

## Reflection

Have you taken your Christmas decorations down yet? Our tree has gone, but the cards and some festivities remain, and although Christmas does seem a long time ago, I now know which day of the week we're on, I've stopped eating Quality Street for breakfast, and normal life is slowly resuming.

Today, we celebrate Epiphany where the church isn't simply inviting us to move on from Christmas, but to understand it more fully. Because Epiphany is about Revelation – the visit of the Wise Men reminding us again that the birth of that tiny baby in Bethlehem was a turning point for the whole world. Jesus, God Incarnate, came into the world for **all** people.

We can look back on Christmas and, I hope, remember with joy those moments of quiet generosity, unexpected kindness or maybe even a longing that still remains. The story of the Wise Men, the Magi from the East, reminds us that faith is a journey, sometimes slow, often uncertain, guided by light rather than full understanding, but one which we are to continue to follow.

And so as we gather on this Epiphany Sunday to worship God Incarnate, we ask that question – where is that light leading us now, both as individuals, and as a church community? This year will see changes in St Thomas as you advertise the role of Rector, a new priest will arrive, and we make progress on the long-awaited building project. It's an exciting time and as we go forward in Christ's light and I pray that you will carry that light into your homes, your communities, and your daily lives.

Our Christmas tree lights may be gone, but the light that shone in the manger still shines for all of us, guiding us on our journey of faith, revealing God's love for all of us.

A blessed Epiphany to you all.

Rev Sarah

Happy  
New Year

### NEXT SUNDAY 11.01.26 *Baptism of Christ*

We welcome the Bishop of Exeter the Rt Revd Mike Harrison .



10.30am in the Hall

OT Isaiah 42: 1-9  
NT Acts 10: 34-43  
GOSPEL Matthew 3: 13-end

### CONTACT US

**Rev Sarah Mounoury**, Minister 07491 360399

revsarahmounoury@gmail.com

Day off: Monday

**Ian Totterdell**, Church Warden 07536 459096

ian.totterdell@cantab.net

**Mary Daunton**, Church Warden 07779742792

**Phil Baker**, Licensed Lay Minister 07970 216740

lionelbaker@outlook.com

**Rev Mike Clark**, Associate Priest

mike.clark@exeter.anglican.org

**Rev Terry Litherland**, 07594 633195

tlitherland36@gmail.com

**Rev Sarah Cumming** Assistant Priest [on secondment at St Davids]

**Liz** Pioneer Community Worker & LLM

pioneerstthomas@gmail.com

**Email:** parishoffice@stthomaschurhexeter.co.uk

**Facebook:** www.facebook.com/sttexeter

**Website:** www.stthomaschurhexeter.co.uk

**X (formerly Twitter):** @sttexeter



Tel:



Office

01392

437486

Mes-

# St Thomas, Exeter

4th January 2026

## Epiphany

10.30am in the Hall

### Today

#### **Sung Eucharist**

*Hymn Numbers*

*Longing for Light (Christ be our light)*

*317 Lord, the Light of your love is Shining*

*537 We three kings of orient are*

*477 The first Nowell*

### Tuesday 6th January

7.30pm House Group at Helen's house

### Wednesday 7th January

10am Walsingham Mass

### Thursday 8th January

9.30-11am St Thomas Tots

10.30-12noon Knit & Natter at Jenny Tuckett's house

### Friday 9th January

9.30am Morning Prayer

10am Staff Meeting

### Saturday 10th January

Men's Breakfast (Postponed until 17th Jan)



## 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. **Amen**

## Isaiah 60: 1-6

Arise, Jerusalem, and shine like the sun; The glory of the Lord is shining on you! Other nations will be covered by darkness, But on you the light of the Lord will shine; The brightness of his presence will be with you. Nations will be drawn to your light, And kings to the dawning of your new day. Look around you and see what is happening: Your people are gathering to come home! Your sons will come from far away; Your daughters will be carried like children. You will see this and be filled with joy; You will tremble with excitement. The wealth of the nations will be brought to you; From across the sea their riches will come. Great caravans of camels will come from Midian and Ephah. They will come from Sheba, bringing gold and incense. People will tell the good news of what the Lord has done!

## 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.

## Matthew 2:1-12

Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem in Judea, during the time when Herod was king. Soon afterward, some men who studied the stars came from the East to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the baby born to be the king of the Jews? We saw his star when it came up in the east, and we have come to worship him." When King Herod heard about this, he was very upset, and so was everyone else in Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the teachers of the Law and asked them, "Where will the Messiah be born?" "In the town of Bethlehem in Judea," they answered. "For this is what the prophet wrote: 'Bethlehem in the land of Judah, you are by no means the least of the leading cities of Judah; for from you will come a leader who will guide my people, Israel.'" So Herod called the visitors from the East to a secret meeting and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem with these instructions: "Go and make a careful search for the child; and when you find him, let me know, so that I too may go and worship him." And so they left, and on their way they saw the same star they had seen in the East. When they saw it, how happy they were, what joy was theirs! It went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. They went into the house, and when

they saw the child with his mother Mary, they knelt down and worshiped him. They brought out their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, and presented them to him. Then they returned to their country by another road, since God had warned them in a dream not to go back to Herod.

## 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.

---

## Notices

**The House Group Advent Course.** Begins again on Tuesday 6th January, with the last sessions of our Advent Course. See Ian for details.

Our first All-age service is this Sunday when we celebrate Epiphany. Do let us know what you think.

Happy New Year to everyone at St Thomas Church as we begin 2026 sure of the presence of God Emmanuel, Christ with us.

Following the serious incident in St Thomas Park on Tuesday evening, our thoughts and prayers are with all those affected by the incident, particularly those injured and the emergency services who responded to the event.

A reminder to you all that our church is open Monday -Friday from 10-3 as a quiet space of rest of for private prayer. We would like to extend our church opening to weekends too at a time when this is needed, but to do this, we need people to open and lock up. If this is something you could do – even just once a month – please speak to Sarah.

## January dates for your diary

Tuesday, 27th January 2026. Church Family Bowling. 6.30pm. Please speak to Liz or Sarah for details. All welcome.

Thursday 29th January 2026 Church Community Lunch. Meeting outside the Church at 12.30pm then on to a local hostelry.