

The Christmas Tree



AS YOU PREPARE FOR worship, we invite you to look at our Christmas tree, which we hope brings peace and joy to our sanctuary.

The tree is an evergreen to remind us that God's love is available to us for ever, and the small white lights remind us that Christ comes as the light of the world, which the darkness can never overcome.

Each of the symbols tells a bit of the story of Christmas and challenges us each to think what it means for us here today in... (place name).

The Star

It guided the wise men on their journey at the first Christmas and asks each of us today, "Which star are you following?"

The Angel

They are always the messengers – first to Mary, then Joseph, then to the shepherds and they brought the Good News.

We too are asked to bring Good News – to be God's angels.

Who needs to hear this today and how might we bring the news of the Gospel to the lonely or bereaved or homeless this Christmas?

The Crook

This has two immediate meanings: firstly, the reminder of the shepherds who responded to the message and secondly that Jesus called himself the Good Shepherd. God still calls each one of us and the choice of response is ours.

The Crown

In some Christmas stories, we talk of the three Kings from the East and the crown reminds of their journey- and ours -to find the Saviour. Jesus was prophesied to be King of Kings and the crown points to his majesty.

Again at this time of year we can reflect on who holds power? Who are the weak? Whom do we serve?

The Crib Scene

The crib is at the heart of the Christmas story and too often romanticised. Think again what it would be like to give birth in a cattle shed, in the cold and without help, or to be an illegitimate child of young parents.

