

The Difference Jesus Makes

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FREE BOOKS FOR EVERYBODY

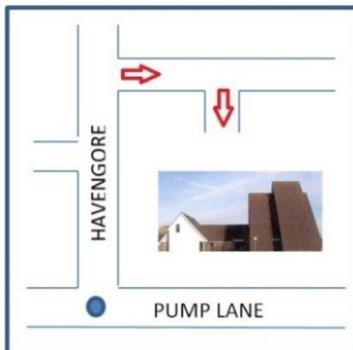
In our little book, members of North Springfield Baptist Church share in their own words their experiences of **The Difference Jesus Makes** in their lives day by day. Do help yourself to a copy at any of our services or activities.

If you would like to read about the life of Jesus from the Bible we will also be very happy to give you a copy of **the New Testament**.

CONTACT US

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CHRISTMAS in KANIKI

Kaniki is a group of very poor rural villages spread over 50 square miles 10 miles out of the city of Ndola in Zambia. The Arise Project currently supports 169 orphans in the Kaniki area aged from Pre-School until the end of Secondary education, together with their 81 guardians. Kapumpe Christian Primary School provides a good education in a caring environment as well as a hearty breakfast and a mid-morning snack to their 119 pupils, 64 of whom are supported by Arise. The whole region is suffering a major food crisis at this time and food aid we sent is saving lives.

Christmas Appeal



The **families** we support are often **large** and with **no income**. Through the year we **support** them with **education**, at Christmas we like to give them a **gift**.

£8

We like to fill a **bucket** with **essentials** for the **family**. The bucket will often be used for **fetching water** and the items will be a **blessing** and bring great **joy** to all the family.



candles soap beans sugar salt oil
face cloths toothpaste & brushes matches



To buy a bucket simply visit our website:
arisekapumpe.com
click **Arise** then the **bucket appeal** tab

Arise is a charity empowering orphans, vulnerable children and their guardians in Kaniki – a rural community in the heart of Zambia.



ARISE

Gifts for Arise, for Kapumpe CPS and for the Kaniki Bible University College can be sent from the UK through **The Kaniki Trust, (Registered Charity No. 1149777)**. You can give online through the Stewardship website www.give.net. The church is also happy to forward any gifts you make.

It is also possible to sponsor one of the children supported by Arise for £25 each month. Full details are online at www.kaniki.org/arise/future.

www.northspringfieldbaptistchurch.org



HAVEN NEWS



North Springfield Baptist Church

Christmas 2019

NO ROOM AT THE INN?



When Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem all the inns were full — there was no room. So Jesus Christ was born in a humble stable surrounded by animals. No room at the inn. It can be the same today. Some people can be so busy celebrating Christmas that they have no room for Jesus Christ.

The tinsel, the turkey, the trimmings, the tree and the decorations all seem more important. We remember Santa Claus, but the Baby in the manger gets forgotten. That is why it is good to sing carols and light candles to remind ourselves that 2000 years ago in Bethlehem a very special baby was born. Christians believe that baby really was Almighty God born as a human being, Jesus, the Saviour, called Emmanuel which means 'God with us'.

That birth is the incredible miracle which is the true reason for all the celebrations. Jesus is the reason for the season. Don't throw out the baby. Make room for Jesus at Christmas.

Sunday December 15th at 4.00 pm
Christingle Service for all the family

Tuesday December 17th at 7.30 pm
Carols and Cake

Sunday December 22nd at 6.30 pm
Carols by Candlelight

Christmas Morning 10.30-11.15 am
Christmas Day Family Celebration



SEE INSIDE

Who is Jesus? For to us a child is born.

Introducing Haven Café

Christmas gifts for you

We would like to pray for you

All our weekly activities

Christmas at Kaniki — their Christmas Bucket Appeal

A free book for everybody — "The Difference Jesus makes"

Read about Jesus in a free copy of the New Testament

Good Enough For Him

Jesus was born in a stable
There was no room at the inn.
He had a stall for a cradle
That was good enough for him

Cattle asleep in the corner
Joseph kept watch from within
Can you imagine the sorrow?
That was good enough for him

No kingly robes for his vesture
No royal hall for this one
But Mary fondled her treasure
For he was God's dear Son

Jesus was born in a stable
There was no room at the inn.
He had a stall for a cradle
That was good enough for him

Peter Chesters
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HAVEN CAFÉ



Thursdays 9 am – 2 pm

a safe and peaceful place

Delicious and reasonably priced food and drinks, where everybody feels welcome and can enjoy space to relax and be refreshed in body, mind and spirit.

Free drink on your first visit .

NOW CLOSED — opening with a new menu on Thursday January 9th

BREAKFASTS and LUNCHES



Everything available all day
Bacon, Eggs, Sausages, Beans, Toast, butter and jam

Jacket Potatoes with fillings like cheese, ham, tuna, sweetcorn. Sandwiches; Soups. Ploughman's Lunches.

NEW Burgers, Fish Fingers, Pizza

CAKES

Usually Coconut, Lemon Drizzle, Victoria Sponge and others. Fresh scones with butter and jam.

DRINKS

Cappuccino; Latte; Chococino
Teas: English, Earl Grey Tea, a wide range of Fruit Teas (Decaffeinated available)
Cans e.g. Coke, Diet Coke, Tango, Sprite Zero; Apple and Orange juices; Bottled waters.



Why is our logo a lighthouse?

The lighthouse points people to the harbour, the place of safety in the storms of life. And it reminds us of Jesus Christ who said, **"I am the light of the world."**

Who is Jesus? For to us a child is born

In the 8th Century Before Christ, the Prophet Isaiah looked forward to the birth of Jesus and said this.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. (Isaiah chapter 9 verses 6-7)



Here we have four titles given to Jesus. It would be hard to see how any one of them might apply to an ordinary man. Yet here we find all four titles applied to one person, the person of the Messiah, the Saviour the Jews were eagerly expecting, who was born as Immanuel, God with us.

WONDERFUL COUNSELLOR – a figure of WISDOM

A counsellor gives guidance and wise advice. God's knowledge and wisdom are infinite – ours are so limited. But Jesus will judge and rule and advise with God's perfect wisdom. He will be the "wonderful counsellor," *the LORD Almighty, wonderful in counsel and magnificent in wisdom.* (Isaiah 28:29)

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him — the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD. (Isaiah chapter 11 verses 1-2)

For a while, as Jesus was lying silently in the manger, "the Word without a word", the infinite wisdom of God was hidden in that tiny baby. But he was nevertheless in truth the "wonderful counsellor." The light of the world. The true light. The way, the truth and the life. The wisdom of God. The word made flesh. A figure of Wisdom.

MIGHTY GOD – a figure of STRENGTH

God Himself is the Mighty God, The Almighty One. We can see God's might and power in so many of His actions: in Creation, in The Flood, in the Escape from Egypt and Israel's conquest of the Promised Land. Jesus the coming Messiah would indeed be Mighty God – ruling with all the power of God. Yet all that divine power would be veiled in flesh – laid aside for a brief while.

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich. (2 Corinthians 8 verse 9)

It may not have been easy to see in that vulnerable helpless baby laid in the manger, but Jesus was truly Almighty God. The Lion of Judah. The King of the Jews. King of Israel and King of the ages. The Resurrection and the life. The Christ. The heir of all things. King of Kings and Lord of Lords. A figure of strength.

EVERLASTING FATHER – a figure of CREATION

The picture of Father in the Old Testament is not only a picture of parental authority. It is at the same time a picture of a parent as the source of life. And Jesus the Word of God was indeed the Creator and the source of all life. *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made* (John chapter 1 verses 1-3)

Isaiah foretold that Jesus would be the immortal and eternal Everlasting

Father, coming to repair and redeem and recreate his creation. Jesus, the Son of God, came to put right all the wrong in the world, the Creator entering his Creation as Immanuel, God with us.

He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him.... The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John chapter 1 verses 10 and 14)

It may have been hard to recognise Him – some people still have not recognised Him. But that tiny baby really was and still is and always will be the Everlasting Father, the First and the Last, the Alpha and the Omega. The Beginning and the End, the Author of life. A figure of creation.

THE PRINCE OF PEACE – a figure of SALVATION

Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. (Isaiah 9:7)

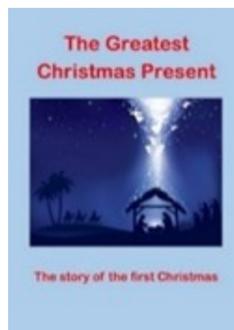
The Messiah will bring God's peace to the world. In the Bible the word peace is much more than the absence of war. *Shalom* means wholeness and prosperity as well as tranquillity. It may include material wealth and physical safety, but Bible peace also means harmony and spiritual well-being. The fallen world can never create peace like that – it is the promised gift which Jesus the Messiah, the Prince of Peace will bring.

He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore. (Isaiah chapter 2 verse 4)

When He arrived, Jesus the Prince of peace began to bring God's kingdom of peace. It would take His death on the cross to pay the price of peace. And the world is still waiting for Jesus to return before God's kingdom comes in full and his will is done on earth as it is in heaven. But Jesus is already the prince of peace. Emmanuel – God with us. The savior. The rock. The redeemer. The deliverer. The author and perfecter of salvation. The Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. A figure of salvation.

That baby born in the stable and laid in the manger was indeed the fulfillment of all these wonderful promises in the Book of Isaiah. A figure of wisdom and a figure of Strength. A figure of Creation and a figure of Salvation. All these marvelous titles, and so many more, belonged to our Lord Jesus Christ even as he lay in the manger in Bethlehem. How sad that when he came, only a few humble shepherds and some wise foreigners recognised him for who he really was. How different the world would be today if people had recognised the promised Messiah when He first arrived. Everybody needs to hear who that baby in the manger really is: **The Wonderful Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.**

Christmas gifts for you



We would like to offer you Christmas presents of two books which explain who Jesus was, **The Gift** and **The Greatest Christmas Present.**

Pick up your copies at any of our services or special events, or get in touch by email or text and we will deliver copies to you.



We would like to pray for you



As Christians we have all proved in our own experience that God exists and that God answers prayers. If you would like us to pray for you at our meetings for prayer, please get in touch by phone or email – contact details are overleaf.

Sunday Services

10.30 am with Crèche and Sunday Club for children, followed by refreshments.

6.30 pm a quieter deeper time of worship & learning.

You can read all our sermons online at www.pbthomas.com/blog

Our weekly activities

Toddler Group
Mondays 10.00-11.30 am
Tuesdays 1.30-3.00 pm
(during term-times only)

HAVEN CAFÉ
Thursdays 9.00-2.00 pm
Now closed until January 9

Kraft Klub
Thursdays 2.30-4.30 pm

Drop In
Fridays 2.00-4.00 pm
Now closed until January 10

Tamil Church of God
Sundays 3.00-5.00 pm