

4th January 2026



Editorial

EPIPHANY

Matthew 2:1–12 speaks powerfully into today's world of power, fear, and searching for meaning. Like Herod, modern leaders and systems can feel threatened by anything that challenges control, status, or self-interest, often responding with anxiety rather than openness to truth.

The religious leaders' indifference mirrors how faith today can become theoretical—well informed but inactive—when comfort replaces commitment. In contrast, the Magi reflect many people in today's global, diverse society who are sincerely searching for truth, even outside traditional religious boundaries.

Their willingness to journey, give generously, and worship challenges modern cultures of convenience and consumerism. The star reminds us that God still draws people in unexpected ways, using circumstances, questions, and restlessness to lead them toward Christ. The passage invites today's world to consider how we respond to Jesus: with fear, apathy, or worship. True faith, then as now, requires action, humility, and obedience.

Tony Whitehead – Licensed Lay Minister (Reader)



Please Pray for...

Minti R	Emma H
David & Norma V	Chloe
Barbara S	Rachael B
Brenda & Ken	John H & Debs
Betty	Sue S
Lee A	Vinny H
Stuart & family	Bishop David †
Jackie	Michael F
Isaac	Joanne
Jodie	Brian G
Anne H	David P
Ross	Tania
Belinda K	Irene S
Phil & Sue B	Re-Ordering Project
Norma M	WoW & Beyond WoW
Freda	Pause Café
Samantha W	

Remember, this list is for those who need our prayers, not just the sick or bereaved.



This week at St Bede

Sunday 4th January

10am Family Communion

Join us for our 1st service of 2026 as we come together as a church family for our all-age service as we conclude the Christmas season by reflecting on the visit of the Wise Men to see Jesus.

Tuesday 6th January

7pm Pause Café

Our monthly PAUSE Cafe returns this week as we meet for the 1st time in 2026. PAUSE Cafe is a safe place for people to come and chat and support one another. All welcome.

Wednesday 7th January

6.15pm WOW

Our Worship on Wednesday Service returns this week with a new series looking at people who encountered Jesus. This week we are reflecting on John the Baptist. Our youth group **Beyond WOW** also returns this week.

7.30pm Alpha Course

Our new Alpha Course begins this week at St Andrews. If you want to come along then please speak to Vinny

Thursday 8th January

7pm Prayer at 7

Join us as we begin the new year with prayer. We meet for 30 minutes in the Community Room. Please do come along and join us.

Sunday 11th January

10am Holy Communion

Worship with us as we begin a new series exploring our new text verse for the year and the need to make Jesus our sure foundation in all that we do. Our children's ministry group 'Church Rocks' returns this week.





 **THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND**
Diocese of Manchester

**St Bede Charity
Partner 2026.**

COMING SOON

COLLECT

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.

Our Church depends very heavily on fundraising as well as regular giving to keep our Church afloat.

We ask that you do continue to give by setting up a Standing Order from your bank. Please contact our Treasurer, Simon Brooks for further details – brooks_simon@hotmail.co.uk

visit our website
www.st-bede.org.uk or scan the QR code below



ALPHA COURSE 2026

If you want to know more about the joy of knowing Jesus; why not sign up to do our new Alpha Course. Our new Alpha Course is being run at St Andrews Church starting on **Wednesday 7th January** at 7.30pm. For more information please contact Vinny

A REFLECTION

As 2026 unfolds, it invites reflection on how faith speaks into a rapidly changing, often uncertain world. One key line of enquiry is *where we are placing our trust*: in stability, success, and control, or in God's enduring presence. Another reflection concerns *attention and listening*—how do we create space for God amid constant noise, speed, and distraction?

2026 also invites questions about *faith in action*. How does belief shape our responses to inequality, conflict, environmental responsibility, and care for the vulnerable? Rather than asking only "What do I believe?", we might ask, "How is my faith transforming the way I live and treat others?"

A further enquiry is *hope*. In a world marked by anxiety and division, what does Christian hope look like in daily life, and how can it be shared without words? Finally, 2026 encourages reflection on *community*: how can churches and individuals become places of welcome, honesty, and healing? These questions do not demand quick answers but invite prayerful, ongoing engagement with God.

Tony

TEXT VERSE FOR 2026

As we move into 2026; we also have a new text card!

Our verse for 2026 is 'Remember, there is only one foundation, the one already laid, Jesus Christ' (1 Corinthians 3:11)

This verse reminds us and calls us that we need to make Jesus the sure foundation of who we are and all that we do in our lives.

It is a fitting verse for us at St Bede particularly as we continue to prepare for a major building project in rebuilding and expanding our community room.

Please do pick up your free text verse card at the back of church if you haven't already done so.





**Want to know more about
the Christian faith?
Join our new **Alpha Course!****

The Alpha Course is a great opportunity to explore
the Christian faith in an informal way.

Each session lasts just over 1 hour
and includes a short film,
and time to chat and discuss the film
over coffee and homemade cakes.

We have a new Alpha Course starting on
**Wednesday 7th January at 7.30pm at St Andrews
Over Hulton!** For more information
or to book your place contact Vinny (01204 658921)
or e-mail: vinny@st-bede.org.uk





Join us for fun, food, songs, games,
and activities as we explore faith and life together.

**We meet every Wednesday
6.15pm-7pm
St Bede Church Community Room**



Pause...

A NEW COMMUNITY SUPPORT GROUP
EVERYONE WELCOME

Need to talk about something, feeling alone or down? Come along and chat with others looking for some support.



ST BEDE'S CHURCH
COMMUNITY ROOM
MORRIS GREEN

1ST TUESDAY OF
EVERY MONTH
7PM - 8.30PM



St Bede's is a living Church, and its people are The Church. The Church's only financial support is its own Church family.

Please try to support our social and fundraising events as they are vital not only to the financial wellbeing of our Church but are great opportunities to get to know one another better.

Your Church thanks you for your gifts of money, time and talents.

Contacts

Vicar – Rev Canon Vinny Whitworth – 01204 658921 vinny@st-bede.org.uk

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Reader Emeritus – Pat Bristow

Authorised Lay Ministers – Gillian Blackburn, Carol Hardman

Church Wardens – Jean Philips – 01204 451676 Gill Blackburn – 01204 660396

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Chair of Governors – Tony Whitehead Vice Chair – David Almond

ST BEDE'S CHURCH, MORRIS GREEN, BOLTON-LE-MOORS

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