

Greatly excited Ben comes home from school – he is going to be in the Nativity Play – he is going to be Justin Bieber’s bodyguard and his friend is going to be Wayne Rooney! It appears all the children will be favourite people they admire!

There is nothing new under the sun. When I was at Nativity Play age, we all had to be people from different parts of the world coming to the manger singing the hymn ‘Hills of the North Rejoice’ which covers south, east, and west as well ... if you came from the north you wore your mother’s fur coat!

Different ways of showing the birth of Jesus is for everyone, everyone in some way or another celebrates Christmas. A universal event.

Celebrations are not left to the Christmas tree in the house now, there are lights everywhere, outside nearly every house where I live. Glad I have some myself! Everyone wants to be involved.

The universality of Christmas is really interesting. Being Justin Bieber’s bodyguard, being someone from the north, is all about what Jesus is for everyone. Folk who are not worried about the true meaning of the day are caught up in it as well.

So now we have thought about it we can see the Hand of God, his guidance, his influence in all our lives. Everyone celebrates whether they believe or not. Nevertheless, Christ came into the world to make a difference to our lives - you do not have to accept or acknowledge it - that is the wonder of God. The influence of Christian love, care and concern which comes from knowing about the life and teaching of Jesus is everywhere. A real reason to celebrate at Christmas.

I hope your Christmas will be truly blessed.