

### Me and my Bible verses.

'During the lockdown, I felt quite alone as I had been used to being at work in a secondary school with people around me to talk to. I'd also been used to having my mum to stay for two or three days each week to help me to look after my two adopted children. My children are behind emotionally and academically due to their past trauma; a few years ago, I went through an acrimonious divorce and things are still difficult for me in that relationship.

'I found it very challenging home-schooling my children, working from home and looking after the children alone without being able to go out to places and not having my mum's support or someone nearby to support me when things were stressful.

'I felt very isolated, but my faith grew during this time through other people in God's family. I enjoyed the extra time that I had with my children to be able to talk to them more about God and Jesus and to look at some areas of the Bible with them. I bought a worship CD which we listen to and sing to in the car and I started reading the

I also began listening to a Christian radio station which helped me to understand the Bible more.

'The verse that has resonated with me most strongly since the lockdown is Jeremiah 9.24, which says, "I am the Lord who practises steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD." This verse brings me comfort as it reminds me that our God is good and he looks after all who turn to him.'



### **'Wed 'Carols in the Car Park'**

*An open air experience of celebrating Christmas joining with our neighbours and even maybe sharing some of the 'open air' experience of the first Nativity!?* Perhaps it will remind us that the first Nativity as not warm, cosy and comfortable!

*It could be cold!! Wrap up warm!!*

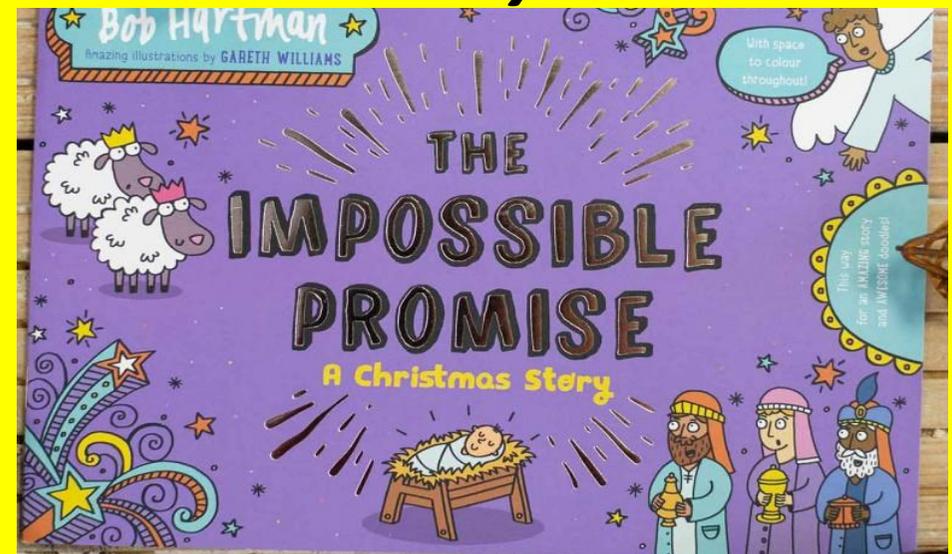
# Whitchurch Baptist Church

## Sunday December 19th



### An exciting DIY Nativity!

## Fourth Sunday in Advent



**Minister: Rev Jack Walker.**

**Secretary: June McCaughren**

**Treasurer: Laura Ivey**

**Leadership Team: Adam Stacey. John McCaughren. John Hadley.**

## What's on this week:-

**Monday 10.30am** Ladies Meet Together

**Wednesday 22nd Dec 6.30pm**

**Carols in the Car Park.**

**Christmas Day 10.30am**

Family celebration for Christmas!

**Please note: No service on 26th**

*If you fancy attending a Carol Service,  
Basingstoke Baptist would welcome you!*



## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent.

The fourth Sunday of Advent in 2021 will be on Sunday, December 19th.

Advent is the season in which believers eagerly anticipate the celebration of Christ's birth. Reading, prayer, and reflection are ways we can cultivate a sense of holy anticipation this Advent. The fourth Sunday of Advent we meditate on the **peace** that Jesus brings our hearts and our world. Scripture is the place we can find the promises of God. Let us meditate on these truths and allow them to comfort our hearts this Advent season!

**2 Thessalonians 3:16 says, "Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way.**

**The Lord be with all of you."**

This week we focus our hearts on the "Lord of peace" who came down from heaven in the form of a baby. God knows that we are in a constant battle against fear! Fear wants to cripple us, to push us to react rather than carefully respond, and fear steals our joy. God has given us the gift of peace so we can live joy-filled lives!

## Carols and their stories

### Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

"Hark the herald angels sing" reached its holiday prominence by a circuitous route. The tune, which originally had nothing to do with Christmas, was composed in 1840 by Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847), as the second movement of his *Festgesang or Gutenberg Cantata*. Mendelssohn composed this work for the Leipzig Gutenberg Festival, celebrating the 400th anniversary of the invention of the printing press. Mendelssohn's cantata, for male chorus and brass ensemble, was sung at the unveiling of Leipzig's new statue of Johannes Gutenberg. I suspect you can hear the music in your head as you read the tune's original refrain: "Gutenberg, du wackerer Mann, du stehst glorreich auf dem Plan!" "*Gutenberg, you valiant man, you stand glorious on the square!*" Mendelssohn hoped to publish his Gutenberg tune with English words, but he couldn't find a text to suit him. In a 1843 letter to Edward Buxton, one of his English music publishers, he explained: "*If the right [words] are hit at, I am sure that the piece will be liked very much by singers and hearers, but it will never do to sacred words...*" In 1847, Mendelssohn directed the London premiere of his oratorio *Elijah*, and one of the alto choirboys was one William Cummings. Little did Mendelssohn know that in the 1850s, Cummings would be the one to attach his Gutenberg tune to a decidedly sacred poem entitled "Hymn for Christmas-Day," from *Hymns and Sacred Poems* (1739) by Methodist writer Charles Wesley (1707-1788), the first line of which is, of course,

**Hark! The herald angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King.  
Peace on earth and mercy mild  
God and sinners reconciled  
Joyful all you nations rise  
Join the triumph of the skies  
With the angelic host proclaim  
Christ is born in Bethlehem**

***Hark! the herald angels sing  
Glory to the new born King!***

**.....born to give them second birth**

**Hark! the herald angels sing  
Glory to the new born King!**

