

### Week Beginning 27/01/2014

#### Shock Waves of Bethlehem

The shock waves of the Bethlehem truth still reverberate across the universe but we do not pause to ponder the mystery. We have the experience but we miss the meaning. We would rather concentrate on something else . . .

The simplicity of it all is almost too much for us. We distract ourselves with the non-essentials thus escaping the awful risk of surrendering to the mystery of Incarnation . . . of grappling with God's unexpected ways of becoming present to us . . .

For those who do wish to explore the mystery, how do we get our heads around the Christian truth that God stole into our world in the same shape as we all started off with? How do we cope with the ensuing belief that the divinity of all of us is now revealed? And how do we make any sense of the consequent expectation that we must therefore embrace our enemies, even die to restore dignity to a dishonoured earth? On such personal decisions and moments depend the salvation of the world

But then, extraordinary things happen in the most ordinary moments . . . God's secrets are strewn extravagantly around us. God's fingerprints are everywhere. Nothing has ever been written by theologians about God's beautiful presence that hasn't been better traced in the crystal calligraphy of a frosty morning. Nothing has ever been preached by saints about divine intimacy that hasn't been better sung by summer wind in the roadside trees. And nothing has ever been created by artists about incarnate love that has been more poignantly revealed in the sleepy eyes of a new baby.

(Unmasking God pp122, 124)