

## Babies First

During the last few months we've changed the radio station that we wake up to in the morning. We decided to give UCB (United Christian Broadcasters) a go. It's digital, so you'll need DAB or the internet to try it for yourself. It's taken some adjusting to - even I didn't know most of the music - but it's been well worth doing. Being inspired and fed with faith-filled content is a great way to start the day!

One of the little stories was about investing in our foundations, but it also made me think about Christmas! A traveller was strolling through a small village and stopped to chat to a wise elder. The traveller asked whether any great men or women had been born in the village, and the elder replied, "No, only babies." The point made by the storyteller was that we all need to invest in our foundations - growing in our life of faith from childhood through to maturity. It's a really encouraging thought but it can be difficult, especially if you've come to faith late in life, as the pressure to know it all suddenly must be quite big!

What it also made me think about was the investment that God made in the foundations of His salvation plan. The patience of the Father, watching His Son be born a vulnerable baby boy, knowing that for the first thirty-odd years, there wasn't a great deal going to be happening, just growing, living, learning, perhaps trying a few things out, being told off for being an annoying, know-it-all teenager!

Perhaps that's why God put on such a show at the birth; stars, angels, travellers, innkeepers and shepherds. God was just getting it all out, so that calm, patient waiting could take over for the rest.

We, too, will need to learn continued patience. 2017 will be a year of great celebration, ribbon-cutting and plenty of cake (Janet - we need a 7-tiered cake to celebrate the re-opening of the Parrs Wood Road church by June, please!), but it will be just a start. How we begin to grow and learn and change and try things out, get it wrong and try again, is what will matter.

Were any great churches born here?

Wishing you a very happy Christmas and blessed New Year.

**Andy Hall**