

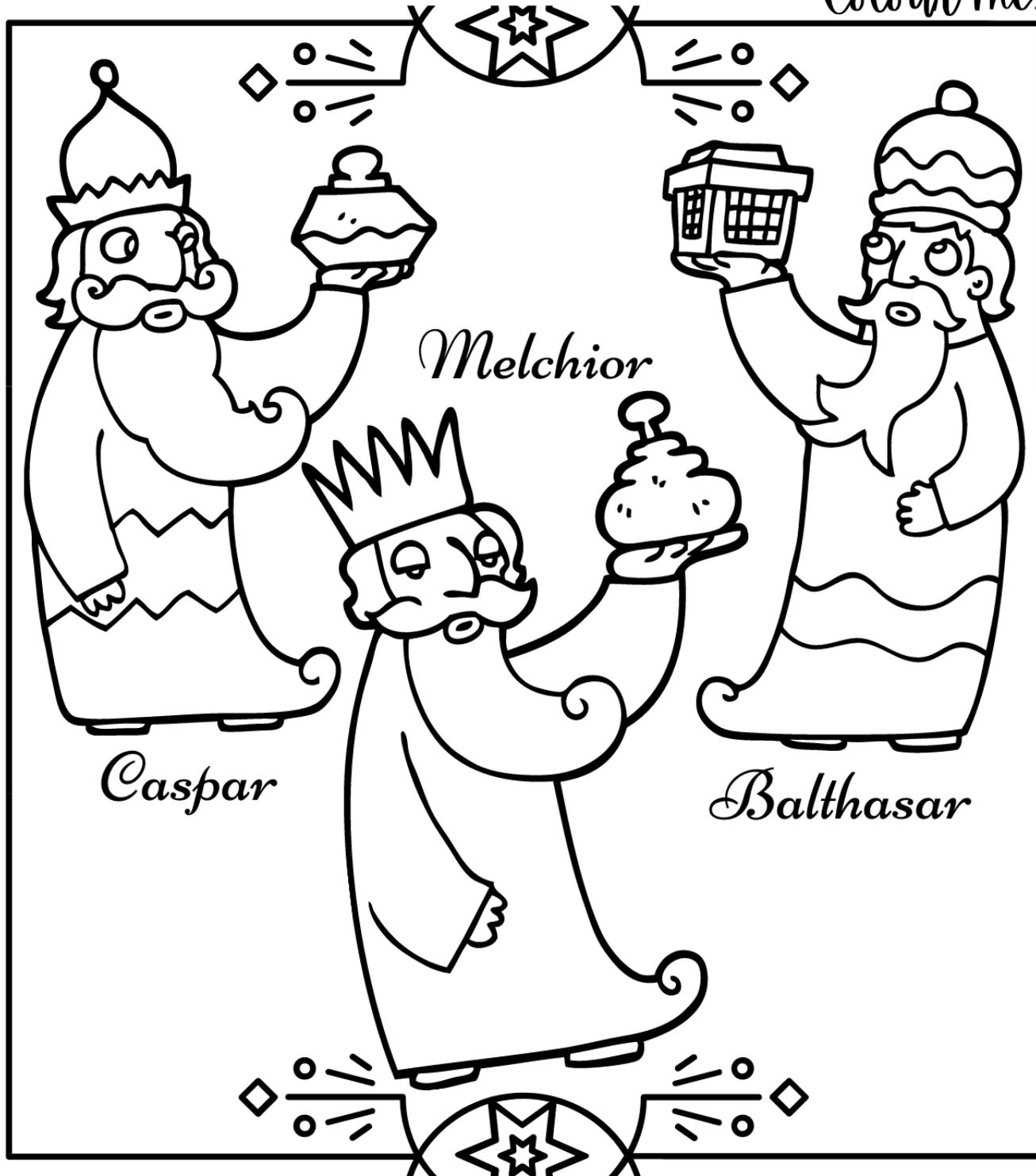
# ST PETER'S PARKSTONE



Comfort  
and Joy



Colour me...



*Caspar*

*Melchior*

*Balthasar*

*All-age Eucharist  
Feast of the Epiphany*

## Welcome to St Peter's Church, Parkstone

In the Western churches, the Epiphany ('manifestation') became an occasion to celebrate one element in the story of Christ's birth, the visit of the far-travelled magi, understood as the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles. Matthew's account speaks simply of 'wise men from the east'; later tradition fixed their number at three, made them kings and recalled their resonant names – Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar.

The season of joyful celebration that begins at Christmas now continues through the successive Sundays of Epiphany, and the festal cycle ends only with the Feast of the Presentation (Candlemas).

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For the duration of our time of worship, please continue to be cautious; maintaining hand hygiene and social distancing. We are mindful of those who have died due, directly or indirectly, to the Covid-19 virus. We give thanks that a programme of vaccination has begun; and we pray for all medical workers that seek to support the sick.

A collection will not be taken during the service, but there is provision for you to make your offering as you leave St Peter's Church. It is also possible to make an offering by using the 'donate' button on our website: [www.stpetersparkstone.org.uk](http://www.stpetersparkstone.org.uk). Thank you; we are most grateful for any support you can offer.

For any pastoral needs, or enquiries about weddings or baptisms please contact:

Revd Mike Trotman, Rector    [revdmike@stpetersparkstone.org.uk](mailto:revdmike@stpetersparkstone.org.uk)  
Phone: 07525 662999

The parish office can be contacted on 01202 749085 or via email:  
[office@stpetersparkstone.org.uk](mailto:office@stpetersparkstone.org.uk)

## THE GATHERING

*Please stand as the service begins with a hymn, sung by the choir.*

As with gladness men of old  
did the guiding star behold,  
as with joy they hailed its light,  
leading onward, beaming bright;  
so, most gracious Lord, may we  
evermore be led to thee.

As with joyful steps they sped,  
to that lowly manger-bed,  
there to bend the knee before  
him whom heaven and earth adore;  
so may we with willing feet  
ever seek thy mercy-seat.

As their precious gifts they laid,  
as thy manger roughly made,  
so may we with holy joy,  
pure, and free from sin's alloy,  
all our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ, to thee our heavenly King.

Holy Jesu, every day  
keep us in the narrow way,  
and, when earthly things are past,  
bring our ransomed souls at last  
where they need no star to guide,  
where no clouds thy glory hide.

In the heavenly country bright  
need they no created light;  
thou its light, its joy, its crown,  
thou its sun which goes not down;  
there for ever may we sing  
alleluias to our King.

*William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898).*

## The Greeting

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

*All* **Amen.**

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe.

*All* **From the rising of the sun to its setting  
your name is proclaimed in all the world.**

The Lord of glory be with you.

*All* **The Lord bless you.**

*Please sit as the president welcomes everyone.*

*There may be a time to share items for thanksgiving or prayer.*

## Prayers of Penitence

*We say sorry for the wrong we have done against God, the whole world,  
and our neighbour.*

Sometimes we forget that Jesus came for everyone  
and we forget to tell people the good news of his light and love.  
Let us confess our sins.

*Silence is kept.*

Sometimes we forget that Jesus is a gift to each of us  
and sometimes we ignore him in our lives.  
Lord, have mercy.

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

Sometimes we forget that Jesus came for everyone  
and we ignore those who we don't like.  
Christ, have mercy.

*All* **Christ, have mercy.**

Sometimes we forget that we need to tell others  
the good news of God's love and we keep it to ourselves.  
Lord, have mercy.

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

May the God of all healing and forgiveness  
draw you to himself  
and cleanse you from all your sins,  
that you may behold the glory of his Son,  
the Word made flesh,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

*We will remain seated as the choir sings the Gloria, the song of the angels.*

### Gloria in Excelsis

Glory in the highest to the God of heaven!  
Peace to all your people through the earth be given!  
Mighty God and Father, thanks and praise we bring,  
singing Hallelujah to our heavenly king;  
singing Hallelujah to our heavenly king.

Jesus Christ is risen, God the Father's Son!  
With the Holy Spirit you are Lord alone!  
Lamb once slain for sinners, all our guilt to bear,  
show us now your mercy, now receive our prayer;  
show us now your mercy, now receive our prayer.

Christ the world's true Saviour, high and holy One,  
seated now and reigning from your Father's throne:  
Lord and God, we praise you! Highest heaven adores:  
in the Father's glory, all the praise be yours;  
in the Father's glory, all the praise be yours!

*Christopher Idle (Tune – Land of Hope and Glory).*

## The Collect

*The president introduces a period of silent prayer, and then we pray together the Church's special prayer (Collect) for the Feast of the Epiphany.*

Grateful for the glory revealed today through God made flesh,  
let us pray.

*Silence is kept.*

**All Creator of the heavens,  
who led the Magi by a star  
to worship the Christ-child:  
guide and sustain us,  
that we may find our journey's end  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

*Please stand and face the reader to welcome the Gospel, which is read from the crib.*

### Gospel Reading

Alleluia, alleluia.  
Christ was revealed in flesh,  
proclaimed among the nations  
and believed in throughout the world.

**All Alleluia.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.  
*All* **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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.

*(Matthew 2:1–12)*

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

*Please sit.*

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:

Frankincense to offer have I;  
incense owns a deity nigh:  
prayer and praising, gladly raising,  
worship him, God most high:

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume  
breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
sealed in the stone-cold tomb:

Glorious now, behold him arise,  
king and God, and sacrifice!  
alleluia, alleluia,  
earth to heaven replies:

*John Henry Hopkins (1820-1891).*

### Acclamations at the Presentation of the Gifts

*The three figures of the wise men are placed in the crib.*

*At the offering of gold*

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe:  
to you be praise and glory for ever.

As gold in the furnace is tried  
and purified seven times in the fire,  
so purify our hearts and minds  
that we may be a royal priesthood  
acceptable in the service of your kingdom.

**All Blessed be God for ever.**

*At the offering of incense*

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe:  
to you be praise and glory for ever.

As our prayer rises up before you as incense,  
so may we be presented before you  
with penitent hearts and uplifted hands  
to offer ourselves in your priestly service.

**All Blessed be God for ever.**

*At the offering of myrrh*

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe:  
to you be praise and glory for ever.

As you give medicine to heal our sickness  
and the leaves of the tree of life  
for the healing of the nations,  
so anoint us with your healing power  
that we may be the first-fruits of your new creation.

**All Blessed be God for ever.**

A thought on the Feast of the Epiphany –  
*the Revd Sally Bedborough, Associate Priest.*

## The Creed

*Please stand as we speak out together what we believe.*

*Child* We believe in God the Father,  
*All* **from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named.**

*Women* We believe in God the Son,  
*All* **who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.**

*Men* We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
*All* **who strengthens us  
with power from on high.**

*Deacon* We believe in one God;  
*All* **Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
Amen.**

*Please sit for our prayers.*

## Prayers of Intercession

*To the words* Lord God:  
*Please respond* **we offer you ourselves.**

Today the wise men knelt before our Saviour.  
Let us also bow to worship him with great joy,  
and to make our prayer to his heavenly Father.

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

## THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

*Please stand for the peace.*

### The Peace

Our Saviour Christ is the Prince of Peace.  
Of the increase of his government and of peace  
there shall be no end.

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
*All* **and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*All are invited to share a (socially distanced) sign of peace.*

### Preparation of the Table

*Bread and wine are placed on the altar as the choir sing our offertory hymn.*

Hail to the Lord's anointed,  
great David's greater son!  
Hail, in the time appointed,  
his reign on earth begun!  
He comes to break oppression,  
to set the captive free;  
to take away transgression,  
and rule in equity.

He comes with succour speedy  
to those who suffer wrong;  
to help the poor and needy,  
and bid the weak be strong;  
to give them songs for sighing,  
their darkness turn to light,  
whose souls, condemned and dying,  
were precious in his sight.

He shall come down like showers  
upon the fruitful earth,  
and love, joy, hope, like flowers,  
spring in his path to birth;  
before him on the mountains  
shall peace the herald go;  
and righteousness in fountains  
from hill to valley flow.

Kings shall bow down before him,  
and gold and incense bring;  
all nations shall adore him,  
his praise all people sing;  
to him shall prayer unceasing  
and daily vows ascend;  
his kingdom still increasing,  
a kingdom without end.

O'er every foe victorious,  
he on his throne shall rest;  
from age to age more glorious,  
all-blessing and all-blest.  
The tide of time shall never  
his covenant remove;  
his name shall stand for ever;  
that name to us is love.

*James Montgomery (1771-1854).*

### Taking of the Bread and Wine

*The president offers this prayer taking the bread and wine.*

Lord, accept your people's gifts,  
not gold, frankincense or myrrh,  
but hearts and voices raised in praise of Jesus Christ,  
our light and our salvation.

*All* **Amen.**

*Please stand.*

## The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here.

*All* **His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

*All* **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*All* **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

All honour and praise be yours always and everywhere,  
mighty creator, ever-living God,  
through Jesus Christ your only Son our Lord:  
for at this time we celebrate your glory  
made present in our midst.

In the coming of the Magi  
the King of all the world was revealed to the nations.

In the waters of baptism  
Jesus was revealed as the Christ,  
the Saviour sent to redeem us.

In the water made wine  
the new creation was revealed at the wedding feast.  
Poverty was turned to riches, sorrow into joy.

Therefore with all the angels of heaven  
we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name  
and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

*All* **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.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
and as we obey his command,  
send your Holy Spirit,  
that broken bread and wine outpoured  
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends  
and, taking bread, he praised you.  
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.  
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:  
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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,  
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice  
made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,  
we proclaim his death and resurrection  
until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

*All* **Christ has died:**  
**Christ is risen:**  
**Christ will come again.**

Lord of all life,  
help us to work together for that day  
when your kingdom comes  
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,  
gather us in your loving arms  
and bring us with all the saints  
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,  
for ever and ever.

*All* **Amen.**

*The consecrated bread and wine are raised in the sight of the people,  
and the Sanctus bell is rung as we honour Christ's presence.*

*After a moment's silence, please sit for The Lord's Prayer.*

### The Lord's Prayer

Believing the promises of God,  
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

*All* **Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen.**

## Breaking of the Bread

*The president breaks the consecrated bread.*

We break the bread of life,  
and that life is the light of the world.

*All* **God here among us,  
light in the midst of us,  
bring us to light and life.**

*All* **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.**

## Giving of Communion

*The president invites the people to receive communion.*

God's holy gifts  
for God's holy people.

*All* **Jesus Christ is holy,  
Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.**

*All are welcome to come forward to receive communion or a blessing.  
Due to the current restrictions, communion will be given in one kind only.  
If you would like to receive a blessing, please bring this service booklet  
with you.*

*Please respect the distance of at least one metre from others as you  
come forward, and form one line in the central aisle. Please sanitise your  
hands before receiving.*

Brightest and best of the suns of the morning,  
dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid;  
star of the east, the horizon adorning,  
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Cold on his cradle the dew-drops are shining;  
low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;  
angels adore him in slumber reclining,  
maker and monarch and Saviour of all.

Say, shall we yield him, in costly devotion,  
odours of Edom, and offerings divine,  
gems of the mountain, and pearls of the ocean,  
myrrh from the forest, or gold from the mine?

Vainly we offer each humble oblation,  
vainly with gifts would his favour secure:  
richer by far is the heart's adoration,  
dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

*Reginald Heber (1783-1826).*

### Prayer after Communion

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* **Amen.**

*All* **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.**

**SENDING**

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;  
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;  
with gold of obedience and incense of lowliness,  
kneel and adore him, the Lord is his name.

Low at his feet lay thy burden of carefulness,  
high on his heart he will bear it for thee,  
comfort thy sorrows, and answer thy prayerfulness,  
guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.

Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness  
of the poor wealth thou wouldst reckon as thine:  
truth in its beauty, and love in its tenderness,  
these are the offerings to lay on his shrine.

These, though we bring them in trembling and fearfulness,  
he will accept for the name that is dear;  
mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness,  
trust for our trembling and hope for our fear.

*John Samuel Bewley Monsell (1811-1875).*

*Please stand.*

Chalking the door

May God the Father,  
who provided a safe dwelling place  
for the eternal Word,  
bless this chalk,  
the homes of the faithful,  
and all the people who live in them,  
through Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

## The Blessing

May God the Father,  
who led the wise men by the shining of a star  
to find the Christ, the Light from light,  
lead you in your pilgrimage to find the Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

May God, who has delivered us from the dominion of darkness,  
give us a place with the saints in light  
in the kingdom of his beloved Son.

*All* **Amen.**

May the light of the glorious gospel of Christ  
shine in your hearts and fill our lives  
with his joy and peace.

*All* **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

*All* **Amen.**

God of gold

*All* **we seek your glory.**

God of incense

*All* **we offer you our prayer.**

God of myrrh

*All* **we remember the pain of the world.**

Let us prepare to leave this place  
ready to walk with the wise men a new path of life.  
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*All* **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*The ministers and people depart.*

*Please take the blessed chalk, and when you get home mark on the lintel of your front door:*

20 + C + M + B + 21

*Saying and writing:*

The three wise men

**C** Caspar,  
**M** Melchior,  
**B** Balthasar,

followed the star of God's Son, who became human

**20** two thousand

**21** and twenty-one years ago.

+ + May Christ bless our home,

+ + and remain with us throughout this New Year. Amen.

*We hope you have enjoyed our All-age Epiphany Eucharist...  
You are invited to make a donation, as you leave St Peter's Church,  
to help us carry out our mission and ministry to our local community.  
Any donation is needed and greatly appreciated, thank you.*

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Children are most welcome at St Peter's Church...

Please join us for *Breakfast Worship* online  
on the last Sunday of the month at 9.30am  
and our *All-age Eucharist*  
on the first Sunday of the month at 10.00am.

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*To build our online community, we would be most grateful  
if you could please subscribe to the  
**'St Peter's Parkstone' YouTube channel.***

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