

Benefice Epiphany Celebration

Sunday 7 January 2018

when you have finished with this sheet pass it on to someone unable to get to church today

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.**

FIRST READING Isaiah 60.1-6

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

1 Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. 2 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. 3 Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. 4 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. 5 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. 6 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.

This is the word of the Lord. **THANKS BE TO GOD**

Responsorial Psalm 72:10-15

Response: The Lord is king; let the earth rejoice



The Lord is king; let the earth - re-joyce.

The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute; the kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring gifts. All kings shall fall down before him; all nations shall do him service. **R** For he shall deliver the poor that cry out, the needy and those who have no helper. He shall have pity on the weak and poor; he shall preserve the lives of the needy. **R** He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, and dear shall their blood be in his sight. Long may he live; unto him may be given gold from Sheba; may prayer be made for him continually and may they bless him all the day long. **R**

SECOND READING Ephesians 3.1-12

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

1 I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles – 2 for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, 3 and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, 4 a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. 5 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: 6 that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. 7 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. 8 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, 9 and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; 10 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. 11 This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, 12 in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

This is the word of the Lord. **THANKS BE TO GOD**

GOSPEL Matthew 2.1-12

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew. **GLORY TO YOU O LORD**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 2 '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.' 3 When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; 4 and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. 5 They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 6 "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.'" 7 Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 8 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.' 9 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. 10 When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 11 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. 12 And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

This is the gospel of the Lord. **PRAISE TO YOU O CHRIST**

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.**

LyCiG Prayer

God of Mission, who alone brings growth to your Church,
send your Holy Spirit to give vision to our planning,
wisdom to our actions, and power to our witness.
Help our church to grow in numbers, in spiritual commitment
to you, and in service to our local community,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

The United Benefice of Sharnbrook, Felmersham and Knotting with Souldrop

St Peter's Church, Sharnbrook MK44 1HU, St Mary's Church, Felmersham MK43 7JP

All Saints Church, Souldrop MK44 1EX

www.sharnbrookcofechurches.org



Welcome! Joining in the Epiphany celebration 2018

Worship in the Benefice today...

Epiphany Celebration

1030 Sharnbrook **Sung Communion**

followed by Bring 'n Share pot luck lunch in SPR

1800 Sharnbrook Benefice Evensong

Monday—Baptism of Christ (*trans from Sunday*)

1145 Sharnbrook Messy Church

Tuesday—feria

1930 PCC at Felmersham

Wednesday—Commemoration- William Laud, 1645

0930 Sharnbrook **Holy Communion 2nd Wed CW**

1530 90th Birthday celebration for Mrs Collis—all invited to join the celebration in SPR

1930 Benefice Churchwarden's meeting hosted at Nick's in Souldrop

Thursday—Commemoration-Mary Slessor, 915

0930 Felmersham **Holy Communion CW**

1130 Sharnbrook Mothers' Union Epiphany and Transition Communion followed by Bring 'n Share lunch in SPR

Friday—Lesser Festival-Aelred of Hexham, Abbot of Rievaulx, 1167

1345 Funeral & Cremation of Late Michael Hogg

Saturday—Lesser Festival—

Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers, Teacher of the Faith, 367

Next Sunday morning—2nd Sun of Epiphany

0830 Souldrop Holy Communion BCP

0930 Sharnbrook All Age Communion

1100 Felmersham Parish Communion

1800 Sharnbrook Benefice Evensong—LLW Andrea

The Benefice Diary is online at www.sharnbrookcofechurches.org

90th Birthday invitation - you are invited to celebrate Shirley Ann Collis' 90th B'day from 3.30pm in SPR on Wednesday. Mr Collis would be delighted to welcome you to the celebration.



Christian Meditation Group

meets on Mondays 2000 in SPR—all welcome!

Leading Your Church Into Growth 2018

Doing LyCiG Local Study Course

Leaders Session 1: Wednesday 24 January 7:30pm The Rectory

Main Session 1: Saturday 3 February 2pm

hosted at Felmersham

Main Session 2: Tuesday 13 February 7:30pm

hosted at Souldrop

Main Session 3: Saturday 24 February 2pm-3:30pm

hosted in St Peter's Room

Leaders Session 2: Tuesday 27 February 7:30pm The Rectory

LyCiG Diocesan Day 3 March 9:30am-3pm

at The Rufus Centre, Flitwick MK45 1AH

– 10 places booked for the Benefice – cost free

Main Session 4: Friday 9 March 7:30pm

hosted at Felmersham

Main Session 5: Tuesday 20 March 7:30pm

hosted at Souldrop

Main Session 6: Saturday 21 April 2pm-3:30pm

hosted in St Peter's Room

This study course is for all who come to church to help us work together in growing our churches.



"HOLLYWOOD COMES TO SHARNBROOK

'The Martian' starring Matt Damon
Sat 20 Jan at Sharnbrook Village Hall
Doors open 7.00 film starts at 7.30pm
Tickets £5 from Ian 781721 All proceeds to Friends of St Peter's Church"

Church Contacts

The Rector: Reuben Preston, The Rectory, 81 High Street, Sharnbrook MK44 1PE 01234 782000 07971 895897
rectorofsharnbrook@rjpmmedia.co.uk

Lay Leaders of Worship: Rosemary Drewery 07792926004, Jane Templeman, Andrea Maffie 07881 046255

Churchwardens:-

St Peter's Church: Roland Carpenter 01234 781551

St Mary's Church: Jane Wells 01234 782462 &

Sue Whitehouse 01234 781300

All Saints Church: Nick Wells 07841 759497

Safeguarding Co-Ord: Rosemary Drewery 07792 926004

Items for inclusion should be sent to

sharnbrookbenefice@gmail.com by 0900 on Wednesdays.

Intercessions

The sick and in need: Barbara, Sally, Martin, Mary, Linda, Marjorie, Doreen, David & James,

The Departed: George Hogg, Iris Elliott, Janice Woodfield

Send the names of people who have asked to be remembered in our parish intercessions to the Rector

Pray for our Epiphany Celebration this weekend— may we all have a good time

Pray for the Missionary work of the Church of England

Pray for families struggling with mental health issues and unemployment

Give thanks for our Christmas celebrations in the Benefice



To make arrangements for Weddings, Funerals, Baptisms/Christenings, Confessions, House Blessings etc. please contact the Rector

Sponsorship: in prayer for all families facing financial difficulties and the stress it brings

If you would like to sponsor this sheet please send you £5 donation to The Rectory along with details of the sponsorship (even if anonymous)