

Providence News Letter

What's happening this Week

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday 10:30-12 Cuppa & Chat

Saturday **Table Top Sale**

For Your Diary January

13th What Next

30th Family Parlour Games Night

Next Sunday

10:20 **Worship Group**

10:30 **J Club Mrs Barbara Cloke**

6 PM **Revd Robert Covenant Service**

Stewards AM

Stewards PM

Door AM Doreen & Alan

Door PM Geoff

Coffee Doreen

Fractured

Sunday 3rd January Services

10:20 **Worship Group**

10:30 **Revd Robert Readshaw**

6 PM **Mr Michael Pearson**

Stewards am Dave and Doreen

Stewards pm Hannah and Sue

Door am Mark & Wayne

Door pm Len and Norman

Coffee Dianne

Flowers Chris

Temptation is not just for the rich and famous. Not a season goes by that we don't hear of some public figure's fall from grace. A famous person is exposed as a hypocrite. A politician's career is engulfed by scandal. We watch, and we wonder at the many ways in which sin brings down the high and mighty. But we're not so immune to temptation as we might like to think...

Today Churches consider the Visit of the Wise Men

How old was Jesus when the magi visited Him?

The Biblical data to guide us in answering this is as follows. (1) We know from Luke's Gospel (2:21) that Jesus was circumcised at 8 days old; (2) We also know from Luke 2:22-24, that when the 40 days of Mary's "uncleanness" had passed (see Leviticus 12:1-4.), they presented Jesus, their first born son in the temple in Jerusalem, according to God's Law (Exodus 13:2.; Numbers 3:13, 8:17. (3) Herod asked the magi when they had first seen the star (Matthew 2:7) and on this basis later killed all of the male children in Bethlehem, age two and under (Matthew 2:16). In addition to this, there is (4), that the magi came during the reign of King Herod, whom we know died in 4 BC;

On this basis we can lay out the following with a fair amount of certainty. Jesus was between 41 days and 2 years old when the magi arrived. The magi had to have come after Jesus' presentation in the temple, that is, after Jesus was 40 days old. Why? Because, Matthew's Gospel tells us that after the magi departed, an angel warned Joseph to flee to Egypt, since Herod would seek to kill Jesus. According to Scripture, Joseph left that very night and went to Egypt (2:13-15). This would have left no time or opportunity for the presentation in the temple, which we know happened.

Is the fact that Herod killed all Bethlehem boys age 2 and under evidence that Jesus was 2? Not necessarily. First, the murder of these little ones does not necessarily mean that the magi told him that the star had appeared two years before. They could have told him a lesser number and ruthless Herod might have chosen two years in order to "take no chances." Second, if the magi did tell him that the star had appeared two years before, this also does not necessarily mean that Jesus was 2. The star could have appeared before Jesus was born, giving the magi advanced notice.

Church Heating :- It is important to let the News Letter compiler know the dates of your meetings. Tony uses the NL to plan his heating programme.

Remember in your Prayers

Please pray for all our friends who are not well:

David Southall

Bessie (she is in Russells Hall Ward A2 (she had a fall on Boxing day and fractured her hip this has been plated she was also in for a throat problem.

Please pray for those who need our support:

Dora & her Family (Dora's Daughter Passed away Just before Christmas) Pat Frank Eric Chris & Dave Walker Linda

Please pray for those in the wider community needing our prayers, we may not know them but God does;

Frank's Friend, **Lee Clewes** as he faces Surgery and an uncertain future

Ron Adams Chris's Dad in Russells Hall with Fractured Hip

Please pray for those from our fellowship who are in care,

As our friends face a new year in care we remember those who day by day care for them

David in who is a resident in "The Coach House"

Betty Smith who is a resident in Coppice House,

Elsie Noons who is a resident in Holly Lodge Rest Home

Bessie who is a resident in Two Gates

Dorothy Burley who is a temporary resident in Oriel Nursing Home