3.1.21

*The Word was the true light that enlightens all men (that is all people, in modern language); and he was coming into the world.*

*​*

And this event is, of course, what we are celebrating this Christmas. In the birth of the baby Jesus in the stable in Bethlehem, the Word, God the Son, came into the world, became if you like an integral part of the world. God himself in the person of the Son, through whom we came to exist, and only through whom we continue to exist, became one of us, truly joined us as a creature of the created order, whilst also remaining truly God. As John puts it, He was in the world that had its being through him.

​

And then we come to what must surely be the saddest words in the scriptures:

*He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him. He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him.*

*​*

We all know the sadness of rejection, and the more we have love for the one who rejects us the more it hurts. God, who loves us infinitely, is not wholly accepted by us, despite his becoming one of us. We do not know him terribly well, and in our pride and self-centred wilfulness we so often do not behave in a way befitting his love for us, but insist on going our own way. John was not of course talking directly about us; he was referring particularly to those who we read about in the gospels who believed they were waiting for him, should have welcomed Jesus with open arms, yet rejected him in the course of his life, and eventually had him crucified. But we are all guilty of a lack of love for him.

​

In Paul’s letter to the Ephesians (1: 4-5) Paul says to us: B*efore the world was made, God the Father chose us, chose us in Christ, to be holy and spotless, and to live through love in his presence, determining that we should become his adopted sons (and daughters) through Jesus Christ*.

​

*He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him.*

This being a time for new or renewed resolutions, what about this year’s being to make 2021 a year to get to know our risen Lord Jesus better, personally, so that as adopted sons and daughters of the Father we may better live through love in his presence?