



Christmas...

As I prepare this Christmas message for the Carol Service invitation (I do hope you'll make it!) I am struggling a little to connect the joyous message of this wonderful season with the thought that very naturally is never far from my mind. Last week (Wednesday 14 November to be exact) was a life changing day for me. Every one of us experiences days like these. Mollie, my wife of 59 years and best friend for 66 years died. I was with her as the Lord said as it were, *it's time to come home now...* Very quietly she slipped from earth to heaven. I have no doubt whatever that she is radiantly happy - for God has revealed in the Bible that every person who truly believes in the Lord Jesus is secure for ever.

But - how to relate this with the joyful day Christians everywhere celebrate - Christmas? Tonight one of my 16 grandchildren is coming. We'll enjoy a lasagne together and tomorrow afternoon her sister will join us to put up the Christmas tree... it's a tradition we've had since Sarah and Claire were very young - so that their Mum and Dad could go and buy the girls' presents. The girls are now in their 20s but I am so glad the tradition continues... They will also put up other decorations including a poster that is centrepiece on the sitting room wall. It is a Christmas stable scene (amazing that our Creator should spend His first night on earth in such surroundings). This reminds us of the wonderful birth of Jesus. But there is a shadow - and it is in the form of a cross. A poignant reminder of the reason Jesus was born. This is the reason Jesus came. A beautiful hymn contains the words: *He died, that we might be forgiven, He died to make us good, that we might go at last to heaven saved by His precious blood.*

This is the message of the Bible. Our Creator, our God, became a human being, a Man, so that He could bear the punishment of all who would believe in Him. Mollie and I believed on the Lord Jesus one evening about 63 years ago. From that evening we have believed Jesus died for us. He has been our Saviour. The very name Jesus, means Saviour.

I do hope you will join us at the Carol Service or any other Sunday. We are usually only a few but I assure you that you will be made very welcome.

Happy Christmas!

George Rabey, Pastor



Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head,
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes,
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
Close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with Thee there.

You are invited to join us
for our Carol Service
at Five Ash Down Chapel
on Sunday 16th December
at 3.00 p.m.
Refreshments will follow

Five Ash Down Chapel Services

Sunday Services

are at 11.00 a.m. and 2.30 p.m.
(3.00pm on 16th & 23rd Dec)

Good News Group

Sundays 11.00 a.m. to 12 noon
(Children 3 years and over)

Prayer and Bible Study

Thursdays 7.30 p.m.

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