



EPIPHANY: THE WISE MEN /
TAKING DOWN THE CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS



4 January 2009
Epiphany
All Age Service

Welcome to St Stephen & St Thomas Church
Visit the church web site at www.ststephensw12.org.
You can read all the latest news about the parish.
You can also read the sermons which are posted each week

Worship Song:

GOSPEL

Matthew 2.1-12

(p.41)

¹In 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.' ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They 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.'" ⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then 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.' ⁹When 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. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On 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. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Worship Song:

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Sharing of the Peace

Parents are invited to go to the school hall for coffee and cakes

Offertory Hymn

Communion Hymn

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.

Recessional Hymn

Coffee in Church after the service

Please pray for

- The sick and suffering: especially Felix Okike, Lucilda Bernard, Joan Andrew, Ivy Smith, Susie Leach, Norbert Edwards, Sylvia Steed, Tracey Davies, Esmay Young, Roger Cox, Althea Ferns, Dorian Henry, Detroy Henry, Mary Rodney, Esme Hoyte, Esme Fairburn

THIS WEEK AT ST STEPHEN'S

Wednesday – Holy Communion – 6 pm

Thursday – Christian Meditation Group – 6.30 pm.

NEXT SUNDAY: 11 January 2009 Baptism of Christ

10 am COMMUNION SERVICE (with Sunday School)

Celebrant and Preacher – The Reverend Dr Bob Mayo
Genesis 1.1-5 (p462), Matthew 3.13-17 (p45)

House Group (Talk to Edd) – Would you be interested in meeting with other people from the church during the week? This would become a 'House Group'. You would meet in someone's home, have a meal together and look at the Bible. If you are interested talk to Edd - 07836156835 eddstock@hotmail.com.

Residential (Friday April 24th). We would like to go away for one night with as many members of the congregation as our able to come. It takes time to get to know each other and there is no short cut to our fellowship together.

Notices

Thank you to everyone who helped to make Christmas the happy time it was. I particularly enjoyed the Christmas party, Midnight Mass and the Sunday School Nativity Play

Welcome back for a new term. I hope that it will be more exciting than QPR's bore draw with Burnley yesterday.

Remember that Easter (not Christmas) is the most significant festival of the Christian year. It was only once Jesus had died and risen from the dead that we could celebrate the fact that he had overcome the world

Children at St Stephens:

Baptism Course starts on Monday January 12th – If you are interested in having your child baptised please talk to Bob (07969090907)

Sunday School starts on Sunday January 11th – This is for children 4 years old and above. Younger children can stay with their parents on the colouring table or go into the playroom.

Mother & Toddler group starts on Monday January 12th. This meets on Monday from 9-11. Ring the door on the Coverdale Road side to get in.

Playroom – Parents who want 'time out with their children during the service. There is a speaker system set up so that you will be able to hear the service while sitting in the room with your children

Colouring table – parents can sit with their children during the service

Other notices

Flower Arranging - A six week course to be held in St. Nicholas Church on Saturday afternoons at 1500 - 1700 hours on the following dates:

10th, 17th, 24th, 31st January, 7th, 28th February 2009. Equipment needed: strong apron with pocket on front, pair of florist scissors, note book and pencil (items for Christmas lists!) The aim of this course is to encourage new members to join the team of flower arrangers at St. Nicholas but the course is open to anyone aged sixteen and upwards.

Growing New Christians - 5 Tuesdays from 13th January at the Kensington Area Office

An exciting course which helps local church members to look at some practical ways in which they might enable growth. There is no fee for this course, but please complete the booking form from the site below. Talk to Bob if interested.

Believing in the Creeds - beginning 19th January - A new four session course on Monday evenings 7.30pm - 9.30pm. This course will provide an introduction to the doctrinal developments in the early church that led to the acceptance of the Creeds we still use today. We will particularly study: the Canon of Scripture, the Person of Christ, The Trinity and Salvation. Talk to Bob if interested