

Holy Trinity
Headington Quarry



The Feast of the Epiphany

5th January 2025

The Gathering

Music Group Introit: God welcomes all, stranger and friend

(Wild Goose Collective, John Bell)

Words of welcome

Hymn 96i

Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid;
star of the east, the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Cold on his cradle the dew-drops are shining;
low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;
angels adore him in slumber reclining,
Maker and Monarch and Saviour of all.

Say, shall we yield him, in costly devotion,
odours of Edom, and offerings divine,
gems of the mountain, and pearls of the ocean,
myrrh from the forest, or gold from the mine?

Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
vainly with gifts would his favour secure:
richer by far is the heart's adoration,
dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid;
star of the east, the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Reginald Heber (1783-1826)

Please stand

The president says

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Greeting

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe.

**From the rising of the sun to its setting
your name is proclaimed in all the world.**

The Lord of glory be with you.

The Lord bless you.

Presentation of the crib figures

Please remain standing as the figures of the magi and their gifts are placed into the crib.

The first figure is placed in the crib, bearing gold.

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe:
to you be praise and glory for ever.

As gold in the furnace is tried and purified seven times in the fire,
so purify our hearts and minds that we may be a royal priesthood
acceptable in the service of your kingdom.

Blessed be God for ever.

The second figure is placed in the crib, bearing frankincense.

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe:
to you be praise and glory for ever.

As our prayer rises up before you as incense,
so may we be presented before you
with penitent hearts and uplifted hands
to offer ourselves in your priestly service.

Blessed be God for ever.

The third figure is placed in the crib, bearing myrrh.

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe:
to you be praise and glory for ever.

As you give medicine to heal our sickness
and the leaves of the tree of life
for the healing of the nations,
so anoint us with your healing power
that we may be the first-fruits of your new creation.

Blessed be God for ever.

Receiving God's Forgiveness

The grace of God has dawned upon the world
through our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Let us confess our sins.

Silence is kept.

Christ came in humility to share our lives:
forgive our pride.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Christ came with good news for all people:
forgive our silence.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Christ came in love to a world of suffering:
forgive our self-centredness.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

The president says

The God of all mercies forgive you your sins,
and pour upon you the healing spirit
of love, peace and gentleness.
Amen.

Gloria in Excelsis

Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to the Father.
Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to the Father.
To God be glory forever
To God be glory forever
Alleluia Amen
Alleluia Amen
Alleluia Amen
Alleluia Amen

Glory to God, Glory to God, Son of the Father.
Glory to God, Glory to God, Son of the Father.
To God be glory forever
To God be glory forever
Alleluia Amen
Alleluia Amen
Alleluia Amen
Alleluia Amen

Glory to God, Glory to God, glory to the Spirit.
Glory to God, Glory to God, glory to the Spirit.
To God be glory forever
To God be glory forever
Alleluia Amen
Alleluia Amen
Alleluia Amen
Alleluia Amen

Peruvian Liturgical Text, ed. John Ballantine (1945)

The Prayer for the Day

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 Liturgy of the Word

Old Testament Reading: 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.

Gospel Reading

Please stand. We repeat the refrain:



Pilgrim's alleluia (Hymn 377)

The Gospel is announced.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel reading: 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

Sermon

Revd Dr Andrew Gregory

Affirmation of Faith

Please stand.

Let us declare our faith in God:

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

Today the wise men knelt before our Saviour.
Let us also kneel to worship him with great joy,
and to make our prayer to his heavenly Father.

These responses may be used

Lord, in your mercy.
Hear our prayer.

We pray for those who are sick or in particular need:

*Grace, Josie, Kitty Datta, Atmadeep Novo Datta, Bob Southgate,
Benjie, Caroline Winwood, Enid Owens, Pam, Madeline Tarrant,
Kenneth Sanders, Janet, Mollie Wilson, Maureen, Helen Day,
Hunter Merritt, Tony Buttolph.*

Those who have died recently:

Sheila Otway, Joan Miles, Benedict Alexis, Arthur Miller.

Those whose anniversary of death falls at this time:

*Bill Berryman, Frederick Young, James Horwood, Alvin Jeremy,
Beryl Payne, Patrick Reck, Janet Collins, Lesley Trinder.*

And at the end

Merciful Father,
**accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

The Peace

Please stand

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,
since as members of one body you are called to peace.
The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of Peace.

Hymn 94

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.

William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898)

Taking of the Bread and Wine

The table is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.

Gracious God,
accept the offering of your Church,
the hearts of your people
joined in praise and thanksgiving,
in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.
Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

Please sit or stand as you are most comfortable.

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

All honour and praise be yours always and everywhere,
mighty creator, ever-living God,
through Jesus Christ your only Son our Lord:
for at this time we celebrate your glory
made present in our midst.
In the coming of the magi
the King of all the world was revealed to the nations.

In the waters of baptism
Jesus was revealed as the Christ,
the Saviour sent to redeem us.
In the water made wine
the new creation was revealed at the wedding feast.
Poverty was turned to riches, sorrow into joy.
Therefore with all the angels of heaven
we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name
and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

**Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy name,
in earth and sky and sea;
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!**

Tune: 'Nicaea'

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith
Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.

Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with the blessed Virgin Mary, and all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.
Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our saviour taught us, so we pray.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever.
Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.
**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

Agnus Dei

slowly
(cantor)

1&2 Lamb of God you take a-way the sin of the
3 Lamb of God you take a-way the sin of the

(all)
[on us.] 1&2 Lamb of God you take a-way the
peace. 3 Lamb of God you take a-way the

world, have___ mer - cy on us.
world, grant___ us your peace.

sin of the world, have___ mer - cy
sin of the world, grant___ us your

(v.3 only)
Grant_ us your peace. Grant_ us your peace.

(v.3 only)
peace. Grant_ us your peace. Grant_ us your peace.

Giving of Communion

God's holy gifts
for God's holy people.
**Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

This is God's table and all are welcome. Please follow the directions of the stewards. We will form two lines to receive communion – the bread is distributed from the chancel step, and the wine is distributed from the lady chapel step. Please return to your pew via the north aisle. Stewards will be on hand to direct you!

If you are wearing a mask, it is most practical if you remove it before receiving communion. Please do not dip your wafer into the chalice. Please note that there is no obligation to take the chalice and it is fine still to receive communion in one kind only (the bread).

If you do not wish to receive communion and would prefer a blessing instead, please do come forwards as well.

Music group anthem: Jesus Christ here among us (John L. Bell)

Hymn 95

Bethlehem, what greater city
can in fame with you compare?
For the gracious God of heaven
chose to meet our people there.

Was there ever beauty brighter
than the star which shone that night
to proclaim the incarnation
of our God, the world's true light?

From the East come men of learning,
rich the treasures that they hold --
tributes to a greater wisdom,
gifts of incense, myrrh and gold.

Sacrifice, redeemer, saviour!
Incense shows that God has come,
gold, our mighty king proclaims him,
myrrh foretells his silent tomb.

Jesus Christ, to you be glory,
Lord of lords whom we adore
with the Father and the Spirit:
God be praised for evermore!

Michael Perry (1942-1996)

based on O sola magnarum urbium by Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348-c.413)

Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept.

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.

**You have opened to us the Scriptures, O Christ,
and you have made yourself known
in the breaking of the bread.**

**Abide with us, we pray,
that, blessed by your royal presence,
we may walk with you
all the days of our life,
and at its end behold you
in the glory of the eternal Trinity,
one God for ever and ever.
Amen.**

The Sending Out

Blessing of Chalk

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who has made heaven and earth.

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Lord God, among the gifts of your creation you have given chalk to be of benefit to us all. We call on your holy name to bless these pieces of chalk. May they be used to remember your revelation to the wise men, Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. Bless our homes with hospitality, and bless us with health, kindness of heart and generosity. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn 105

Please stand

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 light,
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 forever, ceasing never,
Over us all to reign.

O star of wonder ...

Frankincense to offer have I;
Incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and praising, all men raising,
Worship him, God most high.

O star of wonder ...

Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
Sealed in the stone cold tomb.

O star of wonder ...

Glorious now behold Him arise;
King and God and sacrifice;
Heaven sings Alleluia,
'Alleluia!' the earth replies.

O star of wonder...

Edward John Hopkins (1818-1901)

The Blessing

Christ our Lord,
to whom kings bowed down in worship and offered gifts,
reveal to you his glory
and pour upon you the riches of his grace;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

The Dismissal

We have seen his glory,
the glory revealed to all the nations.
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Organ voluntary: Sonata IV Last Movt - Felix Mendelssohn

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Please do join us for refreshments at the back of church or in the warmer meeting room after the Service. Please take this booklet away with you, and recycle it when you have finished with it. We no longer pass the collection plate around during the service, but you are welcome to use the collection plate at the back of church, or the contactless machine, if you would like to make a donation to support the work of our church. If you would like to sign up to regular monthly giving, please visit www.hthq.uk/giving-to-the-church for more information.

Notices: Feast of the Epiphany

Sunday Jan 5th: Feast of the Epiphany

8am Holy Communion

President: Revd Jane Hedges

10am Parish Eucharist

President: Revd Emily Hockliffe Essex

Preacher: Revd Dr Andrew Gregory

Deacon: Revd Prof Rob Gilbert

Midweek Services

Morning Prayer: 9am Tuesday and Thursday in the Lady Chapel

Midweek Communion: Wednesdays at 10am

Sunday Jan 12th: Baptism of Christ

8am Holy Communion

10am Parish Eucharist and Forest Sunday School

A prayer for the vacancy:

God of vision and hope,
we thank you for all who have ministered here
throughout the history of this church.
In this time of vacancy,
may we continue to grow in love,
share in responsibility,
and seek your vision for our future,
in the name of Jesus Christ, our shepherd and our guide.
Amen.

The Parish Office will be closed from **Tuesday 14th January** until further notice when Helen is on sick leave.

All notices must be emailed to Emily by **9am on Tuesday mornings** otherwise they will not be included in the service booklet. In Helen's absence volunteers will check the office email account, pay bills, print off booklets and materials and support Emily and Rob in the administration of the church. We are very grateful to all those who are helping at this time and ask the congregation to support them in anyway they can.

Tots provision: Community Café From Tuesday **21 January**, we will be offering a Community Café space from 9.30am-11.30am on Tuesday mornings, making use of the new facilities in church. All are welcome, and most especially families with young children, as the meeting room will be set up for tots to play. **If you would like to volunteer**, we would be very grateful to hear from you regarding Tuesday mornings or the possibility of an afternoon slot around school pick-up time. Contact Emily for more info.

Racial Justice Reflection Day: members of the PCC and the wider congregation are invited to come together on **Saturday 18 January** to explore our understanding of and vision for what racial justice could look like in our church. We will be meeting from **9.30am to 1.30pm** in church, including a soup lunch, assisted by Polly Falconer (Racial Justice Advisor to the Diocese) and our own Andrea Taylor (with expertise on Theories of Change) to articulate our big picture vision from which, we hope, further action will flow. For more information or to sign up, please email curate@hthq.uk.

E-newsletter: The deadline for the next online newsletter is **Thursday 30th January**. If you have any items and photos to contribute, please email them to Yue-Yi Hwa at newsletter@hthq.uk. For this edition, your **favourite memories of Laura** during her time as our vicar would be particularly welcome. Feel free to write anything from a couple of sentences to 200 words. Thank you very much.

Save the date The Bishop of Oxford formally license Laura to her new post at Balliol College Chapel on Sunday **January 19th at 5.30pm**. All are welcome to attend the service of Choral Evensong. We ask for God's blessing upon Laura and we pray for her ministry in her new calling.

HTHQ 175 Talking History the HTHQ175 committee have put together a programme of talks celebrating Holy Trinity's 175th Anniversary year:

| | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Wednesday 8 January | C.S. Lewis's Oxford | Prof Simon Horobin |
| Wednesay 5 February | Racial Justice | Revd Prof Rob Gilbert |
| Tuesday 4 March | History of the Quarry | (speaker TBC) |
| Wednesday 9 April | Church and Eco-theology | Dr Tom Crook |
| Wednesday 7 May | Morris Dancing | (speaker TBC) |

Wednesday 4 June Our changing church (speaker TBC)
The evening begins with refreshments at 6.45pm, the talk beginning at 7pm, and discussions close at 7.45pm. All are welcome in church.

This week's Eco Tips: With the festivities almost over, we return to normal patterns of living. Could it be time to focus on the needs of wildlife? Stock up on seed for the bird feeders? Renew water for the birds in times of frost? Protect fragile plants from frost? *Hilary Rollin, Eco Group*

Eco Resources Autumn/Winter 2024

If you are looking for information on ECO matters, you might like to follow the link below for ideas on book titles, links to Zoom sessions (live and recorded), talks etc. Hilary Rollin, Eco Church Group
Go to: <https://www.hthq.uk/eco-church-resources/>

Pastoral care team Are you in need of support or would you like to talk to someone? We rely on you to let us know of anyone who is ill, or in hospital or who might welcome a visit. Please contact any of the clergy (numbers below) or Helen Day, Janet Masters, or Anne Tarassenko.

Holy Trinity Headington Quarry

*An open door between heaven and earth,
showing God's love to all.*

As the Anglican parish in Headington Quarry, Risinghurst and Wood Farm, we are here for every local resident. Our church is open every day. We hope that you will find God's peace as you come to pray or just sit and rest awhile. If you have questions about the Christian faith or would like to find out more about church life, please get in touch:

Contact us

Vicar: Revd Dr Laura Biron-Scott
vicar@hthq.uk 01865 762835

Associate Priest: Revd Prof Rob Gilbert
associatepriest@hthq.uk

Curate: Revd Emily Hockliffe Essex
curate@hthq.uk 07979 931889

Parish Office: office@hthq.uk 01865 762931

Churchwardens: wardens@hthq.uk

Website: www.hthq.org.uk

Church post code for emergencies: OX3 8LQ

An Epiphany House Blessing

'Chalking the door' is an ancient custom of the church in Epiphany, as Christians mark the feast and the beginning of the new year by asking God's blessing on their homes. Traditionally, doorposts are marked with the initials of the wise men, to symbolise Christian hospitality to visitors. It also reminds us that Christ is incarnate in the love and care we show to each other in our ordinary lives, and in friends and strangers who cross the threshold of our homes during the year.

*If you would like to, please take a piece of chalk home at the end of the service, and use it to mark the doorpost of your house, or another entrance, as follows: **20 + C + M + B + 25**. As you mark the entrance, you may pray wish to pray the following prayer:*

The three wise men:

C Caspar
M Melchior
B and Balthasar

followed the star of God's son who became human.

20 two thousand
25 and twenty-five years ago
++ may Christ bless our home
++ and remain with us throughout the year.
Amen.