

32. Christmas 2015. *To take: 3 parcels*
Is. 52: 7-10 **Heb. 1:1-12.** **John 1:1-14.**

May the mind of Christ our Saviour dwell in us today.

Now – we can't do a talk on Christmas Day without mentioning presents – can we?

Did you all receive a present?

First parcel to open: Given to Catherine our Vicar.
A bar of chocolate. How long will it last?

Open 2nd Parcel: Given to Brian our Verger
Shower Gel. What use is it? How long will it last.

Open 3rd parcel. Wrapped in Gold. Given to Penny our LLM.
What do we have? A word - in our Gospel today we read "in the beginning was **The Word**".
Not just a word – turn over card – **JESUS**.

But hang on: As we take hold of Jesus there is a lot more in the parcel:-

FRIEND *You are my friends – John 15:14*

BROTHER *Joint Heirs with Christ – Rom.8.17.*

HEALER *The power of the Lord was with Him to heal – Luke 5:17*

BREAD & WATER *I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me shall never be hungry and whoever believes in me shall never be thirsty. John 6:35*

PEACE *He will be called the Prince of Peace – Is. 9:6*
Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you. John 14:27

LIGHT *I am the Light of the World – John 8:12*

Light floods out into the darkness, darkness can't overcome it.

SAVIOUR *The father has sent his Son to be the Saviour of the world. – 1 John 4:14*

REDEEMER *For He will save His people from their sins. – Matt. 1:21*
Redeem – to buy back. By his death Jesus bought us back for God.

SHEPHERD *I am the Good Shepherd – John 10:14*
The shepherd leads his sheep, takes care of them, and saves them from danger.

COUNSELLER /EVERLASTING KING *Isaiah 9:6*
This Counsellor is there for us – to guide us, give us wisdom, to teach us.
The **EVERLASTING KING** is just what it says on the tin! He is for ever, he is eternal.

Which parcel is worth more?:

The Chocolate – enjoyed – yes, but gone in an instant
Biggest bottle of shower gel – cleans us, but eventually runs out.
Or the one that contains the gift of Jesus.
We do have the choice – all three accepted the gifts and opened them.
None of them said "no thank you".
When we accept that gift of Jesus we receive a present of immeasurable worth that never expires.

Summed up in the word "F A I T H"
"Forsaking All I Take Him."

And our gift to Him?
"What I can I give Him, give my heart".