

## Christmas 2006

To our neighbours near where we live

Dear neighbours,

Over the Christmas period we have a number of services at which you will be very welcome. On Sunday 17th December our morning service will be at 1045am (with a Christmas theme) and the afternoon service at 2pm is our Christmas carol service which families would find ideal to attend together. On Sunday 24th December our services, all with a Christmas theme, are also at 1045am and 2pm. On Christmas Day itself we hold a service (lasting about an hour) at 1030am.

With this letter comes a leaflet "Good Tidings of Great Joy". It contains all that the Bible says about the birth of Jesus in the gospels. What isn't there is what has been added by legend. It doesn't say that there were 3 kings. They are called wise men. Nor does it say there were 3 of them. There might have been; there might have been more. Only it says that they brought three kinds of gifts -gold, frankincense and myrrh. It certainly does not give their names - that really is legend.

If you read it carefully you will have at your fingertips all the recorded facts. The Bible is the core document of Christianity. It is then open to you to think about those facts (free from all the tinsel and added razzmatazz of modern Christmas time) and, we trust, put your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Without a visit to a church service and a thoughtful consideration of the Christian message your Christmas is missing its most vital element.

The leaflet also contains two prophecies foretold by Isaiah about 700 years before Christ. Of course, God knows everything He is going to do from the very beginning; and, in such an important matter as the salvation of His people, He is quite capable of revealing His purposes well beforehand, so that men and women may recognize them when they happen.

You will see that it is the old familiar version of the Bible which is used in the leaflet. The old version is a national treasure and quite the most accurate. If you heard these stories as a child it is most likely in these words that you heard them.

May the Lord, the giver of every perfect gift (James 1.17), grant you a Happy Christmas!