

THE WORD

Christmas Day Message

John 1: 1-14

I wonder what you think of when I mention the name Billy Connolly!

You probably think of Scotland, Comedy etc... A lot of people look at him as the loveable Glaswegian. For some he is a symbol of Scotland.

What about the Queen - That's an easy one, Great Britain!

Sean Connery recently died, someone said he was James Bond, no one else comes close to portraying the fictional secret agent.

Tommy Robson died this year he was Mr Peterborough United! Spent so much time at the club, representing the club.

My Club Liverpool, we have Kenny Dalglish. He is Mr Liverpool! Played for us, managed us, stood up for the cause over Hillsborough. We now have a stand named after him and I believe he has the freedom of the city.

Can you think of anyone else that represents something so clearly.

You may even have someone in your family that represents your family name so strongly. Oh he's a typical Greenwood!

2000 years ago a cute little baby boy was born in Bethlehem, a small quiet town 5 miles from Jerusalem, that's like Marholm or Castor to Peterborough. This little baby was born of a Young teenage girl called Mary who only recently married her husband Joseph. They had their baby in a manger they travelled to Jerusalem from Bethlehem to have their baby Circumcised and presented him to the Lord in the Temple. Who knows, this young couple and their baby could have passed by under the very nose of another resident of Jerusalem King Herod! This young family eventually moved into a house and lived there for some time as Jesus was no longer a baby when the Magi turned up. With Bethlehem only an hour's walk or by horse 30 - 40 minutes away from Jerusalem they wouldn't have had a lot of time to pack up and run away from Herod and his men.

They did escape and this small Jewish child grew up to change the world not just for a few decades not even centuries but for millennia!

This baby was Yeshua - we know him as Jesus!

3 years of ministry in a place called Judea & Nazareth in an area way out on the edge of the Roman empire and Jesus asked his followers like Peter

"Who do you say I am?" Peter said to Jesus "You are the Messiah".

He asks everyone this question "Who do you say that Jesus is?"

Was he a loveable Scot like Billy Connolly? Was he British like the Queen?

Was he Mr Liverpool like King Kenny? Well no but he was somebody even greater!

John writes in his Gospel account that this Baby that we celebrate this Christmas is THE WORD! This Word existed from the very beginning of time and was with God and what's more the WORD WAS GOD! This word became flesh and lived among us. When we say Immanuel, which means God is with us well it was literally true, God who flung the stars into space walked the dusty roads of this earth.

This Jesus was involved in creation before time began and this Jesus was life and the life that Jesus offers is the light of men. In John 10:10 Jesus offers you this very life, " I have come to give you life, Life in all it's fullness". Enjoy your presents this Christmas but eventually you will be wanting something else. What Jesus offers satisfies the soul, life everlasting. We will get distracted, we could get our heads turned, we get caught up in worldly things and that's when we start to feel like we're sinking like Peter when he walked on the water. But this Jesus, The Word reaches out his hand to you and says take it. What a gift and for those who accept this gift he gives them the right to be called Children of God.

THE WORD became flesh and made his home among us. He offers you the gift of life, he wants to walk with you through this life through the good times and the bad. Will you accept The Word - Jesus Christ into your life. What a gift he offers.

