

Roger's Christmas Prayer Letter and Diary

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to Him in a dream and said 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save His people from their sins'. *Matthew 1:20-21*

May we wish you all a Christ-centred Christmas and a blessed New Year. Thank you once again for all your prayers and support during this past year. It has been a challenging time as much change has happened and continues to happen. However, we rejoice in the faithfulness of the Lord as we continue seeing people coming to faith and lives changed forever. Any change is unsettling and it is interesting to reflect the number of times 'Do not be afraid' or 'Fear not' appear in verses throughout the Bible. It also appears in the Christmas story as the Kingdom of God enters into our world in the form of God's son Jesus Christ to bring hope for all in our world, especially those who honour Him as Saviour and Lord. Joseph was rightly concerned about Mary and the child Jesus, but a supernatural intervention of an Angel of the Lord in a dream gave him courage to accept and believe what he had been told. We need that same Holy Spirit and supernatural intervention in people's lives around us this Christmas, that many may truly accept and believe that Jesus is Saviour of all.

We have settled back into life at Seaford Baptist Church (SBC) and I have been preaching there recently. I have also been working alongside Sara the youth worker in Newhaven speaking at the open youth club on Thursdays and at Sunday youth services. It is hard and challenging work but we have seen some young people make responses to faith and others grow in their faith. The forming of the new Youth for Christ is giving us more ideas and resources in a very needy area.

I have been speaking in various missions this Autumn; Bexhill, Darby Green near Camberley, Eglinton, NI and Cudham and Downe near Bromley Kent – please see following mission reports.

'Anchor of Hope' Mission at Living Word Church, Bexhill from 14-18 Sep.

This was a 5 day mission and about a quarter of the church teamed up with TFM members to do D2D with a 4-question survey. Around 16 folk made responses and there was very positive feedback. The events were well attended and it concluded with a Thanksgiving Service on the Sunday.

The follow-up went well and the church is energised to continue the work of planning another mission next May.

Harvest Hope Mission at St Barnabas, Darby Green from 29 Sept-2 Oct

This was the fourth outreach period in two years as we continue the partnership with St Barnabas. We had a team of 7 regulars returning and this was the first mission since Rev Mike Saunders has moved on. It was good to see people who had become Christians on previous missions growing in their relationship with God.

The D2D was very good as usual. The Quiz night at the pub did not attract any particular outside guests but as I shared my story, many others in the pub listened and there followed some great conversations. At the Urban Saints youth outreach about 7 teenagers responded to a call to follow Christ which was great. At the men's breakfast 4 men responded to Christ, including 2 outside guests who also received prayer ministry. At the folk evening there were not many invited guests but many were moved to respond more deeply to Christ.

At the Harvest service there were mainly locals attending but three responded including one lady for the first time who had been visited a few days before. As part of the follow up an Alpha course was arranged.

'Knock Knock', St Canice, Eglinton, near Derry, NI. from 15-23 Oct 2016

Jim Fleming and I had a wonderful week with Rev Paul Hoey during the 'Knock knock' week of outreach in Eglinton. We were joined midweek by Paul Woodman, the escapologist and illusionist from Southampton and we saw a great response from both the church and wider community with over 150 adult commitments to Christ plus many younger children. At most of the events we often had many different people from the community attending.

Some highlights;

- The first Sunday evening 'Songs of Praise' was particularly good with a local primary school choir singing and supported by parents.
- The healing service was significant for many answered prayers and some coming to faith.
- The Dads' and Lads' night brought 30 men and 30 teenage lads together with many responding to Christ.
- A country and western concert proved popular and I spoke after 'Elvis !'
- Paul Woodman's show was attended by over a 100 people with many responses.

It was a great week and the follow-up included an Alpha Course which was well attended, with the Sunday school leaders picking up the younger children. Please pray for Rev Paul Hoey and his team for the onward journey of the church.

'Alive to Life' mission, Cudham and Downe from 6-13 Nov

This mission led by David Culhane and team in Cudham and Downe went really well. The team worked very hard especially on the doors where they were well received. Please pray for John Musson, the minister, and the follow up. There were around 30 responses plus others from the doors

Last Sunday I spoke at both Christmas services at SBC and there was a good response from young and old alike with many making commitments to Christ so we praise the Lord.

To date I have four missions lined up in England for 2017 with many dates to be arranged. I will be mentoring Jim Fleming, our new evangelist, who commences work on 1 April in Ireland with two thirds of his time as a church planter and a third of his time will be taken up with leading missions as he gets established in Ireland.

Some good news is that all the family are planning to visit us in the UK from NZ and Canada on 7 April to 5 May so we look forward to that.

Family News

This Christmas is particularly challenging at home with Jill having had a knee replacement op on 13 Dec and will have to have the other one replaced next year. She is home now, recovering well and getting around fine, but her warfarin blood levels still need to rise to a safe place.

Diary

Jan

- 8 Speaking at Youth service , NEWHAVEN
- 12 Speaking at Youth Club, NEW
- 15 Speaking at youth group, NEW
- 17 TFM Staff meeting, CAMBRIDGE
- 22 Preaching in Fairlight near HASTINGS

Feb

- 5 Preaching at SBC, in the morning. Speaking at Youth service ,NEWHAVEN – eve.
- 12 Speaking at youth group, NEW
- 23 Speaking at Youth Club, NEW

March

- 5 Speaking at youth group, NEW
- 16 Speaking at Youth Club, NEW
- 18 Meeting of YFC NEWHAVEN
- 19 Speaking at youth group, NEW

April

- 16 Preaching on Easter Day at SBC