

Dear Friends,

Chances are that my Christmas Thought will be in the Free Press on December 12th which of course is the day after an important 24 hours in Parliament, for the UK, the EU, the world, not to mention each and every one of us as individuals. Or haven't you heard about BREXIT yet? Perhaps, like me, just occasionally you may have felt like and managed to go conveniently deaf to it all over the last couple of years?



Compare BREXIT to the coming of our Lord Jesus in Bethlehem as a Babe on what we celebrate now as the first Christmas. No question, no vote, no debating about that one, in fact no one but God had any control over what happened when He sent Jesus into an occupied world inhabited by people many of whom were frightened, disillusioned, fearing for their lives, lonely, desolate.

In some ways nothing much seems to have changed in the secular world since then, yet everything changed forever when God came to earth in the person of Jesus. He came to give hope to the hopeless and extend God's love to all who felt unloved and ignored. Each day somewhere in the world new people continue to come to know Him through the Bible, in church, and from personal testimonies by Christians courageous enough to want to share their good news with others.

You know, I almost died the other day when Margaret and I visited a 'normal' card shop in a high street and found a whole section with the heading CHRISTIAN CHRISTMAS CARDS. And it wasn't just one or two cards either, it was row after row of them. How wonderful was that? And how rare an experience too in this day and time! In fact, I haven't found one since...

The Christmas message is one of love, hope and trust in the belief that even in the most difficult of circumstances God is with us. So as we go through today, December 12th, and ponder what happened yesterday in London – or not – may this at least be our comfort and encouragement that God is alive and well. Merry Christmas and happy New Year to you all.

***Rev Preben Andersen***