, Jo Weir, Fran Griffiths, Mike & Jenny Ford, Lesley, Gabrielle and Matthew, Fr David Harris, Lesley Harris, Edwin; Rupert; Carol, Paul & Linda Buckingham; Jean Howarth; Helen Lange; Christopher; Katharine; Jonathan Davis; Morag & Robert Curtis; Alan Woods; Tessa Bullick; Margaret Morrissey; Jill Smith; Ruth Davis; Pam Revell.

Many thanks to everyone who's helped me to update the list and asked me to retain the names of these people, who continue to need our prayerful support. As always, please contact me at any time to update the list – please phone 01305 268749 or 07800 962672, leaving a message if necessary; or email johnsamwood@me.com

Among those who have recently died:

Remember those whose Year's Mind falls this week: Iris Watts, Ron Moody

Dorcas MU next meets on Wednesday 14 January at 10am at 4 Bellever Court, Poundbury for prayer, bible study and fellowship. Newcomers welcome. Contact: Janet 01305 260259.

TEA TOAST and TODDLERS Calling all under five's and their grown ups. Do come along on a Monday (term times) 9.30-12pm and have company and fun with lots of toys and activities. Drinks are available and tea and coffee. Fruit, toast and cake are also available. Suggested donation is £2 per family. This is a joint Benefice activity held in St George's Church Hall. For more information contact Ruth McGee Tel. 07984 021132

Our first **Parish Men's Breakfast** of 2026 is on Saturday 10th January at the Engine Room at Poundbury Garden Centre. 9am as normal. There is ample on-street parking and if you would like a lift, I can arrange this. If you plan to come, please advise by telephone on 07776 256537 or by email at davidelliott220@btinternet.com. The Engine Room ask that we pre-order and I will forward the menu to you. Many thanks. David Elliott

ENGLISH MYSTICSM on-line at SARUM COLLEGE Jointly with the *Church Times* Sarum College is offering short courses focussing on five English mystics from the middle-ages to the twentieth century. Margery Kempe; Richard Rolle; the author of *The Cloud of Unknowing*; William Blake; Evelyn Underhill, all show new insights into God, relevant to today. Led by experts in their field, each session runs from 7:30 to 9 pm. Starting on January 26 and approximately monthly thereafter and cost £20 (£85 for all five). Take part in all or some. Contact Sarum College for booking and further details at sarum.ac.uk

St Peter's Church

The church is open **daily from 10am - 4pm during the winter.**

Sundays BCP Eucharist at 9am & Common Worship Eucharist 10.30am.

Mid-week - Morning Prayer at **9.15am** on Monday & Thursday

Midweek Eucharist Our Midweek Eucharist is at **10.00 am on Thursday**. This is always followed by refreshments. Please do consider joining us.

Pastoral Visiting - If you would like to receive the Eucharist at home please contact **me by phone or email. Keith**

Storehouse Church Food Larder During the next weeks in the lead up to Christmas, as well as the normal food and toiletries, please could you consider donating seasonal items such as biscuits, cake and puddings. The more vulnerable families in our town would greatly appreciate them.

An invitation is extended to anyone wishing to join the **Bible study group** which meets every Monday at 2.30pm at 30 Grosvenor Road, Dorchester. For further details please phone Rosemary Briggs 01305 757444. (Own transport essential.) We look forward to welcoming you.

Music at St Peter's

MUSIC AT ST PETER'S
Dorchester

Epiphany Carol Service

Carols, readings and choral music by Peter Cornelius, Gustav Holst, Francis Poulenc, Philip Stopford, William Croft, Herbert Howells & Felix Mendelssohn

Saturday 10th January, 4.30pm
St Peter's Church, Dorchester, DT1 1XA

This service is free to attend, all are welcome.

www.musicatstpetersdorchester.org

The choir are currently taking a short break but will return for the Sung Eucharist at 10.30am on Sunday 4th January. Then on Saturday 10th January at 4.30pm, we have our **Candlelit Epiphany Carol Service**. Please do join us for this wonderfully atmospheric service which draws the Christmas Season to a close with splendid choral settings, readings and your favourite Epiphany hymns. The *Music at St Peter's* Spring brochure is now available at the back of the church or online at www.musicatstpetersdorchester.org

St. Mary's Church

www.facebook.com/St-Marys-Dorchester-672844449522662

On Sundays each week Sung Eucharist at 9.45am

On the first Sunday of the month, next is 4 January, there is a Said Eucharist at 8am and Taize Worship at 6pm on the theme of 'Adoration'

Gluten Free Communion is available—please ask the Sidesperson

Morning Prayer on Tuesdays at 9am followed by **Said Eucharist** at 9.30am.

The Contemplative Prayer Group on Wednesdays at 5pm in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel at St Mary's. Come and join us for 20 minutes of silence.

There will be NO group on 31st December. The group will restart in the new year on Wednesday 7th January 2026 . Everyone from across the Benefice and beyond is welcome

The Sanctuary Lamp Candle is given by Kath Joslin in memory of her father William Cashman

The Bible Study Group meets once a fortnight at the Vicarage 17a Edward Road on Monday evenings at 7.30pm. The next meeting is on 5th January at 7.30pm.

Dorchester Poverty Action would like to thank the congregation at St Mary's for supporting us with their charitable Christmas tree this year. A total of £110 has been donated to the charity. Our grateful thanks to you all. Dorchester Poverty Action.

Thank you to everybody who wrote Christmas wishes on a tag for the tree and all the donations received. A big 'thank you' from Cynthia.

St George's Church

The church is open every day from 9.00am to 4.00pm for private prayer.

Sunday Services

8.30am Holy Communion (NOTE NEW TIME!) 1st and 3rd Sundays

A quiet traditional BCP service in the Edward Chapel.

10.30am Holy Communion followed by refreshments in the church hall.

Dragons, our children's group, meets in the church hall during the 10.30 service in term time. All school age children are welcome.

6.30pm Pizza and Praise, first Sunday of the month. A new monthly service for youth and families.

Weekday services:

Wednesday 9.30am Morning Prayer at the back of church.

Thursday 11.00am Holy Communion followed by refreshments.

Other regular activities:

Monday: 9.30-12 Tea, Toast and Toddlers in the hall

Monday: Bible Study group 7.15pm weekly in members' homes. Details from Cora or Gerry.

Wednesday 12.30-1.30 Community Lunch and Food Larder welcomes anyone who needs company, lunch, or food in times of hardship. As the weather gets colder the hall provides a warm space to meet with friends and members of St George's Congregation. Thursday: Fellowship group 12.00-1.00 in church. A new informal time of prayer and Bible reflection over a sandwich lunch (bring your own!) All are welcome.

Our **COMMUNITY LUNCH AND FOOD LARDER** is currently much busier and we welcome donations. We'd love to treat our clients to some Christmas items, either food or toiletries. Also needed are: Cereal, long life milk, biscuits, microwave rice, pot noodles etc; tinned meat/fish, custard/rice pudding; loo rolls, washing up liquid etc. Best times to bring items are at Sunday services, or pop into the hall on a Wednesday from 12.15 - 1.30. All are welcome for soup and a sandwich!

Thank you for your support. **We re-open on Wednesday 31st December.**

Please stay to join Steve and Gerry for cake, fizz and nibbles after the service as they celebrate their Golden Wedding anniversary.

Candles for Ukraine - We are collecting candles and candle wax for Ukraine again over the Christmas period. Candles can be left in St George's at the back of church in a bag or box marked FAO Emma & Martin, or can be dropped off at our house - please email raggedtigerwrites@gmail.com for details. (no scented candles, please)

Many thanks to all who decorated the church so beautifully for Christmas, to Alex, our organists and choir for all the music, to Val and the kitchen team, and to all who helped in many ways over the joyous but busy Christmas season.

Clear and tidy up of the gallery On Saturday 10th January we are going to have a sort out and clean of the gallery in church. We will be there from 10am so if you have an hour or two to spare, do come and join us.

Job Advert - Heritage Event Organiser and Administrator - 10 hrs per week - £15/per hour ideally this role will be self employed and paid by invoice. For further information and an application form please contact: revd.cora.yarrien@gmail.com Closing date for completed applications 31st December 2025. Shortlisting and Interviews week of 5th January 2026

St Andrew's Church

MORNING PRAYER Every Tuesday at 9.45am - all welcome.

PRIVATE PRAYER & REFLECTION

The church is open every day from 10am to 4pm.

HOME COMMUNION If you are unable to go to church and would like to receive Holy Communion at home then please contact Revd Cora Yarrien on 262421 or email revd.cora.yarrien@gmail.com

Services are at 11.15am on first and 3rd Sundays and 9.00am on 2nd and 4th Sundays. Gluten Free Communion Wafers are available, please ask.

January services

4th - Morning Prayer

11th - Holy Communion

18th - Matins

25th - Holy Communion

Coffee and Chat - Saturday 10th January from 10am to noon

Church Contacts:- Team Vicar: Revd Cora Yarrien - 262421

Secretary : Janet Ranger-Dennis 07752 634773



St Simon and St Jude, Winterborne Monkton

Holy Communion is celebrated at **11.15am** on the first Sunday of each month. The church is open every weekend 10am-4pm or by arrangement with Judy Norman 01305 262719



We shall be holding our annual Plough Sunday service, historically associated with the first working day after the twelve days of Christmas (hence Plough Monday in some places). In medieval times some ploughs were kept in the parish church, and some churches kept a plough-light. In days when work was scarce in winter, the observance looked forward to the time of sowing with the promise of a harvest to come. Our Rector is pictured with a modern plough in 2025. Please join us after the service for refreshments".

Dorchester Strollers:

Monday 5th January

Tuesday 6th January

10.30am Tesco by the fountains

2.15pm Borough Gardens by the Bandstand



Team Rector & St Peter, High West St:

Revd Keith Magee 07766 645135

Keith.magee@btinternet.com

Curate: Rev.d Heidi Merrett 07706 058676 revheidimerrett@gmail.com

St George, Fordington Revd Cora Yarrien 01305 262421

revd.cora.yarrien@gmail.com

St Mary, Edward Road Revd Jimmy Holden 01305 266502

revjimmyholden@gmail.com

St Andrew, West Stafford Revd Cora Yarrien 01305 262421

revd.cora.yarrien@gmail.com

The Winterbournes and Compton Valence Churches Rev Teresa

StewartSykes 01305 549242 email revteresa@outlook.com

Parish Office: 01305 250719 dorchesterpcc@gmail.com

open 9-1, Tues, Thur, Fri.

Looked after by June Jenkins & Gill Hartnett

The Benefice Website: www.dorchesteranglican.org.uk

QR code



[https://www.dorchesteranglican.org.uk/](http://www.dorchesteranglican.org.uk/)