

## EPIPHANY SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

5<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> January 2025

*'Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.'* Isaiah 6:1

Greetings, dear friends.

**2025 has begun with bright winter sunshine.** Brian and I are very thankful to be back. We are immeasurably thankful to our churches, congregations, PCCs, leaders, and ministers who have held us in loving prayer, and blessed our parishes and communities during our absence. Our parishes and schools continued to be lifted up with Christian worship, hospitality, joy, and care. I've been so heartened by updates of lively and full Carol services across all our churches and special Christmas services welcomed by visiting families and our faithful congregations.

We look forward to seeing many of you in the coming weeks, and to hearing how you've been. It has been for us a tough few months; disorientating, disenfranchised, and deeply emotional. I'm sorry not to have been present to provide consolation at the passing of parishioners here while we've been away, and am very grateful for Rev'd Moji and our caring communities who have ministered to and comforted the bereaved. I have been unwell with pneumonia, and Brian a chest infection, and we're glad to be recovering.



**We rejoice in this season of Epiphany.** I feel I'm able to relate to those ancient travellers, who came westwards towards hope following an eternal light. In this age when global travel is the norm and cosmology is eclipsed by man-made satellites, we may not realise the great and profound event of The Epiphany.

Here are services during the Epiphany season in our churches:

### EPIPHANY SUNDAY COMMUNIONS

9.15	Staindrop St Mary	Rev'd Moji Jaiyesimi
9.30	Winston St Andrew	Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop
10.45	Gainford St Mary	Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop

### Epiphany 2 Communions

9.15	Staindrop St Mary	Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop
9.30	Winston St Andrew	Rev'd Moji Jaiyesimi
10.45	Gainford St Mary	Rev'd Moji Jaiyesimi
11	Ingleton St John	Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop

### Epiphany 3 Communions & Services

9.15	Staindrop St Mary	LAY Service of the Word
9.30	Winston St Andrew	Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop
10.45	Gainford St Mary	Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop
3pm	Gainford St Mary	MESSY CHURCH Team

### Epiphany 4 Communions & Services

9.15	Staindrop St Mary	Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop
9.30	Winston St Andrew	Rev'd Moji Jaiyesimi
10.45	Gainford St Mary	Rev'd Moji Jaiyesimi
11	Ingleton St John	Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop
3pm	St Osmund	CTiG Christian Unity Fr Thomas with Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop



Brian and I wish everyone God's goodness and His gracious blessings in 2025.

*May God, Emmanuel, fill us with His Holy Spirit, and be with us in every aspect of our lives this year that His Righteousness and Love bless our words, thoughts, and deeds.*

*Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop*

## NOTICES

### ***We pray for our families recently bereaved and give thanks for the lives of***

- † The Late Margaret Collins, whose funeral at Staindrop St Mary's took place on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024
- † The Late Elizabeth Pauline Bellamy, whose funeral at Darlington Crematorium takes place on The Epiphany 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 3pm
- † The Late William Andrew Goyder (Bill), whose funeral at Gainford St Mary's followed by a private burial takes place on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 12.30

## FROM OUR PARISHES

### **An Invitation**

#### † **To join our Parochial Church Councils**

All our churches are lovingly cared for by parishioners who step forward to serve on our PCCs. Offering gifts and talents, ideas, and practical effort, our churches have been sustained to bless to our communities. The tasks are not onerous because together, with collective desire to share God's love through our churches and events, our PCCs can flourish. We have vacancies for churchwardens in Ingleton, Staindrop, and Winston. While this is a responsible role as officer of the Bishop, anyone can consider this role. Remember even the young shepherd boy David, without apparent experience or stature, was in God's heart to serve. Please speak to our churchwardens, anyone on the PCC, or myself (ekgharrop@gmail.com), to find out more or simply to join a PCC.

#### † **To join our Schools Councils and Governing Board, and Young People teams**

We have 3 church schools: Gainford; Ingleton; and Staindrop. We want to continue active and close relationships with our schools. We need church representatives on Gainford and Ingleton schools' Academy Trust council and Staindrop school's governing board. We also welcome interest to support our schools' ministry in a variety of ways.

Do contact Paula Harrison (Lay Children's Minister and Staindrop Primary Chair of Governors), Sarah Fells (Missioner and Licensed Lay Minister in Training), Sheila Jones (Youth Saints and Messy Church co-Leader), Judith Pressly (Ingleton Academy Trust Councillor and Ingleton St John the Evangelist Churchwarden), and Sue Taylor (Open The Book team leader):  
[stmarys@gainfordwinston.church](mailto:stmarys@gainfordwinston.church)

#### † **To join GATHER church: God's Tent in Teesdale**

Check out <https://durhamdiocese.org/gather-a-new-rural-church-plant-for-teesdale.php>

A distinct expression of church, GATHER organises Pilgrimages to explore our faith journeys in the open; Life Gatherings – coming together in small groups for conversation, exploring God's word in the Bible, and to fellowship over drink and nibbles; practical events including Litter Picks around our 4 parishes; Worship Gatherings and Retreats in social settings; and fun including Pub Quizzes. To find out more, contact Sheila Jones (GATHER administrative lead) and Tom Deakin (GATHER pilgrimage lead): [info@gatherchurchteesdale.com](mailto:info@gatherchurchteesdale.com)

#### † **To join Warm and Welcome (Gainford) and TEA & CHAT (Winston)**

Every Friday from 10am to noon, this time of gentle fun with tea, coffee and cake at Gainford Village Hall, anyone who would otherwise be on their own comes along to enjoy time with others. Contact Wendy Broderick, Lay Pastoral Minister, to find out how you could help or just come along. For Tea and Chat at Winston Village Hall, contact Val Raper or Lynne Lobleby.

#### † **To join BELL RINGING teams**

We have tower ringing teams at St Mary's, Gainford and Staindrop churches. New ringers are especially sought for Staindrop's tower team. Please contact Mark Palmer at [mark@palmerfrost.plus.com](mailto:mark@palmerfrost.plus.com)

## **COLLECT for Epiphany Sunday**

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

## **Post-Communion Prayer of The Epiphany**

Lord God,  
the bright splendour whom the nations  
seek:  
may we who with the wise men have been  
drawn by your light  
discern the glory of your presence in your  
Son,  
the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our  
Lord. Amen

## **Ephesians 3:1-12**

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— <sup>2</sup>for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given to me for you, <sup>3</sup>and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, <sup>4</sup>a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. <sup>5</sup>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: <sup>6</sup>that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

<sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>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, <sup>9</sup>and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup>in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

## **The Gospel according to 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, <sup>2</sup>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.' <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup>"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."

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>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.' <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>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. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.