

- Showed *Alt.Advent clips 17, 18 and 22* during service: Joseph and Mary in stable, retrospective on story, Jesus born, Mary and Joseph's reactions, Shepherds visit Jesus
- Showed "*Jesus: Something more?*" from Vimeo directory

Down to earth / Something more?

- I wonder how many times you've heard the Christmas story, or part of it?
 - at least the number of years you've been alive - and for most of us, several times each year
 - even if its been snippets, parts of the story, a wee bit of school nativity play, a wee bit of half-remembered carol, a reference in some film or TV show...
- *Is this story merely nostalgia, familiar words from years past?*
 - for most of us here, I presume not - its something a little more, at the very least
 - perhaps you recognise the reality of the events portrayed in these stories - *it really happened...*
 - perhaps you sense there is *something more to life* than what passes for normal - work, job, money, house, family, holidays, stuff... - and somehow these stories of Jesus connect to that something more
- These Christmas stories speak of God *caring, bothered by what we are up to, interested in real life:*
 - so interested he came, literally, *down to earth*
- Generally we warm to folk who are down to earth, who aren't pretentious:
 - who connect with us, with our lives, with our situation
 - And that's precisely what God did in Jesus at Christmas - became down to earth, connected to our situation
 - and coming, he brings change - he is God, after all!
 - *hope, joy, good news... and good dose of awe and wonder!*

Conclusion

- Is there something more to Christmas than baubles and presents, carols and candlelight, mince pies and turkey?
 - do you really think so?
- I believe chocolate isn't great for my waistline:
 - maybe you believe too?
 - but if I don't translate that *truth* into a sensible eating plan, I don't *really* believe - I just say I do!
- *What about Jesus - are we drawn enough seek to follow him?*
 - *Alpha...?*