

Tuckingmill Baptist Church, Camborne



December 2019

So what's *your* favourite Christmas carol? Perhaps one of the grand old ones, like *Hark! The herald angels sing*?

Not sure exactly why, but *Joy to the world!* somehow seems a slightly more modern carol to me, and perhaps with something of an American feel. Maybe it was just not particularly popular in Cornwall as I was growing up. But it has a good British pedigree, with writer Isaac Watts.

And as you may well have picked up over the years, that line "He rules the world with truth and grace" really hits the spot for me.

Not that there are no good newer ones, of course. That very recent one from the Sovereign Grace musicians, *One still night*, I

think is superb. We should be singing it just a few minutes after the first of you will have read this article, 1st December, Advent Sunday, with that repeated and concluding line "Immanuel has come to Bethlehem".

But come back to that older favourite, *Joy to the world!* I have recently been thinking a little about the line "Let every heart prepare him room", and that whole theme of preparation.

If we really went to town on the "Advent season", that word *prepare* would feature large. And actually, believer or not, December is a month in which preparation features *hugely*. We maybe use different words: we *plan* our holidays, we use the Advent Calendar or candle to count the days (or build the tension). We



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stagger our shopping ... or even stagger out of the shops *with* our shopping. Wine you can safely buy in advance, but ... when precisely do you buy the turkey? And then it becomes a matter of counting the *hours*: just when do you peel the potatoes and perhaps prepare the strangely mandatory Brussels Sprouts, when does that turkey get stuffed, how many hours does it need in the oven ... ?



All frantic preparation ... but so little of it actually clearly preparing *him*, capital H, *Him*, room.

One of the big questions, I think, about preparation, is just what is reasonable to do, based on what is reasonably foreseeable. All of this stuff about “climate change”, for example ... what is “reasonably foreseeable” about that? Is it even happening at all? Or if it is, how far will it go? Based on the huge uncertainties at this stage ... what is it reasonable (or necessary) to do?

There is that saying that there are only two things certain in life: death and taxes. No matter how radical the agenda, none of the political parties begging for our votes in a few days time would dare

suggest the abolition of taxes. You can depend on that!

Death, on the other hand, I have to at least quibble about. We are currently celebrating “Advent” - the time of arrival - and yet the Bible assures us there will be a *second* Advent. Almost the very last words in our Bibles do not merely mention it, but cry out for it: *Come, Lord Jesus*.

And believers still living at that point will bypass death. Even physical death is not a certainty! And yet, for all that we believe the Lord *shall* return, I think that most of us prepare for his *not* coming in our lifetimes, don't we?

So is Christ's return “reasonably foreseeable”, and therefore something we should be actively preparing for?

In the sense that it is certain to happen, it is far more than just reasonably likely. Our *uncertainty* relates merely to the *when* of his arrival. But even this state of uncertainty, Scripture tells us, warrants preparation: if his return marks the destruction of the old system of this world, ...

Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, ...

(2 Peter 3:11-12)

We see some people like that in the early chapters of Luke's Gospel, such as "... Simeon, ... righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, ..." (Luke 2:25).

We are not like him, in that he had been promised by God that "he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ." - though not a few Christians, over the years, have mistakenly claimed that for themselves in relation to the Lord's return.

But in the waiting for God to keep his promise, in his own good time, Simeon is a model for us.

In his delight in beholding Jesus - "your salvation", *in person* -

which is what that name Jesus means, of course - he is a model for us.



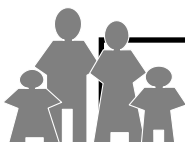
And in adopting a lifestyle which accords with such a faith in such a God, he is also a model for us.

His heart had prepared room for the coming Saviour. And out of the fulness of that godly heart, his mouth spoke.

"And every voice a song."

Won't you join in singing those grand old (and new) songs this Christmas season - as a glad demonstration that Jesus Christ is not merely Earth's King, but yours too?

Peter Ham



December / January evangelistic events

Sunday 22nd December, 6.30: Carols by candlelight
Are we there yet?

Sunday 12th January: guest service - "From here to eternity"

You can contact Peter Ham, TRBC's pastor, by phone on (01209) 212442 or (07818) 078135.

You can also e-mail peter.ham@live.co.uk, or enquiries@tuckingmillbaptist.org.uk

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Hold on, you're all saying ... this is a bit different! Well yes, but mainly a proposal about a change of format for the magazine.

Basically, it's a change which will enable us to save external printing costs for the magazine. Although it has been to simply e-mail it off for printing, and pick it up all nicely stapled and folded, I think that is a luxury that we need to cut back on at present. So rather than have an eight-page magazine that needs to be centre-stapled (something awkward and time-consuming I can't easily do at home), I thought it could be reformatted as with this month's issue.

So from now on I'm thinking that we'll have two parts to the magazine - a pull-out centre section, indeed! I know that some of you may be a bit less interested in the articles I reprint from the Net, so I'm going to move those to this central "Extra" section, along with any more in-depth editorial type articles I put together myself.

The main, outer, section will still have the rotas as the final sheet. As Lilian has just volunteered to take over coordinating these - hopefully meaning people won't end up with so many responsibilities on the same day - now would also be a good time for anyone willing to join those rotas to let her know, so that your names can be factored in next year.

However .. this being the Christmas edition, turn the page and see inside for somewhat lighter contents, this time.

Peter Ham

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QUESTIONS

(NOT ALL SERIOUS!)

- 1) When was the first ever organised Christmas Day swim?
- 2) Which monarch made the first royal Christmas broadcast?
- 3) Which Shakespeare was written as a Christmas present for Elizabeth I?
- 4) When does the Russian Orthodox Church celebrate Christmas?
- 5) In what country was eggnog invented?
- 6) What were the children drinking in the first commercially produced Christmas cards by Henry Cole?
- 7) Where does the tradition to hang gifts in the Christmas tree come from?
- 8) What ancient people started the tradition of exchanging gifts?



- 9) What colour are mistletoe berries?
- 10) Which soft drinks company is the first to have ads featuring Santa?
- 11) Which reindeer's names mean "thunder" and "lightning"?
- 12) Which US states have towns actually named Santa Claus?
- 13) Who wants to steal Christmas?
- 14) Who wrote *A Christmas Carol*?
- 15) Which Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale inspired the movie Frozen?
- 16) What 1990 movie tells the story of a boy whose house is robbed at Christmas?
- 17) What were mince pies made with, in Victorian times?
- 18) How does Santa keep track of all the fireplaces he's visited?
- 19) What order did 52% of Brits put in for Christmas dinner?
- 20) What did the Kremlin send MI6 in their Christmas hamper?
- 21) Why did Santa's little helper go in for counselling?
- 22) Why was the snowman looking through the carrots?
- 23) What did Adam say the day before Christmas?
- 24) What's a dog's favourite carol?
- 25) Why are Christmas trees very bad at knitting?
- 26) What is the best Christmas present?



ANSWERS



He keeps a Yule log book (18)
 No to Brussels (19)
 A mince spy (20)
 He suffered from low elf-esteem. (21)
 He was picking his nose (22)
 "It's Christmas, Eve." (23)
 Bark, the herald angels sing (24)
 They always drop their needles (25)
 A broken drum - you can't beat it! (26)

Christmas Day 1864 (1)
 George VI (2)
 The Merry Wives of Windsor (3)
 January 7th (4)
 England (5)
 Wine (6)
 The Druids (7)
 The Romans (8)
 White (9)
 Coca-Cola (10)
 Donner and Blitzen (11)
 Georgia, Arizona, and Indiana (12)
 The Grinch (13)
 Charles Dickens (14)
 The Snow Queen (15)
 Home Alone (16)
 Beef and spices (17)

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Sunday meetings:**10.00 a.m.****6.30 p.m. (cafe church)**

8 th December	Family service: Luke 1:5-25
15 th December	Family service: Luke 1:26-38
22 nd December	Family service: Luke 2:1-7
29 th December	Family service: Luke 2:39-52
5 th January	Colossians 1:28

Exodus 9
Exodus 10
Carols by candlelight
(no meeting)
Exodus 11-12

Other meetings:

2 nd December	10.00	Men's reading group / Ladies' Bible study
3 rd December	5.45	<i>Treasure Seekers</i>
5 th December	7.30	Prayer meeting
12 th December	10.45	Prayer meeting
14 th December	10.00	Decorate chapel
17 th December	5.45	<i>Treasure Seekers</i>
19 th December	7.30	Prayer meeting
25 th December	10.30	Christmas morning service
2 nd January	7.30	Prayer meeting



	Stewards	Recording	Teas	Flowers	Crèche	Cleaning
1 Dec	Phil	Jayden	Mike / Sue	Jenny	Marsha	Sue / Heather
8 Dec	Greg	John	Arwen / Jennifer	Sue	Sue	John / Jeanette
15 Dec	John	Ethan	Marsha / Jenny	June	Jenny	Greg / Marsha
22 Dec	Jenny	Jayden	June / Phil	Kay	Marsha	Janice / Jennifer
29 Dec	Sue	John	Heather / John	Jeanette	Sue	Peter / Jenny
5 Jan	Heather	Ethan	Mike / Sue	Marsha	Jenny	Sue / Heather
12 Jan	Phil W	Jayden	Arwen / Jennifer	Lilian	Marsha	John / Jeanette
19 Jan	Greg	John	Marsha / Jenny	Jenny	Sue	Greg / Marsha

(Cleaning is for the week *following* the stated Sunday)