

A **C**HILD
H**A**S BEEN
BO**R**N FOR US,
A SON G**I**VEN
TO U**S**;
AUTHORI**T**Y RESTS
UPON HI**M**; AND
HE IS NA**M**E**D**
J**E**SUS.

December 2022

Can you look back to the 1940's or 50's? If so, you will recall that Christmas preparations and decorations started in December. Now we can find Christmas cards in the shops in August and some of the larger outlets and garden centres have their full displays by late September.

How quickly time passes people say! Where has the year gone? When I was a boy my Grandfather said "the older you get the faster time seems to fly by". I didn't understand this at the time, but I do now.

Remember back to childhood? It seemed ages from one Birthday to the next or one Christmas to another.

In 1999 we looked forward to the new Millennium! Now we look back over more than 20 years since the turn of the century and say, "where have all these years gone?"

Surely the passing of the years should make us consider our eternal destiny. Christmas would be a good time to take stock and consider why we are celebrating the birth of a baby 2022 years ago. Millions of children have been born since then and most of their birthdays have been forgotten but around the world people will again this year celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Even those who have no faith have to acknowledge this event as every time a letter or document is dated it refers to the year of Christ's birth, coinage too is stamped with the date since Christ's coming into this world.

The shepherds on the hills outside Bethlehem took notice of the message from the angels that Jesus had been born and went with haste to see Him (Luke 2 v 16). We trust that many this Christmas will seek after Jesus.

Many around the world this year will not have the happy family Christmas we hope you all have. Some have been driven from their homes by flood or famine with multitudes displaced and suffering great loss and deprivation due to the atrocities in Ukraine. Let us remember these needy folk both in our prayers and practical giving, praying that this terrible war will soon end.

Again, this year we invite you to join with us for our Carol Service on the 11th December, details on back page.

Sadly, our Pastor was unable to write this circular due to ill health. We continue to remember George in our prayers.

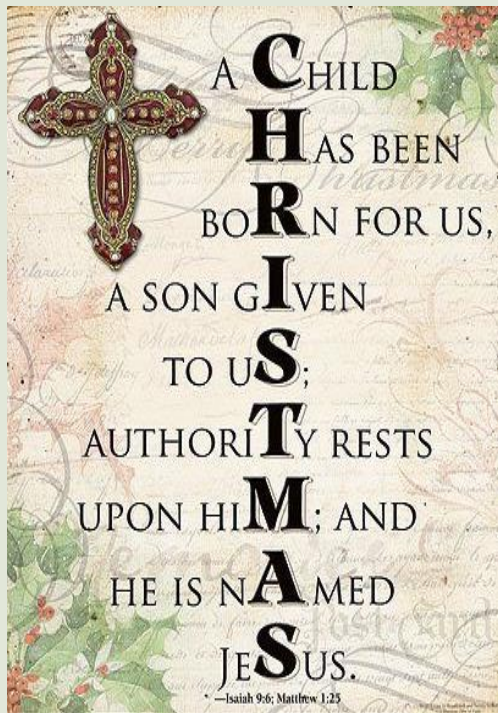
Elwyn Sweetman
(Secretary)

O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by:
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary
and gathered all above.
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars together
proclaim the holy birth
and praises sing to God the King
and Peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming;
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive Him, still
the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in;
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Immanuel.



**You are invited to join us for our Carol Service
at Five Ash Down Chapel
on Sunday 11th December at 3.00 p.m.
Led by Keith Gilbert
Refreshments will follow**

Five Ash Down Chapel Services

Sunday Services

are at 11.00 a.m. and 2.30 p.m.

Prayer and Bible Study

Thursdays 7.30 p.m. Telephone for venue

Contacts

George Rabey (Pastor)

Tel: 07884 968241

Elwyn Sweetman (Secretary)

Tel: 01825 733391

www.fiveashdownchapel.org.uk

george.rabey1@gmail.com