



15TH DECEMBER 2019

Debbie Winson writes...

Every Christmas the Bible Society publishes a booklet telling the Nativity Story, explaining why the birth of a baby 2000 years ago is significant for us today. We give them out to families when they visit church for the Christmas party or a Christmas service. There is also an animated screen version.

This year the booklet is called "With Love from GOD TO YOU". It features some conversations that God might have had with Planet Earth: (God is almighty but allows Himself to be portrayed in such a way that we can understand). In the booklet, God explains how he created a wonderful Planet Earth with people who were able to talk to Him, but they chose to reject His love and go their own way. Planet Earth groans about how people are messing up, but God explains His "AWESOME Plan" for saving the world and humankind by sending His Son, Jesus Christ, to be born into a family in a small town in the Middle East.

Paul, a follower of Jesus Christ, writes: **"We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time." We "groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for--- the redemption of our bodies." "The creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God" Romans 8 v 22, 23 and 21.**

We are planning a series of talks for evening services in Lent around the topic of our almighty and all-knowing God and the wonderful universe He has created. God has given us the ability to choose whether to ignore Him and go our own way, or to love Him and work with Him to bring His healing touch to our relationships with each other and to our environment. The series will consider both practical things, like good use of resources, climate change and managing waste, and having an attitude of awe at the magnificence of God and his gift of His Son, Jesus Christ to redeem the whole of creation.

As we wonder at the significance of the historic birth of a child who was both human and Son of God, may we also think how we can "live lightly" in God's world, respecting His creation, on Planet Earth and beyond.

Blessings, Debbie

Notices

Tuesday 17th December 7.45pm

Who Let the Blokes Out! Curry night at Shakil's. For info or to book contact Colin Arter: 07717875566

Saturday 21st December 7-9pm

Encounter meeting at Gaglebrook School.

Monday 23rd December 1pm

Thank you very much if you have signed up to help with Christingle assembly!

There is still space for more helpers so please come along to the café here at Emmanuel and join the Christingle assembly line.

Tuesday 24th December

3pm Nativity

4pm Christingle

11.30pm Midnight Communion

Wednesday 25th December

10.30am Christmas Celebration

ROTAS: If you need to check rotas please log on to Church Builder. If you need help with this or any other information about events, groups or who's who then please contact the church office. Details overleaf.

ECB DIARY

SUN 15th DECEMBER	10.30am	Informal Worship Leader: Ian Biscoe Preacher: Martha Simpson
	7.00pm	Evening Service (Refreshments at 6.30pm) Lessons and Carols Leader: Philip Wilson
TUES 17th DECEMBER	9.00am	Prayers
	7.00pm	Prayers
	7.45pm	Men's Curry Evening
WED 18th DECEMBER	8.45-12noon	Café open
	10.30am	Oasis Small Group
THURS 19th DECEMBER	8.45-12noon	Café open
FRI 20th DECEMBER	8.45-12noon	Café open
	7.00pm	Prayers
	7.30pm	Contemplative Compline
SAT 21st DECEMBER	7.00pm	Encounter at Gaglebrook School
SUN 22nd DECEMBER	10.30am	All Age Worship, Communion Leader: Erika Biscoe Preacher: Ian Biscoe
	7.00pm	Evening Service (Refreshments at 6.30pm) Preparing for Revival, prayer and soaking session Leader: Ian Biscoe

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All notices to Admin Team by 7pm Wednesday