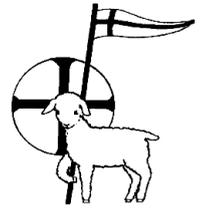


St John the Baptist Church, Tisbury

reflecting Jesus Christ



Sunday 4th January 2026

The Feast of the Epiphany

Today's Service

9.30am All-Age Service

Led by Canon Judy Anderson

If you came to the Crib Service, you'll know that we left the Wise Men still travelling in search of the baby Jesus. This morning we celebrate, a couple of days early, their arrival and the presentation of their gifts. Children will be invited to make crowns to wear and to take home afterwards – there might even be space for a few adults to join them!

Services during the week

Holy Communion is celebrated at 10.00am on Wednesdays (CW) and at 8.00am on Fridays (BCP) in St Andrew's Chapel. Do join us!

Sunday 11th January

The Baptism of Christ / Plough Sunday

9.30am Parish Communion

President and Preacher: The Revd Barry Blackford

Wednesday 14th January

4.00pm Service of Healing and Wholeness St Andrew's Chapel

Come to join us in the stillness, bringing with you any person or situation you wish to pray for that is near to your heart. All welcome!

Advent Boxes

Thank you very much to those of you who took Advent boxes for the Salisbury Hospice Charity. Please would you bring your box back as soon as possible? We'd like to send our donation to the charity by the end of this month.

For your prayers

In our linked diocese of Cueibet, South Sudan, please pray for the whole Christian community as they begin the new year; in particular the School Committee: Moses Mayon (Headteacher), Revd David Cook Awet (Bishop's Commissary) and Canon Mary Akoi Dhuor (previously Cathedral Provost), as they oversee the latest stage of the new School building as it nears completion. Please pray too for former Bishop Elijah as he helps them and Archbishop Alapayoh as he looks to the future leadership of the Diocese.

A prayer for the New Year from the Church of England:

God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, whose years never fail and whose mercies are new each returning day: let the radiance of your Spirit renew our lives, warming our hearts and giving light to our minds; that we may pass the coming year in joyful obedience and firm faith; through him who is the beginning and the end, your Son, Christ our Lord. Amen.



A date for your diary

There will be an ecumenical service for the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** at Sacred Heart RC Church on Tuesday 20th January at 3.00pm, followed by refreshments. All very welcome – do come!

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The Collect for the Epiphany

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.

The Reading: Matthew 2.1-12

Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem in Judea, during the time when Herod was king. Soon afterward, some men who studied the stars came from the East to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the baby born to be the king of the Jews? We saw his star when it came up in the east, and we have come to worship him."

When King Herod heard about this, he was very upset, and so was everyone else in Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the teachers of the Law and asked them, "Where will the Messiah be born?"

"In the town of Bethlehem in Judea," they answered. "For this is what the prophet wrote:

'Bethlehem in the land of Judah,
you are by no means the least of the leading cities of Judah;
for from you will come a leader
who will guide my people Israel.'"

So Herod called the visitors from the East to a secret meeting and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem with these instructions: "Go and make a careful search for the child; and when you find him, let me know, so that I too may go and worship him."

And so they left, and on their way they saw the same star they had seen in the East. When they saw it, how happy they were, what joy was theirs! It went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. They went into the house, and when they saw the child with his mother Mary, they knelt down and worshiped him. They brought out their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, and presented them to him.

Then they returned to their country by another road, since God had warned them in a dream not to go back to Herod.



New year, new opportunities

Julie Dunstan, Licensed Lay Minister in the Upper Nadder Benefice, has a particular ministry in spirituality and spiritual direction. Beginning this month, Julie is offering opportunities for us to develop our shared spiritual life through two groups, both meeting monthly: *Soul Space: Exploring the Themes of the Church Year* and *Contemplative Prayer: Sacred Reading and Silence*. Details are on a separate sheet, available in church. Do please get in touch with Julie if you are interested.

Lent Group

We are looking at the possibility of running a Lent group this year ... watch this space!

Vacancy

We shall be advertising again this month for a Rector to lead the Upper Nadder Benefice. Please pray that God will put it into the heart of the priest he would send to us to apply for the post.

Thank you!

The concert given by Reed Tetzloff in December raised almost £2,500 for church funds. Huge thanks to Reed Tetzloff for offering this concert free of charge, and to Liz Gardiner and her team for all the organisation.