



**Northall Baptist Church – 200 years and still going.**  
***A little Church with strong local links.***

### **The Greatest Story Ever Told**

Except it wasn't a story – it was true. Let's examine how Christmas, that a lot of the world enjoys and celebrates, began.

In a quiet corner of a far away country, a young girl who wasn't married found that she was pregnant! Probably not the first time this had happened! Why was this particular one significant? Why do we remember this particular event 2000 years later? Why does the world still celebrate this today? Why this one girl and her baby.



**Nativity Tableau: CPO Christmas Campaign "Share the Light" seen at Christian Resources Exhibition Sandown Park October 2021**

This story began in an obscure little town of Nazareth. The young girl, Mary was planning her wedding. A very exciting time until a visitor calls. But that was dramatic. The visitor was an Angel, no less than the chief Angel, Gabriel. At first Mary was upset as she couldn't understand what the message meant as she knew she was a virgin. However she was assured, told not to be afraid. What!! Not to be afraid?? Then she was told the details that it was to be a son, his name was to be Jesus and he was the son of God. It seems that this visitor called before any changes took place, giving Mary a little time to get her head round this complete change of direction in her life.

But how do you tell your fiancé? That was going to be tricky. Joseph was dismayed. The deal he had agreed had been changed without his say-so. It wasn't just the two of them; it was the families, the community who would all put in their pennyworth. He was right, as we later find that King Herod also had something to say. Joseph decided that he couldn't be doing with this. Who could blame him? She'd have to manage on her own! That might save his face? He would get out of this agreement.

However, God thought otherwise. An Angel popped into Joseph's dreams and explained the situation to him. He was told how special this baby was to be. The baby would save the people from their sins. Wow! That seems important and Mary and the baby needed him. That put a different perspective on things. So he did as he was told and married Mary, took her to Bethlehem for the census, where Jesus was born as had been predicted years before by the prophet Micah. Micah 5 v 2 says 'But you, Bethlehem....out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel'.

At the age of 33 Jesus was crucified on a cross to save us from our sins. Hopefully when you are opening your gifts this Christmas, you'll remember God's gift of Jesus to the world and thank him.

Our Sunday services, are now back in Church 11 am. Feel free to join us for our worship and song. You will get a warm welcome.

For those interested in the history of Northall Baptist Church, a free copy of the booklet, Rebels in Green Pastures can be supplied or downloaded from our website: <http://northallbaptistchurch.org/>  
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