

RELEASE DATE: **2nd January 2024 Ladies Fellowship – New Year Message**

HE KNOWS WHAT EVERY DAY OF THIS YEAR WILL HOLD

Doesn't time fly? It seems to go faster, the older I get, especially the couple of months leading up to Christmas. One moment, there are eight weeks to go and then suddenly it's Christmas Eve and incredibly everything has been done - the cards, the presents, the food, all the planning is over! For the children, the waiting seems endless, while for the adults we perhaps would like another day or two just to sit still and enjoy it all.



It made me wonder how it must have been for Mary and Joseph when they waited for the birth of this most unexpected baby. They had to travel, when perhaps they would rather have stayed where they were. They had the anxiety of finding a place to stay, they received some amazing visitors from shepherds to Eastern Magi, and even angels came to give them news of yet more journeys that had to be undertaken.

We hear of Mary and Joseph moving in willing obedience to their heavenly messengers, even though it must have taken so much effort and planning to pack and move all their belongings, while also making sure that Jesus was being kept safe in a foreign country. They even waited in Egypt until they heard that Herod had died and only then did, they return home to Galilee.

At the end of Luke 2, we are also reminded of others who had been waiting for their Messiah, and we read about Simeon and Anna, waiting patiently for a glimpse of the One who had been promised. The Holy Spirit had revealed to Simeon that he would indeed see the Christ. We read in Luke 2:29-32:

Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; 30 for my eyes have seen your salvation 31 that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, 32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel."

And Anna too could not contain her excitement:

And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

So, as we enter 2024, we may not be waiting for anything in particular, but we know that we can wait on Him, the Author and Finisher of our faith, who knows what every day of this year will hold.

Ruth Pettifer – Broadstone Baptist Church -Ladies Fellowship Committee