

# Scripture InSight

Bible Society in Northern Ireland

**Scripture Reference:** John 1: 1-14

**Bible Translation:** New International Version

**In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

**There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.**

**The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.**

**The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

## Reflections:

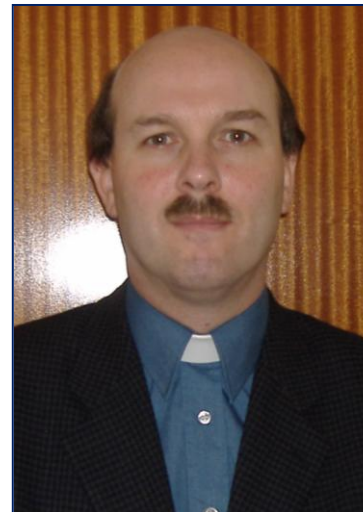
God incarnate! God become human flesh! Fully God and fully human! What an awesome thought.

I have always believed in the truth of the incarnation, but it has taken on even greater significance during my 12 years (so far) as a hospital chaplain. Chaplaincy is a privilege and a joy, which can be very rewarding and fulfilling. But ministering in a place where human pain and suffering are always before you can also be challenging. Doubts, fears, questions, anxieties, etc... are never far away for some people.

Does God care? Is God in this place? Is God with me? YES!

The incarnation reminds us that God is not "up there feeling sorry for us," but down here, with us, loving us. He invites us to be in His family and to share His grace and truth.

The incarnation is the basis of my hope and my strength in a hurting world. The God who came into the world for love of the world; even to the cross. This is "God with us!" God incarnate!



**Reverend Derek Johnston serves with the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust as full-time Lead Chaplain.**

