



Merry Christmas from the Breedon Priory Church Family A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE



There is something about this time of year, isn't there? Perhaps, like me, you wonder where the year has gone and what you have got to show for it? What happened to those New Year resolutions? Perhaps you find yourselves wondering what this New Year will hold? A new beginning? The newspaper headlines are frankly disappointing . . . it seems to be a case of 'same old, same old'.

And yet . . . And yet, we wonder who is really in charge, and if it is God, why does He allow tyrants and dictators such a free hand? The message of Christmas doesn't exactly inspire confidence: a baby born in a stable of parents who were on the move. He was not likely to amount to anything, surely?

And yet . . . "When the fullness of time had come God sent his Son, born of a woman . . ." (Galatians 4:4) According to the Bible, Jesus was born at just the right moment. Not too soon, not too late. In an outhouse in Bethlehem. This was the 'fullness of time' as far as God was concerned ; it was all part of His plan. And when you stop and think about it, that's pretty amazing. Joseph and Mary might have wished for a more comfortable setting for his birth, I suppose.

And yet . . . This was God's setting: His time; His place; His choice. He had chosen it for his Son, born of Mary. It was no accident: the prophets of the Old Testament had foretold it (eg Micah 5:2) God's time; God's place, and yes, His choice.

His choice? . . . Absolutely! Why there? Why then? Well, the verse quoted earlier goes on to spell it out. It is to do with 'redemption'. That's the word the Bible uses for rescue of those who can't rescue themselves: you and me, in other words. So, the Christmas carol has it exactly right:

"No ear may hear His coming; but in this world of sin,
where meek souls receive him, still the dear Christ enters in"

That's our reason for celebrating Christmas (details overleaf). And, for the curious there's an opportunity to unpack the Christian faith together in the New Year.

December Christmas Diary

10th & 17th Carol Singing 6.30 to 8.30pm

Enjoy a stroll around the village singing carols. Contact Pete to volunteer and for more information: petehyland@mail.com

14th Carols on the Green 6 to 7pm

Meet on the Green for our annual get-together. There will be mulled wine and mince pies in the Parish Hall after the event.

21st Lantern Trail 4.15pm

Meet on the Green from where you will be guided on the footpath up to the church. Family groups and accompanied children are welcome to join us and lanterns will be provided. Please note the path is steep in parts, please wear appropriate footwear. Access is still available by vehicle and the car park will remain open.

21st Carol Service 5pm

Bring along the family for our carol service, led by Rev. Canon Sue Field, which will take place in the church. Refreshments will be served after the service and everyone is welcome to stay.

23rd Carols at the Hollybush 7-8pm

Enjoy an evening with friends and family with live music at the pub. Food and drinks available to purchase from the bar.

25th Christmas Morning Worship 10am

Join us on Christmas Day at Breedon Priory Church for our morning service. Everyone is most welcome.

