

From the Minister

Its choir practice again, and there is the usual murmuring amongst the ranks, the choice of music, new choir robes and of course the quality of the after rehearsal snacks! Suddenly all goes quiet as the angel Gabriel, enters and stands before the angelic choir

“Right, angels, pay attention. Operation ‘Good News’ is scheduled for tonight. You’ve all seen the message which the Lord God wants proclaimed. You’ll probably never take part in a more important mission, so I don’t want anyone making mistakes. Angel Fiona - what is the good news?”

A young angel stands to attention. “That Christ the Lord is born, sir!”

Gabriel nods, “Very good. And who is Christ the Lord ... Angel Michael?”

“The only Son of God, Sir” replies an angel at the back wiping crumbs from his mouth!

“Very good, very good. Now, your target for Operation ‘Good News’ is here - just outside Bethlehem.” Gabriel points to map that has just appeared before them, “It’ll be night time, so you’ll need to keep a good look out. What you’re looking for is a group of shepherds keeping watch over their flocks.”

Mutterings of disapproval erupt from amongst the gathered angels. It seems that there may be some different opinions as to who should receive the news of Jesus birth!

“Why are we telling it to ‘shepherds’?! Why not to the important people - like the Pharisees - or the scribes - or even King Herod? I mean, shepherds aren’t exactly important, are they!”

Gabriel glares at the crowd “Listen this message of good news is for ALL people! Get it, All the people - and that includes shepherds. And the Lord God sees them as being just as important as anyone else. So they get the good news first. So - Operation ‘Good News’ is go. Best wings forward, best voices for proclaiming, and Angel Michael...Please remember: The words are ‘Christ the Lord is born’, not ‘Whey hey - it’s Christmas!’ Dismiss!

Ok so the above may be an ‘imaginative’ retelling of part of the Christmas story, but it does remind us of something important. The Good news is for everyone. Christmas isn’t just for the Kids, or an opportunity sing carols and to share presents, food and drink. The most important message we can share is that Jesus, Gods own Son, came to earth so that everybody could be forgiven and enter into a personal relationship with the God who loves us. Now that is good news!

Rev Rick

Ps ‘Whey hey - it’s Christmas!’