

Why Shepherds?

If you had news, important news,
Of the greatest events that ever befell,
Who would you give the message to?
Who would you tell?

Why, I'd call up "The Times" and "The Guardian",
I'd write to my M.P.
I'd contact the Palace and Whitehall,
And e-mail the BBC.

And what of the men on the night-shift
On the industrial estate?
Would you find time to let them know?

Oh, no. They'd have to wait.

But God found time for the shepherds,
That night, as they watched their sheep;
While kings and priests and governors
All lay sound asleep.

If the news had been sent to the Palace,
It would have brought no joy,
For Herod was full of jealousy
And hated the baby boy.

If the news had been sent to the Temple,
They would have debated for days,
About signs, and dates, and prophecies,
Instead of just coming to praise.

So the news was brought to the shepherds,
And although they were afraid,
They did what each of us must do -
They believed, and they obeyed.

