

The Whiddon Valley Evangel

'GOD PROPAGANDA'

Pastor's Pen

Dear friends and neighbours in Whiddon Valley,

I was fascinated at the end of October to receive a note through my door at the Whiddon Valley manse. It said this DAVID KAY PLEASE DO NOT PUT ANYMORE OF YOUR 'GOD PROPAGANDA' THROUGH MY DOOR AGAIN – THANK YOU FOR NOTHING.

The note was not signed and there is no indication of which of our 3000 neighbours in one of the 1200 homes on the Whiddon Valley Estate has sent this message.

It got me thinking – is this what YOU think of Christian Literature in a Christian country that is put through your door? I decided to look up the meaning of PROPAGANDA on the internet. Here it is -

Propaganda is a form of communication that is aimed at influencing the attitude of a community toward some cause or position. As opposed to impartially providing information, propaganda, in its most basic sense, presents information primarily to influence an audience. (Wikipedia)

As far as the first part of the definition is concerned this is spot on! That is exactly what believers in the Lord Jesus Christ long to do – influence you to think about your soul and its importance to you – influence you to consider the meaning of life and death and the eternal future beyond all human beings.

But the second sentence is definitely NOT what we are about at Whiddon Valley Church. We believe that we are

impartial in sharing with you, our neighbours, the wonderful truths of the Bible. We tell **everyone** about our wonderful friend and Saviour the Lord Jesus Christ – who has changed our lives in such a remarkable way – for the better. So that we have peace and hope

**For though I
preach the gospel, I have
nothing to glory of: for
necessity is laid upon me;
yea, woe is unto me, if I
preach not the gospel!
1 Corinthians 9:16**

in our souls – and a confidence about our own eternal future – based on the promises of the Bible. We keep nothing back. We are ready to tell you everything about Jesus – about His love for sinners – about why He came in such a humble way to earth as a child in a stable in Bethlehem in Palestine – and about how He came deliberately to die for sinners by paying the price for their sin – with His own life. We are so glad that there were people who told us about Jesus. I am personally delighted to have heard 42 years ago the information that I needed to be rescued and saved from my sins and to be given

eternal life. Now, call that propaganda if you like – but I know what it has done for me, and my family. The friends who brought the message to me brought the same old 2000 year old message of goodwill from God and peace towards all men – which is a Biblical message. It is not man's dreamed up beliefs – this is nothing less than God's message to the world.

In fact this propaganda has its origin in the mind of the Creator God Himself – and Yes He does seek to influence you, my friend – to believe Him and trust Him through His Son the Lord Jesus Christ.

Not all propaganda is bad. At the end of the day you too may wish to dismiss the Christian message as mere propaganda. But if there is truth in our message and you ignore it what will you say when you face this Creator God as your judge at the end of your life? You cannot say that you have not been warned, can you? May God bless you and your families this festive season,

With every good wish,



Pastor David Kay

01271 328813 Ring for a free Bible.

PS if the friend who put the note through the door reads this we will be happy never to put literature through his or her door ever again – please let me know!



THE GOSPEL OUTREACH OF
WHIDDON VALLEY'S CHURCH



A Carol

by John Francis Wade
1711 – 16 August 1786

**O Come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him,
Born the King of angels:**

**O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!**

**God of God,
Light of Light,
Lo, He abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God,
Begotten, not created:**

**See how the shepherds,
Summoned to his cradle,
Leaving their flocks,
Draw nigh with lowly fear;
We too will thither Bend our joyful
footsteps;**

**Sing, choir of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
"Glory to God
In the highest"**

How often have we sung these words from when we were children, in School or indeed Sunday School without knowing anything of their origin.

This Carol or seasonal Hymn, as some would say, was written by John Francis Wade approximately 260 years ago. John Wade was an itinerant scribe, a craftsman, working in several languages and also copying music manuscripts. He was much in demand both in England and on the Continent.

He wrote in 1750 as part of a manuscript for a College in Lisbon Portugal some of his own penmanship in Latin:

'Adeste, fideles,
Laeti triumphantes;
Venite, venite in Bethlehem...'

In English:

'O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to
Bethlehem...'

With it he also composed a tune and together they produced a fine musical composition.

In 1785 the carol was heard by the then Duke of Leeds who introduced it to a group of singers where its popularity continued to grow.



Image from The Hymns and Carols of Christmas!
<http://www.hymnsandcarolsofchristmas.com>

It was not however until 1852, when Frederick Oakley of Shrewsbury made a translation, that it become known by its present title 'O come, all ye faithful'.

There are some that say that it is not John Wade's original work, but rather he borrowed the words and music. Whatever the truth it is a Carol that reminds us that we too, as the shepherds in verse three, can still in this 21st Century come to the Lord Jesus who loves and cares about each one. The greater truth is that God and the Lord Jesus Christ are the same yesterday, today and forever.



The Stars

The dark nights are now with us, as well as the cold and the rain. While we may be missing those long summer evenings there is a blessing to be had if we look upward. It is not so easy to see when you are standing in one of the estates of Barnstaple, but on a clear dark night the sky is full with twinkling stars; they are like diamonds in the sky.

In this age of Sat Nav and GPS we have forgotten that the stars were used for centuries to guide people as they journeyed over land and sea across the globe. Are we not struck by their beauty and don't they make us feel very small in this enormous universe. The Psalmist in Psalm 8 puts it like this: "When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him?"

Even though there are billions of stars in the universe no two are the same. On a clear moonless night we can see about 3000 with our naked eye and with the aid of a telescope this would increase to 100,000. But this is just the beginning! The stars we can see are all in our corner of the Milky Way. This entire galaxy numbers about 100 billion stars. Beyond the Milky Way are other galaxy's some of which we are still discovering today with our enhanced telescopes.

The most familiar star to us is the North Star. But what makes this star so well known? It is not the biggest, nor the brightest and certainly not the closest. Its distance from the earth is 2000 trillion miles. What is truly unique about this star is that it does not seem to move. All other visible stars appear to move east to west and also change position with the seasons. The North Star is positioned almost directly over the North Pole and as the earth spins, the star remains in a constant position in the northern sky.

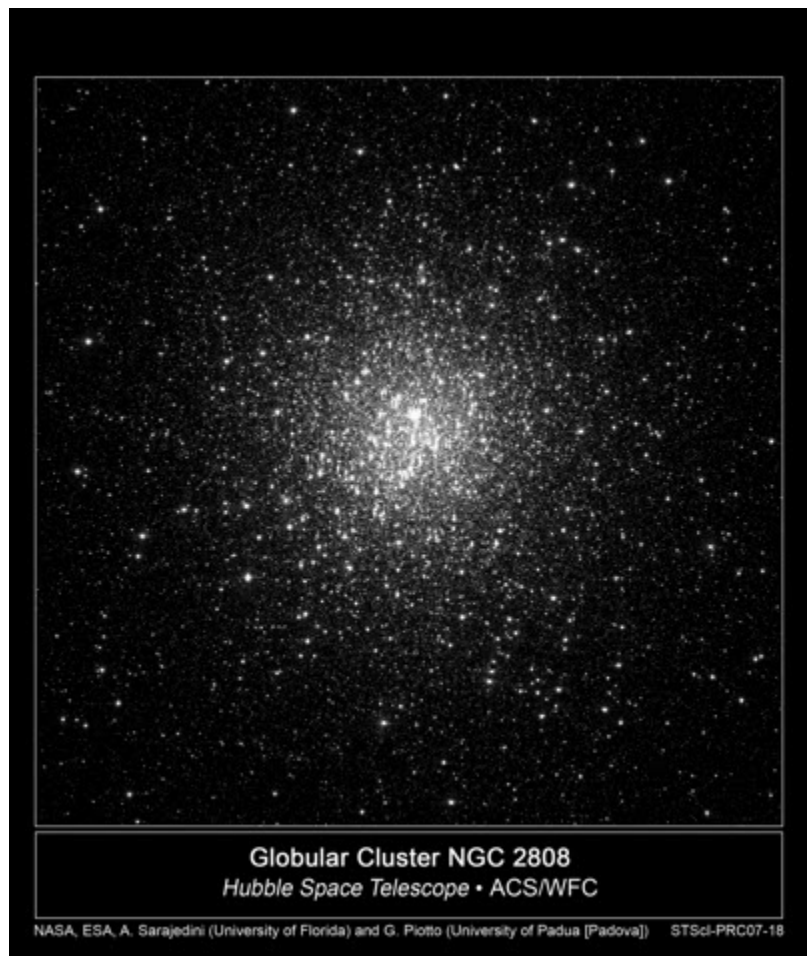
There is another unique star that was once seen in the sky. It guided Wise men as they journeyed from the East to Jerusalem saying "Where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen

his star in the east and are come to worship him ... and lo, the star, which they saw in the east went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star they rejoiced with exceeding great joy." Matthew 2 vs 2, 9, 10.

The Lord Jesus is not now on this earth for us to worship, for he grew into a man and died on a cross, bearing the pain, suffering and punishment for the sins of all who would love and trust him as their Saviour. But there is a wonderful truth that while we remember his birth at this season, in a few months we will remember his resurrection and return to heaven. There he sits at God's right hand interceding for us who love and obey him. In the Book of Revelation he says "I am ... the bright and morning star." After a long night the morning star is seen by weary travellers with great joy. When the Lord Jesus returns to take all Christians home with him to Heaven will you be there and receive him with joy?

If you would like a Bible or to talk then please do not hesitate to contact Pastor David Kay 01271 328813.

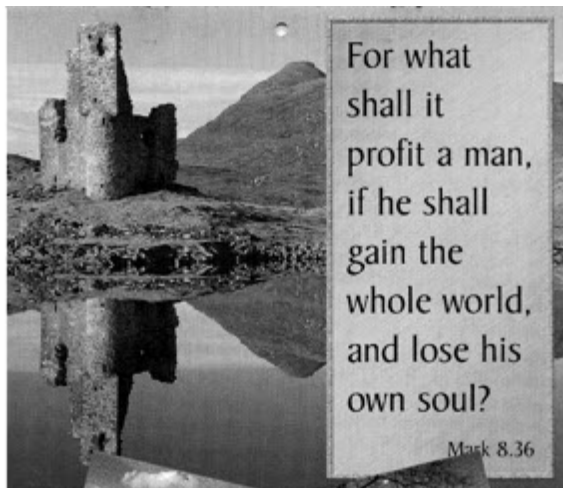
God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also.
Genesis 1 v 16



THE GOSPEL OUTREACH OF
WHIDDON VALLEY'S CHURCH

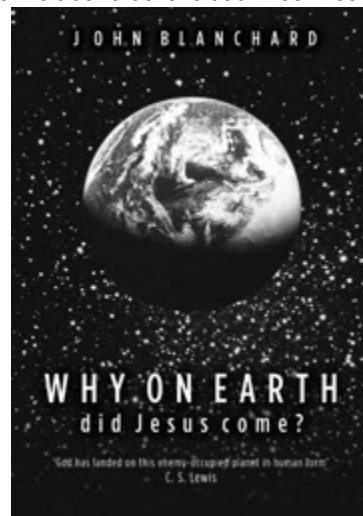


**We have given you
a calendar with this
edition of the Evangel.
We hope that you find it useful.**



Free book

Millions of people who celebrate Christmas have no idea of its real meaning. This booklet strips away the myths and 'tells it like it is'. Here is the real Christmas message, the dynamic truth that revolutionizes lives.



To receive your copy please contact Pastor David Kay (phone number 01271 328813). (Offer available while stocks last.)

**What's on
Sunday**

Services of Worship
11.00am and 6.30pm
Seekers 3.00pm – age 10+
Sunday School 3.00pm – ages 4 - 10

Tuesday

Prayer Meeting 7.00pm
Bible Study 8.00pm

Wednesday

Bible Club – age 4 - 10
6.15pm - 7.30pm
Term time only.

Transport available on request

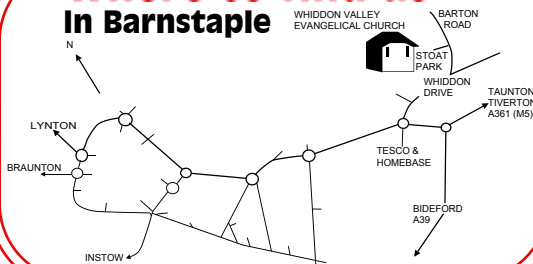
Thursday

Ladies' Fellowship
3.00pm (fortnightly)
Seekers Meeting – age 10+ 7.00pm
Term time only

**FORWARD NOTICE
Creation day, 9th April 2011
Speaker: Paul Taylor
From Answers in Genesis
(www.answersingenesis.org)**

For a free Bible or further information phone 01271 328813 or visit our web site www.wvec.org.uk

**Where to find us
In Barnstaple**



**THE GOSPEL OUTREACH OF
WHIDDON VALLEY'S CHURCH**

