VOICE OF THE CHURCH

Stepping into real life suffering will cure you of theoretical religion and neat answers but it may give you an experience of the God who is there amongst those on the margins – the refugees of Syria – Lebanon, 700,000, mainly Christians, driven from their homes; or the homeless and hopeless of our own town; or the parents who weep at the grave of their child.

The Christmas word is: ‘Immanuel : God with us’ – Not remote but near, not a theory but an experience, not an old guy on a cloud but a loving living Saviour who became one of us to make us one with him. Make way for the real Christmas, quit the obsessive shopping and from the heart say ‘Jesus Stop Here!’

Phil Clarke

Superintendent Minister, Burnley Methodist Circuit