



Malborough Baptist Church

Sunday service at 10.30am, Minister: Rev Tim Skillman, Tel: 01548 560168
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It often bothers me, as I'm sure it does you, that after the Christmas rush, tinsel, toys, flashing lights and all those Christmassy things, that we need a rest to some sort of normality. But, low and behold, as soon as the Christmassy things are moved off the store shelves, they are replaced by a huge and colourful array of chocolate eggs waiting to be stuffed by millions of chocoholics as some sort of celebration for Easter! Ugh!!

However, as I was lamenting this in prayer, I was reminded that the Christmas cradle and Easter cross are inseparably linked – one could not exist without the other. There's a beautiful song by Rae E. Whitney that expresses this wonderfully;

Christmas has its cradle, where a Baby cried; did the lantern's shadow show him crucified? Did he foresee darkly His life's willing loss?

*Christmas has its cradle and Easter has its cross.
Christmas has its cradle; shepherds came to see, Little Son of Mary, Lamb of God to be*

Had His Father warned Him, none would grant Him room, save in the Christmas cradle and in the Easter tomb?

Christmas has its cradle, wise men came to bring, myrrh and gold and incense, offering for a King; Myrrh alone stayed with Him, death's balm for this Boy, from the Christmas cradle and to His Easter joy.

Christmas has its cradle, where that Baby cried; in the Easter garden, Christ lay, crucified; When death's power was conquered, God's life through Him poured; Christmas has its cradle and Easter has its Lord!

Indeed, this is God's perfect plan to save the world. God has made the ultimate sacrifice in sending His Son to die for us that we might have life to the full– even life eternal! I hope we can see, through all the tinsel and chocolate, God's incredible love and remember instead the cradle and the cross.

You are most welcome to join us for lent services starting on Thursday, 14th February for 5 weeks at 7.30pm. We also have a wonderful three course meal open to everyone on the 21st March at 12.30pm. Our Good Friday service is on the 29th March at 10am and, finally, you're most welcome to our Easter service on the 31st March at 10.30am. All these dates will be taking place at the Baptist Chapel.

Rev Tim Skillman