



# St Mary's Church

## Prestwich

GROWING · GIVING · SERVING



Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2021

THE EPIPHANY

### 8.00am –Eucharist

**President & Preacher:** Rev'd Adele McKie

### 10.30am – Said Common Worship Eucharist

**President:** Rev'd Carole Barnet  
**Preacher:** Rev'd Adele McKie  
**Deacon:** Fr Shaun Conlon  
**Organist:** Gary Hulme  
**Music before the Service:** Pastorale (5 Improvisations) - Alec Rowley  
**Reader:** Catriona Holmes  
**Gospeller:** Fr Shaun Conlon  
**Intercessor:** Jo Conchie  
**Altar Preparation:** Prelude 'We Christians may now rejoice' - J.S. Bach (BWV612)  
**Communion Hymn:** In the bleak mid-winter (68)  
**Final Voluntary:** Epilogue - William H. Harris

## Epiphany Eucharist for those who are shielding

We are very conscious that a number of people still feel it is unsafe to attend a service on a Sunday in Church, but are missing worship and the sacrament of Holy Communion. As a result, we are planning on having a said eucharist for Epiphany on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January at 11.00am especially for those who have been shielding or who are vulnerable. As such, we ask that no children are brought to this service (they are, of course, very welcome at all our other services). If you would like to come, or if you have any questions, please contact Fr Shaun to book in, as he will be maintaining the list for this service. If he is not available when you phone, please leave your name and telephone number and he'll ring you back. The Rectory number is 0161 773 2912 or email [shaunconlon@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:shaunconlon@hotmail.co.uk)

## Private Prayer on Wednesdays

The church will be open as usual between 12.00noon and 1.00pm for private prayer on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January, with communion from the reserved sacrament available for people to receive from if they would like to. If you have any questions about this, please speak with one of the clergy.

## Tier 4 Restrictions and Worship

Although we have moved into Tier 4, this does not affect the way we have been worshipping on Sundays since the end of the last lockdown. We will still be gathering for our 8.00am and 10.30am services, but with the same restrictions, that we sit distanced from those not in our household bubble, and with no 'social mingling' at the end of the service. The choir remains able to sing, with appropriate measures in place, but congregational singing remains prohibited.

Funerals continue to be capped at 30 attending, although other things, like interment of ashes services, are limited to only 6 people. Weddings should only occur when one/both of the couple are in extreme circumstances (dying/facing life changing surgery etc) and then limited to only six people, which includes the couple themselves (the 6 does not include the priest [or organist or vergier if they're present]). Baptisms can also continue, with various limitations.

Some people have expressed uncertainty where these regulations come from: they are all grounded in the advice from Government, although the Church of England regularly updates the 'fine detail' advice around these restrictions, especially regarding the mechanics of how such services should be conducted so that all people attending, clergy and laity, are kept safe.

## Resuming Ministry/ Regular giving/gift aid in 2021

Thanks you to all those who have given generously to the mission and work of St Mary's church over the difficult year of 2020, both through various ministries and involvements and also through financial support. In common with many churches, our income at St Mary's was down significantly (roughly a third less in 2020 than the previous year). This has meant that we have not been able to pay our agreed parish share to the diocese in full. We expect that the coming months will also leave us with decreased income. If you have any regular giving envelopes at home that you would like someone to collect, then please let one of the clergy or Churchwardens know. Equally, if you are giving regularly and could gift aid your monetary but haven't arranged this with us, please let us know.

If you would like to set up a regular payment via your bank, which helps enormously with our cash flow, then that's another option. The details for setting up a payment (one off or regular) are

### Church Bank Account:

St Mary's PCC Nat West  
 Sort Code: 01-07-20  
 Account Number: 49036955

Please tag any payments with your surname. If it's a regular payment, then please let one of the clergy know that you've set this up, so we can alert the treasurer.

We're hoping to resume our various pre-initial lockdown activities as soon as we are able and, as a church, we will also be looking at possible new ways God might be calling us to explore in our community and wider world as we move through 2021. Please keep our life and mission in your prayers in the coming months, that we may all grow in knowing God better and in making him known through our lives.

*The Ministry Team*



**Lord Let your love shine on those in need of our prayers:** Lily-Rose Ahmadi; David Arnold, Lorayah Bevan, Nigel Birtwistle, Graham Fleet, Andrew Hardman, Helen Hicks, Deborah Kane, Heather Kay, Elaine Kirk, Jean Murphy, James O'Meara, Rev'd Deborah Sandercoc-Pickles, Maryam Sedeghi, John Whittaker

**Sending love and prayers to the families and friends of:** Sheila Webster, June Jackson, Pauline Alexander – may they rest in peace and rise in glory.



**Incumbent/Priest-in-Charge**

*Fr Shaun Conlon*

The Rectory, 67 Scholes Lane,  
Prestwich M25 0AW  
0161 773 2912

[shaunconlon@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:shaunconlon@hotmail.co.uk)

Fr Shaun's day off is Monday

**Church Wardens**

*Canon Susie Mapledoram*

07710 557833

[susiemapledoram@googlemail.com](mailto:susiemapledoram@googlemail.com)

*Stewart Barnet - 07950 354445*

[stewartmbarnet@gmail.com](mailto:stewartmbarnet@gmail.com)

**Curates**

*Rev Carole Barnet - 0161 766 2774*

[caroleabarnet@gmail.com](mailto:caroleabarnet@gmail.com)

*Rev Adele McKie - 07946 383024;*

[Adele.stmaryscurate@btinternet.com](mailto:Adele.stmaryscurate@btinternet.com)

**Newsletter**

*Catriona Holmes - 07900 280004*

[saintmarysnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:saintmarysnewsletter@gmail.com)

**Web:** [www.stmarysprestwich.org](http://www.stmarysprestwich.org)

**Twitter:** @stmarysprestwich

**YouTube:** [St Mary's Prestwich](https://www.youtube.com/StMarysPrestwich)

## Readings for the Epiphany

### 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.

### A reading from the Prophet Isaiah

**Isaiah 60.1-6**

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. 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. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

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. 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. 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.

### A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians

**Ephesians 3.1-12**

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given to me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. 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: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power. 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, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; 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. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in

whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

### Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

**Matthew 2.1-12**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, '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.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: "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." ' Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 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.' 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. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 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. And 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.

