

Hi everybody. You don't know me I'm Molly...Molly Chadwick. I don't live here I'm visiting a friend with my neighbour, Edith - no it's alright we're a bubble.

Oh before I get started – I'm a such a chatterbox - Happy Christmas! I wish you all the joy and peace you can take... Jesus, the light of the world is born, Alleluiah. Oh I'm that excited. What a special day....'cos we all love light don't we?

There's loads of different ones. I love candles . I use them a lot. There's nothing better than coming in, making a cup of tea and lighting a candle when someone's got your dander up. Just sitting for ten minutes with the lovely glow of the candle calms me right down. Bet a lot of you love the twinkly fairy lights. They look lovely don't they, except for the flashing ones....they get right on my wick!

Oh, but manmade lights don't last do they. You only have to turn your head and one of those tea lights has gone out. I prefer the big candles but even they don't last. I mean,... batteries need replacing and don't get me started on power cuts.... 5 hours the power was off last week and me with a stew in the oven. I had to have bread and jam....like being a kid again.

Anyway we're celebrating the birth of Jesus today and he's a light that never goes out. And I mean never.... By the way, have you ever thoughtdarkness only happens in the absence of light....even a teeny tiny light will dispel the dark- you only need a glimmer. Light is active and dark is passive. You don't get dark coming in and getting rid of light. It only wins when the light goes out. I was thinking about that last week when I put the outside light on to put my recycling in the blue box.

Sorry got side-tracked a bit there. No...I was reading John's gospel this morning about the Word being with God and was God and nothing came into being without him....and then our awesome God (the Word), who created our world and us came into the world as a human and joined our mess! Listen to this 'the true light, which gives light to every human being, was coming into the world.' Wow, doesn't that boggle your mind!! I know I've never been so boggled. Let's read it again, just 'cos we can! 'the true light, which gives light to every human being, was coming into the world.' Joy to the world the Lord has come! No wonder we're so blessed with Jesus! Our God has joined us in our world! And we know the rest of the story don't we... that he died and rose again and he is

with us for ever and we have the hope of our resurrection to join him in the kingdom of God..... when I think of that I'm just beside myself with joy.

Everything we want and seek from light – that's Jesus!

He is the light of the world. As it says in Hebrews 1 'Jesus is the shining reflection of God's own glory'. That light is love. When we look at his life....how he shines! and how we can learn about what that love is. We can reflect that light too if we follow him.

Just as manmade light shows us the way and stops us stumbling....so Jesus shows us the way. He shines a light on our thoughts and the way we behave and inspires us to do better. He wouldn't tell his neighbour to shut her face. Well, she's a cantankerous old so and so and she's always mouthing off.... I was reading that bit in the gospels when Jesus says you should forgive each other and love your neighbour.... Well I thought...give it a try. So I made her a cake and knocked at the door. The way she opened it you could tell she was getting ready for a good row. Anyway, cool as you like I says 'I've been baking and thought you might like this cake. And by the way I wondered if you'd like to come and have a coffee' – this was before the dreaded Covid- When she got over the shock....she says 'yes alright that would be nice' As we got talking I realised that she wasn't the nasty old goat I thought she was. She said she was really lonely and nobody seemed to like her. I had to bite my tongue 'cos I wanted to say if she wasn't so nasty to everyone she would have a better chance...but I didn't I said 'I would like to be your friend.' We go to bingo together each week now and I told her that if she wants the best friend she could ever have she should come and find out about Jesus. She's coming to our bible study group next week. Well, it's a good week to pick because it's Sophie's turn and she makes the best scones this side of Bradford!

Jesus also brings us peace and shows us we don't have to be afraid. He shows us the power of love. I know last year when my husband died...it was a dark time. We'd been expecting it but it still came as a shock. I felt so alone and so anxious about everything. Well he used to do all the financial stuff and I didn't know where to start. One day soon after the funeral I was having a bit of a weep, with my candle lit and was praying through the tears. I felt this amazing blanket of peace wrap around me like a warm blanket and all my anxiety disappeared like a light had been lit. I could feel his loving presence and his

comfort. I knew people at church had been praying too and soon there was visits from people with all the food you could eat and offers of help to get to the bank, to go shopping oh lots of things. I didn't feel alone anymore. I was still sad but the sense of peace was still there.

Right well, I've gone on for long enough. Edith, that's my friend next door, you know the ex-old goat...she tells me to shut up my bathering when I've run on chattering for too long.. We laugh together.

So I'll say my goodbyes..... We're full of joy and wonder as we celebrate the birth of our saviour, Jesus for another year. The best thing I can say to you is Go with God.

He is born...Allelujah.....yes I'm coming Edith...No I didn't go on too long....I was just spreading a bit of joy...it's such a special day. Hope you've asked Gladys to put those mince pies in the oven 'cos I like them nice and hot.....