

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.
Amen

Today's Readings

Isaiah 60.1-6

Psalm 72.10-15

Ephesians 3.1-12

Matthew 2.1-12

Today's Hymns

86

94

103

105

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.
Amen

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Sunday 7th January 2024

Newsletter

Priest in Charge

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St MARY'S SERVICES – DECEMBER/JANUARY

Sunday 7th January – Epiphany

10am – Sung Eucharist Led by Fr Adam

Monday 8th January

10am – Mainly Music

1.15pm – Funeral of Wendy Tomlinson

Tuesday 9th January

10am – Midweek Said Eucharist

Wednesday 10th January

2pm – Funeral of Bob Williams

Sunday 14th January

10am – Morning Prayer

6.30pm - Evensong

Please Note:

Mon – Wed 8.30am - Morning Prayer at St Mary's

5pm – Evening Prayer at Church of the Ascension

Pray for our sick and those who care for them:

Colin, John, Ken, Pat, Tony, Louise, Jim, Roger, Kasia, Theresa Mulvhill, Martyn Wassell, David Hickman, Helen, Val, Pauline, Lynda Stevens, Mike Penn, Rob Franklin and Ernest Crumpton

Recently Departed: Wendy Tomlinson, Robert Williams, Fr John Lungley, Gillian Cousins, Rita Downing, Mike Abrahams

Year's Mind: Betty Arthur, Raymond Gordon, Mary Nicklin, Patricia Perry, Evelyn Grey, Jayne Hunt, Florence Crowe, Sam Welborn, Alan Smith, Cecil Colley, Georgina Andrewatha, Elsie Sinfield, Gladys Lanford, Hilda Lumb, Anthony Shutt, Jennifer Dalloway, Amelia Heathcock, Nell Lilley, Nellie Morgan, Edward Wall, John Richards, Joan Pearson, William Jones, John Hadley, Ethel Pearson

50/50 Draw

It is now time to renew your subscriptions for our monthly 50/50 Draw. If you wish to renew your numbers please let Helen have your money - £12 per number. If you wish to pay for your numbers by bank transfer, please ask Neil for the bank details.

Anyone wishing to join the draw please also speak to Helen.

Each month we draw out 4 numbers – 1st prize £20, and 3 runners up @ £10.

Don't forget you've got to be in it to win it!

Sunday 4 February

An early heads up, that our Eucharist on Sunday 4 February will begin at 9.45am, as we are hosting four local Air Training Cadet Corps for ATC Sunday at 11.15am.

Epiphany and blessing of chalk

At today's service we will bless chalk. You may wonder what on earth this is all about but....

There is a tradition of blessing chalk at Epiphany to mark the threshold of our homes with a new year blessing. This picks up Old Testament traditions of marking the doorposts of the house with biblical texts (Deuteronomy 6:9), the theme of the Holy Family welcoming visitors to their home to visit the Christ-child, and a reminder of the importance of hospitality throughout the Scriptures. Because of the timing of Epiphany, it also offers a chance to pray for God's blessing at the start of the new year.

The letters and numbers that people chalk on their doors pick up the new year, the Epiphany story, and the prayer for blessing in a simple formula, written like this 20 + C + M + B + 24. The 20 and 24 are of course the beginning and end of the year's date. The middle three letters stand for the traditional names of the wise men (magi): Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. They also represent the initials of the Latin phrase "Christus mansionem benedicat" – "Christ bless the house." Together they represent our prayer at the start of the year that our homes, too, may be places blessed by the love and light of Christ.

Placement Student

We have a placement student coming to join us for a short time. Here's some information about her.

Hi, my name is Vickie Dunlop and I am a second-year ordinand training with Hereford Diocese. I currently worship at Telford Minster, but am looking forward to spending the next 8 weeks with you to experience ministry in a different context and learn about different traditions. I have three children who will sometimes be at church with me: they are Joe (15); Haydn (10) and Millie (5). I am married to Neil who is a managing Chaplain in a prison. Thank you so much for welcoming me to your community; I am looking forward to meeting you!