

Chesterfield Parish Church Saint Mary & All Saints

Making It Clear

Of all feasts of the Church, the Epiphany is probably the one which shows most clearly that our faith is not a private matter.

The Wise Men represent the interest of the whole world in what is happening in Bethlehem—what God is doing in the world.

It reminds us that our faith is not a private matter—between us and our Maker—but a matter for witness and action.

We will need the patience and perseverance of the Wise Men if we are to accomplish whatever it is God has in store for us in 2026; and we will need to listen to the voice of God as they did, paying heed to the signs that appear around us, and being prepared to go out on a limb if that is what God asks.

When our listening, patience and perseverance turns into witness and action, the Kingdom of God can make great strides in the coming year—even in this humble place where we live!



EPIPHANY SUNDAY (4th January 2026)

- 08.30 Holy Communion (1662)
- 10.30 Choral Mass
- 18.30 Choral Evensong

THIS WEEK'S SERVICES

Monday-Saturday

Morning Prayer	09.00
Evening Prayer	16.00 (Thursday 17.00)

Monday	Mass 12.15
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Tuesday	Mass 09.30
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Wednesday	Holy Communion (1662) 09.30
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Thursday	Mass 17.30
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Friday	Mass 12.15
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Saturday	Mass 09.30
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Next Sunday See back page

The church is open for private prayer and visiting Monday-Saturday 09.00 - 16.00

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Full details of events may be found at crookedspire.org, on the notices displayed in church, or from the organisers.

Please respect those who wish to prepare for Mass in quiet prayer; also those who wish to listen to the closing Organ Voluntary.

EPIPHANY SUNDAY - CHORAL MASS

Introit: Epiphany Matin Responsory
(Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, arr. Moore/Jackson)

Processional Hymn: 67

Setting: Ireland in C

Collect Prayer

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 Letter of Paul to the Ephesians

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.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

Gradual Hymn: 68

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to Saint Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord

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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ**

Homily, Creed, Intercessions & Peace

Offertory Hymn: 28

Communion Motet: The Three Kings

(Peter Cornelius, arr. Willcocks)

Post-Communion Hymn: 69(*t.ii*)

Voluntary: How lovely shines the Morning Star
op.68 no.7 (Flor Peeters)

CHORAL EVENSONG

Introit: Epiphany Vesper Responsory

(Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, arr. Moore/Jackson)

Responses: Tomkins

Psalm(s): 98 & 100

First Lesson: Isaiah 60.1-9

Office Hymn: 71

Canticles: Dyson in F

Second Lesson: John 2.1-11

Anthem: Eastern Monarchs, Sages Three (C S Lang)

Hymn: 70

Voluntary: Number 1 of 'Four Sketches' op.58

(Robert Schumann)

