

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2021

Luke 2:15

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

When they had heard this what choice did the shepherds have? Ignore the message or say we are poor shepherds we do not have nice clothes to go and visit this special event but no they decided right away and said, "Let's go quickly and see this thing for ourselves."

How quickly do we respond to the messages we receive a message from God through his Holy Spirit? We have to act like the shepherds and respond quickly or miss out totally. Luke's gospel tells us, "They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger. After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child. All who heard the shepherds' story were astonished".

We have the gift of the knowledge of what happened through the shepherds, and just like them we need to give out the message of hope given as a special gift to us from God. It is a message of hope and there are many who are at this time of Christmas not in good places i.e. out of work, worried about finances, hurting and grieving losses. We need to be with them helping giving them hope through the Baby Jesus's birth, supporting them through the sad times. Jesus was born to give us hope and to forgive us and we may, by supporting the hurting people, give them the hope of Jesus walking along side and carrying them when needed. They do not need to be afraid. There is someone who is greater than all of us. We have been given the saviour of us all in such a small baby yet born a King for us.