

From the Rector's Study, the Rev. Bryce Sangster
Sunday, January 2nd, 2022, Epiphany
Isaiah 60:1-6, Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14, Ephesians 3:1-12, Matthew 2:1-12

The traditional view of Epiphany is that it comes not only to the people of Israel, but to all in the world. And that makes sense for us today as well, but...

It struck me as interesting that the Magi, and here called the wise men are the ones who come to find the Christ Child. Does this mean one has to be one of the wise men to do this? I don't believe so.

In Matthew 18:1-5: *At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" He called a child, whom he put among them, and said, "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. ⁵Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me."*

And the more famous passage from Matthew 11:25: *At that time Jesus said, "I thank^{ful} you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants;*

Maybe this means coming to God childlike, full of wonder and hope and with wisdom. The kind of wisdom that is flavoured with humility. The kind which knows that we don't know everything. The kind which recognizes there are lots of things we don't know much if anything about and need the help of others. Or to put it succinctly, to know and feel we are not often the smartest person in the room.

Or intelligence is about things of the head and wisdom is about things of the heart. Intelligence seems to understand when things are either right or wrong with nothing in between, while wisdom is perhaps able to deal with the in between.

Another thought came to mind, for those on the inside of the church and society, to be inclusive is to have wisdom of the heart and the in between in finding ways of welcoming people who are different from us. Who's lives don't fit nicely into the boxes we have used to describe ourselves and others.

Jesus was in the habit of welcoming and eating with those who don't quite fit. And maybe this Epiphany we can begin to look for ways to welcome those who don't fit. And understand that God in Christ has welcomed us and if we are honest with ourselves, we too in ways don't fit as well. Amen

Covid prayer:

God of compassion,
be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.
In their loneliness, be their consolation;
in their anxiety, be their hope;
in their darkness, be their light;
through him who suffered alone on the cross,
but reigns with you in glory,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Church of England