

'I Can't be Bothered'

Introduction ...

'I can't be bothered'

When was the last time you thought – or said that?

'I can't be bothered'

Or when was the last time you heard someone else say it?

It may have been earlier on today ... May even have been about coming here this evening ... anyone of us (me included!) might have said it or thought about getting to this service: **'I can't be bothered'**... though as we're here, we must all have changed our minds ... possible with varying degrees of willingness!

Is the journey worth it?

And the willingness to **be bothered** is linked to our answer to a question about 'worth' ... the question **'Is it going to be worth it?'**

The Christmas Characters ...

That's a question that must have been asked by the characters we've been hearing about tonight.

A question asked about the journeys they were making. Perhaps not so much by Joseph and Mary – they had no choice ... the State demanded that they journey to Bethlehem.

But what about the Shepherds ... **Is it worth it?** Is it worth making the journey to Bethlehem? Is it worth leaving the fire, putting the sheep at risk, getting down there – and – even more to the point – trudging back up again. **Is it worth it? Can we be bothered?**

The same also for the wise men ... and a much longer journey for them, too! For them, the question **Will it be worth it?** was a question they couldn't answer in advance. They had **to be bothered** to make the journey in trust, in faith, hoping that it would be worthwhile.

It was only when they'd met Jesus – Jesus even as a baby – that they knew ... They knew that **it had been worth it**, they were glad that **they had bothered**.

For us ...

Well, we're in a better position ... their story can give us confidence, can give us the 'umph' we need ... that it is **worth bothering** worth making the effort to meet and to follow Jesus ... not only at Christmas, but each day and every day

But ... but

Conclusion ...

The main point of the Christmas message and of all the journeys made ... is **not** that the shepherds could be bothered, not that the wise men were bothered ... not even first and foremost about us being bothered ...

No ... the main point, the main message, the Good News is that **God could be bothered ...** that Jesus, the Son of God reckoned it was **worth bothering** to come from heaven, to be born as a baby, to grow up from childhood through teenage years to adulthood, to live, to teach, to be persecuted, to die ... He thought it was **worth bothering ...**

Why?

Because Jesus thinks you (and I) are worth bothering about ... because he thinks that this world and all its problems and its potential are worth bothering about.

That's the main journey, the most important journey we need to remember each Christmas:

The journey God bothered to make ... in order to share our life, in order to show his love and help us ... in order to transform us and our world ... power to overcome hate and bitterness and fear. A journey we hear expressed in this way in the Gospel of John: **The Word made flesh living among us.**

And **is it worth it?** Is Jesus **glad that he bothered?**

Yes ... whenever any one of us receives him, his teaching, his empowering ... when anyone of us receives his love and shares it with those around.

Amen.