



The Acting Bishop of Lincoln

December 2019

In a fast-changing world, where can we find certainty and to whom can we look for hope?

As I am writing, members of political parties are campaigning in the General Election, but no-one can be certain yet who will be elected. Throughout the year different people have talked to me about things like Brexit or climate change and many people have been frustrated or anxious. What will happen next? What should happen next? - There seem to be few easy answers.

In times such as this we might remember that people have lived with uncertainty before, and have searched for hope.

Three such people were the so-called 'wise men', who left their homes behind and set out on a journey into the unknown. We will never know what they felt as they set off, nor what they thought they were looking for as they travelled. But we do know that when they arrived they gave meaningful gifts, which seems to be some evidence that the journey changed and helped them.

The wise men found reassurance and hope in Jesus. This reassurance and hope has been central to the lives of his followers ever since. Jesus is, to me and to millions of others, a gift that gives meaning to my life.

And as I think about Jesus, God's gift, so I realise that by trying to do as he did, and to love other people in God's name, I might begin to make the world a better place.

This year we have been thinking hard in the Diocese of Lincoln not only about how we care for other people but about how we care for the planet. The Earth, like all gifts, needs to be treated with respect and I urge you to consider how you can care for the planet as a gift from God, not simply a 'resource' to be consumed by us.

I wish you and all whom you love a very happy and holy Christmas!

If you are intrigued by the journey of the wise men, why not sign up to #FollowTheStar, the Church of England's online Christmas resource? And if you enjoy it, please let me know!

With best wishes,

The Right Reverend Dr David Court
Bishop of Grimsby
Acting Bishop of Lincoln