



## Benefice News – Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January

**Happy New Year** to you all! A new year invites us to pause, reflect, and trust God with what lies ahead. I trust that we can begin this new year looking to trust in God's unfailing love: so may '*the Lord bless you and keep you*' (Numbers 6:24). The **epiphany house blessing** is a beautiful Christian tradition that marks the Feast of the Epiphany (on January 6), celebrating the visit of the Magi to the Christ Child and Christ being revealed to the world. If you would like to bless your house, there is a prayer, chalk and further information available in St Dubricius, St Swithins' & St James' from Sunday.

**One of them struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear. But Jesus answered**

### **Our services and events are as follows:**

*Today's readings – Jer 31.7-14; Eph 1.3-14; John 1.[1-9] 10-18*

#### **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January (Second Sunday of Christmas)**

09.30 Ganarew – Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

11.00 Whitchurch – Holy Communion.

11.00 Wyesham – Sunday Praise.

#### **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January (The Epiphany)**

09.30 Whitchurch - Sticky Little Fingers at St Dubricius.

#### **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January**

10.30 Whitchurch - Community Coffee Morning.

#### **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January**

10.30 Whitchurch – Simple, said, Holy Communion service.

11.00 Whitchurch – Simple, fun, bible study.

2pm Whitchurch – Knit & Natter Group.

#### **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January (Baptism of Christ)**

09.30 Bishopswood – Holy Communion at the Village Hall.

11.00 Whitchurch – Sunday Praise.

11.00 Wyesham – Chatty Church.



Luke 22:51 (sort of)



### **Epiphany Home Blessing**

**20 + C + M + B + 26**

The numbers represent the year (2026).

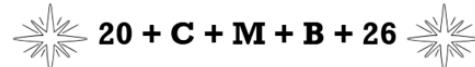
The letters represent both the names of the Magi (Caspar, Melchoir and Balthasar) and the phrase '*Christus Masionem Benedic*' which means 'May Christ bless the house'.

We do this in Epiphany because the magi blessed Joseph's home with their gifts (Matt 2.11).

So take some chalk (or a tag), and write/put it near your front door as we invite God to bless your home, your family and all who pass through the place in which you live during the year.

We pray:

*Lord God of heaven and earth, you revealed your only-begotten Son to every nation ;by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who inhabit it. Fill them with the light of Christ, that our concern for others may reflect your love. Amen.*



Thank you, Father God, that in love you sent your Son that we may have life; lead us to seek him first this week and share him with those around us. Amen.

**[www.wyereaches.org](http://www.wyereaches.org)**

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