**Aldermaston and Woolhampton Benefice News**

**(the parishes of Aldermaston & Wasing, Beenham, Brimpton, Midgham and Woolhampton)**

**Sunday 5th January 2025: The Feast of the Epiphany**

**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.

**FIRST READING** *Ephesians 3.1–12* Riches beyond imagining, says Paul, are found in Christ. Though he is in prison for his faith, his gospel cannot be confined – the good news that God’s purposes, once so obscure, are now made clear for Jew and Gentile alike.

**GOSPEL READING** *Matthew 2.1–12* More than the other Evangelists, Matthew wishes to show how Jesus is the fulfilment of Hebrew prophecy. It is Micah’s prophecy (Micah 5.2) that informs Herod that the Messiah should be born in Bethlehem. Why not just follow the star? – but its “stopping over the place” in v9 is problematic anyway, and in contrast with v2 which perhaps recalls the truth of their astrology more closely? Their three gifts echo Isaiah 60.6 and Psalm 72.10.

**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.

**Services this Sunday: The Feast of the Epiphany**

St Mary’s, Aldermaston 10.45am Holy Communion

St Mary’s, Beenham 9.15am Holy Communion

St Matthew’s, Midgham 9.15am BCP Communion

St Peter’s, Brimpton 10.45am Holy Communion

**Services on 12th January: The Baptism of Christ**

St Mary’s, Aldermaston 10.45am Holy Communion

St Mary’s, Beenham 9.15am Morning Praise

St Peter’s, Brimpton 9.15am Holy Communion

St Peter’s, Woolhampton 10.45am Holy Communion

**Prayers and Pastoral Care** In the Benefice we seek to offer care for everyone in our churches and our communites, especially when they are in a difficult period in their lives. If you need to talk to a someone or would like a home visit, please contact the Rector on 0118 9712 891
You might just need to talk to someone in complete confidence about a personal or family crisis. We will always listen and help if we can. If you would like prayers included in our services on a Sunday for someone who is ill or in need, (providing the person is aware that they are being prayed for), has recently died or on the anniversary of their death, please do let me know. Revd Jane

We pray for those who are ill at this time and remember those who have recently died and pray for those who grieve

PStlease print this newsletter and hand on to anyone you know who does not have internet access

**Rector:** The Rev’d Jane Manley jmanley.awb@gmail.com

01189712 891

**Assistant Priest**

The Revd Derek Spears dspears.awb@gmail.com