

## **THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023**

by Richard Carter, Associate Vicar of St Martin-in-the-Fields

I remember my father calling out from the bedroom window while I was playing in the garden: "You've got a baby brother. Come and see!" I remember my mother holding the child like a priceless, fragile treasure – this tiny, wet head; the half-closed, dazzled eyes and soft, crumpled skin.

Every birth is a miracle of God. You, too, are that child – the beloved of God.

How much does God love us? The Christ-child lying helpless in the manger shows us. This much. This child is the fulfilment of all that you are and the hope of all that you will become. A love so great that it takes your breath away and breathes God's breath into you. God with us now.

God has come to save the world with his love. Happy Christmas!

I wonder, when you glimpsed heaven on earth? What this Christmas will mean for you? If you can imagine everyone you meet was once a small baby – a child of God?

God our Father, we celebrate the miracle of Christ's birth. We give thanks that you love us so much that you sent your Son so that we may have life. Amen.

### **BIBLE VERSES:**

- 13 For you created my inmost being;  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
- 14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;  
your works are wonderful,  
I know that full well.
- 15 My frame was not hidden from you  
when I was made in the secret place,  
when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.
- 16 Your eyes saw my unformed body;  
all the days ordained for me were written in your book  
before one of them came to be.
- 17 How precious to me are your thoughts,[a] God!  
How vast is the sum of them!
- 18 Were I to count them,

they would outnumber the grains of sand—  
when I awake, I am still with you.

- PSALM 139:13-18

**PRAYER:**

We are yours, O God, for you have made us and loved us. We are yours, O God, for you have saved us and called us. Being yours, O God, let us eternally rejoice your presence.

*Teresa of Avila (1515-1582)*