

The Three Wise Men

Story for Children's Service
at St Nicolas

[Matthew 2 v1-12]

7 January 2024

St Nicolas Church,
Forest Hill with Shotover



The Three Wise Men

NARRATOR, 3 WISE MEN, (Caspar, Melchior, Balthazar), KING HEROD, STAR HOLDER.

(NARRATOR in the Pulpit, 3 WISE MEN in the Chancel, STAR HOLDER by the Vestry door)

Caspar spent most of his days sleeping because he was awake nearly every night looking at the stars.

(Caspar walks in from the choir and stands on the chancel step.)

One night he noticed a new star, different from the others.

The (STAR appears by the Font, waves around and disappears.)

It got brighter and brighter and started to move in a different sort of way, not in agreement with all the others, but just on its own.

Caspar went to consult his astronomy books and became more and more excited. The books talked about a special star, moving in a special way which would be the sign that God's special **King** of the Jews had been born.

CASPAR: My star -- I'm calling it my star - moving in that special way: I must tell my friend Melchior about it!

Melchior, where are you? You know all about stars. I've found a new one, and it's amazing!

(MELCHIOR joins CASPAR on the Chancel step, looking towards the Font.)

The two of them decided to stay up at night to watch the pitch-black sky with its pinpoints of light. When Melchior saw the star, *(STAR appears by the Font)* he shouted:

MELCHIOR: Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We have seen it! The special star, the 'man-born-to-be-King' star! Pack your bags, my boy, we must be off.

CASPAR: Off? Off where? Why? What for?

MELCHIOR: Get a gift, a really beautiful gift, good enough for a KING. I'm going to fetch Balthazar; he won't want to miss this.

(MELCHIOR turns towards the Chancel and calls to BALTHAZAR)

MELCHIOR: Balthazar, saddle up three camels, and pack some food. We three are going to follow the star!

BALTHAZAR: The camels are waiting, come on, let's get started!

(CASPAR, MELCHIOR and BALTHAZAR walk slowly down the Nave.)

They slept all day and travelled all night and got such a crick in the neck looking up into the sky trying to pinpoint the star and work out which way it was going.

The STAR moves very slowly across to the Side Aisle, then down to the Lady Altar and back towards the Chancel)

Day after day they followed it, up hills and down, through towns and villages, across streams and rivers, on and on.

(The wise men follow the STAR around the church, looking upward all the time, eventually stopping in front of the Chancel again.)

At last, they arrived in a country many hundreds of miles away from where they had started. It was Israel, and they went straight to the palace in Jerusalem.

BALTHAZAR: This is a palace. This must be the place where the King has been born. I'm going to tell them that we have seen his star and ask if we can see him.

(BALTHAZAR walks off into the Chancel, while the others watch him. Meanwhile the STAR carries on up the Nave and round again, ending up by the Crib, where it stops.)

Balthazar was taken to see King Herod and he asked to see the newborn baby king. But Herod hadn't heard about the star and

there was no new little prince to be found in the palace, so Balthazar decided he must be in the wrong place.

BALTHAZAR: Come friends, let's be off again. I did not like Herod. He seemed very upset when I asked about the baby **King**.

But then his priests and wise men told me that God spoke in their holy writings about his special king who would one day be born: 'Out of you, Bethlehem, will come a ruler who will be a shepherd of my people Israel.'

CASPAR: We need to follow the star again. It's not over the palace!

As soon as they set off, they saw that the star had moved ahead of them, leading the way to the little town of Bethlehem.

(They walk on up the Nave and round again, ending up by the Crib, where they stop.)

MELCHIOR: Look, look, the star has stopped: the baby **King** must be here in Bethlehem. Let us offer him our gifts!

(Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar stand in a line and turn towards the crib.)

CASPAR: I have brought you Gold.

MELCHIOR: I have brought you Frankincense.

BALTHAZAR: I have brought you Myrrh.

That night in a dream, an angel warned them not to go back and tell king Herod about what they had seen, but to return to their own country by a different route, so that is what they did.

(Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar walk off towards the vestry.)