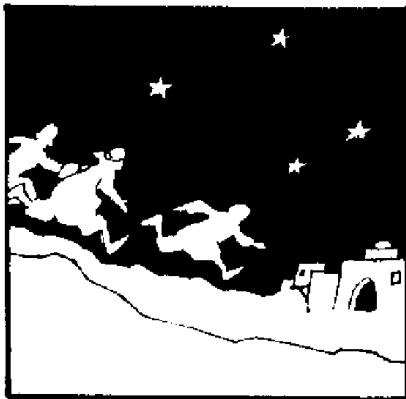
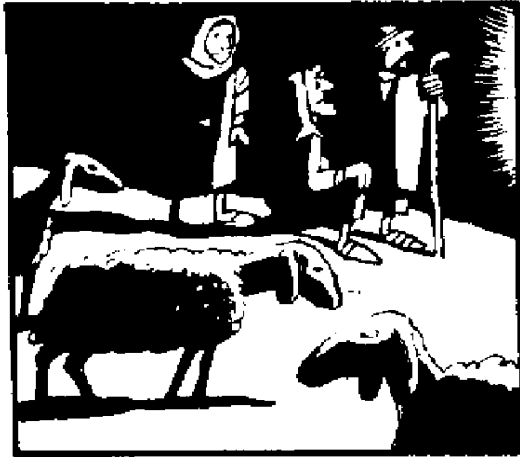


Christ Church Oswestry
Transforming life through Jesus Christ



Christmas 2009
Celebration!
Newsletter

A Christmas Reflection

When you look at the sun, shining in a blue sky on a bright day, what do you see? Sometimes I'm just utterly amazed that this nuclear fire in all its many qualities is there for us. Just think how much light & warmth goes out to space, never coming our way. Only a portion of all the glory of the blaze of the sun falls on us.



The sight of the sun – and much more - tells me that we are here by design. The idea that life arose as an accident makes no sense to me for everything in the universe is geared to break down from the complex to the simple, whereas life requires that simple things rise up to be complex. If you bury a bicycle in the ground it degrades into pieces. But if you bury a set of wheels, a frame, and pedals, the pieces don't upgrade into a bicycle.



Paul connects creation with Jesus: "God, who said, 'Let light shine out of the darkness,' made His light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ." "God," [2Cor 4] Paul goes on to say [in c5] we are made for a purpose. God has acted through Christ so that our mortality will not degrade into death but upgrade into new life. For

God at Christmas steps into His creation, not as a tourist taking a tour but as a doctor making a cure. "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ" not counting our sins against us. Your life is not an accident. Your life is not meaningless. Your life has a purpose: God "committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are ... Christ's ambassadors."



The cradle in the stable leads to the cross on the hill. God became flesh in a virgin womb so He might bring life from an empty tomb. This is for us and for everyone through us: "Do not be afraid," the angel said to the shepherds, "I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. .. in the town of David a Saviour has been born for you; He is Christ the Lord." May we sing with the angels: Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to people on whom God's favour rests. [Luke 2:10f]



Some Christmas thoughts.

It was the US astronaut Hale Irwin who said, after he had returned to earth after standing on the moon: "The most significant achievement of our age is not that man stood on the moon, but rather that God in Christ stood upon this earth."

We tend to look for God in nice, clean and warm places. We expect Him to be in well-polished Churches and in voices of praise and in Christmas meals. But as the only person in history who was able to choose where He could be born, He chose a stable.

If our greatest need had been for information,
God would have sent us an encyclopaedia.

If our greatest need had been for technology,
God would have sent us a scientist.

If our greatest need had been for money,
God would have sent us an economist.

If our greatest had been pleasure
God would have sent an entertainer.

But our greatest need was forgiveness,
so God sent us a Saviour.



*Wishing You
an amazing grace Advent
and a very
Happy Christmas*



6 th Dec	2 nd Advent [with HC] Luke 1:26-38
13 th Dec	Advent 3 Hope for the world: Luke 1:39-56 Girls Brigade Parade & Christmas Nativity
Wed 16 th	Coffee Carols @ 11:00 in our downstairs coffee rooms
Friday 18 th	8:30 pm Pub Carols at the Top White
Saturday 19 th	Family Christingle Event from 6:00 pm
Sun 20 th	Advent 4: Luke 1:57-80
	6:30 Porthywaen Youth Band: Carols @ Methodists
Thurs 24 th	11:30 Christmas Eve Midnight Communion
Friday 25 th	10:30 Hope made human: Christmas Day Worship: Luke 2:1-20
Sunday 27 th	Hope for redemption: Luke 2:21-40

A Christmas Prayer

Loving Father,
Help us to remember the birth of Jesus,
that we may share in the song of the angels,
the gladness of the shepherds,
and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate
and open the door of love all over the world.
Let kindness come with every gift
and good desires with every greeting.
Deliver us from evil by the blessing
Which Christ brings,
and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning
make us happy to be Your children,
and Christmas evening bring us to our beds
with grateful hearts,
forgiving and forgiven,
for Jesus' sake. Amen.

[by Robert Louis Stevenson]



Our Christmas Season
Charity cash collection
is for the Air Ambulance Service