



**Epiphany**

A warm welcome to all.

A special welcome to any visitors to the Benefice or those worshipping here for the first time.

**7th January 2018**

**What is Epiphany?**

The Epiphany is an ancient Christian feast day and is significant in a number of ways. In the East, where it originated, the Epiphany celebrates the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist in the River Jordan. It also celebrates Jesus' birth.

The Western Church began celebrating the Epiphany in the 4th century where it was, and still is, associated with the visit of the magi (wise men) to the infant Jesus, some time after his birth, when God revealed himself to the world through the incarnation of Jesus. Jesus was therefore revealed as both human and divine and a Saviour for people of all nations.

**Next Sunday - 14th January**

We welcome The Archdeacon of Taunton, The Venerable Simon Hill, to preach at 9.30am Holy Communion in Woolavington and 11am Holy Communion in Cossington.

**Home Group**

Meets again on Tuesday 8th January at 8pm at The Rectory, Woolavington. All welcome.  
*"What can we learn from the story of the Wise Men?"*



**WOOLAVINGTON  
 CHURCH CAFÉ  
 EVERY WEDNESDAY**

**10.30 am - noon  
 in the church**

Come and enjoy a cup of coffee or tea, and perhaps a piece of cake and have a chat.

**ALL WELCOME**

**Advance Notice**

Deanery Synod meetings are now open meetings – the next one is on Tuesday 6th Feb at 7.30pm at Westonzoyland Church when **Bishop Ruth** will be the guest speaker.

As we move into a new phase of the church's life, please try to come along and hear where our churches are on the journey and in the mission of the wider church.

**Please Pray for:**

**The Community:**

Please pray for those living in:- Edgebury (W); Brent Road (C) Bawdrip Lane (B)

**The Sick:** (Those named after /> live outside the Benefice but have a connection with a particular parish).

**Woolavington:** Aiden Newcombe, Tamara, Mo Retford and her family; Jan Shingfield and her family situation; Sue Newton; Cecily Titmas, Keith Moore /> Alan Calaminus, Bob Clegg, Maureen Pearce, Gill and Alan's niece, Sally . **Cossington:** > Jean Edwards, Rebecca Hooper Clare Bowden

**Bawdrip:** Len Baker, Bill Hubbock, Dot Russell

**RIP:** Bernard Minns (Bawdrip) and Jennifer Kellaway (Woolavington)

**The Diocesan Calendar of Prayer** is available on [www.bathandwells.org](http://www.bathandwells.org)

**Please pray for all those who suffer in silence and those who support others, who are sick or in need.**

**Around the Benefice**

Tue 9	7.30pm	Bawdrip Parish Council, Parish Hall
Wed 10	10.45am	Cossington Charity Coffee Morning. Sylvia Davies, The Poplars, Middle Road

## Today's readings

### The 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.

### Old Testament reading *Isaiah 60.1-6*

"Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.  
See, darkness covers the earth  
and thick darkness is over the peoples,  
but the LORD rises upon you  
and his glory appears over you.  
Nations will come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.  
Lift up your eyes and look about you:  
All assemble and come to you;  
your sons come from afar,  
and your daughters are carried on the arm.  
Then you will look and be radiant,  
your heart will throb and swell with joy;  
the wealth on the seas will be brought to you,  
to you the riches of the nations will come.  
Herds of camels will cover your land,  
young camels of Midian and Ephah.  
And all from Sheba will come,  
bearing gold and incense  
and proclaiming the praise of the LORD."

### Psalm *Psalm 72.(1-9)10-15*

### New Testament reading *Ephesians 3.1-12*

I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles –

Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. Although I am less than

the least of all God's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

### Gospel *Matthew 2.1-12*

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

"But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel."

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

### 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.

### Thought for the week

"The hands of the Almighty are so often to be found at the end of our own arms."

*Sister Monica Joan in Call the Midwife*

### SERVICES NEXT WEEK

Tuesday 9	Woolavington	10.00am	Holy Communion
	Bawdrip	7.15pm	Pause for Prayer
Wednesday 10	Cossington	9.30am	Morning Prayers
Sunday 14	Woolavington	9.30am	Holy Communion
	Cossington	11.00am	Holy Communion
	Bawdrip	6.30pm	Evening Prayer

**For parish contacts and Pump editors please see:**

Church notice boards

Link magazine

Benefice website:

[www.wcbchurches.org.uk](http://www.wcbchurches.org.uk)