

Methodist Manse, 2 Balmoral Avenue, Whitehead
Christmas 2014

"And there were in the same country children keeping watch over their stockings by the fireplace. And lo! It was said unto them 'Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy that is for all people who can afford them. For there will be given great feasts of turkey, stuffing and cake; and many presents; and this shall be a sign unto you, ye shall find the presents, wrapped in bright paper, lying beneath a tree adorned with tinsel, coloured balls and lights."

And suddenly, there will be with you a multitude of relatives and friends, praising you and saying, 'thank you so much, it was just what I wanted' And it shall come to pass as the friends and relatives have gone away to their own homes, the parents shall say to one another, 'What a mess to clean up! I'm tired, let's go to bed and pick it up tomorrow. Thank goodness, Christmas only comes once a year!' And then go with haste to their cold bed and find their desired rest."

Year after year, Christmas comes around and yet the majority of people never give a second thought to the only reason we have Christmas to begin with. God, because He loved the world so much: came into the world, put on human flesh, and he even started out the same way you and I did, yet far too many people don't ever take the time to go and see this king -- to bow down and worship him

Henri Nouwen once said; "I realized that songs, good feelings, beautiful liturgies, nice presents, big dinners, and many sweet words do not make Christmas. Christmas is saying 'yes' to something beyond all emotions and feelings. Christmas is saying 'yes' to a hope based on God's initiative, which has nothing to do with what I think or feel. Christmas is believing that the salvation of the world is God's work, and not mine."

May this Christmas Season be a time of blessing for you and yours. May you know the peace of the Child of Bethlehem, Jesus Christ the Prince of Peace. And may 2015 bring the fulfilment of your hope and faith in Him.

With every good wish for God's blessings on you,
And with love from our home to yours;

Gary, Susan, John and James

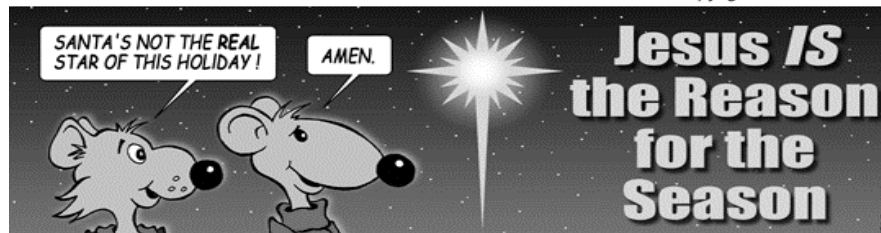


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Church Mice

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Sunday 14 December

10.30 am	Whitehead Worship	Rev G Millar
12.00 pm	Islandmagee Worship With Mince Pies & Punch from 11.45 am	Rev G Millar

Sunday 21 December

10.30 am	Whitehead Carol Service	Rev G Millar
12.00 pm	Islandmagee Carol Service	Rev G Millar

Thursday 25 December

Christmas Day Family Services		
9.30 am	Islandmagee MC	Rev G Millar
10.30 am	Whitehead MC	Rev G Millar

Sunday 28 December

10.30 am	Whitehead Worship	Mr K Stewart
12.00 pm	Islandmagee Worship	Mr K Stewart

Wednesday 31 December

Watchnight Service by Candle Light		
11.15 pm	Whitehead MC	Rev G Millar

Sunday 4 January 2015

Covenant Service & Holy Communion		
10.30 am	Whitehead MC	Rev G Millar
12.00 pm	Islandmagee MC	Rev G Millar

'Listen! The virgin shall conceive a child! She shall give birth to a Son, and he shall be called "Emmanuel" (meaning "God is with us").' Matthew 1:23 (Living Bible)