



December 2009

Surprised...

Surprise, surprise! Last month my wife, Mollie, and I had a lovely one! The Sunday afternoon service was over - and a totally unexpected special tea followed to celebrate our Golden Wedding. A happy event!

On our way home we thought of the shepherds' amazement the night when the dark sky blazed with unimaginable light - *the glory of the Lord shone around them*. An angel appeared. They were alarmed and terrified!

The angel's message comforted the distraught shepherds - as it consoles many people today. *"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord."*

This timeless message is what we need! *"Do not be afraid."* I could well be fearful because God says *It is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment*. My problem is that I have broken God's Law! He says I am to love Him perfectly... And I am to love my neighbour as I love myself. I would stand guilty before Him and be condemned. But the angel gives the happy reason why there is no need for me to be distressed - *I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord*.

I have no dread of standing before God as my Judge because He says that the Lord Jesus Christ was born to be a Saviour - the One who will save us from our sins if we trust Him. The Bible explains how He saves: *He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree*. This is why the Lord Jesus had to die - to be punished for our sins. We all need such a Saviour!

C S Lewis' book recording his conversion is well named *Surprised by Joy*. The angel brought *Good news of great joy*. We can rejoice if we believe in the Lord Jesus because He came to *save His people from their sins*.

Please join us for our Carol Service - and whenever you can make it!

May God bless you this Christmas and throughout the coming year.

Sincerely,

George Rabey - Pastor



**You are invited
to join us for our
Carol service
at Five Ash Down
on Sunday 13th December
at 3.00 p.m.
Refreshments will follow**



Chapel Services

Sunday services are at 11.00 a.m. and 2.30 p.m.
(3.00 p.m. on 14th and 21st Dec)

Sundays 11 a.m. to 12 noon Good News Group
(Children 3 years and over)

Tuesdays 6.45 to 8.30 p.m. Tuesday Bible Club
(Children 8 years and over)

Thursdays 7.30 p.m. Prayer and Bible Study

Contacts

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