

DIOCESE OF CANTERBURY
Changed lives - Changing lives

St. Laurence Parish Church,
Hawkhurst, Parish Eucha-
rist 8.1.2023- The Feast of
the Epiphany

The Sidespeople today are:
Kate Lagden and Geraldine
Nurney

The Zoom Details are:

Meeting ID: 457 244 0784
Passcode: 5i1UCa

Hymn

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

Refrain:

*O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceed-
ing,
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. **Refrain:**

Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, voices rais-
ing,
worshipping God on high. **Refrain:**
Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dy-
ing,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb.
Refrain:

Glorious now behold Him arise,
King, and God, and Sacrifice;
Heav'n sings Hallelujah:
Hallelujah the earth replies. **Re-**
frain:

In the Name of God: Father, Son
and the Holy Spirit . **Amen.**

The Lord be with you
And also with you

Collect for Purity

**Almighty God to whom all
hearts are open all desires
known and from whom no se-
crets are hid cleanse the
thoughts of our hearts by the
inspiration of your Holy Spirit
that we may perfectly love you
and worthily magnify your holy
Name; through Christ our Lord.
Amen**

Penitence

In silence let us call to mind our
sins against God, others and our-
selves.. We confess together:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father in penitence we confess that we have sinned against you through our own fault in thought, word, and deed and in what we have left undone. For the sake of your Son, Christ our Lord forgive us all that is past and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your Name.

May the Father of all mercies cleanse us from our sins, and restore us in his image to the praise and glory of his name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Collect of the Day

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.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Prayer before receiving the Word of God — Before we read, we pray together

Eternal God, in the reading of the Scriptures, may your Word be heard;

In the meditations of our hearts, may your Word be known; and

**In the faithfulness of our lives, may your Word be shown.
Amen.**

First Reading - Isaiah 60:1-6 read by Claire Roberts

Rise up in splendour, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you. See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples; but upon you the LORD shines, and over you appears his glory. Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance. Raise your eyes and look about; they all gather and come to you: your sons come from afar, and your daughters in the arms of their nurses.

Then you shall be radiant at what you see, your heart shall throb and overflow, for the riches of the sea shall be emptied out before you, the wealth of nations shall be brought to you. Caravans of camels shall fill you, dromedaries from Midian and Ephah; all from Sheba shall come bearing gold and frankincense, and proclaiming the praises of the LORD.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Hymn

Bethlehem, a noble city,
has been blessed beyond compare,
for the gracious God of heaven
once became incarnate there.

Fairer than the sun at morning
was the star that told his birth,
to the world its God announcing,
seen in human form on earth.

From the east came men of wisdom
bringing treasures prized of old,
tributes to a greater wisdom,
gifts of incense, myrrh, and gold
Sacred gifts of mystic meaning:
incense shows that God has come,
gold proclaims him king of nations,
myrrh foretells his saving tomb.

Holy Jesus, in your brightness
to the gentile world displayed,
with the Father and the Spirit
endless praise to you be paid.

Gospel Reading

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

We saw his star at its rising
and have come to do him homage.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

The Lord be with you
And also with you

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew
Glory to you, O Lord.

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage."

When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people He inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet: And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage."

After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at

seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.

This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ

Hymn - during which the figures of the three kings are carried to the stable.

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.

Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

Refrain

Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.

Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.

Make us your living voice. **Refrain**

Longing for food, many are hungry.

Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed. **Refrain**

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.

Longing for warmth, many are cold.

Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone. **Refrain**

Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.

Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come. **Refrain**

The Reflection

The Creed - said together

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the

Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the Church - led by Stephen Ringer

Gracious God, may we rise and shine in the light that has come into the world and revel in its glory. Help us in our service today to sing forth your praises and worship you in the beauty of holiness.

We pray for Justin and Rose our Bishops and all who lead us Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Creator God we pray that the people of the world might lift up their eyes round about, and come to see your light, and that rulers and kings, drawn to the brightness of your truth, might rule with justice and mercy. We pray against the Herods of this world and all that use violence and terror to fulfil their earthy desires.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Holy God, we pray for King Charles and every member of the Royal Family, that all things belonging to the Holy Spirit may continue to live and grow in them.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Father God help us to remember that the Epiphany revealed Jesus Christ to the gentile world. Show us too that through such an amazing gift, which surpassed the King's gold, frankincense and myrrh, we can know your limitless love for us and for your church.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Loving God, we pray for the sick and suffering and all who are surrounded by deep darkness. We

ask that they may be illuminated by your grace and love. Help us to radiate and reflect the brilliance of your light so that as it shines through us it may help to bring healing and wholeness to those in need. We pray for Gillian Robinson, Robbie Robinson, Eleanor Ash, Colin White, David Winston, Christian Jervis-Read, Cressida Jervis-Read, Nigel Barter, John Tanner, Doris Ringer, Jan Edwards

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Mighty God, you are the King of heaven, the hope of all who trust in you: give to the faithful departed the wonders of your salvation. Guide us to those who mourn so that we might bring joy and gladness where there is grief and sorrow. We pray for the newly presented servant of God: Pope Benedict XVI.

We pray for those whose years' mind occur this month: Jack Travers, Evelyn Waghorn, Eleftheria Corfield, William Butler, Hilary Wood, Cecille Mallinson, Lily Collins, Malcolm Dreyer, Richard Dyke, Jane Barker, Olaf Phillips, Doris Bird, Gilbert French, Rosaline Beeny, William Fawcett, Stephen Barker, Isoline Vaughan, Hylda Reynolds, Kathleen Wood, Sheila Maugham,

Sylvia Smith, Prudence Bilsby, Leila Wood
Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Almighty God, we have given you our offering of worship and with it the service of our lives. As we move into the coming week and into the New Year may we go from this place knowing that we have met with you and have been blessed by your Spirit, to live and work to your praise and glory.

Merciful Father: **Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**

The Peace

Our Saviour Christ is the Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there shall be no end.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

And also with you.

Hymn

Angels from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story
now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Refrain:

***Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.***

Shepherds, in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;
yonder shines the infant light: **Re-
frain**

Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations;
ye have seen his natal star: **Re-
frain**

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation: through your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life.

Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation: through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become for us the cup of salvation.

Blessed be God for ever.

Pray, my brothers and sisters,
that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his Church.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you
And also with you

Lift up your hearts
We lift them to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

It is right to give thanks and praise

Revealing God, you send the light of a star, and in that light we see the truth of who you are and the truth of we are. Like the magi you call us to worship you, but like the magi we mistake where you truly belong and where we truly belong. Yet in revelation you direct us to yourself. You become what we are, that we might become what you are. And so you draw us to the company where your angels gather around your eternal throne singing their hymn of unending praise

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of
your glory.**

**Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna
in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in
the highest.**

Please sit or kneel

God of wonder, as the magi brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, so we bring these gifts of bread and wine. In those gifts we see your grief as the way we crucified your Son, the holy one among us, but also the wonder of how you raised him to be our king in glory forever. Send down your Holy Spirit, that we may discover what it means to be of you and in you, and that this bread of honest toil and this wine of joyous celebration may be for us the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Who, at supper with his disciples, took bread and gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to them saying, 'Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me' After supper he took the cup. Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

We sing:

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,**

Christ will come again.

God of wisdom, as the magi brought gold, bring your whole church living and departed, to the vision of your glory. As the magi brought frankincense, infuse all who seek you with the beauty of your holiness. As the magi brought myrrh, embrace all who suffer until the time comes when you flood the whole creation with justice and mercy.

In this banquet respire us to your image, surround us with your company and prepare us for your freedom, that we may come to resemble your Son, through whom and with whom and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

As Christ has taught us we are bold to say:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name; thy
kingdom come; thy will be
done; on earth as it is in
heaven. Give us this day our
daily bread. And forgive us our
trespasses, as we forgive
those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into tempta-
tion; but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the
power and the glory, for ever
and ever.
Amen.**

The Fraction

We break this Bread to share in
the body of Christ

**Though we are many we are
one body because we all share
in one Bread**

The Agnus Dei

We sing together

**Lamb of God, you take away
the sin of the world, have mercy
on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away
the sin of the world, have mercy
on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away
the sin of the world, grant us
peace.**

This is the Lamb of God who
takes away the sin of the world

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive
you but only say the word and I
shall be healed.**

A Prayer for those joining us on Zoom who are making their Spiritual Communion

**My Jesus, I believe that you are
present in the most Blessed
Sacrament. I love You above
all things and I desire to re-
ceive you into my soul. Since I
cannot now receive You sacra-
mentally, come at least spiritu-
ally into my heart. I embrace
You as if You were already
there, and unite myself wholly
to You. Never permit me to be
separated from You. Amen.**

The Distribution of Communion

*Updated C of E guidance states
that Holy Communion should now
be offered in both kinds. We ad-
vise those who do not wish to re-
ceive the wine to indicate this by
raising their hand when offered it.*

**The chalice bearers today are:
Kent Harries and Peter Hodges**

Communion Hymn

Songs of thankfulness and praise,
Jesus, Lord, to Thee we raise,
Manifested by the star
To the sages from afar;
Branch of royal David's stem
In Thy birth at Bethlehem;
Anthems be to Thee addressed,
God in man made manifest.

Manifest at Jordan's stream,
Prophet, Priest, and King su-
preme;
And at Cana, wedding guest,
In Thy Godhead manifest;
Manifest in power divine,
Changing water into wine;
Anthems be to Thee addressed,
God in man made manifest.

Manifest in making whole
Palsied limbs and fainting soul;
Manifest in valiant fight,
Quelling all the devil's might;
Manifest in gracious will,
Ever bringing good from ill;
Anthems be to Thee addressed,
God in man made manifest.

Sun and moon shall darkened be,

Stars shall fall, the heavens shall
flee,
Christ will then like lightning
shine,
All will see His glorious sign:
All will then the trumpet hear;
All will see the Judge appear;
Thou by all wilt be confessed,
God in man made manifest.

Grant us grace to see Thee, Lord,
Mirrored in Thy holy Word;
May we imitate Thee now,
And be pure, as pure art Thou;
That we like to Thee may be
At Thy great Epiphany;
And may praise Thee, ever blest,
God in man made manifest.

Post - Communion Prayers

Give thanks to the Lord for God is
gracious

God's mercy endures for ever.

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.**

**Father almighty we offer our-
selves to you as a living sacri-
fice in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Send us out into the world in
the power of the Holy Spirit to
live and work to your praise
and glory. Amen**

The Blessing

The Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the

living God, teach you to walk in
his way more trustfully, to accept
his truth more faithfully, and to
share his life more lovingly; that
by the power of the Holy Spirit you
may come as one family to the
kingdom of the Father. And the
blessing ...

Notices

Hymn

Brightest and best of the sons of
the morning,
dawn on our darkness and lend
us your aid.
Star of the east, the horizon
adorning,
guide where our infant Redeemer
is laid.

Cold on his cradle the dewdrops
are shining;
low lies his head with the beasts
of the stall.

Angels adore him in slumber re-
clining,
maker and monarch and Saviour
of all.

Shall we yield him in costly devo-
tion
rarest of fragrances, tribute di-
vine,
gems of the mountain and pearls
of the ocean,
myrrh from the forest and gold
from the mine?

Vainly we offer each ample obla-
tion,
vainly with gifts would his favour
secure.

Richer by far is the heart's adoration,
dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
dawn on our darkness and lend us your aid.

Star of the east, the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

Let us bless the Lord
Thanks be to God

May the divine assistance remain with us always.
And with all our brothers and sisters in Christ.

May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God, rest in peace. **And rise in glory. Amen.**

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

We listen to the organ Voluntary

AT YOUR SERVICE

Vicar: Fr. Rodney Dreyer
01580 754459

Churchwardens:

Alison Jones
01580 755705

Liz Hatcher
01580 712099

Organist:
Dr. Charlotte O' Neill
01580 753817

Safeguarding:
Mrs Jane Cooper
07825044877

NOTICES

WEDNESDAY EUCHARIST AT BOWLES LODGE 10.00 am.

Please do join us.

SAVE USED STAMPS for RNLI. Collection box on table at back of church.

PRESERVES will be on sale after today's service – all proceeds will be given to the Hospice in the Weald.

