

The Epiphany

The Manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles

Hymns

220 - He is Lord

529 - O worship the Lord in the beauty

740 - We three kings

379 - Jesus shall reign

65 - Brightest and best

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

The Ingathering of the Dispersed

60.1 Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

2 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.

3 Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

4 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.

5 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.

6 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 72:(1-7) 10-14

1 Give the king your judgements, O God, **♦ and your righteousness to the son of a king.**

2 Then shall he judge your people righteously **♦ and your poor with justice.**

3 May the mountains bring forth peace, **♦ and the little hills righteousness for the people.**

4 May he defend the poor among the people, **♦ deliver the children of the needy and crush the oppressor.**

5 May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, **♦ from one generation to another.**

6 May he come down like rain upon the mown grass, **♦ like the showers that water the earth.**

7 In his time shall righteousness flourish, **♦ and abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.**

10 The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute; **♦ he kings of Sheba shall bring gifts.**

11 All kings shall fall down before him; **♦ all nations shall do him service.**

12 For he shall deliver the poor that cry out, **♦ the needy and those who have no helper.**

13 He shall have pity on the weak and poor; **♦ he shall preserve the lives of the needy.**

14 He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, **♦ and dear shall their blood be in his sight**

New Testament Reading

Ephesians 3:1-12

3:6 that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Gospel Matthew 2:1-11

The Gospel of Christ according to Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord.

The Visit of the Wise Men

2.1 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, **2** 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.' **3** When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; **4** and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. **5** They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

6 "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!"

7 Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. **8** 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.' **9** 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.

10 When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.

11 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. **12** And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

Chatterbox

Every Wednesday 10:30 am to 12:30pm. All Welcome - tea - coffee - cakes - meet & chat.

Zoom Prayers & Bible Study
Friday 2pm Zoom Prayers.

Community Larder

Every Tuesday from 11- 12:30

Stantonbury Churches Newsletter

Available by email or ask for a hard copy. Copy on inside Notice Board.

Sunday 11th Jan. We shall have a Methodist style Covenant Service which Sam will lead. The service invites each person to renew their Baptism Promise

Tuesday 6th January, 19:00

Bishop Dave Bull's visit to SEP Partnership. This will be at St Andrew's Church and is open to all parishioners. Please email any questions for Bishop to Helen at sburyepadm@gmail.com or pass your question to a church warden to pass on to Helen.

The camel.

As told by the prison Imam in 1998: In Islam folk tale there are 100 names for Allah. 99 names are known to humans. Only the camel knows the 100th name of Alan (God). Hence the snooty look on his face.

Sorry our camel picture is Egyptian ,not Persian!

The Journey of the Magi

T S Eliot 1927

Perhaps the most famous the Wise Men poems

Zoom Link to 11 am Sunday 4th January

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85922248518?pwd=Tm4vd00wancwVk52cCtqNm5tMWRZdz09>

Meeting ID: 859 2224 8518.

Passcode: 830413

'A cold coming we had of it,
Just the worst time of the year
For a journey, and such a long journey:
The ways deep and the weather sharp,
The very dead of winter.'
And the camels galled, sore-footed, refractory,
Lying down in the melting snow.
There were times we regretted
The summer palaces on slopes, the terraces,
And the silken girls bringing sherbet.
Then the camel men cursing and grumbling
And running away, and wanting their liquor and women,
And the night-fires going out, and the lack of shelters,
And the cities hostile and the towns unfriendly
And the villages dirty and charging high prices:
A hard time we had of it.
At the end we preferred to travel all night,
Sleeping in snatches,
With the voices singing in our ears, saying
That this was all folly.
Then at dawn we came down to a temperate valley,
Wet, below the snow line, smelling of vegetation;
With a running stream and a water-mill beating the darkness,
And three trees on the low sky,
And an old white horse galloped away in the meadow.
Then we came to a tavern with vine-leaves over the lintel,
Six hands at an open door dicing for pieces of silver,
And feet kicking the empty wine-skins.
But there was no information, and so we continued
And arriving at evening, not a moment too soon
Finding the place; it was (you may say) satisfactory.
All this was a long time ago, I remember,
And I would do it again, but set down
This set down
This: - were we led all that way for
Birth or Death? There was a birth, certainly,
We had evidence and no doubt. I had seen birth and death,
But had thought they were different; this Birth was
Hard and bitter agony for us, like Death, our death.
We returned to our places, these Kingdoms,
But no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation,
With an alien people clutching their gods.
I should be glad of another death.'

Sunday 4th January 2026

THE CROSS AND STABLE

Sunday before
The Epiphany



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Why does the camel have a snooty look on his face? See inside for the answer.

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TODAY

Before The Epiphany
Signed Communion
Led by Peter

THIS SUNDAY

Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
Matthew 2:1-12

NEXT SUNDAY:

Isaiah 42:1-9
Psalm 29
Acts 10:34-43
Matthew 3:13-17

NEXT SUNDAY

Epiphany One
Covenant &
Communion
Led by Sam

Cross and Stable is part of Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership
Church of England • Baptist Union • Methodist Church • United Reformed Church