

## Praying through the week 23rd December 2024



**“And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night.” (Luke 2:8)**

At first it was a night like many others; these ordinary, lowly men were simply doing what they had done so many times before ... until God suddenly intervened and “an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.”

Can we imagine how we would have felt if we had been there with the shepherds - surrounded by God’s awesome presence, hearing the angel’s startling, yet wondrous message?

“Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” And then to watch as the sky was suddenly filled with the magnificent sight of “a great company of the heavenly host...praising God and saying, ‘Glory to god in the highest ...’”?

Are we able to imagine at all what this foretaste of heaven must have been like for the shepherds? I wonder ... can the familiarity of the Christmas story dull our senses somewhat to the awesome wonder and joy of the night Jesus was born? In all the busy-ness that seems to surround Christmas today perhaps we might like to pause... and picture ourselves there with the shepherds?

Maureen

## Praying through the week 23rd December 2024



**“And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night.” (Luke 2:8)**

At first it was a night like many others; these ordinary, lowly men were simply doing what they had done so many times before ... until God suddenly intervened and “an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.”

Can we imagine how we would have felt if we had been there with the shepherds - surrounded by God’s awesome presence, hearing the angel’s startling, yet wondrous message?

“Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” And then to watch as the sky was suddenly filled with the magnificent sight of “a great company of the heavenly host...praising God and saying, ‘Glory to god in the highest ...’”?

Are we able to imagine at all what this foretaste of heaven must have been like for the shepherds? I wonder ... can the familiarity of the Christmas story dull our senses somewhat to the awesome wonder and joy of the night Jesus was born? In all the busy-ness that seems to surround Christmas today perhaps we might like to pause... and picture ourselves there with the shepherds?

Maureen