

John Bell's Visit to Derby

December 3rd and 4th at St Alban's Chaddesden and The Church on Oakwood



Despite atrocious weather, and journeys taking double the scheduled time John arrived in Derby as planned, much to the relief of all!

Our Friday night "Big Sing" was a great success, everyone was in fine voice and John's talent for storytelling and his ability to recall tunes in anything up to four parts was not to be missed.

Saturday began with the questions, was Jesus a racist? Was he really as thin as all the artwork suggests? And, did Jesus have a sense of humour?

The first was obviously disproved by the scriptures, as was the second (how many meals can you recall with Jesus taking part?). And number three? - Jesus was a man, like all those around Him, so we concluded that He must have enjoyed a joke just like everyone else. John also illustrated his points with anecdotes from his own life, which made for very interesting listening.

In the afternoon session John concentrated on Advent, preferring to leave Christmas to just that! We discussed Gabriel's visit to Mary, Mary's visit to Elizabeth and the stories behind both of these events. Plus the reactions of others in the stories - Joseph, Zechariah, Caesar Augustus etc. We sang songs rooted in the coming of Christ and the salvation He will bring, and in the birthing and mothering story.

As we all headed for home and John left to try and catch a train to Scotland we all agreed it had been a wonderful time which left us with much to mull over.



Sandra Endsor 09/12/2010

www.stalbansderby.org.uk

www.thechurchonoakwood.org