

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR

For me ,the whole message of Christmas is summed up in St John's text: "The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us".

We all know the lovely stories of the birth of Our Lord in a stable at Bethlehem, the visits of the shepherds and the wise men; but what makes them more than mere tales is that the Person who lay in the manger was the Son of God.

Because of his love for mankind, God was determined to show us how to conquer sin and live with his eternal life. We were in a mess, and God came to show us the way out of it.

In human situations it is useless to stand on the sidelines and tell someone in difficulties: "Well, you got yourself into this mess; you'll just have to get yourself out of it". What is needed is for us to roll up our sleeves and help in any way we can (and sometimes our just there can be the greatest help of all). That is just what God did in his Son Jesus.

He came himself into the same ordinary world in which we live. He taught certain things, but his main message was given by the way he lived. He lived every day open to what his Father wanted him to do, and that was always the same – to love his fellow men, no matter what it cost.

And we know what it did cost – his death on the Cross. Someone has said that even over the cradle in Bethlehem there lies the shadow of the Cross. This is symbolized by the story of Herod's killing the children of Judah. But in spite of this, we are full of joy at the birth of this Baby even though we know he will die on the Cross, because he has shown us that even death cannot defeat God's plan. This same Jesus rose from the dead and is now with us in a far closer way than he could be even to the shepherds of Bethlehem.

So let us praise God for his love and goodness towards us and let us take the love of Jesus into every corner of the world, which needs that love so desperately.