

Good-News Desk!

The Magazine of Tylers Green Methodist Church



Minister:
Rev. Vida Foday

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December, 2018



JOY

Love

Peace

FORGIVENESS

Hope

MERCY FAITH

Faithfulness

GOODNES

Believe in Jesus

CELEBRATE

FOR **GOD** SO

loved the world

THAT HE **GAVE...**

On Christmas Day, the most read text in Churches is: "There is born to you this day in the city of David a Saviour who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2: 8-14). It is proper that Christians celebrate Christmas — the amazing gift of Jesus Christ - God in human form. As we celebrate Christmas let us be aware of the real significance of this gift from God. A Saviour who was born to seek and save that which was lost, who offers forgiveness of sin and assurance of heaven to all.



In appreciation to God for this precious gift, here are a few suggestions: let us choose to become road builders for Christ especially in our New Year Resolutions; let us use God's Word to encourage one another in faith, especially those who may find Christmas difficult due to the loss of their loved ones or broken relationships.

As Christians and channels of God's love, let us pray for help for those facing this Christmas without employment or enough money, and do not know how they are going to make ends meet —that God's presence may be with them even in their pain and suffering.

By faith let's take up the wonderful Christmas gift God has given to us — our Lord Jesus — and receive Him in our hearts. This Advent, as we prepare to celebrate Jesus' birthday, let us think of what we can possibly give to the One who not only has everything, but who created it all.

At the beginning of the New Year, as we enter into the spirit of Epiphany, may the Holy Spirit help us to share the 'Good News' that the 'Light of the World' - Jesus Christ is for everyone. May we be reminded that God has no outsiders, and no one is excluded from His compassionate love. The wise men were able to travel to Jesus guided by a star, and gave him presents of gold, incense and myrrh. They gave Jesus their time, their worship and their hope. Let us also strive to give

of ourselves to others, for the presence of God is revealed in the world when we give of ourselves in love to others.

May the joy of redemption shine through us this Christmas. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year God bless you all.

Vida

Prayer for Christmas Joy

Loving, generous Father,

This Christmas, please help us to keep you at the centre of our preparations and celebrations.

May our thankfulness for the gift of your precious son, Jesus, motivate all that we think and say and do.

May the joy of His coming shine from us and attract those who don't know what Christmas really means, so that they want to find out! In Jesus' name and for His glory,
Amen.

Service Changes over Christmas

There are some changes from the Plan to our services over the Christmas period.

On the Plan, Sunday 23rd is shown as a local arrangement. This service will now be led by Peter Stevens.

On the Plan, Sunday 30th indicates no service here. Following a discussion at Bible Fellowship there will be a shortened form of service at the usual time of 10.45am. planned by Ashley and Rosemary.

OUR CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS

Once again, we shall be supporting Testimony Faith Homes with our Christmas cards donations and Christmas Day offering. The latest newsletter from Testimony Faith Homes (October) is on the notice board.

DECEMBER NOTICE BOARD AND DIARY

SATURDAY COFFEE MORNINGS: 8th DECEMBER at 10.00 am - Carols, Quiz and Mince Pies!

On the 12th JANUARY we will plan speakers, demonstrations and activities for 2019. Please come along with your ideas and suggestions.

BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP:

MONDAY, 3rd DECEMBER - 2.30 pm at 131 Cedar Avenue (Rev Angela's home)

MONDAY, 17th DECEMBER - 2.30 PM at 54 Coppice Farm Road (Geraldine's home)

Please bring something with a Christmas theme - a poem, a reading, etc. As usual we extend a welcome to all.

Dates for January: MONDAY 7th - 2.30 pm at 131 Cedar Avenue

MONDAY 21st - 2.30 pm at 54 Coppice Farm Road

FURTHER BIBLE STUDY

One of the items considered at our recent Church Council Meeting was a proposal for an additional Bible Study group. This would be held in the Church Lounge at 3.45pm on alternate Thursdays. If you are interested please see Rosemary to discuss details.

This will not take over from the Monday Bible Study Fellowship. It will be held on alternate weeks to the Monday fellowship and is intended for Bible reading and study - please don't expect tea and cakes! (That would spoil our evening meals)

SHOE BOXES - WYCOMBE HOMELESS CONNECTION: As in previous years we hope to fill as many boxes as possible with warm items of clothing i.e. hats, gloves, scarves, socks and underwear for men and women. Hand knitted scarves are especially good. Shoe boxes can be collected from the vestry if you do not have any, or bring items in a bag. Thank you in advance for your generous support.

NOVEMBER CHURCH COUNCIL

This is a brief summary of discussions involving some matters of general interest. The note about a possible additional Bible Fellowship group was raised by Rosemary who has kindly written about this on page 2.

We are grateful to the trustees of Naphill Methodist Church for the replacement seating in the lounge, a big improvement and this will be followed at some stage by a replacement carpet.

Approval for the expenditure was given to replace the broken sound system in the church. At the time of writing discussions with the contractor were nearing completion and we hope to have the work done in the February half-term. Hearing aid users will be pleased to hear (!) that a new loop system is included.

The Circuit has obtained permission to appoint a probationer minister from September next year. He or she will fill the gap to be left by Singa's departure next summer. He or she will be assigned to the new Town Centre section for Wesley and The Avenue. (A probationary minister is one who has come through ministerial training and must complete training in Circuit).

If there had been three wise women...

they would have asked for directions

they would have been on time

they would have assisted with the birth

they would have cleaned the stable

they would have brought more practical gifts (i.e. disposable nappies!)

Christmas Dilemma

What a dilemma for a slimmer
Eating all that Christmas fare,
Getting fatter, what's it matter?
It's only once a year.

Now the party has begun,
Crackers and cheese and party hats
Turkey with trimmings, presents with ribbons,
Figgy pudding – do we still eat that?

Food a-plenty, plates all empty
Waistbands bursting, no room left,
Soon we'll reach for the Alka Seltzer
That's the truth, I do not jest.

Celebrations, assignments, party frocks with lots of bling,
But the reason for the season
Is the Baby in the manger, came to earth as a stranger
Peace on earth and joy to bring.

by Megan Carter

This article, by Christian solicitor David Pickup, considers all those people out to collect money this month. A timely reminder as the collection boxes multiply before Christmas.

When people want your money for their charity

I had a bit of a Scrooge moment recently. There was a man outside my usual supermarket collecting money for the local children's hospital. He was a bit scruffy and was holding a bucket which had some writing on I could not see clearly.

Do not get me wrong, charities depend on people being generous and open-air collecting is vital. What concerned me is there *is no children's hospital within miles of where I live...* so who exactly was he collecting for?

Collecting money for a charity is hard work and difficult thing. Just ask anyone who has been selling poppies or delivering envelopes for Christian Aid. We should be grateful to anyone who gives their time to do this. There are all sorts of regulations about collecting, and legally it is complex. The law is there to protect the genuine charity and to prevent nuisance. Well known charities usually act within the law and will gladly deal with enquiries or complaints.

Most forms of collecting in public places require a permit, usually from the local council. There are different rules depending on whether you are standing still on a street, or shaking a tin, or going door to door.

Another type of fund raising is chugging. Chuggers are people who accost you at busy places in towns and try to sign you up to support a charity. They are paid for their work and often support worthwhile charities, but they can be pushy. As they are not collecting money as such, there are not many legal restrictions. In fact, money is the last thing they want. They are looking for direct debits for a few pounds, which are followed up later by telephone canvassing to increase the amount. *Be careful what information you give.*

The man outside my supermarket remains a mystery. I should have asked to look at his bucket and see if there was an address and charity registration number on it. I think supermarkets should have a collecting area with a sign saying, "this week's charity is" Then you would know it is legitimate.

Christians are called to be generous as givers and helpers. Any charity we are involved in should be well run. What I should have done after avoiding eye contact with the man, was donate inside to the food bank.

As always this is a light-hearted article on the subject and get proper advice. Plenty of guidance is available on line especially from your local council. There is some very useful information at <https://www.fundraisingregulator.org.uk/>

Editor: The Rev Paul Hardingham considers the unthinkable

God's Special Gift

For those of us about to spend Christmas with a new child or grandchild, we will know how very special the arrival of a baby is! This Christmas we celebrate again God's gift of Jesus: *'Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!'* (2 Corinthians 9:15). What can we say about this baby?

He is God Himself:

The unthinkable has happened: God has become a human being! The eternal, creator God enters the world of time and space, both fully human and fully divine. This divine baby can bring hope to our messy world, because He has fully become part of it. He doesn't stand apart, but demonstrates a commitment to be with us and on our side in the midst of sin and suffering.

He is human like us:

Jesus fully engaged with the jungle of human experience. By His cross and resurrection, He can release us from the power of wrong, hurt and shame to secure for us a life of love, peace and forgiveness. Remember, the crib and cross are made of the same wood!

He is one with us:

In the coming of Jesus, God doesn't draw us simply into a cosmic event, but into a relationship. Just as you or I can hold and hug our children and grandchildren, so we have a God who wants to be intimately involved in our lives. As Emmanuel, *'God is with us'* (Matt 1:23). Therefore, the question is: *Are we with Him? Are we ready to make space for Him at the centre of our Christmas Celebrations this year?*

'At Christmas time, when we receive presents we don't really need, God offers us a gift we cannot do without.' (J John).



Christmas Word Search

H T E P I P H A N Y E S J
C P N Y E S S E C O N D E
B E M E B Y I I I O U E S
K T A U V A L L I A E I U
R W C E I D B T N C N A S
C E L E B R A T I O N S K
P L T F F R T T F M E S E
E F U U O R S G N I T A E
A T A C R U E T U N R V W
C H E E J N R P J G I S R
E D R I N K I N G V M S T
S T F I G W I R E D R O E
I F R U K N E R T W H R I

Solution available at Church

The Minister and his Son How True!

Andrew was watching his father, a Vicar, write a sermon for the Christmas service.

'How do you know what to say?' Andrew asked. 'Why, God tells me', the father replied. 'Oh, then why do you keep crossing things out?'

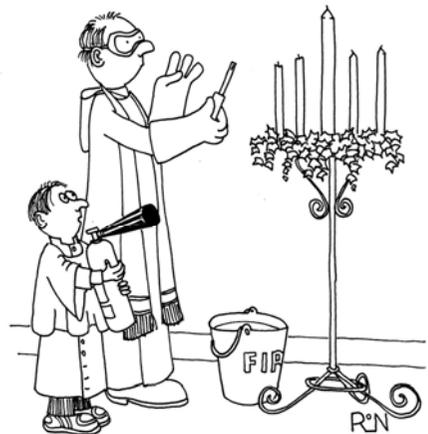
Why is turkey so popular at Christmas? Because the weather is a lot warmer over there.



I hope your

Christmas has a little touch of Eternity in among the rush and pitter and all. It always seems such a mixture of this world and the next - but that after all is the idea!

Evelyn Underhill



After the first candle fiasco, Brian took no chances

*When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost, To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry; To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among others,
To make music in the heart.*

I came across this poem by Dr Howard Thurman through the writings
of the Most Reverend Michael B Curry Says it all really ...

PS

And finally...

The minister was having a tough time in the run-up to Christmas. He finally stretched himself out on the couch to do a bit of what he thought to be well-deserved self-pitying.

He moaned to wife: 'Nobody in this church loves me ... the whole town hates me!'

His wife passed by with this encouraging word: 'That can't be true, Sam. I'm sure most people don't give you a second thought.'

CHURCH DIRECTORY

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Minister: Rev. Vida Foday* - 📞 562788 (Vida's day off is Friday)

Worship Leaders: Geraldine Nelson* and Chris Oxby*

Senior Church Steward/LP : Peter Stevens*— 📞815256

Church Stewards:

Toyin Akinwale— 📞 817792

Martin Hellewell— 📞 816168

Geraldine Nelson – 📞 815631

Chris Oxby – 📞 814982

Church Treasurer : Geraldine Nelson - 📞815631

Church Council Secretary: Sue Horley Sue.horley1@gmail.com

Room Bookings: Geraldine Nelson – 📞 815631

Pastoral & First Steps: Christine Stevens - 📞815256

Property : Peter Stevens— 📞815256

*** Church Leadership Team**

Church Premises

Please mention anything requiring maintenance or attention to any of the Property Stewards: Peter and Christine Stevens, Martin Hellewell or Rosemary Newman.

Good-News Desk

Items for the next Good-News Desk should reach Peter Stevens by the 18th December for the January edition, either on paper or emailed to psredkite@googlemail.com or 📞815256

Note: Some items in Good-News Desk are included by subscription to Parish Pump—the resource site for Church Newsletters.



SERVICES DIARY - SERVICES AT 10.45 a.m. unless otherwise stated.

Date	Preacher/Service Details	Vestry Steward	Welcome Stewards If you are unable to do your turn, <u>please arrange cover!</u>
2nd Dec	Peter Green	Martin Hellewell	Christine Stevens & Jenny Crayford
9th	Rev Vida Foday—Holy Communion	Chris Oxby	Angela Davis & Chris Oxby
16th	Carol Service	Geraldine Nelson	Christine Stevens
23rd	Peter Stevens	Geraldine Nelson	Margaret Hallam & Rosemary Newman
25th at 10.00am	Rev Vida Foday	Peter Stevens	Christine Stevens
30th	See page 3 for service details.		