

## NEWSWIRE: 3rd January 2025

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- Services on Sunday
  - Deanery Epiphany Celebration Service
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### *A message from Ruth*

Maybe it's just me, but after the anticipation and business of recent weeks, this week can feel something of a let down! Apart from the half eaten box of After Eights, everything is just like it was.

I wonder if Mary experienced any of that deflation? Gabriel's announcement, the birth of her first-born, a visit from shepherds with tales of angels, but then, like so many others before and since, she is left caring for a newborn baby.

For Mary and Joseph there was, as there is for us, a whole load of 'normal'. Their story would soon be interrupted by visitors from afar, but for now, as for me, cooking, cleaning and the daily chores beckon.

However, as we, like Mary, return to the normality of our lives, if Christmas has changed nothing then we have totally missed the point!

Immanuel.

The carol services, the giving of gifts, the celebrations, all pointed to this one earth shattering truth - God is with us. Even in the normal.

As we step into the New Year, picking up our 'normal', we are a people amongst whom our God dwells. Our God chose to leave the glories of Heaven to walk our journey with us.

The worldly noise of Christmas may be past, but for us as Christians, this is just the beginning. God dwells amongst us, as one of us, even our 'normal' will never be the same again!

## Collect for Epiphany

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.

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### SERVICES ON SUNDAY

#### 9.30am - Holy Communion at St Peter's

*Readings: Matthew 2.1-12; Romans 15:7-13*

#### 10.30am - Morning Worship at St Leonard's and live streamed on [this link](#)

*Readings: Matthew 2.1-12; Romans 15:7-13*

If you have difficulties accessing the service on the livestream link above, please try accessing [our youtube channel](#) directly.

#### 7pm - Revive at St Leonard's

### NEXT WEEK

Bump to One, Walkie Talkies and Warm Welcome Wednesday all return week commencing Monday 13th January

#### Friday 10th January

**The funeral of the late Tony Willesden will take place at St Leonard's church at 1.30pm on Friday 10th January.**

#### NEXT SUNDAY - 12th January

9am - Holy Communion at St Leonard's

9.30am - Morning Worship at St Peter's

10.30am - Morning Worship at St Leonard's and livestreamed

4pm - Families@4 at St Leonard's



**Urgent help needed please for the Sunday coffee team at St Leonard's!** We are looking for new team members to serve refreshments after the Sunday morning service. We particularly need help on the **FIRST SUNDAY** of every month, starting from January. If you are interested in being part of this vital ministry please do message Angela for further details. Thank you.  
angela.holton@ntlworld.com

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**A Celebration of The Epiphany**  
**With Music, Prayer and Readings**



**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 6pm**  
**St Mary Magdalene, Woodstock**

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**Please pray for:**

- Jon who has been in hospital this week and his family.
- Dave recovering from a number of strokes.
- Ben and healing for his mental health.
- Scarlett's recovery from long Covid.
- Katie suffering with epilepsy. Please pray that the right medication be found to control her seizures.

To add names to the prayer list, please contact the Church Office ([stleonards\\_stpeters@btconnect.com](mailto:stleonards_stpeters@btconnect.com)) Names will be added to the list by express permission, and only first names will be published.

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