



Parish of Wiverton in the Vale:
One flock, One Shepherd, Six Pastures
Notices 3rd January 2021
EPIPHANY

DIARY FOR THE WEEK *(correct at time of going to press)*

SUNDAY 3RD JANUARY – EPIPHANY

No Holy Communion

10.30am – Sunday Service (on our website)

Please [click here](#) to join the service at 10.30am (or later).

www.wivertoninthevale.co.uk/online-services

11.30am – Time for a Cuppa (via Zoom)

Please join us for a cuppa after the online service.

3.00pm-3.40pm – JOY! Three Wise Men (via Zoom)

For more information, please contact Vivien at

vivien_s_hall@yahoo.co.uk



MONDAY 4TH JANUARY

9.00am – All Parish Morning Prayer (via Zoom)

All are invited to parish prayers via Zoom on Mondays and Fridays

10.30am-12.30pm – St Giles' Cropwell Bishop, open for private prayer

FRIDAY 8TH JANUARY

9.00am – All Parish Morning Prayer (via Zoom)

5.00pm – Colston Bassett's Evening Prayer (via Zoom)

SUNDAY 10TH JANUARY – CHRISTMAS 1

No Holy Communion

10.30am – Sunday Service (on our website)

11.30am – Time for a Cuppa (via Zoom)

3.00pm-3.40pm – JOY! Christingle in support of the Children's Society
(via Zoom)

HOLY COMMUNION SERVICES

In view of the growing severity of the pandemic and the increased transmissibility of the new variant of Covid-19, coupled with the higher-than-average risk profile of our congregation and service leaders, the PCC has reluctantly taken the decision to suspend Holy Communion services in church until further notice. Please refer to the Parish website for the most up to date information.

A Star arises in the South West?

I was reading a newspaper in early December when an article caught my eye titled 'Is planet conjunction the Bethlehem Star?' with a picture of men on camels headed towards a bright star.

Apparently in December the planets Jupiter and Saturn came very close together when viewed from earth, their reflected light giving the appearance of making one big bright star in the south west sky. It generally happens every 20 years or so but this one is the best since the 17th Century. Apparently, this conjunction happened 3 times in 7BC so some astronomers over the centuries have tried to explain the Bethlehem Star this way. Others, including luminaries such as Kepler, have said it might have been a comet, shooting star or supernova.

I am no astronomer, but I don't believe the Bethlehem Star was a conjunction between Jupiter and Saturn; having viewed it myself the planets looked every bit of the 500 million miles away that they were - I can't see how they could lead anyone to a specific location! Likewise, comets and shooting stars. Instead, I believe the Bethlehem Star was miraculous and if God can create the universe and resurrect Jesus then a travelling star is no problem!

Many people try to explain Jesus's miracles in similar fashion but to me the same answer applies but I shall leave this train of thought to another day!

The nativity story is well known to most people and we heard last week of the shepherds being the first to greet baby Jesus and this week it is the wise men's turn. We don't know much about them, or even that there were three, but they came from the East and so were very unlikely to be Jewish and whilst we have no evidence that they were kings they were certainly wealthy.

It has struck me this Christmas that much of Jesus's new message is encapsulated in the story of his birth. Up until then the Jewish nation were God's chosen people and no one else counted. Also, they awaited the Messiah who would be a mighty King like David who would restore the fortunes of their nation.

The story of the nativity turns this on its head and gives clues to Jesus's ministry some thirty years later. Symbolically the wise men are important as their presence signifies that God's grace is to be open to everyone not just the Jews.

Secondly the fact that the shepherds were the first to worship baby Jesus [together with the angelic heavenly host of course] shows that status and money are not important when it comes to having a relationship with God, who is there for poor and rich alike.

Lastly Jesus was not going to be another warrior King like David but rather his kingdom would be a spiritual one. As such he was born not in a palace, not even in a house but rather in a stable, and laid in a manger.

One last thought! The Magi had their star to follow and Moses and the whole Jewish nation had the pillars of cloud and fire to follow in their exodus from Egypt to the promised land, so wouldn't it be wonderful if all of us similarly had a star to follow, to guide us now?

Well the good news is that there is and I shall talk about this in the online service on Sunday!

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 2: 1-12 (NRSV)

2 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ² asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

IT'S GOOD TO TALK!

In these strange and worrying times, we realise that not everyone has someone to talk to, or that they may have concerns they'd rather not express to their nearest and dearest. If that's you, please feel free to give me a ring on 0115 9894836. If I'm not in, leave a message and I'll get back to you. We're all in this together! Hilary Tabron, RLM, Pastoral Care.

KEEPING IN TOUCH; STAYING INFORMED

These **notices** are posted week by week on the Parish website:

www.wivertoninthevale.co.uk

To receive a copy of these notices by email every Saturday, please subscribe to the website notification service at: www.wivertoninthevale.co.uk/subscribe

**Copy deadline for items to be included in next week's Notice Sheet:
Wednesday 6th January, to the Parish Administrator.**

KEY CONTACTS

Revd. Rachel

phone: 07944 992178 email: rector@wivertoninthevale.co.uk

On sick leave

Parish Administrator: Anna Hemati Kang Sofla:

phone: 07592 873751 email: administrator@wivertoninthevale.co.uk

Pastoral Care Coordinator: Hilary Tabron RLM

phone: 0115 9894836 email: hilary.tabron@wivertoninthevale.co.uk

Parish Treasurer: Max Jordan:

phone: 0115 9899299 email: treasurer@wivertoninthevale.co.uk

Safeguarding Officer: Gareth Parker

phone: 07738 091338 email: gareth.parker@wivertoninthevale.co.uk

Any concerns regarding a safeguarding issue should be directed to the Safeguarding Coordinator for the Parish.

Further information and contact details can be found on the parish website at www.wivertoninthevale.co.uk/whos-who