



## **Peters Green News Sheet Issue No: 39**

**Sunday 6th December 2020**

### **'Prepare the Way of the Lord' Mark 1 : 1 – 8**

On this 2nd Sunday of Advent, the focus of our reading is preparing or getting ready. Usually it is the time of year for getting in touch and meeting up.

For many of us that would include traditional events and pre-Christmas meals with various groups of friends. I'm still in touch with a group of friends, who I was at school with nearly 60 years ago; and we always meet for a pre-Christmas lunch. But not this year.....it will have to be emails, cards and phone calls. And, of course it is the same for our usual Perry and Central get togethers.

This weekend would, usually, have included both Messy Christmas at Perry and the Seniors Christmas lunch at Central. Both are now happening in a new way. Messy Christmas craft packs for the children and special lunch packs for the 'older folk' are being delivered to homes.

Other Perry Christmas traditions will continue. We have not been able to have our usual Pre-Christmas coffee morning for 'Keech Hospice Care', but Perry Chapel friends have decided to support this charity as usual. Some of our ladies have already sent us the money they have raised, in recent months, to start our collection. If anyone wishes to join with us in contributing to Keech; just contact us.

And I'm sure, by now, you have all heard that our Perry 'Mary, Joseph and Donkey' figures are travelling round by email; with perhaps more adventures than usual to go in Donkey's diary.

Amid the fun we do remember that the journey Mary and Joseph were forced to take was, at that most worrying time of late pregnancy. They were also apart from close family and friends and the support they needed at that vital time. They travelled, obeying the Roman government's rules, but it was God's plan of salvation, that was beginning in Bethlehem as they ended their journey.

So how do we, during Advent, 'Prepare the Way of the Lord'. Our reading which opens Mark's gospel, unlike Matthew and Luke, does not begin with the birth of Jesus.

It starts with who Jesus is.....'The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God'  
(Mark 1 : 1)

He is 'Jesus', Saviour....yes that's exactly what the name means.....'because he will save his people from their sins' (Matthew 1 : 21 )

He is 'Christ', the awaited Messiah and Redeemer.....'But you Bethlehem..out of you will come .....one who will be ruler over Israel' (Micah 5 : 2)

He is the Son of God.....'the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth'.  
(John 1 : 14)

So this is the clear message the 'glad tidings' that the angels will bring to the shepherds. But, the message needs 'messengers', those who like John the Baptist will 'prepare the way for the Lord'

Our Advent hymn reminds us it is 'in our hearts' that we prepare for our Lord to come; and we pass on that message of God's love in every way we can.

May the Lord bless you during this Advent and Christmas time,

With loving blessings,

Pam

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
announces that the Lord is nigh.  
Awake and harken, for he brings  
glad tidings of the King of kings!

Then cleansed be every life from sin:  
make straight the way for God within,  
and let us all our hearts prepare  
for Christ to come and enter there.

We hail you as our Saviour, Lord,  
our refuge and our great reward.  
Without your grace we waste away  
like flowers that wither and decay.

Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,  
and make us rise to fall no more.  
O let your face upon us shine  
and fill the world with love divine.

All praise to you, eternal Son,  
whose advent has our freedom won,  
whom with the Father we adore,  
and Holy Spirit, evermore.

