



**4<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> January**  
**Epiphany Sunday**  
**The Parish of Shirley**  
**St James the Great and St John the Divine**  
The Parish Office  
Church House, Church Road,  
Shirley, B90 2AX  
[www.shirleyparishb90.co.uk](http://www.shirleyparishb90.co.uk)  
[office@shirleyparishb90.co.uk](mailto:office@shirleyparishb90.co.uk)  
0121 745 8896

<b>Sun 4<sup>th</sup></b>	10.30am	Eucharist (St James) Epiphany Sunday
	12.30pm	Baptism (St James)
	3.30pm	Reflective Worship (St James)
<b>Mon 5<sup>th</sup></b>	8pm	Compline & Parish Prayers (Zoom)
<b>Tues 6<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00am	Welcome Café (Church House)
	12.00pm	Funeral of Cheryle Morton (St James)
<b>Wed 7<sup>th</sup></b>	12pm	Ploughmans Lunch (Church House)
<b>Thurs 8<sup>th</sup></b>	10.30am	Eucharist (St James)
<b>Fri 9<sup>th</sup></b>	10am	Jimmy Tots (Church House)
<b>Sun 11<sup>th</sup></b>	8am	Eucharist (St James)
	9am	Eucharistic (St Johns)

### Parish Notices

**Office Closure** Please note that the office is currently closed until 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026. Thank you for your support and patience over the festive period, it really is appreciated.

#### Annual Leave – Rev'd Richard Haynes

Please note that Richard will be on annual leave following the Christmas morning service, returning on Saturday 3 January 2026

**Coffee Morning & Unloved Gift Swap** – Monday 12th January at 10.30am at St John's Church. All welcome!

**Mothers Union** There will be no meeting in January. However, there will be the Wave of Prayer. More details of this will follow. Our next meeting will be on 4th February 2026 which will be our AGM.

#### **Bible Study Morning – Matthew's Gospel Saturday 10 January 10am**

All are welcome to a Bible Study on Matthew's Gospel (the main Gospel in use for this liturgical year) which will be in Church House on Saturday 10 January. This will be a time to consider some of the questions that surround 'Matthew' and explore some of the Gospel's themes. Please bring an actual Bible along – some will be available on the day. We plan to start at 10am and finish around 11:30am Rev'd Richard Haynes

### **Vicar – in vacancy**

Contact the Parish Office

**Rev Richard Haynes - Curate**

0797 253 0161

[curate@shirleyparishb90.co.uk](mailto:curate@shirleyparishb90.co.uk)

(Rest Day is Friday)

### **FOR PRAYER**

For Shirley Churches Together in this month which includes the week for Christian Unity

### **YEARS MIND**

Elizabeth Helen Wells Swartz

### **THOSE TO BE BAPTISED**

Tania West, Ella-Rose Powell & Archie Powell

### **THOSE WHO HAVE DIED**

Cheryl Yvonne Morton & John Howard Smith

### **Collect for 4<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

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**

### **Donations During Services**

+ We do not pass an offertory plate around the congregation during our services. You can donate using the Parish Giving Scheme for regular donations or for one-off donations by using the Sum Up machine or the collecting plate at the back of the church. Thank you for your support +

## Readings 4<sup>th</sup> January (Epiphany Sunday – transferred from 6<sup>th</sup>)

### Isaiah 60: 1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. 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. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. 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. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. 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.

### Ephesians 3: 1-12

For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles, pray to God. Surely you have heard that God in his grace has given me this work to do for your good. God revealed his secret plan and made it known to me. (I have written briefly about this, and if you will read what I have written, you can learn about my understanding of the secret of Christ.) In past times human beings were not told this secret, but God has revealed it now by the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets. The secret is that by means of the gospel the Gentiles have a part with the Jews in God's blessings; they are members of the same body and share in the promise that God made through Christ Jesus. I was made a servant of the gospel by God's special gift, which he gave me through the working of his power. I am less than the least of all God's people; yet God gave me this privilege of taking to the Gentiles the Good News about the infinite riches of Christ, and of making all people see how God's secret plan is to be put into effect. God, who is the Creator of all things, kept his secret hidden through all the past ages, in order that at the present time, by means of the church, the angelic rulers and powers in the heavenly world might learn of his wisdom in all its different forms. God did this according to his eternal purpose, which he achieved through Christ Jesus our Lord. In union with Christ and through our faith in him we have the boldness to go into God's presence with all confidence.

### 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, 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.



If you wish to contribute to the notice sheet, please contact the Parish Office by 9am Wednesday (max of 3 sentences). Longer articles to [shirleyparishmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:shirleyparishmagazine@gmail.com) by the 12th