

Sunday 4th January 2026

Epiphany

St Andrew's church, Billingborough
South Lafford and Billingborough Group of Parishes

Collect

Creator of the heavens,
who led the Magi by a star
to worship the Christ-child:
guide and sustain us,
that we may find our journey's end
in Jesus Christ our Lord.



Isaiah 60.1-6

- 60 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,[a]
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.

Psalms 72.10-15

- 10 The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay
tribute;
the kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring gifts.
- 11 All kings shall fall down before him;
all nations shall do him service.**
- 12 For he shall deliver the poor that cry out,
the needy and those who have no helper.
- 13 He shall have pity on the weak and poor;
he shall preserve the lives of the needy.**
- 14 He shall redeem their lives from oppression and
violence,
and dear shall their blood be in his sight.
- 15 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.**

Ephesians 3.1-12

3 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

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