

23rd January 2022

Sermon given by Rev. Hazel Door
at Foussais-Payré Ecumenical Service

We saw his star in the East and have come to worship Him. Mt. 2. 2.

So many questions to find answers for. Who were the “wise men” or “magi”? Well actually we don’t know! They may have been princes, they may have been astronomers, or even astrologers.

What did they follow? Was it a planet? A comet? Scientists and astronomers have searched ancient texts and made computer programs looking for the ‘star in the East’.

BUT: Unless some significant and indisputable archaeological discovery is found to settle the question once and for all, the mystery of what the Christmas Star was will remain in the realm of faith. Science cannot explain it as any known physical object; history offers no clear record.

It seems to me that all the speculation overlooks one simple, obvious answer. The creator of the universe was summoning outside witnesses to the birth of His Son.

The magi went first to Jerusalem, where Herod spoke with them, trying to find out where the Messiah was. They couldn’t tell him. Only after that did the star led them to Bethlehem. We’re told that on arrival they “knelt down” and paid him homage, giving him the gifts they had brought with them.

We don’t know what happened to the star following their arrival. Except that with the arrival of the Light of the World in the form of the Christ, it would have been redundant!

Jesus was and is our guiding light. When we allow His light to shine in the darkness of our world and into our lives, then we know that we too will be guided according to God’s will, just as the wise men were. Like them we don’t know our destination, but trust in the light.

When we journey in the light of Christ, we trust and believe in God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, to guide all of us in faith, hope and love, to do His will, and his will alone.

That is what it means to be a Christian, it is why we are gathered here as brothers and sisters.

Our baptism makes us Children of one Father, putting aside our differences, united in our love for Jesus.

Our calling is to take the light of Christ out into the world, letting it shine through us, to illuminate the darkest of corners with His love. Amen