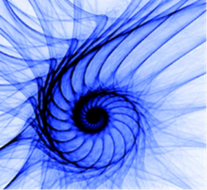
**Blessing Every Day**

A project from the Mission Theology Advisory Group



The Mission Theology Advisory Group is an ecumenical group formed in partnership between Churches Together in Britain and Ireland and the Church of England We provide resources in the areas of Spirituality, Theology, Reconciliation, Evangelism and Mission.

This resource belongs to our Spirituality series. Please print and share.

More information from

[www.churchofengland.org/more/church-resources/deeper-god-mission-theology](http://www.churchofengland.org/more/church-resources/deeper-god-mission-theology)

<https://ctbi.org.uk/mission-theology-advisory-group-resources/>

**A Blessing of the Home on Epiphany (January 6th)**



**January 6th is called the Feast of the Epiphany in the Christian Calendar**.

Epiphany means a moment of revelation or realisation and here refers to the story of the Magi (the ‘three wise men’) who travelled to find Jesus by following a star. The story is found in the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 2, verses 1-12. There are a lot of traditions around the three Magi and the gifts we are told they brought to Jesus: gold, frankincense and myrrh. Other traditions, not in the Bible, name the Magi as Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar.

Many Christians pray for a blessing on their churches and their homes on January 6th and remember the way the Magi came to find Jesus.

What you do is to take a piece of chalk and write on the wall or door of your church or your home. Write the year (eg 2019) in two parts, with the 20 at the beginning and the second part of the year at the end. In the middle write C, then M, then B, for the three Magi. (This can also stand for *Christus mansionem benedicat*, a Latin phrase meaning ‘Christ bless this house’). Put crosses in between the numbers and letters to stand for Jesus Christ.

20 + C + M + B + 19

Before you do this, you might like to read the story of the Magi and as you are chalking the letters and numbers you might like to say a prayer of blessing on your house.

‘In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, ‘Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.’ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

“And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.”’

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, ‘Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.’ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.’

## Blessing

*Loving and Guiding God,*

You brought the wise men to Jesus through a shining star. May this house and those who live here be blessed with your peace.

May all who visit here find welcome, hospitality and blessing. May this place be a source of happiness and hope to all who come under this roof. May we be grateful that we have this home and remember always those who have nowhere to go.

Keep us safe and fill us with your love.

*Amen*