Welcome to the 7th weekly prompt on **Gladness and Generosity**.

Last night we had the Carol Service at Bents Green.  A Sheffield man, James Montgomery (hence Montgomery Road and the Montgomery Hall), wrote one of our traditional carols:  ‘Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o’er all the earth, you who sang creation’s story, now proclaim Messiah’s birth.’  What is he saying?  That the angels in heaven, who were there at the big bang, now announce the birth of the long-expected Son of God.  Creation reaches its fulfilment in the coming of Christ.  The Son of God, whose hands ‘flung stars into space’, is born among ordinary people, in a backwoods province of the Roman Empire, and his birth is announced first to shepherds working the night shift.  Why wasn’t he born in a palace?  Why didn’t he live among kings and presidents?  Because Jesus has come to be with all of us, whoever we are, and has promised to be with us, always.  Let us rejoice in the coming of Jesus!

And let our gladness spark our generosity!  We are giving simple gifts to everyone at our Christmas services, such as a sweet when they leave, food and drink at café carols, or a Christingle, at the 5.30pm service on Christmas Eve.  And this year, thanks to the ladies of Games, Craft and Chat, we gave 1000 knitted angels, each with a Christmas message, to the community at Bents Green.  Did you find one on Friday morning, 7 December?  Lots of children did on the way to school.  Please pray that the angel and its message may help to open hearts and minds to the reason for the season!

*Produced by Daphne and John Wilkins on behalf of the Bents Green Holy Habits Planning Group (Debs Barnett, Glenn Evans, Martyn Read, Graham Wassell, Daphne and John).  You can find more information on the Circuit Holy Habits Programme on the Sheffield Methodist Circuit website and also the Sheffield Methodist Circuit Facebook page.*