



St. Peter's Caversham

The Pebble

6 January 2013

Epiphany

This was the Moment

This was the moment when Before
Turned into After, and the future's
Uninvented timekeepers presented arms

This was the moment when nothing
Happened. Only dull peace
Sprawled boringly over the earth.

This was the moment when even
energetic Romans
Could find nothing better to do
Than counting heads in remote provinces.

And this was the moment
When a few farm workers and three
Members of an obscure Persian sect
Walked haphazard by starlight straight
Into the kingdom of heaven.

U.A. Fanthorpe (1929-)

A Warm Welcome

to all who are sharing with us in worship today. The Ministry of Healing and Wholeness is offered in the Lady Chapel during Communion. Everyone is warmly invited to Morning Tea in the Parish Lounge after the Solemn Eucharist.

The Liturgy for Today:

8:00 am Holy Eucharist (1662 Book of Common Prayer)

10:30 am Solemn Sung Eucharist (The Taize Mass)

HYMNS:

338 At the name of Jesus

48 Bethlehem, of noblest cities

47 As with gladness men of old

44 Faithful vigil ended

36 The first Nowell

READINGS FOR TODAY

[Isaiah 60:1-6](#)

[Ephesians 3:2-3a,5-6](#)

[Matthew 2:1-12](#)

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY:

[Isaiah 42:1-4,6-7](#)

[Acts 10:34-38](#)

[Luke 3:16-16,21-22](#)

Parish News

Today's sermon is entitled, "The return of superstition and paganism." The three wise men are likely to have been astrologers from the court of a Kingdom outside the frontiers of the Roman Empire – their function to divine the future for the local ruler. Our society prizes rationality, sophisticated

technology and freedom from traditional religious claims and obligations. Yet as G K Chesterton pointed out, “When men stop believing in God they start believing in everything.” Starting out with what appears to be harmless good fun, and then proceeding to alternative, ancient spiritual practice as outré and authentic, not a few of our contemporaries are embracing the kind of magical thinking that is a front end introduction to the kind of superstition and paganism that hindered human flourishing in the days before the Christian era. An informed Christian faith should inoculate us against these forms of folly and spiritual blindness.

Procession A procession around the interior of the Church will begin our 10.30 am Liturgy. Please feel free to join in.

Best books of 2012 The Vicar has found John Lanchester’s novel *Capital* to be an illuminating and entertaining explanation of the world economic crisis we have been passing through. By following the fate of several very different London lives, and the developments in one of the city’s streets, the reader comes to understand something of the madness that caused the world de-leveraging crisis. Barbara Kingsolver’s *Flight Behaviour* pivots off the remarkable effect that the unexpected arrival of a large swarm of monarch butterflies has on a variety of lives in a backwoods part of America. This apparently miraculous arrival is a sobering introduction to the effects of global warming, without ever being preachy or propagandist. It is as good as her previous *Prodigal Summer* in combining credible and interesting characters, together with a close attention to the natural world and the ecological challenges that arise from our relationship with it.

Film season resumes From mid to late January a series of the best religious films of recent years will be shown on successive Monday nights in the Vicarage. These will include the outstanding Finnish film that came out this year, “Letters to Fr Jacob,”(14 Jan) the Russian film, “The Island,” (21 Jan) and, “Molokai,” (28 Jan) the story of Fr Damien and his ministry on the leper island of Molokai. A 7 pm Eucharist will precede the screenings.

The Rock is available for collection at the back of the Church

Thursday Eucharist The Thursday 10 am Mass continues as usual throughout January.

Pray for the Sick and Infirm Rita Marlow, Claire Johnson, John Peterson, Hannah Scott, Cherry Gordon, and Denise Walker.

Pray for those who have died especially those whose memorial occurs at this time: Arthur Hill, Mary Wood, Marjorie Welch, William Bloxham (Priest)Francis Mumford, Robin Heaps, Janet Younie and Bill Tansley.

Christian World Service There is still time to make a donation to the Christian World Service Christmas appeal. CWS envelopes are at the back of the Church.

Parish Contact Details:

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