



Connection

Sunday 3rd January 2021
Epiphany



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

Reading: Ephesians 3: 1-12

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 to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

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.

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

Requests for Prayers

If there is someone or something that you would like to pray for please email us at eckingtonvicarage@hotmail.com



Please continue to pray for the ill and isolated, frontline, hospital and medical staff and for all those who are in any kind of need. We pray for all those who have been unable to access worship for a range of reasons, including through a lack of technology and fear.

Those who are sick: Roy and Margaret Putnam, Richard Clements, Christopher Frith, Edward Bunn, Brian Bolam

We continue to pray for: Don Dufty, Percy and Sharon Blizzard, Jackie Pickford, Clive Hunt, Mary Doney

Those in residential care: Sheila Bigland-Gibbons, Barbara Milton, Rita Sheppy

Those who have died and their families: Brian Druce, Charles Brazier, Nils Wilkes, Simon Flynn, Doreen Byrd, Geoff Relph, Revd Margie Schutte

Anniversary of a death: Please pray for those who have lost loved ones this year and who will be without them this New Year

Church Services this Sunday 3rd January

9.00am Chapel of Ease, Bredon's Norton

10.30am St Mary's, Elmley Castle

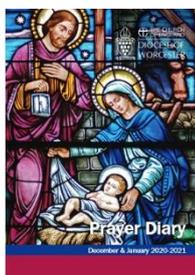
10.30am Holy Trinity, Eckington



The Rota for January 2021

Date	Church	Time	Minister
10 th January	St Peter's Chapel, Besford	9.00am	Reverend Allison Davies
	St Faith's, Overbury	10.30am	Bishop Martin Gorick
	St Giles', Bredon	10.30am	Reverend Allison Davies
17 th January	St Michael's, Bricklehampton (Morning Prayer)	9.00am	Reverend Allison Davies
	Holy Trinity, Eckington	10.30am	Reverend Allison Davies
	St Nicholas', Teddington	10.30am	Reverend Doug Chaplin
24 th January	St James' Defford	9.00am	Reverend Allison Davies
	St Giles', Bredon	10.30am	Reverend Catherine Lack
	St Barbara's, Ashton Under Hill	10.30am	Reverend Allison Davies
31 st January	United Service, St Mary's Elmley Castle	10.30am	Reverend Allison Davies

Following the Government announcement that the majority of us are in Tier 3 – please see separate email from Alison Kahn re Tier 4 - our churches will be open for public worship and private prayer only - details of these will be available in the Parish Magazines and the Church Near You websites.



News from the Diocese

Prayers and diocesan news can be found at www.cofe-worcester.org.uk



Reverend Allison and all the Bredon Hill Group Churchwardens would like to wish all of you a Safe, Blessed and Happy New Year

Reverend Allison Davies

Vicar of Eckington, Defford with Besford and Associate Priest for the churches of the Bredon Hill Group