

# Dec 21. Now See The Light

Due to the pandemic we were prevented from holding any kind of performance in school this December so we decided to put something together that we could share with families at home. This morphed into a Virtual Advent Calendar where each day of December, in the run up to Christmas, people open a door to view an item the children have put together with the help of school staff.

In the calendar are a selection of readings from Isaiah and the Gospels which include the following verses:

*The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.*

**Isaiah 9:2 ESV**

*In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*

*The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.*

**John 1:4-5,9 ESV**

As I read and heard these I was struck by the recurrence of the words light and darkness. For many people 2020 has been an extremely "dark" year with coronavirus the cause of much of the bleakness as it has led to isolation, uncertainty and serious illness around the world, with no one untouched by its impact.

However, the darkness we've experienced this year is nothing compared to the darkness that has impacted our world since the Fall when sin entered it. It is important to recognise that long before Covid-19 had ever been heard of, the impact of sin was seen and felt by us all in the greed, selfishness and anger that blights all our lives. Yet we live in a world where very few people are aware of the darkness of sin and it's consequences both on our lives here on earth and in eternity.

But these verses remind us that into this great darkness shines a far greater light, as the Son of God arrives on the scene of history with the express purpose of dispelling the darkness once and for all, through living a life of perfect obedience to the Law of God and dying on the cross in our place so that we might have our sin forgiven.

With December days being short we experience a lot of darkness at this time of year, meaning that all the Christmas lights contrast sharply against it.

As we see all these beautiful lights on streets, homes and gardens, let us all give thanks to God for sending His only Son as the light which could not be overcome by the darkness, and to ask Him to shine His light into the lives of people in our families, communities and workplaces so that they will come to know Jesus as their personal Saviour this Christmas.