



FOR SO GOD LOVED  
THE WORLD,

*that he gave his only  
begotten Son,*

THAT WHOSOEVER  
BELIEVETH IN HIM  
SHOULD NOT PERISH

*but have everlasting  
life.*

John X 3:16

# C H R I S T M A S 2 0 2 3

Another year has passed and we again approach Christmas which will be celebrated all around the world. Christmas means different things to different people, some dismiss it altogether, others think it is just a time for merriment, socialising, eating, and drinking, or having a winter break.

Many families will find it difficult or impossible to maintain the standards that they have been used to in past years because of rising inflation which has had such a devastating effect.

This will be the second Christmas that those in Ukraine are facing since Russia invaded. Thousands have lost their loved ones and their homes, whilst others have been displaced and are now living thousands of miles from their families.

It is difficult to comprehend the terrible events in Israel and Gaza over the past weeks, firstly the horrendous slaughter of Israelis by Hamas, together with the hostage taking, then the ensuing fighting, bloodshed and massive destruction of property and infrastructure.

With these and many other major tragedies around the world we have so much to be thankful for. As we come to another Christmas let us remember the real reason that Christmas is celebrated, that being the time over 2000 years ago when the birth of Jesus Christ took place in a stable in Bethlehem.

**Christmas and why we celebrate it:**

"For God so loved the world..."

**The event remembered at Christmas:**

"... that He gave His only begotten Son..."

**The reason for Christmas:**

"... that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

John 3 v 16

It would be good if you could join us for our Carol Service on 17<sup>th</sup> December, and any other Sunday Services - details on back page

Elwyn Sweetman

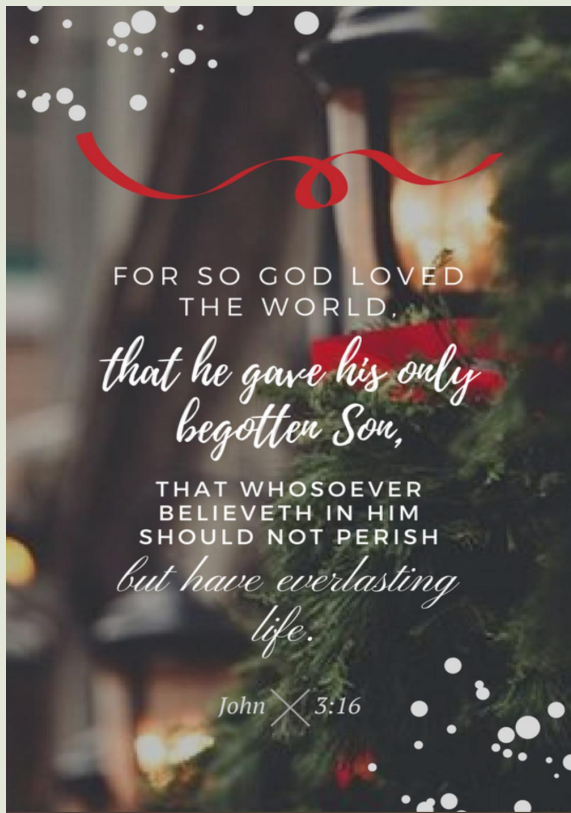
(Secretary)

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 17<sup>th</sup> December at 3.00 p.m.  
Led by Jonathan Knight  
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**

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**[www.fiveashdownchapel.org.uk](http://www.fiveashdownchapel.org.uk)**