



It's a Boy!

Isaiah 9:6-7

New baby – hands up who's had one in their family this past year. I've just had a new great-nephew – Tom – born in the Royal Gwent Hospital in Newport in a high tech maternity department.

Babies – need to get all the things – cot, pushchair, bottles, clothes. If you're lucky you get handed down stuff. The problem is that you can't get some stuff unless you know what you were going to get. These days of course you can find out - did you know what you were going to get? Mary – was told she was going to have a boy – in fact it was already written about in the Bible

Isaiah 9:6 For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 His government and its peace will never end. He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David for all eternity. The passionate commitment of the Lord of Heaven's Armies will make this happen!

Christmas – it's that time of the year we celebrate the birth of Jesus yet it was foretold hundreds of years before Jesus was born – pity nobody had told her before she got a visit from an angel!

But wow! He was going to be a great man and get a whole load of titles. Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. They're interesting titles – because they're all things that God is called. This is how Jesus is described in the Bible:

John 1:1 In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. ... 14 So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son.

So was he born in a huge palace to a king? We know where he was born – amongst the animals in a stable - not the best place. A maternity hospital like the one Tom was born in would have been better – but they hadn't been invented! . A nice warm house would have been OK but his parents were poor and a long way from home.

So God entered the world as Jesus – born as an ordinary person, in an ordinary town, to ordinary people. True that the circumstances were a bit unusual. Not many babies have a feeding trough as their first cot!

So what was the idea of God becoming an ordinary person? So that he could encounter us and to make a way that we can encounter God.

Meeting God? Perhaps you don't associate Christmas with meeting God. But at Christmas we celebrate how God met us. Jesus came, lived and died so that he could open a way by which we can know God. And many of us here this evening know him.

And knowing Jesus isn't just something in our head – Jesus is involved in every part of our lives – sees us through the stresses and strains of life, changes things that we thought couldn't be changed, given us hope, filled up something that was missing in our lives.

If you want to know more, then speak to one of us – or why not come to the services this Christmas and find out more?