A black background with a black square

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

**EPIPHANY** 5 January 2025

**Choral Eucharist:** Mass in C and F (Charles Villiers Stanford) **Gloria:** Gloria from the Mass of Ss Peter & Paul (John Ridgway) **Motet:** O sing joyfully (Adrian Batten) **Voluntary:** On a theme of Orlando Gibbons (Charles Villiers Stanford)

**Hymns at PC**: NEH 49, 47, 27, 36

**Hymns at HT:** NEH 49, 40, 47, 41, 36

THIS WEEK’S CALENDAR

**Saturday 4 January** No service

**Sunday 5 January** **EPIPHANY**

*Preacher at all morning services: the Curate*

8am Eucharist (Parish Church)

9.15am Sung Eucharist (Holy Trinity)

10.30am Choral Eucharist (Parish Church)

5pm Carols for Twelfth Night (Parish Church)

**Monday 6 January** 9.30am Eucharist (Parish Church)

**Tuesday 7 January** 9.30am Old Testament Bible Study Group (*see notice below)*

10.30am Care Home Communion (Stirlings)

5.45pm Bible Reading Book Club (Holy Trinity)

*Refreshments from 5.30pm*

7pm Eucharist (Holy Trinity)

**Wednesday 8 January** 12 noon Holy Half Hour (Parish Church)

3pm–6.30pm Around Table (Holy Trinity)

**Friday 10 January** 12 noon Eucharist (Parish Church)

2pm-4pm T Bar: Feed your faith! (Holy Trinity) *See notice below*

**Saturday 11 January** 4pm Vigil (Holy Trinity)

**Sunday** **12 January** **BAPTISM OF CHRIST: DISCIPLESHIP DAY**

*With the Discipleship Encouragers*

8am Eucharist (Parish Church)

9.15am Sung Eucharist (Holy Trinity)

10.30am Choral Eucharist (Parish Church)

**Morning Prayer** is said in the Parish Church at 9am Monday-Friday.

**Eucharist at the Convent** Tuesday–Saturday at 10am, all welcome (space permitting).

READINGS & PRAYERS

**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.**

**First Reading****: Isaiah 6:1-6**

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said: ‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.’ The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said: ‘Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!’ Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs.

**Psalm: 72:10-15**

**Response: May all nations be blest in him.**

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**

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.

**Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12**

Alleluia,

**Alleluia**

Christ was revealed in flesh, proclaimed among the nations

and believed in throughout the world.

**Alleluia**

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 Prayer**

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.**

**For Your Prayers:** Sarah Clark, Lizzie, Beth Hirst, Natalie, Rowland Jenkins, Sirma, Sybil Smith, Phoebe, Mary, Chris, Sharon, Glauce, Steve West, Pat and Dave, Amanda, Angela, Martin, Michael,

**RIP:** Joy Dullforce, Jessie West

**Please also pray for:** Archbishop Justin in his retirement and the process of finding a successor.

**Readings & Hymns for next Sunday**:

(4pm & 8am only: Isaiah 43:1-7, Psalm 29)

Acts 8:14-17, Luke 3:15-17 & 21-22

Hymns at PC: NEH 12, 55, 57, 352

Hymns at HT: NEH 52, 12, 55, 57, 352

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**DISCIPLESHIP DAY: Baptism of Christ, Sunday 12 January**. As we go into a new (calendar) year, we will take the opportunity to renew our own baptismal commitments as well as praying for those preparing to take that step. As part of our 9.15 and 10.30 services, the **discipleship encouragers** will be guiding us through exploring our ‘gifts for everyday faith’, and there will also be the chance to learn more about opportunities in this Parish, both to support us in our faith and also to use our skills and gifts.

**BAPTISM, FIRST COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION:** Preparation classes will begin in January for children, teenagers and adults, leading to baptism and first communion at Easter and/or confirmation with the Bishop in May. If you or your child are interested in taking the next step of commitment in the Christian faith, or you would like to find out more, please contact the Vicar.

**A NEW HOME GROUP** will start at Caroline and Andrew’s house, Priory Cottage, Church Street (the white house opposite the main entrance to the Parish Church) on **Monday 13 January**, running weekly from **7.30pm-9pm**. Please let them know if you’d like to come along (candahaines@gmail.com). Don’t worry if you can’t make every week. The format will be a combination of conversation, bible study and prayer and tea/coffee.

**‘FULLY BOOKED’: All welcome at the inaugural meeting of a new Book Club for Christians of all denominations across the Deaner**y. This is a new venture and we are hoping that members will help to shape it. The broad idea is to read a book per month and meet at The Bear in the Market Place every 4 weeks to discuss it. We will not focus exclusively on Christian authors, but will welcome spiritual and faith-based perspectives into the mix of our conversations. The first meeting will be at The Bear at **8pm on Wednesday 15th January**, when we shall make introductions and decide on our first book. Contact David at dcrwantageparish@gmail.com if you would like more information.

**BEER & BIBLE** will be starting soon;please email Laurence Price (laurence@wantageparish.com) if you are interested in joining.

**T BAR 2025: Feed your faith!** Regulars at Holy Trinity’s monthly coffee afternoon have been sharing an appetite for study/discussion as well as cake. We will be discussing further what this might look like at the next T Bar on **Friday 10 January from 2pm**. If you would like to be involved in that conversation, please come along on 10 January, or contact Ann Gregory ann\_m\_gregory@hotmail.com.

**OLD TESTAMENT BIBLE STUDY GROUP**: Tuesday mornings at **9.30am from 7th January**. Please note the change of venue to Felicity’s house: 24 Smith’s Wharf, Wantage, OX12 9GQ. We look forward to seeing you all there and welcome new members**.**

CONTACT DETAILS

**Vicar:** Revd. Katherine Price (Rest Day: Thursday) 01235 768806 vicar@wantageparish.com

**Curate:** Revd Dr Frances Caroe (Rest Day: Friday) 07856 278983 curate@wantageparish.com

**Parish Administrator:** Cathryn Stanton 01235 764533 administrator@wantageparish.com

**Event Bookings**: Cathryn Stanton 01235 764533 bookings@wantageparish.com

**Churchwardens**: Alastair Hunter alastair.churchwarden@wantageparish.com

Janet Kingdon janet.churchwarden@wantageparish.com

**Parish Assistant**: James Clarke james.parishasst@wantageparish.com

**Parish Safeguarding Officer:** Matt Godfrey safeguarding@wantageparish.com

**Director of Music:** Phil Johnson music@wantageparish.com

**Personal Discipleship Plan:** Susie Lapwood pdp@wantageparish.com

**Parish Website**: www.wantageparish.com