**They saw the same star they had seen in the east. When they saw it, how happy they were, what joy was theirs!** (Mt 2.9-10)

In two days’ time the Christmas decorations should come down. The Twelve Days of Christmas ends at Epiphany – when we celebrate the visit of the Magi. What major elements of their story do we remember?

* They were ‘Kings’ – see Isaiah 60.3 for one possible reason they became kings.
* Star –a sign for astronomers/astrologers.
* Three gifts – gold, frankincense and myrrh.
* Herod – paranoid half-Jew king.

Epiphany = sudden revelation. TEXT – shows that God is revealed. For Jews God spoke through angels and dreams, so God was revealed to Mary and Joseph in these ways, but to gentiles a different way was needed (Jews expected God to be revealed to gentiles - see Isaiah 60.1-7, Psalm 72.9-11, Psalm 138.4).

For Christians God is revealed in Jesus Christ. This is good news, but we do not all react the same way to this revelation of God.

Some are like Herod – fearful that God will upset status, selfish, reactionary.

Some are like Religious Leaders – could not truly understand, were not really interested.

Some are like Magi – open, not discouraged by setbacks, generous. TEXT.

Whilst we might consider ourselves to be like the Magi, is there not part of us that is at times like Herod or those Religious Leaders?

As our decorations come down, do we also put away God? Or do we allow the revelation of God at Epiphany to give meaning to 2015?

If so, what kind of meaning will it be?