

MONMOUTHSHIRE 40p Wednesday, January 7, 2015

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DEAR Friends,

Usually when we come to the start of January, Margaret and I will have well and truly completed our annual pilgrimage to Denmark in early December. However, this time we are running late, thanks to the arrival of our latest grandchild, Esme Imogen, in late November.

But in just a week or so, we shall be embarking on our 850 mile trip across the continent by car to Aarhus, where Mother will be waiting at the window, and probably from the night before, knowing her!

It is a long trek, and one is not getting any younger. However, it is exhilarating travelling the motorways, with little by way of road-works and potholes and, overall, a smooth run where we can make a stop whenever we want. We never rush the journey.

The wise men did not rush their journey, either! It should be a well known fact that contrary to what we hear and sing in many carols, the wise men did not arrive at the manger in Bethlehem, but much more

likely when Jesus, Mary and Joseph were back in Nazareth some time later, perhaps even years?

After all, the wise men travelled through many countries from the East on their camels – not the fastest mode of transport – but trusting and following that star. And I think that's great, particularly if we can believe that the Bethlehem Star guiding the shepherds was the same Star directing the wise men, and the 'Star', the Spirit of God, guiding us today. Is that so impossible?

On Margaret's and my journey, we shall be guided in no small measure by my trusted SatNav and no doubt hear that docile voice say to us more than once, 1) "Recalculating", or 2) "As soon as possible, do a U-turn!"

Thank God the shepherds and the wise men did not listen to that particular automated voice but to the voice of God within their hearts and minds guiding them to their destination slowly but surely and never diverting.

May this be a happy New Year for all of us. Here's to safe journeying with and in Christ!

Rev Preben Andersen

Thought for
the weak



with the Rev Preben
Andersen