

Thought for the day – Thursday 6th January 2022

By Revd John Marshall

Epiphany Poems

I meant to share this poem and another at Emmanuel Church, unfortunately I left the books at home, Maggie did find the Adoration of the Magi on the internet and read it to us in the notices.

The Adoration of the Magi by Christopher Pilling

It was the arrival of the kings
that caught us unawares;
we'd looked in on the woman in the barn,
curiosity, you could call it,
something to do on a cold winter's night;
we'd wished her well –
that was the best we could do, she was in pain
and the next we knew
she was lying on the straw
- the little there was of it –
and there was this baby in her arms.

It was, as I say, the kings
that caught us unawares...
Women have babies every other day,
not that we are there ---
let's call it a common occurrence though,
giving birth. But kings
appearing in a stable with a
'Is this the place?' and kneeling,

each with his gift held out towards the child!

They didn't even notice us.

Their robes trailed on the floor;

rich, lined robes that money couldn't buy.

What must this child be

to bring kings from distant lands

with costly incense and gold?

What could a tiny baby make of that?

And what were we to make of

was it angels falling through the air,

entwined and falling as if from the rafters

to where the gaze of the kings met the child's

--- assuming the child could see?

What would the mother do with the gift?

What would become of the child?

And we'll never admit there are angels

or that somewhere between

one man's eyes and another's

is a holy place, a space where a king could be

at one with a naked child,

at one with an astonished soldier.

Christopher Pilling 100 best Christmas poems for children

Ed Roger McGough SPCK