

## Words of Light and Hope – Epiphany 5 th January 2025

**Helena Crockford LLM**

An epiphany is ‘a moment of sudden and great revelation or realisation’. In the Christian calendar Epiphany on Jan 6 th we remember the Magi following the star far from their own homes to find and pay homage to the infant Jesus. How can we find hope for the journey into this New Year in a daunting and uncertain world?

**By Faith, a Christmas reflection — Bronwyn Angela White, New Zealand**

By faith, wise ones followed the path of a new star to a strange land, to an undistinguished stable. This faith might sometimes lead us down unpaved tracks, with people we don't recognise, to destinations we didn't plan. Faith is the opposite of belief: a bright-side-up coin whose shadow-side is hope. Faith is relationship and way of life: caring for orphans and widows, casting out demons of self-doubt and despair, and occasionally raising the dead. This is our faith: Living as if we matter. Living with uncertainty yet acting with confidence, walking the star-led spiral to the heart of everything: God in us, now – and here.

**Blessing of the Stars – Gerardo Oberman, Argentina**

May the moon that illuminated the night of the shepherds of Bethlehem, embrace your fears and your struggles, renew your yearnings for a good life and your hope in the arrival of peace. May the star that guided those who migrated from distant lands guide your searches and lead you always to entrust with the God revealed in fragility. And may the sun of divine justice shine forth, announcing the new day, the time of solidarity, the moment of transformation, the promised hour of fulfilment.

(from <https://worshipwords.co.uk>)

Wishing you a Happy and Blessed New Year!



REEPHAM & WENSUM VALLEY  
TEAM CHURCHES

# Pew Notes

January 13th: 7:30pm—9pm Bible Study , Acts of the Apostles. Weston Longville, for more information please see our website or Facebook page.



### Services for next week: Sunday 12th January 2025

9am Mattins, St Andrew's, Thurning

9am Holy Communion (BCP), St Mary's, Bylaugh

10::30am Covenant Service , Reepham Methodist Church

10:30am Words and Praise, St Margaret's, Lyng

4pm Epiphany Carols by candlelit , St Mary's, Gt Witchingham

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**FACEBOOK:** Reepham & Wensum Valley Events

**WEBSITE:** [www.reepham-and-wensum-valley-team-churches.org.uk](http://www.reepham-and-wensum-valley-team-churches.org.uk)

**Pew Notes are available to download from the RWV website and the E-newsletter**

**If you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact your Parish Safeguarding Officer. Details in the church porch or on the RWV website.**

### **The Collect**

O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

### **Isaiah 60:1-6**

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

### **Psalm 72:1-7,10-14**

1 Give the King your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the King's Son;

2 That he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;

3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the little hills bring righteousness.

4 He shall defend the needy among the people; he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.

5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another.

6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth.

7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

10 The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute, and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.

11 All kings shall bow down before him, and all the nations do him service.

12 For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress, and the oppressed who has no helper.

13 He shall have pity on the lowly and poor; he shall preserve the lives of the needy.

14 He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, and dear shall their blood be in his sight.



### **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 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.

### **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.