

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.

Gospel Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord *All: Praise to you, O Christ*

SERMON

MUSICAL INTERLUDE Song by Andrew KETTLE

THE NICENE CREED followed by **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

OFFERTORY HYMN # 805 We three kings of Orient are Solo vv.1-4

The service continues on Page 12 of the Service Booklet

FINAL HYMN # 583 O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness

SENDING OUT & POSTLUDE

NOTICES

1. Our annual Service of Prayer for Christian Unity will take place on January 22nd at 7.30 pm here in St. John's Church. The Orthodox Church is in charge this year, but their church is too small for the numbers anticipated and as we are only 200 metres away, they have asked to use our church. As usual, our choir will be contributing.

Service on Sunday 11th January (Epiphany 1– Baptism of Christ)
Communion with Paul PAYTON
Isaiah 42:1-9; Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17

St. John's Anglican Church, St. Raphaël

**117 Avenue Paul Doumer
83700 St. Raphaël**

**Website: www.sjevar.com
YouTube: [@St_Johns_Anglican_Church_Var](https://www.youtube.com/@St_Johns_Anglican_Church_Var)**

A congregation of the Church of England's Diocese in Europe and a member of the World-Wide Anglican Communion.
St. John's is an inclusive congregation and welcomes everyone to worship with us.

Une congrégation de L'Église d'Angleterre dans le Diocèse d'Europe et un membre de la Communion Anglicane Mondiale.
Notre Église est une congrégation inclusive, et tout le monde est bienvenu

**A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO
YOU ALL AND A VERY
WARM WELCOME TO
OUR SERVICE THIS
MORNING**

The **birth** of every new baby is God's vote of confidence in the future of man..

Imogene FEY

The birth of Christ and the adoration of the Magi

Michaelangelo (1475—1564)



**Sunday 4th January 2026
Epiphany**

Chaplain (Locum)
Warden & Secretary
Warden
Music Director & Vice-Chair
Congregational Worship Leader

Rev. Roxana TELEMAN
Peter **Owen** 07 86 05 81 12
Bérendère **Ross** 04 94 76 17 70
Shirley **Rowson** 06 60 71 93 54
Alastair **Ross** 04 94 76 17 70

COMMUNION SERVICE

NOTICES

INTROIT How brightly beams the morning star

OPENING HYMN # 89 Brightest and best of the suns of the morning.

WELCOME & PRAYER OF PREPARATION

CONFESSION, KYRIE, ABSOLUTION, GLORIA

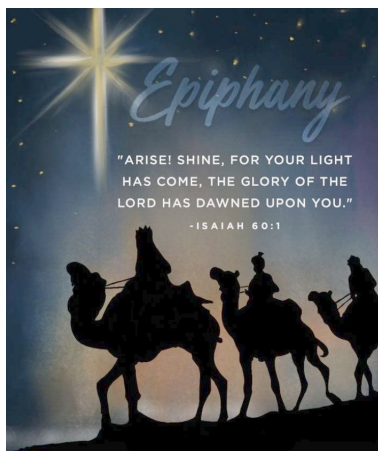
COLLECT PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF 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.



Reader: This is the word of the Lord **All: Thanks be to God**

A READING FROM ST. PAUL'S LETTER TO THE EPHESIANS (3:1-12)

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given to me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a

few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the **mystery** of Christ. In 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: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Of 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. Although 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, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the **mystery** hidden for ages in God who created all things; so 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. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord **All: Thanks be to God**

GOSPEL HYMN # 46 As with gladness men of old.

Gospel Reader: The Lord be with you

All: And also with you

Gospel Reader: The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Matthew

All: Glory to you, O Lord

THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO ST 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,

A revelation is religious doctrine viewed on its illuminated side; a **mystery** is the self-same doctrine viewed on the side unilluminated.

Cardinal John Henry NEWMAN (1801–1890)