



**Epiphany**, traditionally remembered on January 6<sup>th</sup>, is a celebration of the coming of the Magi, or **Wise men**, in the Nativity narrative.

We are just as familiar with the story of the shepherds who rushed to the stable following the dramatic announcement by the angels. Shepherds, who did an important job but weren't thought much of and were poor.

The wise men were the second set of visitors recorded in the gospels to visit the Christ child. They travel miles and bring expensive gifts fit for a king. Two groups at opposite ends of the social spectrum. Wealthy wise men, learned mysterious travellers from far off kingdoms, Gentiles, so not part of the Jewish race, but God chose to reveal himself to them. This shows us that Emmanuel, God with us in Jesus, came for all, whoever, whatever their social standing, colour or creed. All. Everyone.

The Bible describes Jesus as a "light to the nations" and when these visitors came, they all worshipped... they saw who he was.

Maybe a challenge for us in 2017.

Where will we find the Christ Child?

Who will we discover him in?

And when we find him, will we worship?

And what will that worship look like?

The shepherds couldn't keep quiet about this meeting with Jesus and the wise men offered him gifts.

Will we tell others with excitement about our faith? What gifts could we give?

*What can I give Him, poor as I am?*

*If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;*

*If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;*

*Yet what I can I give Him: give my heart.*

*Taken from In the Bleak Midwinter by Christina Rossetti*