

WHAT'S ON AT ST JOHN'S /DATES FOR DIARIES

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Mon. 6 Jan	7.00 p.m	Monday Night House Group
Wed. 8 Jan	7.30 p.m	Sing for Joy Choir (Resumes)
Sun. 12 Jan	10.00 a.m	Morning Worship with Holy Communion
Mon. 13 Jan	8.00 a.m	MONDAY MARKET 'OPEN CHURCH'
Sun. 19 Jan	10.00 a.m	Sunday School (Resumes)

For your prayers/praise

Give thanks for answered prayers.

We pray for students, teachers and ask God's blessing on the new school year. In a year full of difficulties as King Charles III and Queen Camilla begin a new year we pray for them—we also uphold The Prince and Princess of Wales and all the Royal Family.

We remember all that has taken place last year—amidst the trials and difficulties, we give thanks for every blessing, knowing that God works all things for the good of those who love him. May we enter the New Year with our eyes fixed on Jesus.

As You led the Three Kings to You by the light of a star, please draw us ever closer to You by the light of Faith. Help us to desire You as ardently as they did. Give us the grace to overcome all obstacles that keep us far from You. May we, like them, have something to give You when we appear before You.

Grateful thanks expressed to Shiphay Post Office for kindly donating the 100 Oranges for our Christingle service.

HALL TO HIRE!

We have two halls in St John's Church Hall which are available to rent out for events, meetings, social groups, exercise classes etc.

Two of our long-standing groups have moved and so we are looking for new groups to fill the gaps! If you would like to know more please contact the office—**01803 401316**. Thanks.

Contact details:-

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9.00 a.m—11.30 a.m daily except Wednesday

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WELCOME TO ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, SHIPHAY

'A caring fellowship seeking to share the life and love of God'

Sunday 5 January 2025

We warmly welcome you to our Morning Worship—
The Epiphany of the Lord.

We are glad you have chosen to come along to this service especially if this is your first visit to St. John's.

We really hope you will stay and join us for Fairtrade coffee and refreshments after the service this morning.

Music

The First Nowell	641
Light of the World	
Jesus, King of Kings	
Offertory As with gladness	49
Communion O worship the Lord	552
Jesus, Name above all names	355
We Three Kings of Orient are	724

On the threshold of this New Year our wish for the world is peace on earth, and may the earth turn its face to the sun, and its back on conflict and cruelty. For each and every one of us we wish tranquility of mind and spirit, happiness and good health.



The First Reading

Ephesians 3:1-12

God's marvellous plan for the Gentiles

3 For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles –

² Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³ that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. ⁴ In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵ which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. ⁶ This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

⁷ I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. ⁸ Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹ and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. ¹⁰ His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, ¹¹ according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹² In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

***Father God, the star that led the Magi to the stable
announced to the world that its Saviour was born.***

***Today we live in a world that is still covered by
darkness, and still needing to make that journey to the
stable door.***

***May our lives reflect your light day by day, as we seek
to serve where you have placed us.***

***That we might be the means through which others can
encounter Jesus Christ.***

Amen.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 2:1-12

The Magi visit the Messiah

2 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi ^{1a} from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, 'Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.'

³ When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ 'In Bethlehem in Judea,' they replied, 'for this is what the prophet has written:

⁶ "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler

who will shepherd my people Israel."^{6a}

⁷ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, 'Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.'

⁹ After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

