

# Sunday 27th December

## Rev'd Jackie Bellfield

### Readings

Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalm 100

**Matthew 2:1-12**

*But the world that I know is in need of some healing  
So I'll follow the star and I'll search for my King.*

What motivates you? What and who guides and inspires us.

Epiphany means manifestation, or, sometimes, unveiling or revealing. The idea is that an epiphany is when something is revealed to us that was previously hidden.

The magi were blessed. They were given the guidance of a star to lead them to a sacred place yet they need to follow, they need to be obedient to follow. They made the effort to leave it all behind and to follow (sounds like other people we will hear about who encounter Jesus). Has it ever occurred to you as terribly sad that the chief priests and teachers of the law seemed know the prophecies so well that when they heard the story of the Magi they could tell them exactly where to look, but they didn't make the trip themselves? The religious leaders of Judah couldn't be bothered to make the 6-mile journey to worship the messiah, but these quirky foreigners of indeterminate religion could. Foreigners, or Gentiles, who had not just gone six miles but had crossed whole countries. The elite of the religious Jews wouldn't even go to a neighbouring town – it took outsiders to make sure the Son of God was worshipped.

The story of the Magi is so special because they are the first people who are described explicitly as worshipping Jesus. Perhaps we can learn something from them too.

Whoever these mysterious wide people were they travelled some distance to get to Jesus' house (no stable or cave mentioned here). If they were rich enough to bring such opulent gifts then they were rich enough to have been robbed on the hazardous journey so it was not without danger. It is probable that they travelled with servants and when we view the story we realise that it is important that Matthew tells this story. Whoever they were they made the effort, they came prepared, they were full of joy, they saw the child, they came and worshipped, they opened their treasures and they would never be the same came.

### **Pondering**

What have you not done this advent that you mean to do?

Where has God surprised you?

How has God spoken to you in new ways this Advent and Christmas?

## 27th December

As the night closes in, there's a star at my window  
that still waits and beckons at break of the day.  
And this star shining bright seems to call me to  
follow,  
to leave on a journey and I must obey.

*So I'll pack up my bags and leave the house tidy  
and brave the winter skies.*

*For I know there's a child at the end of my  
travels  
and I'll follow the star to the place where he lies.*

There are people who say that it's only a feeling,  
the birth of a baby can't alter a thing.

But the world that I know is in need of some  
healing

So I'll follow the star and I'll search for my  
King.

### Prayer

Almighty God, Everlasting Father. Prince of Peace,

Thank you for the wisdom and strength of the magi that enabled them to leave self behind to follow what they believed to be right.

I cannot see around the corner, I do not fully know what tomorrow will bring. The paths I have chosen have not always been right but I am thankful that you, the Holy One travels with me. In my today and in my tomorrow may I trust you and may my past journey be an offering to you. Restore and guide me for I am willing to listen to you. Amen

### The Carol of the Star

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wkMu8gaKJSY>

We pray for our communities as we begin to consider the year that has gone and the year to come.

May we pray for God's peace and blessing to be upon us and others.



YouTube

Wirral Methodist Churches  
New Song Wirral



Wirral Methodist Churches  
New Song Wirral

