

St Mary of Charity Parish Church Faversham

Epiphany

7 January 2018

Welcome to the beautiful church of St Mary of Charity. Please do stay for a drink and fellowship. If you are here for the first time, please make yourself known to one of the clergy.

For our prayers:

- the St Mary of Charity clergy team and lay ministry and all whose ministry is in Faversham and the Ospringe Deanery;
- those affected by 'natural disasters' and extreme weather in the world;
- the Rohingya seeking safety;
- those who work in disaster relief;
- those affected by the Grenfell Tower fire;
- those who are homeless or vulnerably housed;
- those who are experiencing financial hardship;
- those who work for the emergency services;
- those who are receiving medical treatment;
- those who volunteer their time for the good of others;
- the people of Syria, Iraq, Iran and Afghanistan; and
- all who live in fear of violence and aggression.

9 am Eucharist (CW) with hymns
10.30 am All Age Worship
6 pm Evensong (Said)

Readings:

Ephesians 3:1-12
Matthew 2:1-12

COLLECT:

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

Next Sunday:
Baptism of Christ
Acts 19:1-7
Mark 1:4-11



9 am Eucharist (CW) with hymns

Opening: As with gladness
Offertory: What child is this?
Closing: We three kings



As with gladness men of old

did the guiding star behold,
as with joy they hailed its light,
leading onward, beaming bright;
so, most gracious Lord, may we
evermore be led to thee.

As with joyful steps they sped,
Saviour, to thy lowly bed,
there to bend the knee before
thee whom heaven and earth adore;
so may we with willing feet
ever seek thy mercy-seat.

As they offered gifts most rare
at thy cradle rude and bare,
so may we with holy joy,
pure and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to thee our heavenly King.

Holy Jesus, every day
keep us in the narrow way,
and, when earthly things are past,
bring our ransomed souls at last
where they need no star to guide,
where no clouds thy glory hide.

In the heavenly country bright
 need they no created light;
thou its light, its joy, its crown,
 thou its sun which goes not down;
there for ever may we sing
 alleluias to our King.

What child is this, who, laid to rest
 on Mary's lap is sleeping?
whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
 while shepherds watch are keeping?
 this, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds worship and angels sing:
 haste, haste to bring him praise
the babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate,
 where ox and ass are feeding?
Come, have no fear, God's Son is here,
 his love all loves exceeding:
 nails, spear, shall pierce him through,
the cross be borne for me, for you:
 hail, hail, the Saviour comes,
the babe, the son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold and myrrh,
 all tongues and peoples own him,
the King of kings salvation brings,
 let every heart enthrone him:
 raise, raise your song on high
while Mary sings a lullaby,
 joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary.

We three kings of Orient are,
bearing gifts we traverse afar
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star:

*O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.*

Born a king on Bethlehem plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
king for ever, ceasing never
over us all to reign:

Frankincense to offer have I,
incense owns a deity nigh;
prayer and praising, all men raising,
worship him, God most high:

Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb:

Glorious now behold him arise,
king and God and sacrifice.
Heaven sings: 'Alleluia';
'Alleluia,' the earth replies:



Epistle

Ephesians 3:1-12

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 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 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.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 2:1-12

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
Saint Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

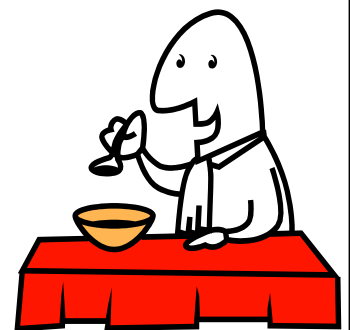
This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

The Tuesday Group's next open meeting will be held at 7.30 pm on 9 January, at the Age UK premises, with the chance to hear the excellent *Forged Steal* playing.

This meeting is open to anyone who would like to come along and share fellowship.

The Parish Lunch will be on the third
Wednesday of the month
17 January 2018

All are welcome to enjoy good, home-cooked food and fellowship - the sign-up sheet is at the back of the church!



Thank you - everyone at St Mary of Charity

Rev Simon Rowlands would like to thank everyone for the Christmas gift he and Gail received from all at St Mary of Charity, and sends best wishes for 2018.

Dear all - on behalf of myself, Marcia, Robert and Lucy, I'd like to thank you very much for the lovely Christmas gift! Best wishes and blessings for 2018. Rev Simon Young

*Dear Friends at St Mary of Charity,
thank you so much for the most generous Christmas present which we received from you. It is much appreciated.
Every Blessing for the New Year. Rev Ros Parrett*

Dear All at St Mary of Charity

Thank you very much for the lovely gift received this Christmas. Angela and I would like to wish you a happy New Year and all the best for 2018!

Rev Allan Norris

Very many thanks to St Mary of Charity for your very kind Christmas Gift. Happy New Year! Rev Sharran

Thank you, everyone at St Mary of Charity, for the thoughtful Christmas gift. I hope you all had a peaceful Christmas and have a good new year ahead in 2018. Best wishes, Rev Douglas Turton

Struan and Sylvia would like to thank the Church Family of SMOG for the very kind gift. This generosity was very much appreciated, along with your good wishes and prayers. With much love for the New Year Rev Struan Dunn

A reminder from Stewardship Corner:

For all those who have planned giving envelopes: 2017 had 53 Sundays, so you will have had an extra envelope in your box with the text:

“MY WEEKLY OFFERING
FOR THE
53rd SUNDAY
Contributor’s No
_____”

Please don’t forget to write your number in so that we know who has given!

In addition, some of the numbers printed on the envelopes towards the end of the year have been a bit ‘patchy’ and numbers in the ‘10s’ haven’t printed clearly. If you are still to hand some envelopes in, could you please check that your number is clear on your envelope before you put it into the collection?

Kind regards and best wishes for 2018

Brian Wimlett

Gift Aid Secretary

Thank you to everyone who, over the past year, has given time and effort into the cleaning, upkeep, decoration and care of St Mary of Charity; a special thanks goes to those who were involved with the reordering of the South Porch and the social space at the west end of the church, the buttresses in the North Transept and the sound system installation. And to those who faithfully and regularly sweep, polish and vacuum the church and keep the building looking at its best.

Do you regularly drive to church? Are you able to offer a lift to members of the congregation who don't drive or would find it difficult to walk?

If the answer is 'yes' then please either speak to Miranda or add your name to the list for '*Lifters*' on the screen at the back of the church.

And *thank you* for helping those who wouldn't otherwise be able to come to a regular Sunday service...



Please note that if you are giving people lifts in your car on behalf of the church, you need to have this reflected in your car insurance.

This is often a free option at the time of renewal.

Who's missing?

Have you noticed one of our church family who you normally see on Sundays is no longer attending church?

Is there someone you know who has had to stop coming to church because of ill health but would like to remain in contact?

We have a group of volunteers who can visit people in their homes to be a link to the church and provide spiritual support. Home Communion can also be given.

If there is someone you think would benefit from such a visit please contact the Pastoral Visitors' Co-ordinator Kevin Swinney (kevin.swinney@outlook.com) or a member of the Clergy team.

Notices to Catriona by noon Wednesday, latest!

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admin@stmaryofcharity.org

All worship songs reproduced under CCL 89147

The Coming Week at St Mary of Charity, Faversham

Wednesday, 10 January 2018

10.30 am Eucharist

Thursday, 11 January 2018

10-11.30 am Little Fishes *Welcome back!*

Friday, 12 January 2018

10.30 am Prayer in the Trinity Chapel

Saturday, 13 January 2018

8-9 am Early Morning Prayer

10 - noon Church Cafe

11 am Kent County Association of Change Ringers (bell ringing)

12.30 am Kent County Association of Change Ringers' service *followed by*

1 pm Kent County Association of Change Ringers' lunch and meeting

2.30 pm Kent County Association of Change Ringers (bell ringing)

Sunday, 14 January 2018; Epiphany

9 am Eucharist (BCP)

10.30 am Parish Eucharist (CW)



First Sunday	9 am	Eucharist (CW with hymns)	10.30 am	All Age Worship <i>Family-friendly service</i>	6 pm	Choral Evensong
Second Sunday	9 am	Eucharist (BCP said)	10.30 am	Parish Eucharist		
Third Sunday	9 am	Matins	10.30 am	Family Eucharist <i>Family-friendly service</i>		
Fourth Sunday	9 am	Eucharist (BCP said)	10.30 am	Parish Eucharist		
Fifth Sunday (if applicable)	NO EARLY SERVICE AT ANY BENEFICE CHURCH		10 am	Benefice Eucharist CW <i>Please check for details on which church this will be held at</i>		