

Thought for the day – Tuesday 4th January 2022

By Revd John Marshall

The innocents

We tell and retell the Christmas story. Maggie and I thoroughly enjoyed sharing stories and poems around Christmas at our last coffee break.

The saddest part of the story is the consequences for the children of Bethlehem when Herod seeks to eliminate competition.

During the last few weeks we have become aware of real stories of appalling cruelty to children. We are shocked that they should be so abused. But then we can get used to it; we see the children on the beaches in Calais. We are aware of children suffering around the world, the list is too painful to write.

Later in January we will have our Christingle service along with a chance to support the Children's Society.

The collect for the Holy Innocents.

Heavenly Father, whose children suffered at the hands of Herod, though they had done no wrong;

by the suffering of Christ thy son and by the innocence of our lives frustrate we beseech thee, all evil designs and establish thy reign of justice and peace through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

Let us pray for children, carers and all those involved in safeguarding.