



## 2nd January 2022 - Epiphany

### Holsworthy Benefice

Bridge-rule, Hollacombe, Holsworthy and Pyworthy with Pancrasweek

**Administrator: Libbi York - admin@holsworthybenefice.org.uk**

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### Services in the Holsworthy Benefice - All Welcome

		Bridgerule	Hollacombe	Holsworthy	Pancrasweek	Pyworthy
<b>Epiphany</b>	2nd Jan	11am Morning Prayer	No Service	11am Sung Eucharist		9.30am All Age Service
<b>Baptism of Christ (Plough Sunday)</b>	9th Jan	11am Eucharist		11am All Age Eucharist	3pm Plough Service	9.30am Sung Eucharist
<b>Epiphany 2</b>	16th Jan	11am Joint Service at the Methodist Chapel	9.30am BCP Holy Communion	11am Sung Eucharist		9.30am Morning Prayer
		3.30pm <b>CREATIVE CHURCH</b> for All Ages, St Peter and St Paul's church				
<b>Epiphany 3</b>	23rd Jan	11am Ecumenical All Age Eucharist		11am Morning Prayer	All Age Eucharist	9.30 Sung Eucharist
<b>Presentation of Christ</b> - Candlemas	30th Jan					10am Benefice Sung Eucharist

### Weekly via Zoom - All Welcome

Fridays	12 Noon	Midday Prayers - pop in when you can	Zoom details; <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82633460276?">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82633460276?</a> To join by phone: 0131 460 1196 ID 826 3346 0276 Password: benefice
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### Dates for your Diary

Sun 9th Jan	3pm	Plough Service - This service is likely to be outside so do wrap up warmly	Pancrasweek Church
Thur 13th Jan	All day	Benefice Ministers away on a quiet day together	
24th - 28th Jan		Mother Elizabeth away on training	Windsor Castle
Thur 10th Feb	7pm	Holsworthy PCC meeting	Rectory / Zoom

### THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

**IT IS CURRENTLY MANDATORY TO WEAR MASKS IN PLACES OF WORSHIP**

**Text for the Week - Matthew 2. 10**  
When the wise men saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.

**Thank you to those who made the churches look so lovely for Christmas**

#### PROCESSION OF THE WISE MEN

*For the offering of gold;*

As gold in the furnace is tried and purified seven times in the fire, so purify our hearts and minds that we may be a royal priesthood acceptable in the service of your kingdom.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

*For the offering of incense;*

As our prayer rises up before you as incense, so may we be presented before you with penitent hearts and uplifted hands to offer ourselves in your priestly service.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

*For the offering of myrrh;*

As you give the medicine of Myrrh to heal our sickness, and for the healing of the nations, so anoint us with your healing power that we may be the first-fruits of your new creation.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

#### BLESSING OF THE MAGI

We have seen his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage. Bless these figures in the name of + the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and may they be a symbol of our kneeling down and worshipping the Christ Child.

**Amen.**

#### BLESSING OF THE CHALK

Our help is the name of the Lord:  
**The maker of heaven and earth.**

The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in:  
**From this time forth for evermore.**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Loving God, bless + this chalk which you have created, that it may be helpful to your people; and grant that through the invocation of your most Holy Name all who use it in faith to write upon the doors of their homes the names of your saints, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, may receive health of body and protection of soul for all who dwell in or visit their home; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## Instructions for Blessing the Home

Using the blessed chalk mark the lintel of your front door as follows:

**20 + C + M + B + 21** while saying:

*The three Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar followed the star of God's Son who became human two thousand and eighteen years ago. May Christ bless our home and remain with us throughout the new year. Amen.*

Then offer the following prayer:

*Visit, O blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of your presence. Bless all who live or visit here with the gift of your love; and grant that we may manifest your love to each other and to all whose lives we touch. May we grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you; guide, comfort, and strengthen us in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen*

“Chalking the door” is a way to celebrate and literally mark the occasion of the Epiphany and God's blessing of our lives and home. **Christus mansionem benedictat**; “May Christ bless the house.”

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## The Renewal of the Covenant

God made a covenant with the people of Israel, calling them to be a holy nation, chosen to bear witness to his steadfast love by finding delight in the law. The covenant was renewed in Jesus Christ our Lord, in his life, work, death and resurrection. In him all people may be set free from sin and its power, and united in love and obedience. In this covenant God promises us new life in Christ. For our part we promise to live no longer for ourselves but for God.

Eternal God, in your faithful and enduring love  
you call us to share in your gracious covenant in Jesus Christ.

In obedience we hear and accept your commands;  
in love we seek to do your perfect will;  
with joy we offer ourselves anew to you.

We are no longer our own but yours.

I am no longer my own but yours.

Your will, not mine, be done in all things,  
wherever you may place me,

in all that I do and in all that I may endure;  
when there is work for me and when there is none;  
when I am troubled and when I am at peace.

Your will be done when I am valued and when I am disregarded;  
when I find fulfilment and when it is lacking;  
when I have all things and when I have nothing.

I willingly offer all that I have and am to serve you,  
as and where you choose.

Glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
you are mine and I am yours.

May it be so for ever.

Let this covenant now made on earth be fulfilled in heaven.  
Amen.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.  
*Luke 4.18,19*

**Huge thank you to all those who helped with the Christmas Tree and Crib Festival at Holsworthy. It was wonderful to have 40 organisation involved and to see the art work of Bridgerule and Holsworthy Primary Schools, along with the decorations the pupils made for the Community College Christmas Tree.**



## **6<sup>th</sup> January: Epiphany**

On 6<sup>th</sup> January we celebrate Epiphany - the visit of the Wise Men to the baby Jesus. But who were these Wise Men? No one knows for sure. Matthew calls them 'Magi', and that was the name of an ancient caste of a priestly kind from Persia. It wasn't until the third century that they were called kings - by a church father, Tertullian. Another church father, Origen, assumed there were three - to correspond with the gifts given. Later Christian interpretation came to understand gold as a symbol of wisdom and wealth, incense as a symbol of worship and sacrifice, and myrrh as a symbol of healing - and even embalming. Certainly Jesus challenged and set aright the way in which the world

### **What about the gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh?**

The story of the coming of the Magi grew in the telling. By the 6<sup>th</sup> century they had acquired names: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. By medieval times they were considered to be kings. Whoever they were, we do know from Matthew that they brought three gifts to Jesus. What about their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh? While we cannot know for sure what was in the minds of first century Magi, one Victorian scholar has offered a possible explanation as to the significance of their gifts. He was the Rev John Henry Hopkins, an American Episcopalian minister, who in 1857 wrote his much-loved Christmas carol, 'We Three Kings of Orient Are'.

Gold, said John Henry Hopkins, was a gift that would have been given to a king. Frankincense had traditionally been brought by priests as they worshipped God in the Temple. Myrrh was a spice that the ancients used in preparing bodies for burial. If that is true, then you could say that the Wise Men, in choosing their gifts for this infant, honoured Jesus with gold because He was King of the Jews, with frankincense because He was to be worshipped as divine, and with myrrh, because He would also become a sacrifice and die for His people. The Wise Men were the very first gentiles ever to worship Jesus. What faith they had! They travelled for months over difficult terrain, they never saw any evidence of Jesus' kingship, His divinity or His sacrificial death. They worshipped Him through faith in God's promises about Him. Isaiah foresaw this response to Jesus: 'Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.' The Magi's eyes of faith saw clearly and far into the future.

Compare that with the High Priest and religious leaders whom the Wise Men saw in Jerusalem when they first arrived. These head priests knew all about the prophecies of their own coming Messiah, but NOT ONE religious leader travelled to look for Him in Bethlehem. And it is only six miles down the road!

## **1<sup>st</sup> January: The naming of Jesus**

Matthew and Luke tell how the angel instructed that Mary's baby was to be named Jesus - a common name meaning 'saviour'. The Church recalls the naming of Jesus on 1<sup>st</sup> January - eight days after 25<sup>th</sup> December (by the Jewish way of reckoning days). In Jewish tradition, the male babies were circumcised and named on their eighth day of life.

For early Christians, the *name* of Jesus held a special significance. In Jewish tradition, names expressed aspects of personality. Jesus' name permeated His ministry, and it does so today: we are baptised in the name of Jesus (Acts 2:38), we are justified through the name of Jesus (1 Cor 6:11); and God the Father has given Jesus a name above all others (Phil 2:9). All Christian prayer is through 'Jesus Christ our Lord', and it is 'at the name of Jesus' that one day every knee shall bow.

## 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.

## FIRST READING Isaiah 60:1-6

*A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.*

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.

## PSALM Psalm 72:[1-9] 10-15

*R The Lord is king; let the earth rejoice.*

Give the king your judgements, O God,  
and your righteousness to the son of  
a king.  
Then shall he judge your people righteously  
and your poor with justice. **R**

May the mountains bring forth peace,  
and the little hills righteousness for the  
people.  
May he defend the poor among the  
people,  
deliver the children of the needy and  
crush the oppressor. **R**

May he live as long as the sun and moon  
endure,  
from one generation to another.  
May he come down like rain upon the  
mown grass,  
like the showers that water the earth.  
In his time shall righteousness flourish,

and abundance of peace  
till the moon shall be no more. **R**

May his dominion extend from sea to sea  
and from the River to the ends of the  
earth.

May his foes kneel before him  
and his enemies lick the dust. **R**

The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall  
pay tribute;  
the kings of Sheba and Seba shall  
bring gifts.  
All kings shall fall down before him;  
all nations shall do him service. **R**

For he shall deliver the poor that cry out,  
the needy and those who have no helper.  
He shall have pity on the weak and poor;  
he shall preserve the lives of the needy. **R**

He shall redeem their lives from  
oppression and violence,  
and dear shall their blood be in his sight.  
Long may he live;  
unto him may be given gold from Sheba;  
may prayer be made for him continually  
and may they bless him all the day  
long. **R**

## SECOND READING Ephesians 3:1-12

*A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.*

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 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 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.

## GOSPEL Matthew 2:1-12

*Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.*

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

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.