

# FRISTON BAPTIST CHURCH

## MILL ROAD, FRISTON, SAXMUNDHAM

### IP17 1PH

Christmas 2005

To our neighbours in Friston village.

Dear neighbours,

This year Christmas falls on a Sunday. To the ancient people of Israel that would have made it a high day. (We still use the expression in English, "high days, holidays and bonfire nights" to indicate a day of special celebration.) A high day was when one celebration (like the Passover) coincided with the Sabbath.

Actually, while there is a command in the scripture to "remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy" (Exodus 20.8) – which Christians keep as Sunday, the Lord's Day – there is no command to keep the day of the Lord's birth. To that end there is no certain knowledge of when that day was.

It is always good to remember and thank God for all good things. And what could be better than to remember the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ and all that it led to? There is nothing to stop us doing these things.

But they are not to take precedence over what the Lord has commanded. The ordinary Sunday worship takes precedence over Christmas Day. So we invite you to join with us on Christmas Day at 10.45am and/or 2pm when, as you would expect, our services will have a Christmas theme.

Our Christmas carol service, to which you are also invited, will be held the previous Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> December, at 2.30pm.

With this letter comes a calendar, which we would be delighted if you would accept with our compliments. It features a picture and a text from the Bible for each month. We hope that the texts will strike you as memorable and, perhaps, help you at some point in your life next year. We do not know what a day may bring (last year's Boxing Day brought the tsunami) and we wish one another well, but should there be a time of stress, ill-health or decision we trust that there will be something here to help and remind you of our God and Saviour the Lord Jesus Christ to whom you may turn.

Yours sincerely,