



# Service Sheet

7<sup>th</sup> January 10.30am, St Mary's  
The First Sunday of Epiphany  
The Baptism of Christ

**Welcome to St Mary's Church!** We are so glad you are here – whether you are in the church building or watching online. If you are here for the first time or visiting, please say hello (in the chat feature online, or to the service leader or a member of the welcome team in church). You can find out more about our church on our website ([www.denhamparish.church](http://www.denhamparish.church)) or Facebook page ([facebook.com/denhamparish.church](https://facebook.com/denhamparish.church)).

*Christoph Lindner, Rector*

## WELCOME

### HYMN

O worship the Lord  
in the beauty of holiness;  
bow down before him,  
his glory proclaim;  
with gold of obedience,  
and incense of lowliness,  
kneel and adore him:  
the Lord is his name.

Low at this feet lay  
thy burden of carefulness:  
high on his heart  
he will bear it for thee,  
comfort thy sorrows,  
and answer thy prayerfulness,  
guiding thy steps  
as may best for thee be.

Fear not to enter  
his courts in the slenderness  
of the poor wealth  
thou wouldst reckon as thine:  
truth in its beauty,  
and love in its tenderness,  
these are the off'rings  
to lay on his shrine.

These, though we bring them  
in trembling and fearfulness,  
he will accept  
for the name that is dear;  
mornings of joy give  
for ev'nings of tearfulness,  
trust for our trembling  
and hope for our fear.

O worship the Lord  
in the beauty of holiness;  
bow down before him,  
his glory proclaim;  
with gold of obedience

and incense of lowliness,  
kneel and adore him:  
the Lord is his name

### CONFESSION

**God of mercy, we acknowledge that we are all sinners. We turn from the wrong that we have thought and said and done, and are mindful of all that we have failed to do. For the sake of Jesus, who died for us, forgive us for all that is past, and help us to live each day in the light of Christ and his resurrection. Amen.**

### ABSOLUTION

May almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you your sins, and bring you to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ Our Lord. **Amen**

### COLLECT

Heavenly Father, at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son: may we recognize him as our Lord and know ourselves to be your beloved children; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

### SONG

Father God I wonder how I managed to  
exist without the knowledge  
of Your parenthood  
And Your loving care  
But now I am Your child  
I am adopted in Your family  
And I can never be alone  
'Cause Father God You're there beside  
me

*I will sing Your praises  
I will sing Your praises  
I will sing Your praises forevermore  
(Repeat)*

*(The children leave for Sunday Club)*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### FIRST READING: Ephesians 3.1-12

3This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—<sup>2</sup>for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given to me for you,<sup>3</sup>and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words,<sup>4</sup>a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ.<sup>5</sup>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:<sup>6</sup>that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.<sup>7</sup>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.<sup>8</sup>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,<sup>9</sup>and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things;<sup>10</sup>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.<sup>11</sup>This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord,<sup>12</sup>in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

*This is the word of the Lord.*  
**Thanks be to God.**

### SECOND READING: Matthew 2.1-12

2In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem,<sup>2</sup>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.'<sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him;<sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.<sup>5</sup>They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:<sup>6</sup>"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."<sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had

appeared.<sup>8</sup>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.'<sup>9</sup>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.

<sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.<sup>11</sup>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.<sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.  
*This is the word of the Lord.*  
**Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON

### OFFERTORY HYMN

We three kings of Orient are;  
bearing gifts we traverse afar;  
field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
following yonder star.

O star of wonder, star of night,  
star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light.

Born a King on Bethlehem plain,  
gold I bring, to crown him again,  
King for ever, ceasing never,  
over us all to reign.

Frankincense to offer have I,  
incense owns a deity nigh,  
prayer and praising, gladly raising,  
worship him, God most high.

Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume  
breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

Glorious now behold him arise,  
King and God and sacrifice;  
alleluia, alleluia,  
earth to heav'n replies.

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power,  
the glory, the splendour, and the majesty;  
for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.

**All things come from you, and of your own do we give you. Amen.**

## PRAYERS

*We pray for our five mission partners: BRF Ministries, Church Army, SHOC/Trinity, Tearfund and Wycliffe Bible Translators. We thank you for their sharing of good news in action and word and pray that you would sustain and inspire them. May they see rich fruit in their work for you.*

Merciful Father,  
**accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.**  
**Amen**

**Our Father in heaven hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen**

## HYMN

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun  
does his successive journeys run;  
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore,  
til moons shall wax and wane no more.

People and realms of ev'ry tongue  
dwell on his love with sweetest song,  
and infant voices shall proclaim  
their early blessings on his name..

Blessings abound where'er he reigns:  
the pris'ners leap to lose their chains;  
the weary find eternal rest,  
and all the humble poor are blest.

Let ev'ry creature rise and bring  
peculiar honours to our King;  
angels descend with songs again,  
and earth repeat the loud amen.

## BLESSING

*Songs and Hymns reproduced under CCLI licence 6187*

## Diary

**MONDAY 8<sup>th</sup> - NO 'THE WELL'**

**WEDNESDAY 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Little Lions toddler group. St Mark's.**  
Contact: eddalindner18@gmail.com

**SUNDAY 14<sup>th</sup> January at St Mary's**

**9am Holy Communion**

**10.30am Holy Communion with Sunday Club**



Let's pray together....

- For those suffering the consequences of war, natural disasters and oppression. We pray especially for the conflict in Israel and Gaza, and in Ukraine.
- For those who have lost loved ones especially the families of the late Janet Hazelwood





Alpha is a great place to ask life's big questions. It provides a space for people to come, watch a talk exploring a key question of faith, and then chat about it.

**Alpha starts in Denham in January 2024:**

**Monday evenings, 7.30-9.15pm (with supper) from 22 Jan**

**Wednesday mornings, 9.30-11am (with crêche) from 24 Jan**

**Wednesday evenings, 8.30-10pm online on Zoom**

**Curious?** Find out more at

**[www.denhamparish.church/alpha](http://www.denhamparish.church/alpha)**

where you can also register your interest.

**Here is what others have said about Alpha:**

*"Excellent. Amazing community experience."*

*"I'd been meaning to go on an Alpha course for a while and was so glad I did this one! Really thought provoking, and it was great to be able to get to better know others through the weekly meal and group conversations."*

*"A welcoming space where you can openly ask any questions about faith and Christianity."*

*"Alpha was friendly, welcoming and interesting – and reminded me of something important I sometimes forget, that God loves me."*

**[www.denhamparish.church/alpha](http://www.denhamparish.church/alpha)**