

**BRADMORE
METHODIST CHURCH
@ THE LABYRINTH**



Dec 2017 – Feb 2018



Great blessings belong to those who want above all to do what is right, honest and fair, for they will be led by God. We pray that with His guidance we will choose the right way.

(Matthew ch.5 v.6)

Too many questions!

What if this article was just a load of questions? What if we are scared to ask questions because we are afraid to look stupid? Or afraid of the answer we will hear? What would you say if you were telling the Nativity Story this Christmas? What does it mean for God to be a tiny 6 or 7- pound baby crying for his milk? How can God be so vulnerable?

Would you focus on the mangy stable round the back of that Inn with no room? Would you call to mind the homeless on the cold streets of Nottingham and liken them to the messiah with no place to lay his head?

Would you tell the story of the family's desperate escape to Egypt to save their lives from the murderous king Herod, and compare that with the plight of asylum seekers today? Or is this all too grim - oh so worthy, but just a bit too uncomfortable?

What about Mary? What would have happened if she had not said yes to God? Have you said yes to God? Were you ever Mary in a Nativity play? Did you wish you were? Why is she the most popular one that all the children want to be? Which Mary would you talk about? The toddler Mary in the nativity play? Or the teenage mother, far too young to be a mum, a child with her own child?

Maybe the shepherds offer an easier solution? Do they call to mind happy memories of childhood nativity plays and two-year-old sheep going "baaaaah"? Or are they rejected outcasts, people forced into a cold smelly job nobody wants, then rejected by the religious establishment? Do we all sometimes feel on the edge, unwanted and rejected by others?

Would you look to the wise men? Were there three of them? Were they actually kings? Why do the carols say one thing and the bible another? Why

did the wise men look at the stars? Am I following a star? How is God guiding me? Am I comfortable with this talk of God speaking to them and God speaking to me? How does God speak to me? How does he speak to you? What does he say?

And what of, Jesus, the word made flesh? What does it mean for me and for you? Was the word with God? Is the word God? "*and to all who received him who believed in his name he gave power to be children of God*" - what does that MEAN? Why do the carols bang on about that so much? "*Where meek souls will receive him still the dear Christ enters in*", "*be born in us today*", "*born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth*" - What does it all mean?

How would you tell that story to people today? How do you understand it? Why does this story raise so many questions? And why do we hide behind the hype of Christmas ignoring these questions? Why do we pretend everything is answered? Should we?

Christmas blessings as you sit with some of the big questions in life,
Simon Rose

PUT THESE DATES IN YOUR DIARIES (including next year's!)
Christingle service in Bradmore Methodist Church, 10:15 Sunday 24th December
Christmas Morning , 10:15 25th Dec (short) service in Bradmore Methodist Church
Pancake Praise in the Community Hall on Saturday 16th February 2018
Rainbows Quiz Night in the Community Hall on Saturday 3rd March 2018

Bradmore Church calendar December

Saturday 2nd 9:45 Prayer fellowship (requests to John Randall).
10:30 Coffee, Chat & (optional) Crafts.
Sunday 3rd 10:30 Family worship at St Mary's Bunny.
Sunday 10th 10:15 Carol Service led by Rev Simon Rose.
7:00 Youth Alpha at Bradmore Methodist Church.
Saturday 16th 8:30am Prayer fellowship. 9:30-11.00 Toddler Group
Sunday 17th 10:15 Worship & Sunday School, service led by Ian Collinson
4:00 Carol service at St Mary's Bunny
Sunday 24th 10:15 Christmas Eve Christingle, all welcome,
service led by Rev Simon Rose.
Monday 25th 10:15 Christmas Day short family service led by Rev Mike Lees.
Sunday 31st 10:30 New Years Eve service at Ruddington
led by Rev Simon Rose.

January 2018

Saturday 6th 9:45 Prayer fellowship. 10:30 Coffee, Chat & (optional) Crafts.
Sunday 7th 10:30 Family worship at St Mary's Bunny.
Sunday 14th 10:15 Covenant Service, Worship & Sunday School,
service led by Rev Simon Rose
Saturday 20th 8:30am Prayer fellowship. 9:30-11.00 Toddler Group
Sunday 21st 10:15 Worship & Sunday School,
service led by Rev Marian Crawford.
Sunday 28th 10:15 Worship & Sunday School, service led by Mrs Janet Clark.

February

Saturday 3rd 9:45 Prayer Fellowship. 10:30 Coffee, Chat & (optional) Crafts.
Sunday 4th 10:30 Family worship at St Mary's Bunny.
Sunday 11th 10:15 Worship & Sunday School, service led by Douglas Kerr.
Saturday 17th 8:30am Prayer Fellowship.
9:30-11.00 Toddler Group, followed by Pancake Praise
Sunday 18th 10:15 Family Worship & Holy Communion,
service led by Rev Simon Rose.
Sunday 25th 10:15 Worship, Sunday School, service led by Paul Johns