



St John's Parish Church, Baildon

We have seen his
star in the east,
and are come to
worship him.

Matthew 2:2



Epiphany Celebration!

Sunday 7th January 2024

WELCOME AND NOTICES

Hymn

**We three kings of Orient are
bearing gifts we traverse afar
field and fountain, moor and mountain
following yonder star**

*O Star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.*

**Born a king on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
king forever, ceasing never
over us all to reign.**

O Star of wonder, star of night

**Frankincense to offer have I,
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, all men raising,
worship him, God most high.**

O Star of wonder, star of night,.....

**Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume
breathes of life of gathering gloom
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying
sealed in the stone-cold tomb.**

O Star of wonder, star of night,.....

**Glorious now behold him arise
king and God and sacrifice
Heaven sings: 'Alleluia',
'Alleluia,' the earth replies.**

O Star of wonder, star of night

**All Lord Jesus, the wise men followed a star to come and
worship you. As we offer you the gift of our worship, may
we meet with you this morning. Amen**

The wonderful light of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All And also with you.

We light all the Advent Candles and the Christ-light

Today we remember Jesus and the story of his birth

All Jesus is our King.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world;

All Jesus is our Way.

SAYING SORRY TO GOD

Wise men from the east worshipped Jesus and brought their gifts. We, too, have gifts but have not offered them to you or used them for you. We, too, have said you are a King, but have not served you as we should. And so we confess our sins:

All Lord Jesus forgive us and help us

When our trust is less than certain

All Lord Jesus forgive us and help us

When our love is less than bright

All Lord Jesus forgive us and help us

When our prayer is less than frequent

All Lord Jesus forgive us and help us

May we, like the wise men, who were once far away from Jesus, be brought nearer to him, who gives us forgiveness and peace. May God forgive you and bring you to his light.

All Amen.

The wise men arrive at the crib!

Reading - Matthew 2:1-12

Seeking treasure!

And the treasure is Jesus!

Hymn

*Come and join the celebration,
it's a very special day;
come and join the celebration,
there's a new King born today!*

See the shepherds
hurry down to Bethlehem;
gaze in wonder
at the Son of God who lay before them.

Come and join the celebration

Wise men journey,
led to worship by a star,
kneel in homage,
bringing precious gifts from lands afar, so

Come and join the celebration

'God is with us,'
round the world the message bring;
He is with us,
'Welcome!' all the bells on earth are pealing.

*Come and join the celebration,
it's a very special day;
come and join the celebration,
there's a new King born today!*

BAPTISM WELCOME

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, N by one Spirit we are all baptised into one body.

All We welcome you into the fellowship of faith; we are children of the same heavenly Father; we welcome you.

FIND YOUR STAR!

Around the church we have placed some wooden stars, the children are invited to search for their star, take it to a table and decorate it. When finished bring it the front and they may receive some treasure!

During this time others might like to reflect on 'this star of wonder'. In our Christmas reflections book it said 'we all live under the same sky but not all of us see its stars - its wonder'. You might like to think what or who enable you to 'see the stars' and open your eyes to wonder. Maybe it's a particular place, or person. Or you might like to think about the gifts you have to offer, or what gifts you need to receive? You can write down your thoughts around the star in the order of service.

PRAYERS

Our prayers will be collected on a large star and placed over the crib, bringing them to Jesus.

All Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

HYMN (during this hymn a collection will be taken for the work of the Parish. There will be a contactless giving machine available as you leave Church if you prefer to donate in this way.)

**See him lying on a bed of straw:
a draughty stable with an open door;
Mary cradling the babe she bore
the prince of glory is his name.**

***O now carry me to Bethlehem
to see the Lord of love again:
just as poor as was the stable then,
the Prince of glory when he came!***

**Star of silver, sweep across the skies,
show where Jesus in the manger lies;
shepherds, swiftly from your stupor rise
to see the Saviour of the world!**

O now carry me...

**Angels, sing again the song you sang,
sing the glory of God's gracious plan;
Sing that Bethl'em's little baby can
be salvation to the soul.**

O now carry me...

**Mine are riches, from your poverty,
from your innocence, eternity;
mine, forgiveness by your death for me,
child of sorrow for my joy.**

O now carry me ...

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

As the wise men were led by the light of a star, may you, as St Paul says, 'shine as stars in the sky', and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you, and with those whom you love and pray for, this day and always.

All Amen.

The Light has pierced our darkness.
Go in the name of God - to follow that light.

All We follow with our gifts and our lives.

NOTICES

REFRESHMENTS - There is tea or coffee available in the Hall after this service.

MESSY CHURCH - our next Messy Church session will be on Sunday 21st January at 4.00pm. We meet in the hall and all families are welcome

WEDNESDAY COFFEE - do join us from 10.00-12noon every Wednesday. Everyone is welcome.

WINTER CHARITABLE GIVING - Our giving to Shelter will close on Sunday 13th January. When making a BACS donation through the Parish Bank Account please quote the reference SHELTER.

NOTICES - in the future please could all notices to go on the Sunday service sheets be sent to Sarah Baxter at sarah.baxter@parishofbaildon.uk. The sheets are printed on a Thursday so please make sure that your notice arrives in plenty of time.

JULIAN MEETING – The next meeting of the Julian Group will be on Wednesday 17th January 2.00 – 3.00pm at St James' Church, Baildon, followed by a cuppa. Everyone is welcome.

JEFF MOTTERSHEAD – It was with sorrow that we learnt of Jeff's death. Jeff was a member of the parish community and his funeral will take place at Shay Grange Crematorium on Friday 12th January at 12.45pm. Our prayers are for Joy, other members of the family and close friends.

TRIBUTE SHOW - Need a little fun now the Christmas season is coming to an end? Following the success from the last Tribute Show in November we have arranged another evening with Martin and Debbie on Friday 9th February at 7.30pm in St John's church hall. Martin will sing hits by Buddy Holly and the Everly Brothers and after supper Martin and Debbie will perform popular duets from the decades to dance to. With a ticket price of £10, what better way to brighten a dull February? See Loraine for tickets and further details. Tickets went quickly for the last event so don't miss out!!

DEFIBRILLATOR - It has been pointed out that a defibrillator is lacking in the community around St James's Church. Did you know that in the event of cardiac arrest use of a defibrillator with resuscitation increases the rate of survival from 2% to 74%?! Fundraising towards the £2000 target to purchase the £1600 defibrillator, heated cabinet, and upkeep has begun, but will be the focus of parish giving from mid January to 13 February. From 14th January to Ash Wednesday donations would be very gratefully received via BACS please reference 'DEFIB'. (Just Giving link to follow). Thank you, your gift could potentially be lifesaving. Carolyn Gomersal, Parish Nurse

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKER - We are looking for someone to develop the work of St James's Hub. The post is 16 hours a week, £12-£13 per hour depending on qualification or experience. If you would like to know more please contact Canon Sandra.

LADIES FELLOWSHIP- An invitation to our first meeting of 2024, being held on Thursday 18 January at St James Lounge from 6.00-8.30pm. We have a varied programme lined up for the year ahead. Starting with a wonderful instructor and a highly appropriate topic for this month, after all our Christmas indulgences. A warm welcome awaits everyone. For more information contact rosieprentice52@icloud.com

