

03 December 2020

To the Methodist people on the Isle of Man

Dear friends,

It's that time of year again!

As we wander around shops, or listen to the radio in our cars, or in a multitude of other settings, airwaves are filled with countless Christmas songs and carols and will be for at least the next three weeks...

One of which will be the classic BandAid song with the line "Do they know it's Christmas time at all...?"

For many of us as we've been watching the news from the UK and reading our papers, with all the concerns over whether "Christmas will be cancelled" due to the ongoing Covid restrictions, a bigger question has come to mind; "Do we understand Christmas time at all...?"

As Christian people we have a task to do - to point people beyond the frills and festivities to grasp the big picture. To use a well-worn cliché, we need to be pointing to Jesus as the "reason for the season".

The true Christmas message of Immanuel God With Us is needed this year perhaps more than any other in recent memory:

God With Us - when we're in a large family gathering
God With Us - when we're alone in our homes
God With Us - when we're at the bedside of a loved one
God With Us - when our lives are swamped with pressures and demands
God With Us - when all is at peace.
God With Us.

A simple message perhaps, but one which carries with it great joy and peace.

There will be many opportunities in your local churches to gather together and celebrate that message over the coming weeks, and also with this letter you will find the two MMAST service sheets for the 13th and 20th of December, as well as for Christmas Day.

May God richly bless you this Christmas and beyond.

Isle of Man Methodist Church Staff Team