



The first Christmas

Christmas is all about a baby.

One of the great joys of my life is seeing lots of babies and watching them grow. Most churches have a particular ceremony (Christening, Dedication or similar) for receiving a newborn babe and it often includes publicly naming the child. I never cease to be filled with awe when I, as church Pastor, hold a newborn; so beautifully formed, so fragile, so dependent on parental love and care. There is so much potential within that one little human being.

At CFC the needs of the babies, infants and tots are always our priority. Whether that be coming alongside a young woman in her last weeks of pregnancy and assisting her in the first months of motherhood, as in the bedsits; or else helping the tots grow and develop in the nursery until they leave us for school; in all cases we work to enable each one to thrive and reach their maximum potential.

So, I guess we have no difficulty imagining what it was like for the young teenage Mary in her last weeks of carrying baby Jesus on that trek from Nazareth to Bethlehem. We can also identify with her “treasuring in her heart”, as the Bible puts it, while she gazes at the wondrous new baby she has been given.

My mother had a favourite Christmas poem written by Studdert Kennedy which includes the short line “the five little fingers of God”. The small, yet perfectly formed, fingers of the newborn never cease to create wonder in my heart, especially the detail of each tiny fingernail: I don’t think I’m alone in this. But the poem says more “the fingers of God”. Wow! This is no ordinary baby. This is the miraculously conceived Son of God.

Jesus is sometimes called Immanuel (or Emmanuel, both are okay). This means God with us. The birth of Jesus, the childhood, working life (the carpentry) and ministry of Jesus show us that God is not remote, not out there somewhere, not disinterested in our lives. Quite the opposite. God is with us, God knows us, God understands us, God sympathises with us. But far more than that. In Jesus, he heals us, he teaches us, he rescues us and he gives us life abundant, awesome, full and joyful life.

That's why this birth and this baby is so special.

Happy Christmas



Rev'd David Rogers

Trustee



Christian Family Concern seeks to express the love of Christ in action.
It provides services to help parents meet their children's needs,
To support the welfare of young people and works with all sections of the
community without discrimination.