Day 21
Son of Man

*The Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. Matthew 12:40*

Some stories are meant to be understood on two levels. A simple one and a deeper one that you have to think about. Take the story of the race between the tortoise and the hare. The hare is a very fast runner but gets easily distracted. In the end the steady pace of the tortoise means the tortoise wins. On a simple level this is just about a race. At a deeper level, it asks people to think about how this works out in life.

Whenever Jesus referred to himself as the Son of Man, he was doing something similar. There were two ways to understand what he was saying.

One way was the everyday, ordinary use of the phrase, ‘son of man’. It could just mean being human or saying, ‘someone like me’.

But there was a second, deeper meaning that Jesus wanted people to think about. To do this it helps to know part of the Old Testament.

The part is Daniel chapter 7, verses 13 and 14. Daniel had a glimpse into heaven. This is what he saw:

There before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven.... He was given authority, glory, and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshipped him...his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

Whenever Jesus spoke about himself as the Son of Man, he was hinting at this deeper meaning.

How can we be sure that Jesus is the majestic one that Daniel saw in heaven?

We can be sure because Jesus didn’t stay dead and buried ‘in the heart of the earth’. After three days he rose from the dead. Jesus’ resurrection tells us that he is the majestic Son of Man that Daniel saw.

As we sing carols this Christmas, let us worship Jesus who reigns in heaven as the majestic Son of Man.