



Words for Wondering

An Advent to Epiphany Course from the
Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney

Friday 26th December – St Stephen
Offering



Scripture: **Luke 2: 15-20**

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.]

Reflection

Today is St Stephen's Day - the first martyr of the Christian Faith and also known as Boxing Day. A day when almsgiving, giving Christmas boxes to the poor took place. A day of offering thanks by offering gifts to others as we mark the gift of Jesus to the world. Christina Rossetti's poem (set to music by Holst, Darke and others) finishes with the verse "What can I give Him, Poor as I am? — If I were a Shepherd I would bring a lamb; If I were a Wise Man I would do my part, — Yet what I can I give Him, — Give my heart." What is your offering of thanks to God this Christmastide?

To Listen

An Earthly Blessing by Will Todd and In the Bleak Midwinter by Christina Rossetti