

Kettle & Fish News

December 2011

The trouble with Christmas is how to separate out fact from fiction, story from history. Take the switching on of the Town's Christmas Lights at the end of last month for example – we had carol singing, Christmas trees, Santa's grotto, a Christmas elf and a Snow Queen, mulled wine and hot chestnuts. In many ways a delightful mix of traditions, lots of fun and jollification.

However, for Christians the trouble with Christmas is further compounded by the fact that it matters very much that we do separate out the genuine Christmas story from the overlay of legend and myth that has become associated with this time of year.

I used to agonise over the morality of perpetuating 'believing' in Santa with my children – the more stories I invented to justify Santa's comings and goings, the more anxious I became that, as I would eventually have to tell them that Santa and his sleigh whizzing through the air and his visit to every home in the world was not in fact true, they might soon dismiss the account of the birth of Jesus as the son of God as another of dad's inventions? Thank God, we survived - and the account of the nativity retained its integrity for them.

Sad to say, though, Christmas has certainly lost much of its original value in our commercial, excessively materialistic age. And it won't get it back unless we Christians keep reminding folk of the basic truth that Christmas is here to celebrate the moment when God intervened in the history of mankind by sending his son Jesus to be the Saviour of the world. If you need help in this, *Kettle & Fish* has booklets, books, messages as well as personal testimonies, to encourage you.

Have a great Christian Christmas! – Malcolm (Offord) and the *K&F* team