

Notices:

Christmas cards: Please check the box at the back of church for cards in your name! All unclaimed Christmas cards will be removed after today's service.

Bible Study: There will be a Bible Study on Tuesday 15th January at 7:30pm in the Horrocks Room. Please do come along!

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: will be here on Thursday 24th January at 7:30pm. It will be a Songs of Praise service, so if you would like to nominate a hymn, please speak to Kate.

Crux: The Diocesan monthly newsletter for January, is now available along with this month's diary dates and letter in the place of the magazine. These are 50p each. We do encourage you to have a copy to know what is going on.

Used stamps: We will all get many of these over the Christmas period! Don't throw them away as they can raise money for the Leprosy Mission. Please place any of your used stamps in the box at the back of church. Please would you cut them off envelopes, leaving a very small margin around each stamp.

www.stretfordstmatthews.com

Welcome to St Matthew's Sunday 6th January 2019 The Epiphany of our Lord

Today's Hymns:

- 537 We three kings
71 Brightest and best
394 O worship the Lord
41 As with gladness
248 In the bleak mid winter

This week's services and events:

Today:

- 8am Holy Communion
10am Parish Eucharist

Tuesday 8th January:

- 9:45am Ecumenical Prayers

Wednesday 9th January:

- 10am Midweek Eucharist
7:30pm Standing Committee meets in Hall

Thursday 10th January:

- 1:15pm School Workshop - Year 5

Friday 11th January:

- 9am Morning Prayer

Saturday 12th January:

- 10am Coffee morning in Choir Vestry

Sunday 13th January:

- The Baptism of Christ**
8am Holy Communion
10am Parish Eucharist

For prayer:

- Anne Plested now in Bethlehem with CMS
- Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe - illegally held in Iran

Today's 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**

Today's Readings:

Ephesians 3: 1-12

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

Matthew 2: 1-12

²In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "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." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the

Messiah was to be born. ⁵They 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.'" ⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then 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." ⁹When 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. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On 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. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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.

Amen.

Next Sunday's Readings:

Acts 8: 14-17

Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22