

MAY YOU EXPERIENCE THE PEACE OF CHRIST THIS CHRISTMAS!

Greetings from everyone at Christ Church, Bangkok.

*Like your landlord becoming your lodger
Like your managing director up before you for an interview
Like Beethoven queuing up for a ticket to his own concert
Like a headmaster getting the cane
Like a good architect living in a slum built by a rival
Like Picasso painting by numbers –
God lived among us.
(From Rhinoceros, by Simon Jenkins)*

It's such a well-known story – the best-known story in the world. We have heard it a thousand times before. We sing the carols; they are played at us incessantly wherever we go; we dress our children up in tea-towels, and get them to act it out, to the strains of Little Donkey and Away in a Manger; we exchange cards and gifts and make plans to mark the big day.

Such a well-known story!

But do we take it seriously? If I was given 20 Baht for every time someone has said to me, "Christmas is for the children", I could have retired long ago.



The cast of the 2025 Church Church Nativity story

Pause a moment, and ponder upon the wonder of this story. The reality of the Incarnation – God assuming human life – is so utterly breathtaking that it takes some believing. Small wonder that it took the church several centuries to express in words what exactly it means for Jesus the Messiah, the Christ, God's Anointed One, to be both completely human and completely divine.



And that's why we sing with great gusto:

**God of God, Light of Light,
Lo he abhors not the Virgin's womb.
Very God, begotten no created.
O come let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!**

These words that come straight from the Nicene Creed, 1700 years old this year, remain the benchmark of Christian orthodoxy.

The wonder of the Incarnation! Praise God – it is for the children, but it's for the adults as well! If this story is true – and there is plenty of evidence that it is true – then it must surely lead all of us to consider “Why”? Why did he come? And what does this mean for me, living in the 21st century?

Undoubtedly, God does call us to have a child-like faith, but He doesn't want us to have a childish faith. He wants us to understand the full meaning of the Incarnation. Consider the story; enjoy the story; and then believe the story.

“To all those who did receive him, to those who called upon his name, he gave the right to become the children of God” (John 1:12).



What a promise! Jesus came to call us to believe in him and to draw us into God's family. We must allow this child of Bethlehem to grow up and become Jesus our Saviour and Deliverer. Christmas is just the opening scene of the story that leads to the cross and the empty tomb. As we faithfully say in church every week:

**Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

This Christmas, marvel again at the wonder of the Incarnation. Receive the Good News that this story brings. But remember that the story doesn't stop when the wise men go home.

Allow Jesus the man to be your Saviour and your Lord!

“O come to my heart, Lord Jesus. There is room in my heart for you.”

*May the babe of Bethlehem bring you peace;
May the child of Nazareth bring you joy
May the man of Galilee bring you strength;
May the Christ of Calvary bring you courage;
May the risen Jesus bring you hope;
and the ascended Christ a foretaste of his glory.*

Revd. Tim Eady

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News from Christ Church

As one interim vicar hands over to another, we give thanks for God's faithful provision for Christ Church and delight in the continuing growth of the church. It is a real joy and privilege for me to have the opportunity to come back and serve at Christ Church again for a few months but we pray with confidence that, in His perfect timing, a permanent vicar will soon be appointed.

Although the congregation has naturally changed since 2019, it is a joy to be back amongst old friends, and to be making new friends. Christ Church truly is a special and rewarding place in which to minister.

We also give thanks for the church building itself — so familiar, and well loved by many people who have met with God here. As we look ahead, significant repairs and renovations will be needed over the coming years, including work to the structure, roof, and gutters. The scale of this task is considerable, and we trust that God will provide wisdom, resources, and generosity as plans develop in the New Year.

Christ Church has stood on its present site since 1905, and is a visible and living Christian witness to the city and beyond. We pray that our generation will faithfully steward both the ministry and the building, ensuring that Christ Church continues to serve, bless, and proclaim the gospel for many generations to come.

And let's never forget that the church is people! We are God's family in this place. We have been delighted to appoint Evelyn as a new Children's Worker. She has oversight of our work amongst young people on Sunday mornings, and also for the midweek Tiny Tots Playgroup. She has quickly settled into her new role and brought much enthusiasm to her work. Please pray for Evelyn as we give thanks for our children's work and the many volunteers in the team that she leads.



Evelyn meets a welcome guest at Tiny Tots.

So what is Confirmation?

Confirmation offers you the opportunity to re-confirm your baptismal promises. It is especially important if you were baptised as a baby, and would like to make a full, adult, declaration of faith. But anyone who has been baptised can be Confirmed, and many people find it to be a significant milestone in their journey of discipleship. The Bishop will be with us for this occasion on May 3rd. If you think that Confirmation could be for you, speak to Revd. Tim.

And more learning opportunities: the Alpha Course offers an excellent introduction to the Christian faith. It explores many of the questions that we have about faith, including *Who is Jesus? Why did Jesus die? What about the Holy Spirit? How to pray and read the Bible.* Alpha is for anyone who want to know more about Christianity. Our next Alpha Course will begin on February 1st,



meeting over lunchtime, and you are invited. Oh, and you'll get a really good lunch as well! Please tell the church office if you would like to attend.

And don't neglect to read your Bible! Maybe you could make a Resolution to read the Bible daily in 2026? As a way of understand the Bible, we will be embarking upon a 20 week Bible reading plan, on January 4th. If you would like details of this scheme, with daily notes to help, please send an email address to Revd. Tim, and he will be pleased to include you.



Well, you can never please everyone!

Meanwhile, have a very peaceful and thoughtful Christmas.

Revd. Tim.
vicar@christchurchbangkok.org
(your latest interim vicar)

