



Maranatha

“Come Lord Jesus”

‘For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night’ 1 Thess. 5:2

On Thursday afternoon, I found time to spend two hours helping deliver the St Paul’s Christmas flyers around the parish. It is not a job I particularly enjoy if I am honest, but pleased I did it, because having those delivered meant most of the flyers have gone out in time for our first Christmas event. Thank you to all those other people who have helped with deliveries at St Paul’s and St Barnabas.

Speaking of Christmas events...in our services last Sunday and this Sunday our readings have been recalling the ministry of John the Baptist. He had a particular role to play within God’s story. He was to announce God’s coming to the earth, but also that this meant people should prepare their hearts for Him. What was interesting about this role, was that he performed it with a real sense of urgency - *“Repent, for the Kingdom of God is at hand!”* - and people listened and responded to that message and were baptised by him in readiness for Jesus’ coming.

During this season of Advent this as well as remembering God’s coming to earth as a baby, we are reminded that God is coming again. Of course, the problem we have is we do not have this in our diaries, indeed Christians have been awaiting this second coming for nearly 2,000 years. But as 1 Thessalonians 5:2 reminds us (above) we are not going to know when this return will be until it happens.

So what!?

If we have faith in Jesus then, to varying degrees, we are ready for that moment. However, we all know people who are not in that position. And although, unlike John the Baptist, Christians do not have an eternally ordained role to proclaim that the Messiah is coming to earth, we do all have a divine calling to share the Good News of Jesus and that He is coming again. And there is such Good News to share - John 3:16 *“For god so loved the World that He gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”* But also in Jesus, we find: peace; joy; love; and fullness of life now, but also for the life to come. As with our flyer deliveries they needed to be in time for our events, I wonder whether our Christmas challenge can be to embrace the urgency of John the Baptist to announce the Good News of Jesus to those we know, as we pray, *“Maranatha - Come Lord Jesus!”*

God bless

Paul