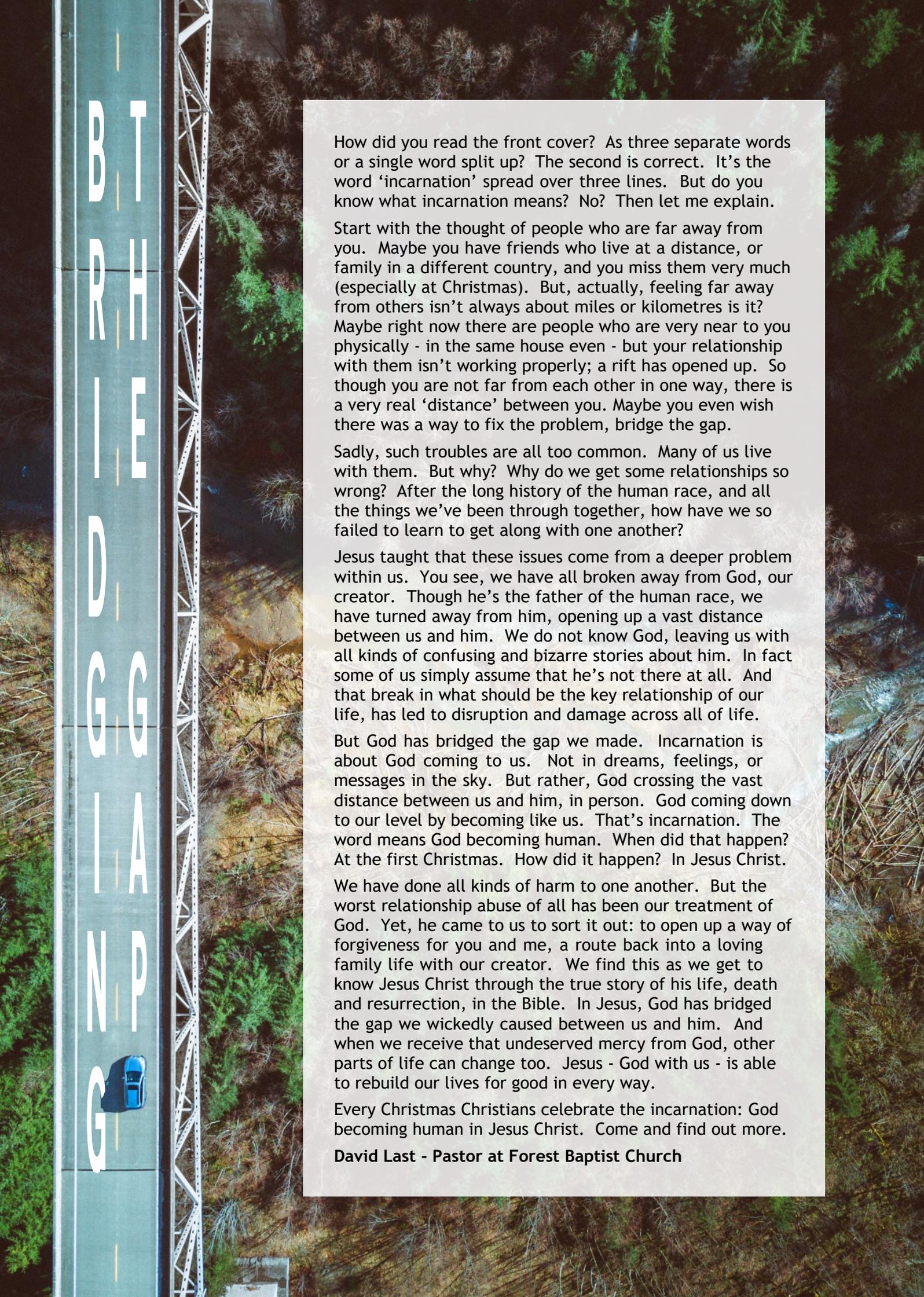


**CONTACT**

**INN  
CAR  
NATION**

**ADVENT 2017**

An aerial photograph of a road winding through a forest. A tall, white, lattice-structured signpost stands on the left side of the road. The signpost has large, white, sans-serif letters arranged vertically: 'B', 'T', 'R', 'H', 'I', 'E', 'D', 'G', 'G', 'I', 'A', 'N', 'P', 'G'. A small blue car is visible on the road, positioned between the 'N' and 'P' signs. The background shows a dense forest with green and brown trees, and a clear sky.

B  
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How did you read the front cover? As three separate words or a single word split up? The second is correct. It's the word 'incarnation' spread over three lines. But do you know what incarnation means? No? Then let me explain.

Start with the thought of people who are far away from you. Maybe you have friends who live at a distance, or family in a different country, and you miss them very much (especially at Christmas). But, actually, feeling far away from others isn't always about miles or kilometres is it? Maybe right now there are people who are very near to you physically - in the same house even - but your relationship with them isn't working properly; a rift has opened up. So though you are not far from each other in one way, there is a very real 'distance' between you. Maybe you even wish there was a way to fix the problem, bridge the gap.

Sadly, such troubles are all too common. Many of us live with them. But why? Why do we get some relationships so wrong? After the long history of the human race, and all the things we've been through together, how have we so failed to learn to get along with one another?

Jesus taught that these issues come from a deeper problem within us. You see, we have all broken away from God, our creator. Though he's the father of the human race, we have turned away from him, opening up a vast distance between us and him. We do not know God, leaving us with all kinds of confusing and bizarre stories about him. In fact some of us simply assume that he's not there at all. And that break in what should be the key relationship of our life, has led to disruption and damage across all of life.

But God has bridged the gap we made. Incarnation is about God coming to us. Not in dreams, feelings, or messages in the sky. But rather, God crossing the vast distance between us and him, in person. God coming down to our level by becoming like us. That's incarnation. The word means God becoming human. When did that happen? At the first Christmas. How did it happen? In Jesus Christ.

We have done all kinds of harm to one another. But the worst relationship abuse of all has been our treatment of God. Yet, he came to us to sort it out: to open up a way of forgiveness for you and me, a route back into a loving family life with our creator. We find this as we get to know Jesus Christ through the true story of his life, death and resurrection, in the Bible. In Jesus, God has bridged the gap we wickedly caused between us and him. And when we receive that undeserved mercy from God, other parts of life can change too. Jesus - God with us - is able to rebuild our lives for good in every way.

Every Christmas Christians celebrate the incarnation: God becoming human in Jesus Christ. Come and find out more.

**David Last - Pastor at Forest Baptist Church**

# CHRISTMAS

## THE STORY OF THE INCARNATION

Here are some great ways for you to join with us this Christmas in discovering the true story of how God came to us in the birth of Jesus.

**Lunchtime Carol Service**  
**Wednesday 20th December**  
**1.15pm for 30 minutes**  
**Free refreshments afterwards**

**Christmas Eve Carol Services**  
**Sunday 24th December**  
**10.30am in the morning**  
**5.00pm in the evening**

**Christmas Day Service**  
**10.30am in the morning**

Or if you can't make it to a meeting, then why not just read the story for yourself? We would be happy to get a Bible to you, if you contact us using the details on the back page. Or it can be read online in many languages. Start here: <https://goo.gl/6DSEy1>

Joseph was told about his wife Mary: "She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" - which means, "God with us."

The Bible - Matthew 1:21-23



# Forest Baptist Church

Welsh Chapel Hall, 881 High Road,  
Leytonstone, E11 1HR

☎ 020 0222 6801

📱 07986 115735 (text/whatsapp only)

✉ contact@forestbaptist.org.uk

🌐 forestbaptist.org.uk

To contact our pastor, David Last, just use the details above.



## Sunday Services

**Morning : 10.30am**  
**Evening : 5.00pm**

**Bible Teaching**  
**Every Sunday**

## Friday Club

\* **3.30-5.00pm** \* Term Time \*  
\* For ages 5-11 \* **FREE** \*  
Get in touch with Gill on  
**07957 566 338**

## Justtalk

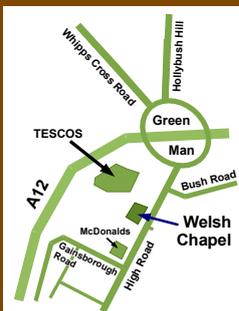
An informal group which gets together in Leytonstone every fortnight. Come and meet others, discuss an issue, seek advice or, even, simply practise your English. To find out more, visit:

[forestbaptist.org.uk/justtalk](http://forestbaptist.org.uk/justtalk)

## FREE ENGLISH CLASSES



Contact Ferris on 07727 082 449  
or [ferrislindsay@gmail.com](mailto:ferrislindsay@gmail.com)



Forest Baptist uses the Welsh Chapel on the High Road in Leytonstone, halfway between McDonald's and the Green Man Roundabout. Buses 66, 145, 257, W13, W14 and W19 all stop outside. The Tube station is just over half a kilometre away. A few car parking spaces are available on the site. Some of our activities occur in other locations. Please get in touch to find out times and places.