



Life Church

Doncaster



December 2021

Sunday church meetings start at 10.00am and are approximately 90 minutes, with refreshments afterwards.

...with GIG for children aged 5-13 & Tiddlywinks for pre-school children.

It would be helpful if you contacted Pastor Les phone [0778 696 7025](tel:07786967025), or e-mail les@lifechurchdoncaster.co.uk in advance so that safe seating arrangements can be made.

Please observe whatever precautions are in place as we proceed.

What's on this month:

Monday 13th December 10.00-11.30am - Community Coffee Club Christmas celebration. Church Balk Gardens Community Centre.

Sunday 19th December Special Family Christmas Celebration and Carol Service 10.00-11.30am. Children will be helping tell the Nativity story.

Christmas Day Saturday 25th December 10.00-11.00am. Come and enjoy an hour's informal Christmas celebration on this special day.

There will be **no Service on Boxing Day, Sunday 26th December.**

Sunday 2nd January will be Sunday Service as normal 10.00-11.30am.



Weekly Programme

Sunday Morning Service 10.00am-11:30am With GIG for children 5-13 and Tiddlywinks for pre-school children. Contact les@lifechurchdoncaster.co.uk.

Mid-Week Life Groups usually 7.30-8.30pm. Please ask for details.

Wednesday Treasure Kids Club: 4:00-5:30pm, free for children age 5-11, term time only. Edenthorpe Community Centre, Cedric Road. Please contact: les@lifechurchdoncaster.co.uk.

Thursday Treasure Kids Club: 4.15-5.30pm, free for children age 5-11, term time only. Dentons Green Lane Assembly Hall, Kirk Sandall. Please contact: alison@lifechurchdoncaster.co.uk.

Friday Treasure Kids Club: 4.30-5.45pm, free for children age 5-11, term time only. Community Resource Centre, Stainforth. Please contact: alison@lifechurchdoncaster.co.uk.

Friday Youth Group 7.30pm for those aged 11-18, term-time only. Edenthorpe Community Centre, Cedric Road, Edenthorpe. Please contact dan@lifechurchdoncaster.co.uk for information.

Life Church (Doncaster), Community Centre, Cedric Road, Edenthorpe, Doncaster, South Yorkshire DN3 2HZ

Contact 'phone: 0778 696 7025 e-mail: info@lifechurchdoncaster.co.uk

Web sites www.lifechurchdoncaster.co.uk & www.facebook.com/lifechurchdoncaster

Life Church Doncaster is affiliated to the Assemblies of God in G.B. & Ireland

Registered Charity: 1052567

Footnote



"All who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart."

Luke 2:18-19

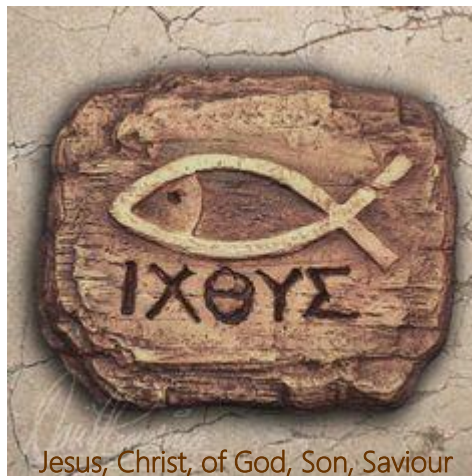
Do you recognise the baby?

Have you noticed that looking forward to a special event never makes the day come any faster, no matter how desperately you want it to? “Are we nearly there?” asked repeatedly, can apply to important longed-for events as much as long journeys to exciting destinations.

There are approximately four hundred years separating the ministry of the prophet Malachi at the end of the Old Testament and the angel’s announcement of the coming baby to John the Baptist’s father Zechariah in the New Testament. ¹ Yet the coming of the Messiah had been anticipated many centuries earlier than Malachi’s day. It is generally understood that the first reference to the coming Messiah is found in Genesis 3:15. The identity and character of the Jewish people were shaped by this future event - when God’s Deliverer, promised and anointed - would rescue and restore them to their privileged position.

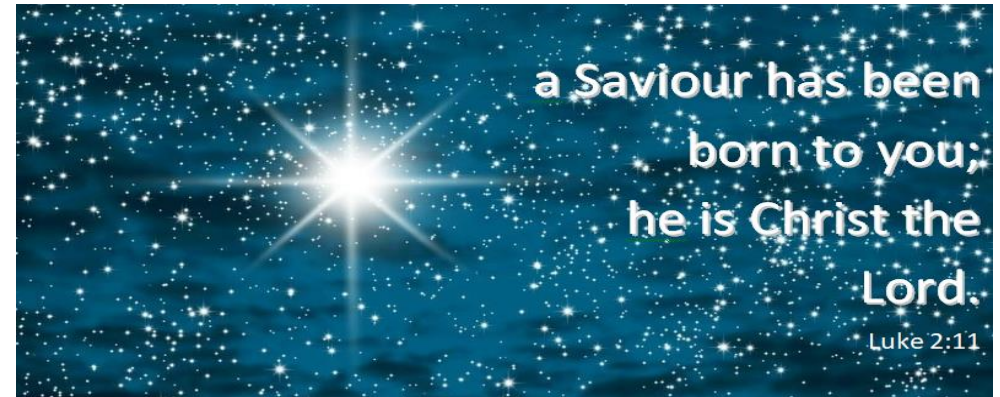
Of course, orthodox Judaism would say they are still waiting; but in the light of the Gospels and the New Testament, how did they miss it? How, after waiting so expectantly for so long, could they have failed to recognise the Messiah, the anointed Christ of God, when he arrived? Perhaps much of the problem lay in the fact that they had not understood the references in Scripture, and that they were expecting God to do it in a different way. What sort of anointed agent of God is born of a virgin girl, in a cattle shed and first received by villagers and shepherds?

Hindsight is, as we know, a wonderful thing; so let’s not discard its benefits. We have the full sixty-six books of the Bible and two thousand years of Biblical scholarship and spiritual experience to help us. Biblical studies tell us that Jesus fulfilled over forty Old Testament prophecies and his life, death and resurrection confirmed his identity as Son of God, and Saviour.



Jesus, Christ, of God, Son, Saviour

Luke records that an angel appeared to the shepherds in the fields at Bethlehem and declared, “Today in the town of David, a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah (Christ) the Lord.” ² Many others, ranging from an outcast Samaritan woman at a well ³ to Jesus’ right-hand man, Peter, asserted Jesus’ credentials as the long-awaited Saviour: ““You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”” ⁴



We may be looking forward to Christmas and willing it to come faster (or slower, if we’re still doing the Christmas shopping!) Yet, it is important that we recognise Jesus for who he truly is, both in the Christmas celebrations and in our daily living. Jesus might not fit in with our preconceived ideas of what we were expecting. He might not match any picture we had created in our minds of God’s rescue plan. The only way to grasp the truth is to open our hearts and our minds to his Word and get to know personally the Jesus who said, “If you hold to my teaching you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free.” ⁵

One man who had everything in terms of status and learning as a religious leader in Israel, the Apostle Paul, stated this : “But all these things that I once thought very worthwhile—now I’ve thrown them all away so that I can put my trust and hope in Christ alone. Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the priceless gain of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. I have put aside all else, counting it worth less than nothing, in order that I can have Christ, and become one with him, no longer counting on being saved by being good enough or by obeying God’s laws, but by trusting Christ to save me; for God’s way of making us right with himself depends on faith—counting on Christ alone.” ⁶

References: ¹ Lk. 1:13; ² Lk. 2:11; ³ Jn. 4:29; ⁴ Mt. 16:16; ⁵ Jn. 8:31-32; ⁶ Phil. 3:7-9 TLB