

## Church Christmas Newsletter - The Colours of Christmas!

### Grey

The first Christmas had all the makings of being Grey and dreary. A young couple with a mysterious unplanned pregnancy are ordered to travel from their home in Nazareth to Bethlehem for a census by the Romans. They are forced into makeshift accommodation, and the child enters the world in a stable. So far – So bad.

### Gold

But into this drab and grey scene comes a vibrant light – that of angels. Up on the hills above Bethlehem the night sky is suddenly lit up. Not a comet of dazzling supernova but a choir of angels. The poor terrifying shepherds on the hill are told, “Do not be afraid. I bring you news of great joy. It is for all the people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord.” So the glorious golden news of the first Christmas is that God entered his world and walked with us. So the good news is that God is not hard to find. He has taken the initiative and been born a man. He invited us to examine him and make up our minds about who he really is.

### Purple

But there is more to this wonderful news and that is Jesus is also the King. The name Christ is not a surname but means “God's chosen King”. The wise men with their gifts for a King underline this.

### Red

But Jesus never lived as a King. He never lived in a palace but instead worked as a carpenter and then as a preacher wandering the countryside. The only time he wore purple and a crown was when he was arrested and dressed in robes and a crown of thorns as he was mocked. He was then put to death. The angels message on that first Christmas to the shepherds was that a saviour had been born and this King, our saviour, saved us by dying.

The Bible explains we have all pushed God out of his rightful place as King over our lives and ruined our relationship with him. This is what the bible calls sin. When Jesus died he took that sin away which means those that want can be friends with God again.

### Green

Now Jesus' dying was not the end. Jesus did not stay dead but rose to eternal life. And the great thing is that in rising to new life he defeated death. And now because we are friends with God again through Jesus' death, we can have eternal life as well.

So this Christmas – as we remember the birth of our saviours we remember the colour of Christmas – Gold for the golden news, purple for the King, red for the blood shed and green for new life.