

Dear Friends

Over recent weeks, we have been saturated by news, as the twists and turns of the “B event” unfold. Many will be infuriated and just want the whole matter settled, others intrigued to see which personalities and arguments prevail, rather like following a political drama series. Others follow with trepidation over the possible outcome and its impact on their lives and the future of our country. At a recent training event on evangelism, we were asked to reflect on the basic questions of our faith “What is the Good News?” “Why should people want to listen?” “How has it been Good News for me personally?” Each of us has our own answer, and some will find answers easier than others. Effective evangelism begins with a personal conviction that we have something to share that could benefit others as it has us. Good News that we long to pass on, as we would the discovery of a new drug or diet that has brought us benefits.

Passing on doesn’t mean being an extrovert, supremely confident, or having all the answers, or never having any doubts. Listening, and being honest about our questions and uncertainties, is far more powerful than reciting dogma and formula, because it shows love, truth and genuineness. Our belief in what we want to share, together with the opportunity to share it in both words and action, can become the place where real good news is heard and people’s lives can change.

The pre-Christmas weeks offer us many opportunities for sharing, and at least one dimension of what we may want to share. Charles Wesley’s words “Our God contracted to a span, incomprehensibly made man” may sum it up beautifully for us, but are unlikely to cut it on the street. How would you tell someone you know what Christmas means to you? How could you shape those words for someone you’ve never met who comes into church for “Taste of Christmas” (weather permitting!) or “Bethlehem Junction” or a Carol Service?

Perhaps a nugget, shared genuinely, sincerely, about the wonder you feel about being able to find God in the Jesus who came and lived among us, might have more impact on someone’s life than all the words spent on the machinations of Brexit. Good News indeed!

May we know and share the joy of following Jesus this Christmas

Kim

