



You know, when I first met Mary, I thought she was just the best – pretty, quiet, and reliable, and a more caring person you couldn't find; I was on top of the world when we got engaged. So, in a way, my whole world collapsed when she told me she was pregnant. Mary said that the angel Gabriel had told her the baby was the gift of the Holy Spirit and not of any man, but all this seemed a right story to me.

What was I to do? I felt hurt and let down I could see no future with Mary. But I couldn't reject her – there would be a big fuss, the whole village would be full of it, and she would be thrown out and left to fend for herself. How would she manage? – a disgraced, unmarried woman with a child on the way would be given no help. I thought the best way for both of us would be to carry on in the meantime. Then at the right time we could part company. Maybe even we could get married and I would then exercise the right of every Jewish man to divorce his wife, without having to explain. It would all need to be kept quiet. That way Mary would at least be able to stay in the village and bring up the child with the support of her family, and I would be free.

All these things were going over in my mind - I wasn't sleeping well and I started having these weird dreams. The weirdest of all you couldn't make up! - Gabriel only came and told me that Mary was telling the truth! I was told to on and marry her and that the baby was special and was to be called Jesus. Well, that set my mind at rest and I thought the turmoil was over.



Not a bit of it! For a start Jesus arrived when we were away in Bethlehem for the census. We were late and ended up in a stable. I thought maybe the angel Gabriel could have arranged something better in the way of accommodation, but the child arrived safe enough. Soon shepherds burst in, telling us that an angel told them that the Saviour was to be born in a stable, and we all celebrated the birth.



After all this we got a bit of peace for a period, but then great and clever men from out East came to look for Jesus. They followed a star for many months to find a new King – and they said it was Jesus. They brought expensive gifts - myrrh and frankincense and gold – we'd never seen the like. But blow me, that very night an angel warned me that Herod was planning to kill our

Jesus. He told us to go to Egypt and stay there until he told me what to do next – I thought he was taking a few liberties, but you don't really argue with an angel!

Anyway, off we went to Egypt and - it wasn't easy, us being strangers. Then Gabriel popped up again and told me Herod had died. Great, I thought, maybe now we can go home, but Gabriel had other ideas. He said, to be on the safe side, we had to return up North to a village called Nazareth in Galilee and settle down there; so off we went. Jesus is growing up to be a fine young lad. Indeed, Mary and I have never seen a youngster like him, but then we know he's special. What he'll do when he is older, I couldn't begin to guess but I am sure it'll be wonderful!



Joseph. a.k.a. **Dr Alan Bell**, Local Preachers' Tutor

(Joseph's story is told in the Gospels of both Matthew and Luke)



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Worshipping Together

Please see the [Circuit Plan](#)

for this Month's in person services.

(NB: some Covid-safe procedures are still in place)



An invitation from Arthur and Jackie Faulkner (BSMC)

Thanksgiving Service for the life of Alison Gaines

(née Faulkner)

As we were unable to attend the funeral service in France last September, we are holding a thanksgiving service at:

Boston Methodist Church on Thursday 23rd December 2021 at 2.00^{pm}

Our grandchildren, Daniel & Hannah be joining us, as will Stephen and Karen along with our other two grandchildren, Kirsten & Annabel from Australia, all of whom will be with us for Christmas.

We do hope that you will be able to join us in person, but if this is not possible, the service will be available on Zoom from around 1.50pm

<https://zoom.us/j/93875612497?pwd=MTZ0YVpQVidDeGxXenNxQTE0akdDQT09>

Meeting ID: 938 7561 2497 Passcode: 148998

Situations Vacant

The Circuit has several vacancies for Circuit Officers either current or for the next Church year.

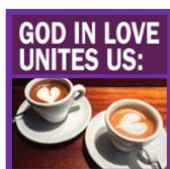
Circuit Safeguarding Officer (asap)

Circuit Data Protection and Compliance Officer (asap)

2 x Circuit Stewards (from September 2022)

Circuit Treasurer (from September 2022)

If you are interested, or would like to know more about these roles please speak to Revd Ann Fox or Janet Griffin (Senior Steward)



We are holding a Circuit Information Evening
Tuesday 18 January, at Boston Spa, 7pm for 7.30pm
for **Church Council Secretaries** and **Church Stewards** only
God in Love Unites Us - Next Steps

If you have something you wish to highlight/advertise in the January issue of

'Being Church' (published 9th January 2022)

Please send to Rev Steve by Friday 31st December. Thank You. rev.stevejay@gmail.com