



The Bridge Group of Churches

Nackington - Lower Hardres - Bridge - Patrixbourne - Bekesbourne

Sunday 2nd January 2022, Epiphany

Today's Readings:

Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12

Upcoming Services

9th January 10am Parish Communion St Peter's Bridge

**16th January 10am Traditional Sung Holy Communion at St Mary's
Patrixbourne**

**Please note Messy Church which was scheduled for Saturday 8th January will
not be going ahead.**

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**

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.
Amen.

Isaiah 60:1-6;

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.

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

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.

Parish News

New Honourary Treasurer needed!

Could you or someone you know be the next Treasurer for the Bridge Group Parish? If you have a few hours to spare and can help look after our finances please do get in touch. Devin is kindly continuing remotely and will provide a comprehensive handover. He will also provide the reporting for the year ending December 2021.

St Mary's Patrixbourne Silent Online Auction

We will be running an 'online silent auction' through the Jumblebee website to raise money for the planned extension at St Mary's. We need donations of items that can be put on the auction site. Anything from small to large, expensive or cheap, unwanted gifts or a service or an experience you felt able to offer. Examples include jigsaws, pictures, bottles (full!), make up a hamper or basket, bake a cake, offer an hours tuition, jars of chutney, jam or marmalade.

Please contact Sarah Wetherell on 01227 830318 or email Sarah.Wetherell1@btinternet.com if you have anything someone else might like to bid for. The auction will run from 9/1/22 to 30/1/22 but offers of donations or items are needed from NOW! So if you have any thoughts let me know. Thank you.

Covid Safe Church

At the time of printing, the advice around church attendance remains the same so, if you are coming to a church service, please:

- Wear a mask if you can
- Expect to be seated in a socially distanced way
- Take a lateral flow test before you come if you can
 - Don't come if you are feeling unwell
- Wrap up warmly as we will ventilate the building

Thank you!

Thank you and Happy New Year!

Rev'd Estella, Rev'd Miriam, Margaret and Miriam would like to thank you all for your cards, gifts and good wishes for Christmas. We hope that however you spent Christmas this year you were able to enjoy some sort of celebration and offer prayers and blessing for all that 2022 might bring.

With our love and gratitude.



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