



The Firs, Yeaveley



Yeaveley Church

In the village of Yeaveley, where I spent my childhood at 'The Firs', there were about 45 farms and houses, a church, a school, a pub and Stydd Hall. Although it is only a small village it has a really interesting history. It is named after Sir Henry Yeveley, who lived at Stydd Hall. During his lifetime Sir Henry was very famous. He was an architect and at that time architects were usually stone masons. When the king wanted to attack a castle, Sir Henry was one of the architects whom he took with him because, as he was a stone mason, he was able to advise the king as to which part of the castle was the weakest part to attack.



Sir Henry worked on the architecture of The Tower of London and on the nave of Westminster Abbey and was probably the person who designed the monument for King Edward 3rd. He also helped with the re-building of Canterbury Cathedral and was responsible for the design of the tomb of the Black Prince.

Was Jesus famous?

Before His time of ministry, which began at around the age of 30 years, we read very, very little about Jesus. This is what is recorded about Him in the Bible:-

His birth at Bethlehem and the visit of the shepherds

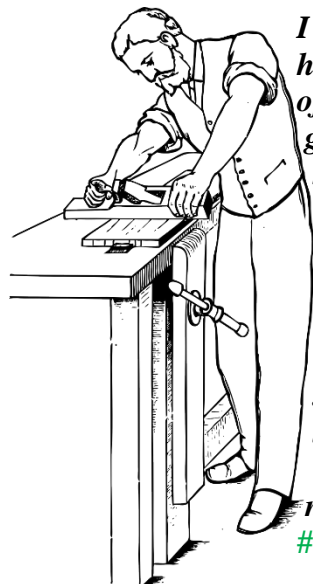
His circumcision when He was 8 days old.

His dedication 40 days after His birth.

The visit of the wise men.

In the temple at the age of 12.

Jesus of no fame (Written by Elaine Clegg)

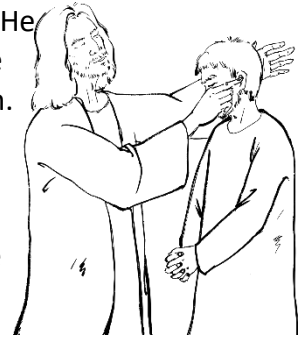


I have been thinking about the early life of Jesus. We know that He had four half- brothers and at least three half-sisters, although we are not told the names of the girls. As Jesus was growing up He would have had a typical family life, given chores to do and being schooled. With at least seven siblings, it would have been a busy household. His obedience to and discipline of His parents were all part of growing up as He learnt to live with the ups and downs of formative life. When a Jewish boy reached the age of twelve, he became an adult and as such Jesus would be expected to learn a craft – usually that of his father – so He became a carpenter.

On one occasion, after the family had visited Jerusalem, it was realised that Jesus was not amongst them as they made their way home and His parents spent three days searching for Him. When He was rebuked by His mother His reply was, "Did you not know that I am about my Father's business?" His mother did not understand what He meant but kept what He said in her heart.

The beginning of His fame

Jesus began His ministry after His baptism. He then became famous and what He did was known over a very wide area. He talked about God's Kingdom, but the thing that made Him famous was the way in which people were healed by Him. It became known that blind people were receiving their sight, the deaf their hearing and the lame being able to walk normally. No wonder He became famous! Hundreds flocked to Him to receive their physical healing, but of course, Jesus also impacted their spiritual lives. His compassion meant that He prayed for their physical well-being, but the real reason why He came to the earth was to make a path of salvation in a unique way that would be valid for all mankind throughout the ages and not only for that short period of just over three years.



World-wide fame



How famous is Jesus now? There are millions of Christians all over the world who believe that Jesus died in order that we can be forgiven for all of the wrong things that we have done and said. This forgiveness is available because of the death of Jesus on the cross. The amazing thing is that this one act suffices for all people of all nations and is a never ending open door for reconciliation with a holy God. All it takes is a willingness, on the part of each one of us, to take up that free offer so that our eventual home will be in Heaven.

The fame of Sir Henry was because of his expertise with blocks of stone, which may look very nice and last for a long period of time, but in no way affects our spiritual destiny. On the other hand, the fame of Jesus is never ending and affects us for eternity.

WORLD-WIDE FAME OF JESUS = A TICKET TO HEAVEN!