



Cambridge Society for the Application of Research

Churchill College  
Storey's Way  
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[www.csar.org.uk](http://www.csar.org.uk)

## The Three Wise Men An up-to-date look at the Past

**Air Vice-Marshall Mike Brown**, Retired

7.30 p.m., Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2008

**The Wolfson Lecture Theatre, Churchill College, Storey's Way, Cambridge**

### **About the topic:**

The story of the Three Wise Men from the East is found only in St Matthew's Gospel. It has intrigued scholars for many centuries. Churchmen and theologians have debated whether the passage might just be a later addition intended to prove that the Nativity was relevant to the whole world and not just the Jewish nation. Astronomers likewise have puzzled over the Bible description of the Star of Bethlehem. The speaker is convinced that these accounts are founded on actual events. Based on historical research and modern computer software capable of re-creating the exact appearance of the ancient skies, the lecture provides an explanation that fits very closely the Biblical account.

### **About the Speaker:**

Air Vice-Marshal M J D Brown MA CEng CMath CSci FRAes FRIN FIMA.

Mike Brown is a retired Air Vice-Marshall of the Royal Air Force, which he joined in 1953 and was sent to read Mechanical Sciences here at Trinity Hall. Postgraduate education included courses at the RAF Technical and Staff Colleges, the USAF Air War College, and the Royal College of Defence Studies. He qualified as an RAF pilot in 1959, and has had extensive experience of communications, radar, navigation, guided weapons, and space systems. Before retiring from the RAF in 1991 his final appointments were as Director of Air Weapons and Director General of Strategic Electronic Systems. He has assisted in residential course in the design of safety critical computer systems each year since 1992 and is currently a Council Member of the Royal Institute of Navigation. He is active in voluntary welfare casework for ex-Services charities and as Chairman of the Peterborough Astronomical, Art, and Cambridge Societies.

"Our advertised speaker said was unable to attend at short notice, we are very grateful to Air Vice-Marshall Mike Brown for agreeing to give us this intriguing lecture at such short notice. Both our organising secretary Dr Richard Freeman and President Prof Brian J Ford are away for this meeting, so the chair tonight will be taken by Rod Kirkby, and the vote of thanks will be proposed by Mary Ledzion. Both are long-standing CSAR members and the President reminds everyone that we are always glad when members can act for the society, and all members are encouraged to propose events, speakers or topics for the future."

### **Jim Cleland**

Member of Council

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