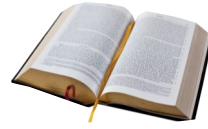


## This week's service

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2023

## This week's reading

Welcome to today's service which is led by Sandra O'Toole with Debbie Patrick preaching



Isaiah 60:1-6  
Matthew 2:1-12

## A thought from Debbie

Matthew speaks of Magi coming to worship King Jesus. He sets these foreigners up as something to emulate. He offers no explanation as to who they really were, how they lived their lives, whether they had any active faith in our God or any faith at all... he just tells us that they saw that the child was King of the Jews and so they worshipped him.

Thank you, Lord, that you aren't waiting for perfection from us... just worship. Please, shine your light on all around us and help us to show the way to that perfect truth.. that you love your creation just the way we are.

## Prayer for the week

Creator of the heavens  
who led the Magi by a star  
to worship the Christ-child;  
guide and sustain us,  
that we may find our journey's end  
in Jesus Christ our Lord  
Amen



## Gifts of the Magi by David L. Hatton

Three Spirit-drawn astrologers,  
Sincere and sage philosophers,  
Brought precious tokens from afar  
To Him they found beneath the star:  
Their frankincense, as to a Priest,  
As to a King, gold from the East,  
And myrrh to bless a Prophet's tomb,  
They gave this Son of Mary's womb.

Such gifts as these might likely show  
The path a common child might go  
Through twists of time or whims of chance  
Or Heaven-guided circumstance.  
But just before they turned to part,  
These Magi bowed, with head and heart,  
To worship Him on bended knee,  
As though this Son was Deity.

Today we know the claims He made  
That matched the gifts the Magi laid  
Before this Prophet, Priest and King.  
But can you do that final thing?  
Will you bow down before this One  
And worship Him as God's own Son?  
These wise men did. They somehow knew.  
Will their example speak to you?

## Church diary for the next month

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January**  
**10:45 Holy Communion**  
 with Rev Mike Firbank

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January**  
**10:45 Holy Communion**  
 with Rev Bex Allpress

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January**  
**10am Joint Minster Service at Emmanuel Church Swadlincote**

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February**  
**10:45 Morning Worship**  
 led by Debbie Patrick  
 with Sandra O'Toole preaching

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February**  
**10:45 Morning Worship**  
 led by Debbie Patrick  
 with Nigel Worth preaching

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February**  
**10:45 Holy Communion**  
 with Rev Mike Firbank

## Cleaning Rota

Please clean the church before the date marked. Please swap with someone else on the rota if you cannot clean during your week.

**The toilets will be cleaned weekly by Sean & Sandra**

15 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Nige & Deb
22 <sup>nd</sup> Jan	Christine
29 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Deb P & Alicia
5 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Jane
12 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Bill
19 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Brian Redfern
26 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Val & Andy

## Refreshments Rota

It's a real blessing to be able to spend time chatting with one other after the service.

We have a rota for serving tea & coffee.

Please swap with someone if you cannot do a particular date. Please bring the milk.

8 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Maxine & Jane
15 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Carol
22 <sup>nd</sup> Jan	Deb W
5 <sup>th</sup> Feb	James
12 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Maxine & Jane
19 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Carol
26 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Deb W
5 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Carol/Jane



A great time was had by all at the Little Sparks Christmas parties.

Little Sparks reopens this week on Wednesday and Friday 9:30 - 11:15 in the church hall.

