Newchurch, Croft and Winwick Group Ministry

Readings for the Team Eucharist Feast of the Epiphany 10.30am 4 January 2026 at Christ Church, Croft



Welcome to our celebrations! And the blessings the Lord has stored up for you! The Star is he light of faith and natural yearning leading to the Truth. The Magi are "First Fruits" of the Gentiles; the end of spiritual isolation. The Gifts are a confession of faith: Jesus is King

(Gold), Jesus is God (Incense), and Jesus is the atoning sacrifice for our decay and sin (Myrrh). The Journey is our own universal human search for meaning, identity and authentic life, fully completed in the Messiah, Jesus.

Collect

O God, who by the leading of a star didst Manifested thy only begotten Son to the Gentiles: mercifully grant that we, who know thee now by faith, may after this life have the fruition of thy glorious Godhead; through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, one God, now and for ever.

Post Communion

O Lord our God, the bright splendour whom the nations seek: grant that we, who with the wise men have been drawn by thy light, may discern the glory of thy presence in thy Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Reading 1 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.

Reading 2: 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.

Gospel Acclamation Alleluia! Alleluia! The Wise Men were overwhelmed with joy! Alleluia!

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.

Times of Fellowship this week Monday 5 January

@ 1.30pm: Explorers: The Big Picture - How all the Bible fits together in CCC Parish Hall

Tuesday 6 January

@10.00am: Communion Newchurch Parish Hall

Wednesday 7 January @9.00am:

Morning Prayer at Christ Church, Croft

Thursday 8 January @ 9.00am:

Morning Prayer at St Oswald's

Sunday 11 January – Eucharist for Christmas 3

@10.30am at Newchurch
@9.00am at Christchurch
@10.30am at St Oswald
@ 10.30am Informal Prayer & Readings
at Christ Church

Please pray for the setting up of

☐ the FfM Navigation Team

☐ the appointment of the FfM Project
Administrator

☐ Our Area Dean & Rector, Martin

☐ The absolute priority of outreach & mission in our deanery and churches

The village of constant light

Deep in its valley, surrounded by high mountains, the Norwegian village of Rjukan and its 3,400 inhabitants are in dark shadow for half the year. During the day, from late September to mid-March, Rjukan, three hours north-west of Oslo, experiences no direct sunshine.



In 2013, however, the villagers gazed out upon an amazing sight. High on the mountain opposite, 450 metres above the town, three

large, solar-powered, computer-controlled mirrors steadily began to track the movement of the sun across the sky, reflecting its rays down on to the village square and bathing it in bright sunlight and warmth - even in the darkest days of winter! Both Isaiah and Paul rejoice that the Lord is tracking us! He knows *you!* His desire and plan is always to break through the darkness that comes upon you. Let this be our expectation, that Jesus will bathe us in His warmth and love. Trev