

From the Vicar's desk

Wonder

A bakery manager in 1921 was given the job of naming the company's new loaf of bread. He pondered over it because he wanted something "catchy" and he found his answer in an unlikely place. While he was visiting the grounds of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, he stopped to watch the International Balloon Festival.

Later he described the sight of the beautiful hot-air balloons launching into the Indiana sky as one of "awe and wonderment." The thought stuck and he called the new loaf Wonder Bread.

Wonder, however, is a word that evokes something more significant than a loaf of bread or hot-air balloons. One dictionary defines wonder as "a cause of astonishment or admiration." It's a word that captures the experience of all the people surrounding the events of the coming of Jesus into the world – the angels, Mary, Joseph, the shepherds and all the people they told.

Luke 2:18 said they "marvelled." For all of them, trying to understand the birth of Christ was an exercise in wonder.

As we reflect on 2018, we have so much to be thankful for. As a church and also personally. Yes, some of us might have experienced the loss of a loved one or failing health. But my prayer for us as we celebrate Christmas, is that we may be filled with the wonder of His love and His coming.

"Have you felt the joy of the shepherds, who were first to behold the sight of that holy child of Mary on that wonderful Christmas night?"

A wonder-filled life is yours when you know the Christ of Christmas.

Every blessing, Father Carl.