

I suppose that many of us will have been on journeys over the last couple of weeks. Some of us have braved wind and rain to visit family and friends in far-flung corners of the British Isles. But I bet none of us had journeys which were as arduous as those of the Wise Men to Bethlehem.

We don't know much about those Wise Men. The Bible calls them 'Magi', from which we get our word 'magician' - but that's not the full meaning of the word. The Magi were, as far as we can tell, learned men (and perhaps women) from another culture. They studied the stars and the ancient texts of many religions too. They put that knowledge together and came to the startling conclusion that a new King of the Jews was being born.

Actually, they were wrong. Jesus never was the King of Jews in any earthly sense. In fact, according to John's Gospel, when Pilate asked him point blank whether he was the King of the Jews, Jesus replied "My Kingdom is not of this world". No, the Magi - and indeed Herod - were wrong. The stars were not predicting the birth of the King of the Jews.

Another accident of the Magi was in their timing. According to Matthew's account, they actually arrived something like two years late. It's notable that Matthew also describes the wise men visiting Mary and the child in the house where they were staying, not in a stable.

So, the Magi were perhaps not all that wise. They failed to correctly predict the timing of the birth of a new King of the Jews - and they were two years adrift even of Jesus' birth. Wise men? Perhaps not.

So, to those who say that our future can be read in the stars, there is a warning here. The stars do not foretell our future, any more than they did for the Magi. We would be wise not to place our future in the hands of star-gazers too. And yet...The Magi embarked on a journey of faith. They thought they knew where that journey would lead. They assumed it would lead them to a royal palace in Jerusalem. But God has a way of using the journeys we plan for ourselves, and turning them into something much different, much more profound. Instead of a new prince in a royal cot, the Magi's journey led them, mysteriously, to an unremarkable house in a rural backwater...and to a baby who had been born in a food trough.

And it was when they got there, that the Magi could truly be described as wise men. Recognising Jesus for who he was, much more than an earthly King of the Jews, they knelt in homage to him. When they met him, Jesus was nothing like they expected. The Wise Men had the wisdom to recognise him, and to worship him, in the dirt and squalor of a back-water town. Their pre-conceptions of palaces and earthly royalty fell away; and the new reality of Jesus took their place.

You see, really wise men and women are open to what the Journey will bring. Wise men and women embrace the possibilities for change and growth which arise whenever we put our journey in the hands of God. My prayer for all of us is that we will be open to where God leads us, as a congregation, in the coming year. A very happy new year to you all!

Canon Tom

VOLUNTEERS' NEW YEAR'S GET-TOGETHER

Do you volunteer for St Faiths? Perhaps you are a choir member, or server, bell-ringer, or flower-arranger. Perhaps you sit on a committee, or help count the money. Perhaps you work in the charity shop, or help out with church cleaning and maintenance? Perhaps you are a welcomer or a church steward? Perhaps you are a project manager for one of our church projects. Perhaps you visit the sick and the housebound? If this is you....

Mr Bill Jones, the Rector and PCC warmly invite you to:

A VOLUNTEERS' GET TOGETHER ON SUNDAY 14TH JANUARY 1.30 TO 4.30pm

in the Pallant Centre Hall

Food and entertainment will be provided,
along with a chance to hear about the future plans
for the parish from Canon Tom.

WE'RE RECRUITING for the *full-time paid* role of

Community Fundraising Manager

**to develop and support our Charity
Shop and raise other funds for parish
ministry through community events.**

**For more details, contact Will
Coulston, (Pallant Centre Manager)
via email to 'thecentremanager
@gmail.com'**

Lunchtime Recitals Tuesdays 12.30pm



**Tuesday 9 January
Lyndon Ford**
(see page 7 for future recitals)

Forthcoming SERVICES

**SUNDAY 7 JANUARY
EPIPHANY (transferred)**

8am COMMUNION

PresidentCanon Tom
Preacher.....Dr Mike Fluck

9.30 am PARISH COMMUNION SERVICE

PresidentCanon Tom
PreacherDr Mike Fluck
Readings: Isaiah 60.1-6, Ephesians 3.1-12 Matthew 2.1-1

6.00 pm EVENSONG

Led byRev'd Vickie Morgan

**THURSDAY 11 JANUARY
10.30AM BCP COMMUNION**

President and Preacher.....Rev'd Richard Acworth

**SUNDAY 14 JANUARY
EPIPHANY 2**

8am COMMUNION

President and Preacher.....Canon Tom

9.30 am PARISH COMMUNION SERVICE

President and PreacherCanon Tom
Readings: 1 Samuel 3.1-10[11-20] Revelation 5.1-10
John 1.43-51

6.00 pm EVENSONG

Led byDr Mike Fluck

**THURSDAY 18 JANUARY
10.30AM BCP COMMUNION**

President and Preacher.....Canon Tom

CONTACT INFORMATION...

...can be found on the Monthly Information Sheet. Please take a copy of the current edition.



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

The World

Including St John the Divine, Nsawam Ghana Rod & Glenda Thomas & Sendai Church Japan.

The Diocese
& Bishop Christopher

Our Parish & Deanery

David and Vickie are on retreat in the Holy Land. Please remember them in your prayers

Those in Urgent Need

Louise Harding
Beryl Carter

The Departed:

Anniversaries of Departed:

7th Jean Tilley,
8th Harriet Elmes
10th Jean Sawyer
12th Elene Hakim

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'Pre-Lent' Series of Tuesday Lunchtime Half-Hour Recitals 2018

12.30 pm. – 1.00 pm.

Tuesday 9 th January	Lyndon Ford	Fareham
Tuesday 16 th January	Peter Gould	Ex - Derby Cathedral
Tuesday 23 th January	Geoffrey Porter	St. Faith's, Havant
Tuesday 30 th January	Mark Burgess	Portsmouth
Tuesday 6 th February	Rev. David Morgan	St. Faith's, Havant
Tuesday 13 th February	Mark Dancer	St. Peter's, Petersfield

Sandwiches welcome!

Come when you can; go when you must.

Retiring Collection for St. Faith's Big Build Campaign.

NOTICES AND FUTURE EVENTS

DISCRETIONARY FUND

More than £1,000 has been donated to the Rector's Discretionary Fund for the Homeless of Havant, to date. These funds will be disbursed, as needed, in response to need. Thank you for all the donations!

FLOWER FESTIVAL 2018

The Flower Festival will now take place on 20-22 July 2018.

The date of the festival has changed due to David and Vickie's ordination on Saturday 30 June.

FUTURE EVENTS..

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Mon 8 January	Various	'Face of Fitness' (see page 4)	Pallant Centre Hall
Tuesday 9 January	12.30pm	Lunchtime Organ Recital with Lyndon Ford	Church
Wed 10 -Sat 13 January	Various	Alice in Wonderland by Dynamo Youth Theatre (see page 4)	The Spring
14 January	1.30pm	Volunteers' Get Together / Tea Party (see page 1)	Pallant Centre Hall
Sun 28 January	7pm	Burns Night Blues (see page 5)	Pallant
3/4 February	Daytime	Sale of Limited Edition Painting Prints in aid of Big Build	Church
Sun 25 February	3pm	Afternoon Tea with live music.	Church
Sat 10 March	10am	Lent Conference—speaker Canon Andrew White (Vicar of Baghdad) at Rowlands Castle.	Rowlands Castle
Thu 19 April	TBC	Flower Arrangement Demonstration	Church
Saturday 30 June	TBC (pm)	Ordinations of David & Vickie to the priesthood	Cathedral
20-22 July	Daytime	Flower Festival	Church
Sat 10 November	7pm	70's and 80's night with Dragonfly	Pallant

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2018

'That all may be free'

Sunday 14 January 4pm
Celebration Service at St Joseph's

Monday 15 January 12noon
St Faith's

Tuesday 16 January 12noon
St Alban's West Leigh

Wednesday 17 January 12noon
St Thomas's Bedhampton

Thursday 18 January 12noon
Havant Methodist Church

Friday 19 January 12noon
St John's Rowlands Castle

Saturday 20 January 12noon
RCCG in the Pallant Centre

A Note from Joyce Shuttlewood

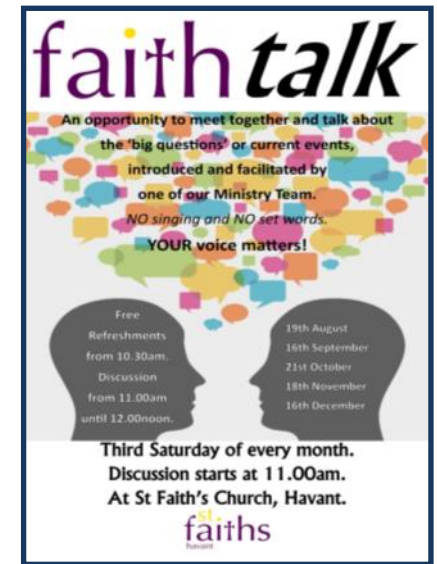
May I offer my thanks for your prayers, cards and good wishes sent to me after my stroke. I feel sure your support has helped me with my recovery.

Flower Festival Meeting

Thursday 11 January 7pm
Meeting of the Flower Team at the Rectory to prepare for the Flower Festival and other related events this year. Anybody interested in helping with the Flower Festival is welcome to come along.

Messy Church

on Saturday 13 January 3.30pm-5.30pm
at the URC. All Welcome



Faith Talk will be led by Canon Tom on
Saturday 20 Jan:

Theme: Is violence EVER justified?

BIBLE STUDY GROUP

The Bible Study Group will meet on Wednesday January 17th at 2pm, at [4 Pine Grove PO9 2RW](#), when we shall start to read St Matthew's Gospel. More details from Alan Hakim (023-92 471681)

Church Re-ordering - What's Next

Plans are currently in train to repair plasterwork, repaint the interior walls, replace the crumbling stone around the West Door, and commence work on the new ramp, door and servery.



NEWS



At the Spring Theatre

7.30pm Evening, Wednesday 10th January 2018

7.30pm Evening, Thursday 11th January 2018

7.30pm Evening, Friday 12th January 2018

2.30pm Matinee & 7.30pm Evening, Saturday 13th January 2018

2.30pm Matinee, Sunday 14th January 2018

at The Spring Arts & Heritage Centre, East Street, Havant, PO9 1BS

Tickets are £8 & £10 www.thespring.co.uk or 023 9247 2700

BALLADS AND BREWS FOR BURNS

Sunday 28 January 7pm

An evening of acoustic and choir music from local performers including The Igloo Choir, RAFA Choir, Canon Tom Kennar, DiElle, John Gleadall and Chris Wood.



Tickets £6 or £7 on the door available from the Parish Office (office@stfaith.com) or 023 9249 2129. Tickets also available from The Pallant.

ST FAITH'S CHARITY SHOP

Please keep those donations coming in.... clothing, toys, books, puzzles, crockery, jewellery, linen, small furniture items. They can all be turned into useful cash for our Parish! Thank you!



The shop is on course to have it's most successful year EVER, with £19,923 raised to the end of November. A huge thank you to all those who have donated goods and especially those volunteers who have worked tirelessly in the shop throughout the year. You magnificent people!

New Year. New You! Let's #getactive with the 'Face of Fitness'

Call Hannah
07708 867364

Monday:
7.00-7.45am Circuits
10.00-11.00am Fit N Forty Plus (Ladies Only)
Wednesday:
8.30-9.00am Low Impact
9.15-10.00am Legs, Bums and Tums
4.00-4.45pm Family Fitness (Children aged 8+)
5.00-5.30pm HIIT and Core

£3
PER SESSION

STARTING
8th JANUARY
2018

Membership options available.

The Pallant Centre
Havant
PO9 1BE



Open

Monday—Friday

8.45am-4pm

Saturday

8.45am-2pm