

**Parishes of Stainton with Hemlington,  
Hilton and Brookfield  
EPIPHANY**

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT HOME**

**Thought for the day**

Having faith does not mean having no difficulties but having the strength to face them knowing you are not alone.

*Pope Francis*

**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**

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

ch 60.1-6

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.

**A reading from the letter of Paul to  
the Ephesians.** ch3.1-12

1 I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus  
for the sake of you Gentiles –  
2 for surely you have already heard  
of the commission of God's grace that  
was given me for you,  
3 and how the mystery was made  
known to me by revelation, as I wrote  
above in a few words,  
4 a reading of which will enable you  
to perceive my understanding of the  
mystery of Christ.  
5 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:  
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.  
7 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.

8 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,  
9 and to make everyone see what is the  
plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God  
who created all things;  
10 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.  
11 This was in accordance with the eternal  
purpose that he has carried out in Christ  
Jesus our Lord,  
12 in whom we have access to God in  
boldness and confidence through faith in  
him.

**Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus  
Christ according to Matthew.** ch2.1-12

1 In the time of King Herod,  
after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of  
Judea, wise men from the East came to  
Jerusalem, asking,  
2 '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.

## **PRAYERS**

With the Magi, we seek God's glory; those moments when we are shown that God is here with us.

God who made us all, each wonderfully different, we pray for followers of different faiths across the world. Give us grace to learn from each other.

We pray for this Diocese of York and for Archbishop Stephen; give him wisdom and fortitude to face the challenges his position brings. We pray for Bishop Paul and Penny during this difficult time in their lives. We ask your blessing on all who minister in

your service. We ask you to help us to support our Vicar Claire so that her ministry among us may be fruitful.

God of Creation, we thank you for the beauty of the skies, for the richness of creation and for moments when we feel close to each other and to you. Teach us to walk a different way in your world; to walk gently, cherishing all that you have made and seeing your glory all around us.

Lord God we pray for those who are closest to us who influence and enrich our lives - our families - our friends and neighbours. Help us to be true, loving and honest in our dealings with one another.

God of mystery, in a time of pandemic it's hard to work out where you are and why you allow this hardship and suffering. Give us strength to keep going even when we feel forsaken. We pray for all who will suffer today, and for those who care for them seeking to bring respite, healing and peace.

God of life, help us to see you, even in the face of death. Help us to trust in you even when the road travelled takes our loved ones away. We place into your care our loved ones who have died: as we travel towards you in this world and the next, draw us close to yourself, forgive our sins, and mend that which is broken until we come to kneel before you in wonder and in joy. Amen

Today the Magi gaze in deep wonder at what they see: heaven on earth, earth in heaven, man in God, God in man, one whom the whole universe cannot contain now enclosed in a tiny body. As they look, they believe and do not question, as their symbolic gifts bear witness: incense for God, gold for a king, myrrh for one who is to die.

— Peter Chrysologus

By gold the power of a king is signified, by frankincense the honour of God, by myrrh the burial of the body; and accordingly they offer Him gold as King, frankincense as God, myrrh as Man.

God and man, King over all  
— St John Chrysostom

## **Last thought**

**Epiphany:- is a magic moment that changes the lens through which you view your life**

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