



*He came
down to
Earth
from
Heaven*



Dear friends and neighbours

From riches to rags and rags to riches

This year has been marked by a number of elections – the General Election in the UK and the Presidential Election in the USA to name but two. One of the items that features strongly in such elections is the economy. We are constantly told, with varying degrees of exaggeration, how poor we will be under the opposing Party and how much wealthier we will be under their own Party. Wild, empty and fairy-tale promises are made.

All this reminds me of a real and deeper ‘poverty and riches’ story, which is especially highlighted at Christmas time – of one who deliberately chose to give up all his riches for rags, all for the sake of others. How aptly this is encapsulated in a Bible verse –

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich (2 Corinthians 8:9).

This verse describes the incredible truth that Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, gave up all the riches of heaven to come to this earth to be born as a baby in Bethlehem. How well this is expressed in the carol

‘Once in royal David’s city’. The second verse starts:

He came down to earth from heaven

who is God and Lord of all.

Then thirty three years later he gave his life on a cross. He did not do this to deal with a financial debt but to deal with a gigantic spiritual debt – the mountain of our offences against God.

I once received a Christmas card which I treasure. Inside were the words ‘He came to pay a debt he didn’t owe because we owed a debt we couldn’t pay.’ It is because of his death in the place of others that anyone who turns in repentance and faith to Jesus Christ will find forgiveness for all their sin and is freed from deserved condemnation. Truly, this is to have the IOU slate wiped completely clean!

The Bible verse quoted above ends ‘that you through his poverty might become rich’ – the blessings of God’s salvation for time and eternity. This is a real rags to riches story and thankfully it is no empty promise or fairy-tale! Don’t reject it. Rather, my prayer is that you will know this incomparable reality for yourself this Christmas time.

David Levell

Minister of Reeth Evangelical Congregational Church

Reeth Evangelical Congregational Church

You are warmly invited to join us at our

Christmas Events

Saturday 14th December,

10am-noon Coffee & Carols

Wednesday 18th December

7pm Carols by Candlelight

Sunday 22nd December

11am Morning service

Tuesday 24th December

7pm Informal Christmas Eve Carols

Wednesday 25th December

11am Christmas Day Service

Contact 07582 575815

www.reethecc.co.uk