

ALL-AGE TALK ~ LUKE 2:1-21

Imagine you're having a party and you can invite whoever you like. So take a few moments to think about whom you like to invite. So whom would you invite? Why did you choose....., ***highlighting considerations such as who you know, who you like, who you'd like to spend time with or be seen with.***

This is how most people go about deciding who to invite to a party. But when Jesus was born the first people to discover the good news were a bunch of shepherds out in the fields. Shepherds were very ordinary people – they lived in the fields with the sheep, and because you sometimes had to handle dead sheep you would have been thought of not just as dirty but as unclean – not the kind of people that others wanted to spend much time with or invite to their parties and not the kind of people you wanted in your church! But these were the people to whom the angels were sent. This tells us something very important – that Jesus is good news for everyone. He is not just for those who are attractive or popular, not just for those who are brainy or who always get promotion, not just for those with money or power – no, he is good news for everyone. How wonderful that God sent Jesus for everyone!

Imagine that our ***Setting The Scene*** activity sheet had been about a party to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Given that Jesus came for everyone, who should be at this party? I'll leave you to work that one out for yourselves.

Our Christmas Eve Bible reading shows that God sees how valuable we all are and that he wants all of us to know that Jesus came for us. This is quite amazing. Because we are so familiar with the Christmas story and get caught up in so much of the busyness surrounding it, we can miss the wonder of it all and lose sight of just how marvellous it all is. So please, please, please, make some time over the next few days to stand back, be quiet and look with fresh eyes so that you can be really thankful that Jesus came for everyone.