

**KEY VERSE:**

*When Joseph woke up, he did what the Lord's angel had told him to do. Matthew 1:24*



**THE PARISH OF CHALFONT ST PETER**

Encounter God, Encourage Others, Engage our World  
Charity Number: 1146043



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# FOUNDATION CAFÉ SERVICE

4th December, 2016

**Seeing the Light**

**Joseph Sees  
The Light**



**CHALFONT  
ST. PETER  
PARISH CHURCHES**

## KNOW WHAT:

- Today we are continuing our advent theme on Light. Advent is a time when we get ready for Christmas and remember that Jesus promised to return. Last week we looked at Isaiah chapter 9. This week is the story of Mary and Joseph.
- Christmas and Advent are full of lights. From candles to fairy lights, people put lights everywhere to celebrate light at Christmas.
- Mary wasn't married and didn't plan to have a baby any time soon, but angel Gabriel appeared to her and told her that she had been chosen to be the mum to a very special child.
- Joseph, Mary's fiancé, found out that Mary was pregnant and nearly left her. An angel came to Joseph in a dream and explained what had happened and so Joseph agreed to marry Mary and raise the baby as his own.

## SO WHAT:

- God speaks to all sorts of people and tells us important things.
- Light is stronger than dark. God promises to shine light into our lives.

## NOW WHAT:

- Let's be ready to listen to God and do the things he asks us to.
- Let's focus on God's light and goodness, remembering God's light every time we see candles, stars and other Christmas lights.



## LUKE'S LETTERS:

Joseph is one of my favourite characters in the Bible and easily one of the most underappreciated.

He goes from expecting to marry and start a family, to finding out that one has been started for him. All he has is his fiancée's word that she hasn't cheated and that this baby (that isn't his) is a miracle baby. Personally, I would not have believed her. I also wouldn't have believed that my dream was God talking to me, saying that she was telling the truth.

Joseph is confronted with an impossible situation and his culture's solution was to execute Mary. Knowing this he defies his own feelings, his culture and all logic or reason, to keep Mary safe. There is something that he understood beyond what the law said and beyond his own perspective that allowed him to make the right choice. I almost wonder if God chose Mary as much for Joseph's character and willingness to accept her as for her own willingness to obey.

I also wonder how much Jesus' teaching in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) is inspired by learning from Joseph. Here is a man who managed to understand the 'do's and 'don't's and see past them to get hold of who God is and what he's really like. The closer we get to Christmas the more I find myself thinking about Joseph and asking God to make me more like him. Help me to be someone who sees God's heart and his character and show that to the people that I love.