

KEY VERSE:

I am the light of the world.
John 8:12



THE PARISH OF CHALFONT ST PETER
Encounter God, Encourage Others, Engage our World
Charity Number: 1146043



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FOUNDATION CAFÉ SERVICE

27th November, 2016

Seeing the Light

**Out of the
Darkness**



**CHALFONT
ST. PETER
PARISH CHURCHES**

KNOW WHAT:

- Today we are starting our Advent theme on Light. Advent is a time when we get ready for Christmas and remember that Jesus promised to return.
- Christmas and Advent are full of lights. From candles to fairy lights, people put lights everywhere to celebrate light at Christmas.
- In the Old Testament God promised that He would send help for His people. One of the most famous of these promises is in Isaiah Chapter 9.
- In the promise, God's people are told that darkness will be overcome by light and war will be replaced by peace. The last promise is that a child will be born who will be a Good King.

SO WHAT:

- God makes promises and these promises come true.
- Light is stronger than dark. God promises to shine light into our lives.

NOW WHAT:

- Let's start getting ready for Christmas.
- 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:

My favourite Christian song is 'O Come, O come Immanuel'. I don't care that it's a Advent/Christmas song, I would sing it all year round. What I love about it is that while the chorus is so upbeat (Rejoice, rejoice, Immanuel has come to you O Israel) the rest of it is pretty depressing. That's an odd thing to love but at least it's honest.

The verses talk about captivity, gloomy clouds, dark shadows and misery. The more I sit and talk with people the more people I realise feel those things, particularly near Christmas. As much as the bright lights excite, there is always a story of worry or loss in the hearts of people you meet. Even better than the honesty of the song, however, is it's hope. The author knew that as soon as Immanuel (Jesus) comes then the hard things get better. In the song Jesus is the one who ransoms, who frees, has victory, cheers and opens doors.

As Advent starts I want to encourage you that no matter how things feel there is always hope. The Israelites were calling out for Immanuel under political oppression but they knew that as soon as he came then things would get better. The same is true for us. Whether it's family or work or money, if we cry out for Jesus he will come and things will start to get better.

