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WEEKLY LETTER – 8 JANUARY 2023

**A celebration of the Wise men who
are bowled over by the Christ Child**

Matthew 2.1-12

If I had to choose one of my favourite moments in the whole of the Bible, the arrival of the wise men would be right up there. Their arrival heralds a mystery, a beauty and numerous truths, which I find tantalising, but also quite beyond my understanding. Anyway, here goes!

What we experience in this magisterial passage is that, “when the Wise men saw the star they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy”. 2-10. After a colossal and challenging journey that required oodles of faith, courage and resourcefulness, the wise men realize that they are very close to what they were searching for, and putting it rather mildly, they are already over the moon with joy.

The fullness of their joy is expressed by going inside and seeing the child with Mary, for it is there that they spontaneously fall down and worship the Christ. Their hearts are bursting with excitement, for a ray of God’s light and life has entered into their lives.

As they gaze at the child, they give their gifts, which they know are of no practical use. Rather, they express why they fall down and worship the Christ Child. For they knew that Jesus is the true King.

The Wise men can see that he is of God, and because of this extraordinary truth, does not need anything from them, because God’s life in him will enable Jesus to go wherever He needs to go – even the cross.

The only act they want to express is to worship what is right in front of their eyes – a child who will create a revolution, because in his life, death and resurrection you have the molten heart of God.

Stephen

**Sunday Morning Worship in Christ Well, and on Zoom, will be led by Rev Sue Radd
Bible Readings: Isaiah 42.1-9: Acts 10.34-43: Matthew 3.13-17.**

Cycle of Prayer in the Swansea Region – we will pray for Hall Street, Llanelli.

Tea and Chat/Winter Hub in Christ Well - Tuesday, 10th January.

Collection in lieu of Christmas Cards for Unity in Diversity - we collected £215. Thank you to all who donated to this Charity.

Baptism (Lectionary Readings: Isaiah 42.1-9: Psalm 29: Acts 10.34-42: Matthew 3.13-17)

Am I ready, Father? Ready to face the world:
To start a new career of shaping people's lives
As I shaped the wood in the workshop.

Am I ready, Father? Ready to face the factions
Clamouring for a deliverer, a healer, miracle worker,
a fixer of all their problems.

Am I ready, Father? Ready to confront the sickness and evil,
The arrogance of the professional peddlers of religion,
the obtuseness of friends and family.

Am I ready, Father? The dove or peace descends,
And I rise from the waters, cleansed, cooled and calmed,
I'm ready, Father, ready as I'll ever be.

Carol Dixon (URC Prayer Handbook 2023)

