

Hurst Green
25th Dec 19
Christmas
Luke 1:67-79

So the day has arrived – the day I have been encouraging you to get excited about. Excited about the real reason for Christmas.

Over the last few weeks we have looked at various things that should get us excited despite knowing the story so well.

It was all part of God's plan and God's timing which is why he could send the message via the prophets hundreds of years before the first Christmas day. Last Sunday we heard some of those prophecies from Isaiah.

God did that so that Israel would live in a state of expectation and by the time Christ came they were.

Remember Zechariah had gone into the Holy of Holies and met with an angel – he came out struck dumb. People noticed that – the whole of the temple Hierarchy will have noticed that! The temple was all atwitter!

Then we have angels appearing to poor girls and prophecies given about virgin births.

And then the birth of John the Baptist and Zechariah is able to speak praising God for what he had done.

And he burst into that wonderful prophesy we had as our reading prophesying both about Jesus and the part his son will play in fulfilling all these prophesies.

And then before that we have this lovely verse

Luke 1:65 (ANIV)

⁶⁵ *The neighbours were all filled with awe, and throughout the hill country of Judea people were talking about all these things.*

Now don't under estimate this. This is an area about 150 Km by 75 Km.

Here to Brighton is about 64Km.

So we are talking about an area from Brighton to Cambridge and across to the coast. Throughout that area the people were talking.

We have no idea how many people lived in that area at that time but they were all talking.

So we have Jerusalem and all the hill country talking about these events.

This was no secret – that line in the carol “How silently, how silently” does not ring true when you read the bible.

It's like that famous first line “Silent night” – Hang on we have the sky full of choirs of angels – how noisy not how silently.

Then we have Bethlehem full of people for the census each of which will go home with a story to tell.

The Shepherds hurrying off from their fields to “*see this thing which has happened, which the Lord has told us about*”.

They then spread the word – they didn’t care that it was night time, they were going to tell.

The birth of Jesus was no quiet event sneaked upon the world so that no-one would notice.

God had spent a year sending angels and stirring the people up so that they would be ready for this great event. No one was meant to miss this first coming just as no one will miss the second coming.

All of Israel will be stirred by this so that even Herod becomes concerned after the Wise Men visit.

Everyone knew that Jesus had arrived.

That is why we are excited at this season and every one need to know why we are excited because it is so different from why most of our society is excited.

We know the real reason and need to spread the word.

Go out and be excited but always be ready with an answer for the curious.