



Sunday 5th January 2025

## The Epiphany of the Lord (transferred)

You are most welcome.

A message to new visitors is found on page 3.

Our 10:30am order of service begins on page 5.

**8:00am Holy Communion** (*Book of Common Prayer*)

Celebrant: The Rector

**10:30am Parish Eucharist** (*Common Worship*)

Celebrant: The Rector

Preacher: The Rector

Setting: *'A People's Mass'*, *Anthony Gregory Murray*

with Coventry Gloria, Celtic Alleluia and Gospel Acclamation

Hymns: 47, 48, 36, sheet

Music at Communion:

'Three Kings from Persian lands afar' *Peter Cornelius*

'Rejoice and be merry'

*Trad arr Reginald Jacques*

'A New Year Carol'

*Benjamin Britten*

Postlude:

"Chorale Prelude "In dir ist Freude" BWV 615" *J S Bach*

### For your prayers

#### At This Time

Baby Dylan Andrew Brooks, Gillian Kullman, Jennie Frampton, Lindsay Gorringer, Chris Pratt, HM The King, HRH The Princess of Wales, the bereaved, and those suffering during warfare

#### Recently Departed Year's Mind

Nicholas Llewellyn, Vivian

Frank Jury, Valerie Whale, Janet Anne Hogben, Easta Daune

Greaves, Valentine Fever, Pamela Martin, Derek Jim Palmer,

Kay Pryor, Margaret Anne Hobby, Pamela June Hyne, Brian

Simpson, Marie Sim Garrett, Richard William Brown, Maureen

Sheila Barsby

# Reflection for the week

Derek Kirkaldie

**H**appy New Year and a warm welcome to 2025! Today we celebrate the season of Epiphany, when we reflect on the giving of gifts from the wise men to the baby Jesus.

A new year brings new opportunities, new hope and a desire that it will be a good year. However not everyone likes change and that can bring uncertainty, anxiety and fear.

What does this look like for St Clement's and its worshipping congregation? Our vision for the next five years is now very much out in the public arena as we discern how we wish to grow and develop as the living church in Sandwich and beyond! Our church family is supported by other Christians who choose to travel to be part of our church family. We cover a big part of East Kent and indeed the south of England, St Clement's is a popular choice and the record number of people attending the Christmas services is a testimony to this.

As we grow together as a church family and community we are often faced with issues and how to resolve them. It's natural, it is part of life. Today we are reminded about the value of gifts to the Christ Child. God loves us so much that he is always ahead of the game and gifts us individual gifts to use for his service in building his church on earth. The greatest gift God gave us was Jesus and a pathway back to him built on that cornerstone of love.

What are the individual gifts we have and how can we use them?

How is God calling you to support the work of The Warm Welcome Project?

There is no rush for answers the gift of time and the power of the Holy Spirit will reveal everything, but we must be ready to hear the call and play our part. Don't worry if something is out of your comfort zone, God will give us the gifts needed to complete the tasks ahead. I never thought I would have studied at a Theological College and now look at me!

This Tuesday we start a new service of Zoom Compline, full details in this booklet. It gives us an opportunity to come together as a family from the comfort of our homes to talk to God in this ancient service of Night Prayer, in its simplicity is its beauty. A new gift of worship where we can worship anywhere and feel close to each other, our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Let us pray

What can I give Him

Poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would give a lamb

If I were a wise man, I would do my part

Yet what I can, I give Him

Give my heart

Amen

# New to St Clements?

## Welcome! We're delighted that you're here

**T**here has been a place of Christian prayer on this site for more than 1,000 years. All are welcome at our services - whatever your background and whatever your faith.

Many of the words of our service can be found from page five of this booklet. Feel free to join in with the words in bold, and to stand, kneel, or sit as you feel able and comfortable. Don't worry about getting it 'right', we're all learning to pray!

The service will start with notices and a hymn. We then bring to mind the times we've not loved God, our neighbours, and ourselves fully. Though it can be uncomfortable admitting we are sinners, we want to be honest with God (and ourselves) that we're not perfect. We can trust that God is utterly loving and forgiving.

A series of readings from scripture follows, and then the sermon, in which the preacher attempts to break open the scriptures and apply them to our lives today.

We pray for the needs of the Church and world, and then the altar is prepared. Our collection is gathered before the service, for the work of St Clement's, and offered up to God

at this point. You can still donate, if you wish, on the way out of church - the giving station is to the left of the porch.

The priest leads the Eucharistic Prayer - the prayer of thanksgiving - during which we offer bread and wine to God, and He transforms it into the Body and Blood of Christ.

All baptised Christians are welcome to receive Holy Communion (it's fine to only receive the Body or Blood if you prefer. For reasons of hygiene please don't dip the wafer into the chalice). Or do come forward holding this booklet to receive a blessing. **If you need a gluten-free wafer please let someone at the door know before the service.**

We share refreshments in the Sunley Room (accessed up the ramp behind the organ), and you are most welcome to stay. Toilets may also be found here.

The Church is open daily for peace and prayer. If you'd like to know more about our worship or faith, do talk to people in the congregation or one of the priests. You can also visit our website, [www.stclementschurchsandwich.org.uk](http://www.stclementschurchsandwich.org.uk)

# Music at 10:30am today

Today the choir sings two short pieces for this season of Epiphany and a further one to celebrate the new year. "The Three Kings", or "Three Kings from Persian lands afar" is an Epiphany carol by the German composer Peter Cornelius dating from 1856. He set "Die Könige" for a baritone soloist accompanied by the choir singing Philip Nicolai's hymn "Wie schön leuchtet der morgenstern" ("How brightly shines the morning star"), which he erroneously thought was an Epiphany hymn. In fact, it is an Advent hymn in which the morning star is an allegory for the arrival of Jesus, not the Star of Bethlehem. Notwithstanding that inconsistency, it is a fine and well-loved piece telling of the Wise Men following the star and bringing their royal gifts, concluding with the poignant words "offer thy heart to the infant King". It is followed by a Gallery Carol – "Rejoice and be merry" which also describes the Epiphany story. celebrating the "birthday of Jesus, our King who brought us salvation, his praises we'll sing." The song belongs to the tradition associated with the choirs and instrumental bands sited in the west galleries of churches before the advent of English organs in the mid-19th century and has a Dorset origin.

These two Epiphany carols are followed by an annual favourite of the choir, being a simple but effective setting of the New Year

Carol by Benjamin Britten which comes from a collection of twelve children's songs written in 1936. The words of the chorus are "Sing levy dew, sing levy dew, the water and the wine; the seven bright gold wires and the bugles that do shine". The symbolism of the folk text has been much discussed. It may relate to the Welsh custom of bringing fresh spring water with evergreen sprigs as a New Year gift. 'Levy dew' is probably a corruption of 'Levez Dieu', a reference to the elevation of the Host at the Eucharist. The 'seven bright gold wires' could be the seven candles (i.e. churches) and 'the bugles that do shine' the trumpets of the Apocalypse, two images from the Book of Revelation. The accompaniment, albeit originally written for piano, imitates a Welsh harp.

The outgoing organ voluntary is Bach's setting of the hymn tune "In dir ist Freude" ("In you is joy"). The Dutch organist Theo Jellema describes it as "a piece for the New Year.....totally happy and festive on the edge of naivety." The origin of this melody is a cheerfully jaunty, dancelike song by the Renaissance Italian composer, Giovanni Giacomo Gastoldi (ca. 1554-1609).

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# Order of Service

## The Gathering

*Notices are given before the service.  
Stand for the opening hymn:*

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### *Hymn 47*

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In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Lord be with you and also with you.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Confessing our Sins

*The Celebrant introduces a period of silence in which all call to mind their sins. Then all kneel or sit.*

Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that we have sinned in

thought, word and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be; that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

*The Celebrant pronounces the forgiveness of sins. All stand. The Gloria is sung, the congregation singing parts in bold.*

Glory to God, glory in the highest, peace to his people, peace on earth. **Glory to God, glory in the highest, peace to his people, peace on earth.**

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father. **Glory to God, glory in the highest, peace to his people, peace on earth.**

We worship you, **glory in the highest, give you thanks, glory in the highest, praise you for your glory. Glory to God, glory in the highest, peace to his people, peace on earth.**

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us, **have mercy on us**. You are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer, **receive our prayer**.

Glory to God, glory in the highest, peace to his people, peace on earth. **Glory to God, glory in the highest, peace to his people, peace on earth**.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, You alone are the most High, Jesus Christ, With the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God, the glory of God the Father. **Glory to God, glory in the highest, peace to his people, peace on earth**. Amen. Amen.

*The Celebrant says:* Let us pray: 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. *All say Amen*.

## The Scriptures

*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.

This is the Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Remain seated as the Choir sing  
Psalm 72*

*10 The kings of Tharsis and of the isles  
shall give presents: the kings of Arabia*

*and Saba shall bring gifts.*

*11 All kings shall fall down before him : all nations shall do him service.*

*12 For he shall deliver the poor when he crieth : the needy also, and him that hath no helper.*

*13 He shall be favourable to the simple and needy : and shall preserve the souls of the poor.*

*14 He shall deliver their souls from falsehood and wrong : and dear shall their blood be in his sight.*

*15 He shall live, and unto him shall be given of the gold of Arabia : prayer shall be made ever unto him, and daily shall he be praised.*

### *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 to 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 to 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.

This is the Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

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### *Hymn Number 48*

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*Turn to face the Book of the Gospels as it moves to the centre of the nave. ‘Alleluia’ is sung.*

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

### *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. '

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*A sermon is preached.*

### **The Creed**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he**



was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### The Intercessions & Peace

*Kneel or sit to pray. The following response may be used:* Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer**

*At the end:* Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*Stand for the Peace* The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

*As the altar is prepared, and the collection offered to God, we sing:*

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### *Hymn Number 36*

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### The Eucharistic Prayer

*The Celebrant prays over the offerings, and all respond* **Amen.**

The Lord is here. **His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

*The Celebrant prays the Preface, leading into:*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. All kneel or sit**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness; grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit, and according to your holy will, these gifts of bread and wine may be to us the body and blood of

our Lord Jesus Christ; who in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying:

Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross, his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world; rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, we bring before you this bread and this cup and we thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people and gather into one in your kingdom all who share this one bread and one cup, so that

we, in the company of Mary, Clement, Peter, Paul, and all the saints, may praise and glorify you for ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever. *All say boldly:*  
**Amen.**

### **Preparation for Communion**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ. **Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.**

**Jesus, lamb of God, have mercy on us. Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us. Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us peace.**

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper. **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

### Holy Communion

*Sidespeople will indicate when to move for Holy Communion. All who are baptised are welcome to receive Communion, or do bring this booklet with you to indicate that you wish to receive a blessing instead.*

*After all have received Holy Communion, **Stand as the Celebrant says** Let us pray: Lord God, the bright splendour whom the nations seek: may we who with the wise men have been drawn by your light discern the glory of your presence in your Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. **All say Amen.***

***All say** Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.*

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### *Hymn*

We Three Kings of Orient are,  
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
Field and fountain,  
Moor and mountain,  
Following yonder Star.

*O Star of Wonder, Star of Night,  
Star with Royal Beauty bright,  
Westward leading,  
Still proceeding,  
Guide us to Thy perfect Light.*

Born a King on Bethlehem plain,  
Gold I bring to crown Him again,  
King for ever, Ceasing never  
Over us all to reign.

*O Star of Wonder...*

Frankincense to offer have I,  
Incense owns a Deity nigh:  
Prayer and praising  
All men raising,  
Worship Him God on High.

*O Star of Wonder...*

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume  
Breathes a life of gathering  
gloom;—  
Sorrowing, sighing,  
Bleeding, dying,  
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

*O Star of Wonder...*

Glorious now behold Him arise,  
King, and God, and Sacrifice;  
Heav'n sings Hallelujah:  
Hallelujah the earth replies.

*O Star of Wonder...*  

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# Parish Notices and Events

*Please send any news or notices for a Sunday booklet to the Parish Office before noon on the Wednesday preceding.*

## Going out into the World

*All remain standing as the Rector takes chalk and marks up the porch doors as a prayer of blessing for this new year.*

*This is followed by the blessing and dismissal:*

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

*The Celebrant blesses and dismisses the congregation.*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **In the name of Christ, Amen!**

*The organ postlude is part of our act of worship, please remain quiet.*

*If you are able, do please stay for refreshments after the service - served in The Sunley Room (behind the organ)*

## **A message from Derek Kirkaldie, Reader**

We are pleased to offer a new fortnightly service of Compline via Zoom. This ancient and short service of Night Prayer is a perfect way of reflecting on your day and sharing it with our Heavenly Father.

The service will be held fortnightly on Tuesdays at 7.30pm. The service can be accessed via a link from our web site or by emailing Derek prior to the service - [d.kirkaldie@stclementsandwich.org.uk](mailto:d.kirkaldie@stclementsandwich.org.uk)

Our first act of worship will be this Tuesday 7th January when we will be thinking of the Epiphany. Please do share this exciting news with your family and friends, everyone warmly welcomed.

**You are welcome to take some blessed chalk to mark your home this Epiphany. You are invited to draw the following on your door, lintel post, etc.:**

**20 + C + M + B + 25**

**As you write each letter or number, say the words to the left:**

<b>Two thousand</b>	<b>20</b>	
<b>and twenty five</b>	<b>25</b>	
<b>years ago, Caspar,</b>		<b>C</b>
<b>Melchior,</b>		<b>M</b>
<b>and Balthasar</b>		<b>B</b>
<b>did see the Christ Child.</b>		

**Then, while drawing four + crosses between each number or letter, say: ‘May Christ bless this house.’**

**Let us pray:**

May all who come to our home this year rejoice to find Christ living among us; and may we seek and serve, in everyone we meet, that same Jesus who is your incarnate Word, now and forever. Amen.

God of heaven and earth, you revealed your only-begotten One to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who inhabit it. Fill us with the light of Christ, that our concern for others may reflect your love. We ask this through Christ our Saviour. Amen.

Loving God, bless this household. May we be blessed with health, goodness of heart, gentleness, and abiding in your will. We ask this through Christ our Saviour. Amen.

Thank you again to all who helped publicise, organise, decorate for, welcome people to, and ultimately offer together our beautiful Christmas acts of worship.

Attendance figures only tell a small part of the story, but one thing that they can potentially indicate is the extent to which a community feels associated with its Parish Church. I'm thrilled to say that attendance across services was up 28% on 2023, and an incredible 96% up on 2022.

This is a tribute to every single person who makes up St Clement's - and, very encouragingly, it seems that many other churches across the country saw increases in attendance this Christmas as well. We can and must fight against negativity: Christianity has not disappeared in Britain by any means, and the Holy Spirit is at work.

Perhaps most excitingly I've heard of a sizeable number of individuals who, having attended an act of worship here over Christmas, are now interested in learning more about our faith, and about St Clement's. **Please pray heartily - daily if possible** - that we might discern together the best way to respond to the 'seekers' that God is sending to us. More will be said in the coming few weeks about some initial discerning I hope we can do together.

Today we recall the Magi seeking Jesus. The wise seek him still, and it is our duty and privilege to walk with them.

*- The Rector*

# Parish Directory

## PARISH OFFICE

Caroline Flynn  
*Parish Administrator*

St Clement's Hall,  
Church Street St Clement's,  
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*Monday-Friday 9:00am-12:30pm (1:00pm Fridays)*

020 3089 4745 - please leave a message with BT Callminder.

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[www.stclementsandwich.org.uk](http://www.stclementsandwich.org.uk)

## THE RECTOR

The Reverend Sebastian Hamilton  
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*Day of Rest: Monday, Study Day: Saturday*

## CHURCHWARDENS

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## DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Julian Sampson + [sampson@supanet.com](mailto:sampson@supanet.com)

# The week ahead

**Monday 6th January** - [The Epiphany of the Lord](#)

**Tuesday 7th January** - **Feria**

7:30pm Zoom Compline (*See Page 12*)

**Wednesday 8th January** - **Feria**

10:00am Holy Communion (*Book of Common Prayer*)

**Thursday 9th January** - **Feria**

**Friday 10th January** - **Feria**

10:00am Coffee Pot (*Parish Hall*)

**Saturday 11th January** - **Feria**

**Sunday 12th January** - [The Baptism of Christ](#)

8:00am Holy Communion (*Book of Common Prayer*)

10:30am Parish Eucharist (*Common Worship*)

*Celebrant and Preacher: The Rector*

[www.stclementsandwich.org.uk](http://www.stclementsandwich.org.uk)

Please take this booklet home with you to read, recycle, or pass on