

### Preaching Dates

**15 December 2019**

**Matthew Edmonds** (am) at

Alexandria Baptist Church

**Alistair Mackay** (pm) at Granary, a McCarthy-Stone retirement facility, Dumfries

**Jim O'Hara** (am) at

Vrnjacka Banja Baptist Church, Serbia

**Charles Sommerville** (am) at

Cumbernauld Baptist Church

**Ian Stephen** (am) at

Borders General Hospital, Melrose

**Willem Smit** (pm) at Youth Encounter Service,

Lossiemouth Baptist Church

**Charles Sommerville** (pm) at

Whitburn Christian Fellowship



**“I am the Lord's servant”**

**By Cheryl Leckie**

**“I am the Lord's servant,” Mary answered,  
“May it be to me as you have said” Luke 1: 38**

The birth of any child is always a big event although the preparations we make have changed somewhat between the birth of my last child 26 years ago and the arrival of my grandson 18 months ago. The way we look after a newborn has also changed in ways that still baffle me 18 months along the line! But some things never change. We worry throughout the pregnancy that everything will be ok, whether we will ever be able to afford everything the baby needs, whether we will be good parents or not. We worry that disruption in the corridors of government will have a negative impact on our new child's life and struggle sometimes to accept the circumstances we live in for the same reason.

At the time of Jesus birth, things were politically and economically very unstable in Israel. If Mary had been thinking about having a family, she may not have chosen that exact time to do so were it within her power. She almost certainly would not have chosen to travel to Bethlehem so near to her due date. She would never have believed that she would give birth in a stable and lay her newborn son in a manger, usually used for animal feed.

In spite of our familiarity with the story, it's always fascinating to consider the amazing way God set events in place so that everything would happen exactly the way He intended. Because of the greed of the Emperor, Mary and Joseph were in precisely the right place to welcome baby Jesus into the world. God had planned all along that His Son would come to earth in the place where King David had been born. Because so many people were in Bethlehem doing the same thing as the expectant couple, this baby was born in a humble stable to denote how low He was stooping in entering our world.

In spite of economic and political upheaval, God has not abandoned His children to the whims of a few power hungry people. His plans for humanity are still unfolding in such a manner that we often do not recognise them at first as the hand of God. Let us pray that we will have the blind faith of Mary and say, no matter what our circumstances or outlook, “I am the Lord's servant.....may it be to me as You have said”