

A Word from the Manse

“ Unto us a Child is born and a Son is given and His Name will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” **Isaiah 9 v 6.**

Dear Friends

What a long wait it has been to be able to write to you – a very long and difficult year! Firstly, thank you all for your faithful prayers. I know I would not be here if your prayers had not been poured out to God for me, Graeme and the family. Thank you also for your **continuing** prayers for all of us. Often, when a person is gravely ill, it is those loved ones who wait and watch who suffer most.

How blessed are we all to have a wonderful Saviour!

What a special time it is as we wait, not just to remember His coming to earth, but to look with joy to His coming again. What a day it will be!

At Christmas, my thoughts always turn to Easter!

If the Holy Son of God had not been born into our world, there would be no Calvary, no Easter, no resurrection joy, no coming again in glory!

As we sing the much loved carols all through Advent to Christmas Day, I always find myself singing a hymn I have loved for over 50 years!

They do say the old ones are the best and how marvellous that even though we often forget what we had for lunch yesterday, we seem to be able to remember things learned and enjoyed many years ago!

Let me share this wonderful hymn with you as we wait throughout Advent for the birth of the Christ child....as we wait in wonder for Christmas Day, and in utter awe for His return in glory.

“I stand amazed in the presence
Of Jesus the Nazarene,
And wonder how He could love me,
A sinner, condemned, unclean.

*O how marvellous! O how wonderful!
And my song shall ever be:
O how marvellous! O how wonderful!
Is my Saviour's love for me!*

For me it was in the garden
He prayed: "Not My will, but Thine."
He had no tears for His own griefs,
But sweat drops of blood for mine.

In pity angels beheld Him,
And came from the world of light
To comfort Him in the sorrows
He bore for my soul that night.

He took my sins and my sorrows,
He made them His very own;
He bore the burden to Calvary,
And suffered and died alone.

When with the ransomed in glory
His face I at last shall see,
It will be my joy through the ages
To sing of His love for me.

*O how marvellous! O how wonderful!
And my song shall ever be:
O how marvellous! O how wonderful!
Is my Saviour's love for me!"*

Charles H. Gabriel 1905

AMEN! AMEN! And all the people said "AMEN!"

May you and yours know the joy, peace, love and hope of the Christ
Child born for us and give thanks for the blessing of our risen Saviour.

With love and prayers for you all, *Lily*