

haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.



After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

### Post Communion Prayer

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home: help your Church to live as one family, united in love and obedience, and bring us all at last to our home in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord.



This seems an appropriate ‘Thank You’ picture because the beauty and wonder of all our Christmas acts of worship were due to the efforts of **many people**: those who welcomed people coming into church, those who made our churches look so beautiful, those who assembled the

crib, those who provided inspiring music, those who prepared children to lead worship, those who offered readings or prayers, and of course Jane our Vicar who made our Christian celebrations so special. Thank you to you all.

### Services for Sunday, 7th January—Epiphany

10.45: Joint Holy Communion at St Nicolas Church, Taplow led by Revd Jeremy Hurst

We are part of

**St Anne’s Church, Littleworth Common**

**St Nicolas’ Church, Taplow**

**Christmas 1**

**31st December, 2017**

*Faithful to God*

*Caring for each other*

*Serving the Community*

*Welcome to our service today and a happy and peaceful new year.*

### Collect (or Prayer for Today)

Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

### First Reading: Isaiah 61: 10-11, 62: 1-3

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

For Zion’s sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem’s sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

### The Gospel: Luke 2:15-21

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with

haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.



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