

- ◆ **Open Wednesdays:** From this Wednesday (10th), Open Wednesdays will resume from 12.00 to 3.00pm with a service at 12.30 followed by a ploughman's lunch. Do think about building this lovely opportunity into your weekly activities this year.
- ◆ **Baptism Preparation Course:** The next course for our two parishes begins **next Sunday (14th) at 2pm** for those being baptised in February/March 2018. Another course will run in early April.
- ◆ **'What do you want most in life?':** For those not on the PCC, why not go along to the first in the annual interfaith dialogue series organised by the Windsor and Maidenhead Community Forum (WAMCF) hosted at Taplow Court. It is on **Tuesday 16th January at 7pm** and the discussion is followed by refreshments. Entrance is FREE.
- ◆ **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity:** The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is traditionally observed from the **18th to the 25th January**. Our local "Churches together in Burnham" meet this year at the **Methodist Church** (87 Lent Rise Road SL1 7NZ) on the afternoon of **Sunday 21st January at 3pm** for a short act of worship produced this year by the Caribbean church, based on material in Exodus 15, a song of triumph over oppression. Please do join fellow Christians if you can. On our website (Personal Prayer section), there is the opportunity to follow the Caribbean Church's excellent daily reflections during the week. They include a bible reading, a reflection, some questions to think about and a prayer. Do make use of these in your personal prayers.



Services for Sunday, 14th January—Epiphany 2

09.15: Matins at St Anne's Church, Dropmore

10.45: Holy Communion at St Nicolas Church, Taplow

Further information on **St Nicolas Church Website:** <http://st-nicolas-taplow.org>

If you need to **contact the Vicar**, you can ring her on 01628 661182 or email her: janecresswell523@gmail.com

Notices in the Pew Leaflet: If you have a notice or news for the *Pew Leaflet*, please email it to [Jim Oliver \(oliverjim1@sky.com\)](mailto:oliverjim1@sky.com) by the end of the Wednesday preceding the Sunday date you want it in. This leaflet is on the website from the Friday preceding each Sunday.

St Anne's Church, Littleworth Common

St Nicolas' Church, Taplow

Epiphany

7th January, 2018

Faithful to God

Caring for each other

Serving the Community

Welcome to our joint Holy Communion Service today and a particular welcome to Revd Jeremy Hurst who is leading our worship today.

Collect (or Prayer for Today)

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.

First Reading: Isaiah 60: 1-6 *The Ingathering of the Dispersed*

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.

The Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12 *The Visit of the Wise Men*

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.



Anthem: *From the rising of the sun* F.G. Ouseley

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.

This Week's News and Notices

- ◆ **New Year Newsletter:** Please take home a copy of the latest seasonal newsletter for this Epiphany season at the back of church. It contains the Vicar's letter on the season of Epiphany, details of a special service of Remembering on the afternoon of Sunday 4th February where we will have an opportunity to light candles for those we love who have died, and reflections from members of both St Nicolas and St Anne's congregations who attended the recent Advent course on the Beatitudes, as well as information about other events coming up and a prayer for the New Year.

A Prayer for the New Year
Come, Holy Spirit, Spirit of the Risen Christ, be with us today and always. Be our Light, our Guide, and our Comforter. Be our Strength, our Courage, and our Sanctifier.
May this new year be a time of deep spiritual growth for us, a time of welcoming your graces and gifts, a time for forgiving freely and unconditionally, a time for growing in virtue and goodness.
Come, Holy Spirit, be with us today and always. Amen.

- ◆ **‘What can I give him?’:** As we look back on our stewardship commitments and look forward to a new year of challenge for our Christian community, we have a useful opportunity to reflect on what we each can do to further God’s mission in our community. Our Mission Action Plan lists three key areas in which we pray that progress will be made. **‘What can I give him?’**



1. **To be faithful to God** by improving opportunities for our church community to deepen our relationship with God.
2. **To build up our church community** through strengthening the ways in which we **care for each other**.
3. **To enhance ways in which the church serves the community**, both locally and beyond