

- Joint Carol Service, 2003

Wisdom from where?

- Where do we get our wisdom from?
 - proverbs - too many cooks spoil the broth, many hands make light work!?!?
 - old wives tales - don't walk under ladders, salt over the shoulder?
 - horoscopes - despite the scientific understanding that stars are blazing hot nuclear fusion furnaces, many look for wisdom from the stars
 - perhaps it is in science itself, whether the hard sciences or more often the insights of psychology and psychiatry about how people work, about how they are wired up, about what is "healthy"
 - perhaps it is in the wisdom of others - whether the blatant following of the teenage groupie, or more likely insight or wisdom gleaned from people we admire
 - perhaps it is from family - families often have traditions (eg at Christmas), and those can include wisdom on how to live, values dearly held
- Wisdom for life comes from all over!!

Magi from the East

- We call these "Magi from the east" wise men
 - but what is it about them that was wise?
 - they probably left home for months, to give treasure to peasant babe whose parents had to flee to save his life because of their visit
 - he never was crowned king, of the Jews or anybody else - the only time that title was used of him officially was on the Cross where he was executed!
- And yet we consider them wise...
- Let me suggest why:

Wisdom brought them to worship

- that which was most important was most important!
- maybe you only come to church at Christmas, or if someone gets married or dies and the service happens to be here...
- let me suggest that there is more significance in church worship than that!
- if the Christian claims are true, then wisdom will lead us to worship

Wisdom brought persistence

- "where is the baby?" "no baby here!"
- must have picked up Herod's misgivings about a baby born king!!
- would they have wondered, "did we get it wrong? did we misinterpret that star?"
- they pressed on with what was truly important
- somehow they realised that this baby was tremendously important, and that everything else could be put to one side
- determination - and prize of a connection with the very son of God was worth it all!

Wisdom brought them joy

- as a result they experienced joy!
- coming on a peasant couple with a child with no permanent roof over their heads
 - joy?
- there would have been babies everywhere, all along their journey
- (many of whom would never make it out of childhood)
- what made this child special?
- Only the Christian truth, that he was God's Son, a Saviour!!
- Will we be wise this Christmas? - and come, with persistence, to worship - and find true joy!