

Holyhead Road United Reformed Church

Sunday 3 January 2021 - Epiphany



Happy New Year! Worship in the building is currently suspended – alternatives are running (please see below)

Minister: Revd Debbie Brown 024 7659 6433; brown_debbie@sky.com

Lectionary readings this week: Isaiah 60: 1- 6; Psalm 72: 1-7, 10-14;
Ephesians 3: 1-12; Matthew 2: 1-12.

Communicating and Worshipping:

Please contact the Minister or Elders with any concerns or prayer requests.

There will be a Group phone-in act of worship every Sunday afternoon at 4:00; this Sunday it will be **led by Karen Adams, and will include Communion**. You can join on any telephone by calling the number **0330 606 0403** and listening to the instructions. When you are asked for it, enter the following access code on your phone pad: **442786#**.

An archive of Revd Bill Young's podcasts will be available at www.revdbill.uk until Easter.

Pat Elliman's funeral will take place on Tuesday 12th January at 10.00am. Due to Coronavirus restrictions attendance will, understandably, be limited to those invited by the family.

As a church community, please pray for Mal and the family, now and during the funeral, giving thanks for all that Pat has been to so many of us over the years.



There is no message from Debbie this week as she is on holiday. *Instead, here is a reflection for Epiphany and the new year:*

Have you ever had an “epiphany?” The word simply means a sudden realisation or a moment of clarity. The particular epiphany we commemorate is the manifestation of Jesus as “king of the Jews” - and of the world.

Epiphany recalls the Magi arriving in Jerusalem. Their presence probably caused quite a stir. They kept asking, “Where is the

newborn king of the Jews?” Naturally, King Herod was troubled by this. He called his advisers and asked them where this “king” was to be born. The priests informed him that the Scriptures said this would happen in the land of Judah.

Herod called the Magi in. He told them to go and search for the child. When they found him, they were to send word to Herod. He said that he also wanted to offer homage to the child...we know the truth.

We also know the rest of the story. The Magi followed the star. It led them to the Child, in a lowly stable. Imagine how astonished they must have been to find this holy Child in a manger surrounded by animals! Yet despite these humble circumstances, the wise men instantly recognised the Christ Child.

May we look for the Child King in our midst and keep looking for Him until we find Him. Jesus is there – as the new year dawns, may we have open hearts, minds, and eyes to see Him!

Wishing you all a Happy New Year!

May 2021 see us open our doors and our hearts to better times and new beginnings.