

FOLLOWING THE STAR*< Continued from overleaf*

The Magi needed to take risks, be prepared for the unexpected and trust that their mission was justified. In short they needed faith.

So as we journey on together into this New Year let us pray that we might have some of the resilience, trust and faith shown by the Magi so we can step confidently into whatever lies ahead.

PETER**PCC****TUESDAY 8 JANUARY 7.30PM**

IN the Church room.

Friday Night Live**18 JANUARY 6.30PM**

SOMETHING for you, no matter what your age, so why not try it!?

We start in Church and afterwards share food together at 7.30pm in the Church Hall and everyone is welcome.

Thank you so much!

TO everyone who donated to the Gift Tree again this year, we were able to send a cheque for over £600 to The Sisters of The Church, who will use the money to help the poor and vulnerable people living in our City.

Thank you so much for your continued support with this: I am always overwhelmed by your generosity. *With heartfelt love and God's blessings,* **Julie**

ST STEPHENS (SOUNDWELL)
 DRAMA GROUP PRESENTS:

Little Red Riding Hood & the Little Pigs**31 JANUARY - 2 FEBRUARY 2019**

Tickets £9 adults and £7 children & OAP
 bookable in advance: 07944 158294 or
 www.ststephensdramabristol.co.uk

Thank you

FROM the flower ladies a huge thank you for all those who made a donation so that our church flowers looked lovely for the Christmas period.

Also special thanks to those ladies, not part of the team, who prepared some of the candle displays in the windows.

*Happy New Year to you all. Jan***Donations by phone**

TEXT **SSSC10 £10** or **SSSC05 £5**
 to **70070** to make a difference to PCC
 St Stephens Soundwell.

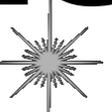
A CELEBRATION
 OF THE LIFE
 ——— of ———

Beryl Hurkett**FRIDAY 11 JANUARY 2.45PM**

*in Church followed by
 the committal at
 Westerleigh Crematorium*



READINGS: MATTHEW 2:1-12

FOLLOWING THE STAR 

AT CHRISTMAS a couple of weeks ago we distributed some booklets from the Church of England called 'Follow the Star'.

They contained some short bible readings and reflections for each day between Christmas Eve and today, Epiphany.

That is 14 in total, made up of the traditional 12 days of Christmas plus Christmas Eve and today the festival of the Epiphany—when we remember the visit of the Magi to the infant Jesus, Mary and Joseph in the stable.

For those of us who followed the programme it was a very helpful 'journey' through some important themes such as 'making room for God', 'unexpected God', and 'Community'.

As they went on their long expedition from the East following the star, the Magi would have had plenty of time to talk and think about why they were making their journey.

They had trusted in their wisdom and learning and had invested time and resources in making this trip to Bethlehem to find the Messiah.

They expected to find a great King or powerful leader so they brought suitable gifts with them. What they found would have astounded them.

Instead of some splendid palace they ended up in a stable behind an inn with a couple of poor people and their baby!

Instead of being welcomed by courtiers and servants they may have perhaps stumbled over a few farm animals or a lingering shepherd.

Our lives often present us with the unexpected.

Sometimes what happens to us is far from what we planned for or would have wanted.

The Magi ended up in danger because they would not do as Herod asked; hardly the royal welcoming party they might have hoped for!

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