

ST PETER AT GOWTS CHURCH

7TH JANUARY 2018
1ST OF EPIPHANY

9.30AM SUNG EUCHARIST

Readings Advent 4

First reading; Isaiah Ch. 60 vv.1-6

Second Reading; Ephesians Ch. 3 vv.
1-12

Gospel; Matthew Ch. 2 vv. 1-12

Collect

O God,
who by the leading of a star
manifested your only Son to the peo-
ples of the earth:
mercifully grant that we,
who know you now by faith,
may at last behold your glory face to
face;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Priest in charge:

Revd Jeremy Cullimore.
The Vicarage,
Sibthorp St, Lincoln.
tel 01522 542908
email; jscullimore@btinternet.com.

Lay ministry Mrs Mary Rose

Church Wardens

Mrs Mary Rose, Mrs Margaret Simpson

Hall caretaker David Hansell

Hall bookings & baptisms

Please pray for;

the sick; Fred Bowskill, Charlie
Cullimore, Elizabeth Graham, Pam
Goodman, Joy Gray, Joan Hill, Claire
O'Neil, Stuart Rose, Michael Vaughan ,
Tim Wheeldon.

Years Mind;

7 Florence Collins

10 Brenda Lusty, Mary Ann Barlow

13 Raymond Simpson

- Give thanks for the faith of the wisemen
- The Archbishop of Canterbury (William
Laud Archb, Cantab 1645 10th)
- The people of West Africa (Mary
Slessor, Missionary 11th)
- The Society of Friends (George Fox,
founder 13th)
- Those who struggle with their weight
(National Obesity Awareness week)
- The NHS and the crisis due to the cold
weather flu bugs
- Those struggling with the extreme cold
weather in America

Upcoming events ;

8th	Tuesday	10am	Women's social group	church hall
9th	Wednesday	10am	Keep fit	church hall
14th	Sunday	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	church
15th	Monday	7pm	CAMEO	church hall
23rd	Tuesday	7.30pm	PCC	church hall

Sam's Gift (Part 1)

Each morning Steve and I were invited to breakfast with the Cassels at their beach side cottage before work. Almost every morning—with just a little stir—Sam happily offered an impromptu survey of a biblical theme. At our first breakfast, for instance, I noticed the impressive trees near their house. He smiled and talked about the importance of trees in the Bible, beginning with Eden, the tree theme in Galatians and, finally, the reappearance of the Tree of Life in Revelation. The next morning he picked up on something else I said and used it to review all the Biblical references to Melchizedek. I was impressed and enriched. His broad awareness of the Bible was always personal and practical, with depths that had me reflecting on the conversation for hours afterwards. I finally asked him where it came from—thinking of a possible college course—and he laughed.

"I just read my Bible"

He had been reading his Bible, front to back, for 30 minutes each day since he came to faith 50 years before. The result? Two or three 'read-throughs' each year—with the outcome of almost 150 readings in his Christian life and it showed!

I pressed Sam for more of his story.

When he and his bride were both newly converted in 1916, they wanted the Lord to be at the centre of their new marriage. So Bible reading was something they shared each day. Not necessarily by reading aloud together—though they did that at times—but by sharing some of their favourite verses of the day at dinner time. It was a firm feature of their married life.

I'm realistic in telling this story. Sam and his wife were a rare sighting! But why not start on the path they offered? Just over ten minutes of reading a day will cover the Bible in a year. And, in 10 years, it offers the potential wealth of ten bible read-throughs. Or even 50 after 50 years. The benefits can't be measured.

Sam's story certainly stirred me. Within a week I started my own unguided read through and finished in less than 2 months. I was surprised to find God's character jumping off the pages. His greatness, goodness and the love as the triune Father-Son-and-Spirit God stirs the heart. I experienced his presence as both captivating and relational as I read, and realised God is always pursuing me through my reading of his word.

**Ron Frost, Daily Bread, 2018,
Scripture Union**