

January 2026

Happy New Year!

I wonder what this year will hold for you ... have you made any resolutions ... what are your hopes and dreams? What journeys will you go on – physically, emotionally, spiritually? Who will travel with you? How will you know when you've arrived? What will you find when you get there?

On January 6th the Church celebrates the Epiphany – the revelation of God to the magi. Travelling a vast distance on an adventure guided by God through a unique star and a careful studying of the Scriptures they set off to pay homage to this new King. They learnt that the Messiah was to be born in Bethlehem and that's where the star stopped – they had arrived. And they weren't disappointed (but maybe surprised?) by what they found – a poor couple with a baby, in humble surroundings. They offered him gifts: gold for a king, frankincense for a high priest and myrrh for sacrifice. They'd found what they were looking for, and the difficult, risky journey was worth it.

Encountering the Christ-child changed the magi and they ended up being warned in a dream not to return to Herod but to return home by another route. Likewise, when we meet with Jesus – in our prayers, in the Bible, through receiving Holy Communion, in the people we encounter every day – we too must expect to be changed, to find that our path is different. We may have already made plans for this new year but so often God has other ideas beyond our imagining!

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God bless

Revd Sue

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