

St Matthias & St George Parish Church.
A member of “Christ the King” team ministry.
Week Commencing 6th January 2019

For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress, and the oppressed who has no helper. He shall have pity on the lowly and poor; he shall preserve the lives of the needy. He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, and dear shall their blood be in his sight. Psalm 72

Fr Glenn Reading - Team Vicar
Tel 01527 894436 or 07964 282278

Today's Services for Epiphany Sunday, 6th January

9.00 am said Eucharist (BCP)

10.30 am informal Family Service led by Irene

Services for W/C 6th January

Monday 7th 12 noon Mid-day prayers

Tuesday 8th 10.00 am said Eucharist

Sunday 13th January 10.30 am sung Eucharist
(Common Worship) with Sunday Stars in the hall

We pray for those who are sick:- Mick Bolt, Philippa Kreuser, Rosie, Alex, Edna Weale, Jean Lees, Joyce Thomas, Margaret Emms, Margaret Mills, Marion Williams, Tally, Alexei, Sarah Harwood, Rosemary Hudson, Rev Ivor and Dora Merry, Margaret Savage, Ann Heath, Liz, Janie and Stewart Kirby, Nesta Pearman, Hazel Richards, Heather and their families.

Stamps! Please put any stamps collected from Christmas cards in the box at the back of the church or in an envelope through the letterbox of Pam Emery who collects them for charity.

Dates for the diary:

Week of Christian Unity – Friday 18th –Friday 25th January

Messy Church 4pm Saturday 3rd February

Nightstop foodbank: *There is a box at the rear of the church in which you can place food and toiletry gifts.*

Spotlight Notices: Please give notices for inclusion in Spotlight to **Richard Porteous** by next Thursday on 01527 542620 or at richardporteous@yahoo.co.uk

Log onto our website for more information
www.astwoodbankchurch.org.uk

Epiphany: An ancient Greek word meaning a manifestation – a revealing of something or someone. Today we celebrate the revealing of Jesus to the Wise Men from the east – the beginning of the revealing of Christ to everyone in every nation, in every time.

“What mixed motives and thoughts were in the minds of those who had seen the star that guided them to the baby Messiah? ‘Wise Men from the East’, that is non-Jews were drawn to follow diligently, probably for years together, until they found their goal and presented those famous gifts: gold, frankincense and myrrh. Strange gifts for a child, and ones that people would spend centuries pondering and interpreting: gold for a king, frankincense for the anointing of a priest, myrrh for suffering and death. In truth they were all gifts associated with kingship. These travellers from the East recognised the kingship of this child and they bowed down to worship in the only way they knew how. The experience filled them with joy – one of the gifts of God, poured out upon them as they gave their own gifts. And King Herod? He sought the Christ child also, but he knew nothing of the joy of these other seekers. He was filled with fear, and it led him to plot complex methods to get rid of Jesus. Joy and fear; following and avoiding: we see these responses to Christ right at the beginning of the Gospel, just as we do today, in ourselves. As you see God revealed again this Epiphany, how will you respond?” Ricarda Witcombe wrote this about the Epiphany story in Sunday Link, January 6th 2008.

Prayer: Holy God, reveal yourself afresh in our lives and in the world, and give us grace to put away our fears and to know the joy of true worship. Amen

