

# *Friendship Faith*

*The Vicar Writes...*



January/February 2018

Dear Friends,

Christmas may be a distant memory but in the church calendar the Christmas story continues into the season of Epiphany which finishes on 3rd February. Epiphany focuses on the visit of the magi, or wise men, to Jesus, an event that is thought to have happened not at his birth but when Jesus was a few years old. But how did the wise men find him? They followed a star that led them to Jesus. They were faithful in following where God led them and God still leads people today. Christians are called to follow wherever God leads us.

For some, the idea that God can lead us sounds bizarre. Could God really guide us? Does God care enough about me to guide me? The answer to those questions is a resounding yes! In our baptism (christening) services, the godparents, or the adult being baptised are asked the questions "Do you turn to Christ? And put your trust in him? And promise to follow him for ever?"

Following the God who is revealed in Jesus Christ will mean something different for each one of us at different times in our lives: in the work we do, in our relationships with others and as part of the church. I wonder where you are on the journey of following Jesus Christ.

As you look forward into this New Year things might feel different. It may be that you realise you need to change something you do, or an attitude you have. You may have seen that you need to put something right, go and talk to someone, or explore something further. You might seem to realise that this year needs to be lived differently, at a different pace with space for reflection and possibly with prayer and with a desire to see God in your life. You might also have seen the heart of that change is Jesus Christ, born in Bethlehem, whose words and life are not just a story, part of history, but speak to us today. By his holy spirit, he lives in us today and walks alongside us. God with us always.

When Jesus called the first disciples to follow him, he didn't give them a manual or a pep talk, he simply said, come and see. I invite you to step out, walk with Jesus and see what happens. May God bless you as you follow wherever he leads you this year and beyond.

*Rev'd Nicki*