

Reflection 10th January 2020 St Ives Free Church 11.00 am

Readings Isaiah 60:1-6 & Matthew 2:1-12

The journey of the magi by the light of a star to find the one born King of the Jews is a well known part of the Christmas Story, falling on the 12th day of Christmas and forms part of any nativity scene or play.

I don't know about you, but for me many of my favourite Christmas Cards feature a picture of the wise men travelling by camel through a star lit night, one star dominating the sky, arriving on the crest of the hill overlooking Bethlehem.

I have always found that image very special - I can see it so well in my mind: the journey is almost done. It's been a long trip, fraught with peril and yet full of hope, and now the town of Jesus' birth, and the animal shelter and manger, are just a few more hundred yards away, and I can imagine the cold crisp air, and the beautiful sky, and the feeling of relief and satisfaction that the magi must have had as they looked down from the star in the sky to the building lying below its light. It fires our imaginations as we wonder at the journey and its climax. The journey and then meeting the baby Jesus was life changing for the Magi. So for us the question is after journeying to the cradle and seeing the new born King – What next? Do we box up the baby Jesus and place him in the loft to be dusted off and brought out next Christmas OR day by day through the coming year does the birth of our saviour make a difference in our lives?

Sherlock Holmes, was once asked by Dr Watson why he could not remember a certain event and he replied: "because my dear Watson, my brain can contain only so much information, and whenever I learn something new, something old must go." Can we in 2021 look to replace some of the old with new and God filled thoughts and actions to follow?

It is a mixture of the word of God and the light that God gives for guidance, be it the light of a star, or, more commonly, the light that shines through another person's life - the light of peace, joy, hope, and love. As we move into a new year can we find the good in the midst of what at times seems to be all bad? Can we find the light of God in the world around us and the presence of Christ in the people we meet? Christ is in our streets, our homes and everyday life longing for us to journey with him though out this year sharing his love, peace, joy and hope. May we know these for ourselves and share them widely. May our prayer for this year be that the star will come to rest on this fellowship and lead others to come and know Jesus for themselves
Amen.

Prayer

Lord Jesus lead us through this coming year. May we show the discernment and perseverance of the Magi so that we may come to worship and know you better and walk ever more closely in your footsteps. Let the love that came down at Christmas be at the heart of who we are as individuals and a community of your people so that your light shines brightly in our community throughout this year

In Jesus name

Amen

