

Reflection Epiphany 2

We celebrated the feast of the **Epiphany** last Sunday, transferred from 6th January. While some liturgical calendars return us to Ordinary Time, others continue to look at the Sundays after Epiphany as continuing this Epiphany theme. This is the time when we celebrate the arrival of the Wise Men, Kings or Magi at the stable. Traditionally the gift of gold has represented all that is best out of creation, the costliest thing that humanity knows. Frankincense which speaks of mystery is the gift of our artistic and spiritual endeavour, and myrrh is the foreshadowing of the death not only of the baby Jesus but our own mortality too. Epiphanies have also been seen as special manifestations of the presence of God, other examples being the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan, ("Behold my beloved, in whom I am well pleased") and the turning of water into wine at the wedding at Cana in Galilee. This is the first of the *signs* described in John's gospel. It is useful for us to determine what special moments - epiphanies - we have experienced or received, and what they might mean.

I love this Epiphany hymn by J.S.B. Monsell (1811-75)

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness
Bow down before him, his glory proclaim,
With gold of obedience and incense of
lowliness,
Kneel and adore him, the Lord is his name!

Fr David

New Year greetings continued

This Sunday Epiphany 2 we welcome the **Venerable Andrew Beane** as our preacher. Possibly the last time Andrew visited St Thomas before becoming Archdeacon he was a 'mystery worshiper' and the Rector preached about breaking the rules. Welcome back Andrew!

NEXT SUNDAY 22.01.2023 Epiphany 3

SERVICES: 10.30am Sung Eucharist in the Hall.

READINGS: OT Isaiah 9: 1-4
NT 1 Corinthians 1: 10-18
GOSPEL Matthew 4: 12-23



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St Thomas, Exeter

15th January 2023

Epiphany 2

10.30am in the Hall

Today

10.30am Sung Eucharist.

Hymn Numbers

13 All hail the power of Jesus' name.

287 Just as I am, without one plea.

500 There is a Redeemer.

Wednesday 18th January

10am Holy Communion (BCP)

Thursday 19th January

9.30-11am St Thomas Tots.

10.30am-12noon Knit & Natter

3-5pm Warm Space in the Hall.

Friday 20th January

9.30am Morning Prayer.

10am Staff Meeting.



Collect

Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new: transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory; 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 49: 1-7

Listen to me, O coastlands, pay attention, you peoples from far away! The Lord called me before I was born, while I was in my mother's womb he named me. He made my mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me away. And he said to me, 'You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified.' But I said, 'I have laboured in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the Lord, and my reward with my God.' And now the Lord says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honoured in the sight of the Lord, and my God has become my strength— he says, 'It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel, I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.' Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, 'Kings shall see and stand up, princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.'

1 Corinthians 1: 1-9

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place

call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

John 1: 29-42

The next day he saw Jesus coming towards him and declared, 'Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, "After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me." I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.' And John testified, 'I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, "He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit." And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.' The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, 'Look, here is the Lamb of God!' The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, 'What are you looking for?' They said to him, 'Rabbi' (which translated means Teacher), 'where are you staying?' He said to them, 'Come and see.' They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother

Simon and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas' (which is translated Peter).

Post Communion

God of glory, you nourish us with your Word who is the bread of life: fill us with your Holy Spirit that through us the light of your glory may shine in all the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord **Amen**

NOTICES

Knit and Natter. On Thursdays from 10.30am-12noon at 19 Maple Road. Details from Jenny on 01392 498725.

Community Larder is receiving donations on Tuesdays from 10-11am. On Sundays there will also be an opportunity to bring donations to the 10.30 service.

House Group Fortnightly on Zoom. New people are always welcome; see Ian for Zoom details.

Our proposal is to stay in the Hall until Palm Sunday.

In the interests of safety we suggest that people should **not work alone in the Church.**

Food Fight (Food for Sundays) are looking for donations of warm clothing, such as hats, gloves, jackets and socks. They are also happy to receive individual-serving bottles/tetra packs of water or juices. **Volunteers are outside Nat West bank on Sunday mornings from 11am-1pm** so any donations can be dropped off there.

Simon James, social prescriber at St Thomas Medical Centre, is asking for volunteers on behalf of the **ExwickTwo's Company Befriending Service.** His telephone number is 01392 676638 For more information see

<https://linkinglives.uk/project/exwick/>