



**WELCOME TO WORSHIP ON
2nd JANUARY 2022
THE EPIPHANY**

The Feast of the Epiphany is 6th January but a parish church is allowed to celebrate the Epiphany on 2nd January.

**The Benefice of St.Mary, Alderley &
St.Catherine, Birtles**



Please wear a face mask in church at all times

(including when singing) and practise social distancing in church at all times. Masks are available for you at the back of the church. Doors / windows will be open for ventilation.

At St.Mary's Church alternate pews are out of use in the side aisles and at the back of church: please only sit here if you need to sit with space around you.

Hymns at St.Mary's Church at Holy Communion this morning will be played on a CD as there is no organist able to play. (From Hymns Old & New):

- 41: As with gladness, men of old (CD6: 6)
- 199: Hark, the herald angels sing (CD12:12)

Hymns at St.Catherine's Church at the Family Service this morning (from Common Praise):

- 84. Brightest and best
 - 85. Earth has many a noble city
 - 83. As with gladness
 - 87. Hail to the Lord's Anointed
- Today we welcome Nora Griffin who is playing the organ.

This morning's Bible readings

Ephesians 3: 1-12

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— ²for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵In 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: ⁶that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷Of 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. ⁸Although 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, ⁹and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰so 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. ¹¹This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Matthew 2: 1-12

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 morning at St.Catherine's Church we welcome Kate Pwaisiho. Kate is an ordinand in training at Emmanuel College, Liverpool. Kate is a member of the ministry team of St.Philip & St.James Church, Alderley Edge. Rachel Roberts will be training Kate in conducting Family Services.

Zoom worship at 6.30pm today. Email the Revd Jon Hale this afternoon to be sent by email the Zoom link for the 6.30pm service today.

When they came to Jerusalem, the Magi were strangers in town. The Epiphany was:

- **the Revelation of the Christ to the Gentiles.** St.Paul – the Apostle to the Gentiles after the Resurrection – was rather more worldly-wise than the Three Wise Men.
- **an Epiphany:** a surprising disclosure of the presence and of the nature of God in unlikely circumstances.
- **dependent on dreams and following a star.** In our world of technical fixes and rational materialism the Magi show us the value of listening to our subconscious and trusting our intuition.

St.Mary's Church, Alderley SK10 4TW. The Churchwarden is Mr Ken Wilkinson (tel: 0161 4323490). The Rector is the Reverend Jon Hale (tel: 01625 585440 and email alderleyandbirtles@gmail.com). The Honorary Treasurer is Mr Will Ablett (tel: 01625 585180). Online: www.alderleychurch.co.uk and www.stmarysaldерley.com and St.Mary's Church, Nether Alderley on Facebook. You can now give online to St.Mary's Church by using the Collectin giving machine on the table at the back of church. You can now also give to St.Mary's Church using this QR code:



St.Catherine's Church, Birtles SK10 4RU. Churchwardens are Mr Michael Norbury (tel: 01625 583788) and Mr Chance Wilson (tel: 01625 861310). The Vicar is the Reverend Jon Hale (phone and email as for St.Mary's). The Honorary Treasurer is Mrs Nicola Folkes (tel: 01625 860815 & nicolajaynefolkes@gmail.com) Online: <https://www.stcatherinebirtles.org.uk/welcome.htm> and St.Catherine's Church, Over Alderley on Facebook. To give to St.Catherine's Church go to the St.Catherine's website and click on 'Donate Here' to give via PayPal.

Mrs Rachel Roberts (Reader) is on secondment from St.Philip & St.James Church, Alderley Edge to the Benefice of Alderley & Birtles.