

December 2020

Dear friends

This Christmas will be very different for many of us this year, and yet at the heart of Christmas is the birth of a baby, a baby born in surroundings that were far from ideal. This was no ordinary baby; this was the Son of God coming to earth. His coming demonstrated and revealed God's **love** for human beings.

He came that we might know **peace** with God. The angels who appeared to the shepherds to tell them about the birth of Jesus praised God and said, 'Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.' (Luke 2:14)

He came that we might have **hope**. The hope, the assurance of a living relationship with God when we put our trust in Jesus as our Saviour – a relationship that brings new meaning and purpose to our lives, a relationship that sustains and strengthens us through life including through the changes and challenges of life. And of course, when we put our trust in Jesus, we also have the hope, the assurance of life continuing in God's presence when our life on earth comes to an end.

He came that we might have **joy**. The angel who told the shepherds about the birth of Jesus said, 'I bring you good news of great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.'

Christmas can be presented to us as being about many things but, ultimately it's about God's love and knowing the peace, hope and joy of a relationship with Him as we trust in Jesus and follow Him. May you know that peace, hope and joy at this Christmas season and in the coming days.

*Roderic*

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Please keep in touch with family, friends and neighbours as we seek to provide help and support to one another, and be 'the Church at the heart of Banbridge and Seapatrick.'

Please contact me (028 4062 2612/07933096720) or the Parish Office (028 4062 2744 /info@bchurch.co.uk) if you or someone you know is ill or would like/ requires pastoral support or help.