

the NEW Messenger

NOVEMBER &
DECEMBER 2019




Third
Avenue

CHURCH & COMMUNITY

GILLINGHAM METHODISTS | *Part of the North Kent Circuit*

It is Christmas every time
you let God love others
through you... yes,
it is Christmas every time
you smile at your brother
and offer him your hand.

Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Sunday Preaching plan for Gillingham & Hartlip

THIRD AVENUE | MORNING | 10.30AM

HARTLIP | EVENING | 6.30PM

NOVEMBER 2019

24 Nov Rev Robin Selmes

Brian Davies

DECEMBER 2019

01 Dec Rev Robin Selmes

Monica Wilding

08 Dec Junior Carol Service

Rev Robin Selmes
Holy Communion

15 Dec Rev Robin Selmes
Holy Communion

Carols by
Candlelight

22 Dec Rev Robin Selmes

10.30am | Brian Davies

6.30pm | Third Avenue Candlelight Carol Service

29 Dec Colin Waldock

Margaret Bowerman

JANUARY 2020

05 Jan Rev Robin Selmes
Covenant Service
with Holy Communion

Rev Robin Selmes
Covenant Service
with Holy Communion

12 Jan Rev Robert Zachar

Rev Robert Zachar

Details of all our Christmas Services can be found on Page 27 of this Magazine

Hello & welcome to the latest edition of the New Messenger..

Myself and Mark were lucky enough to have a holiday in Rome at the beginning of November. Travelling home, the past weeks' experiences began to circulate my mind, as the coach made its way to the airport.

Among the highlights was a visit to the Pantheon at the end of our holiday: an amazing building and a privilege to visit, along with all the other sites to see, indeed! While inside there was the opportunity to sign our names as a mark of respect for the past Kings of Rome buried there - all seemed a pleasant way to reflect on our experiences.

Rome is steeped in history and whatever the influences and methods of the past Emperors, Kings and Popes, it has shaped the City into what it is today and has led me to think about all that we can be grateful for, that have gone before, in our own Church and Community, the influences and investments for good. I personally feel very fortunate to benefit from some of these and this friendly and informative little magazine shares a wealth of opportunities and knowledge offering us good experiences that we can then share with others.

In this Issue we celebrate the investment of the 14th Gillingham Brownies marking their 70th Birthday, which I was pleased to be invited to; we enjoy an outdoor service for our beloved pets... and you can share in 'Lola's adventure' and learn about all the Groups that meet up regularly. There is plenty to reflect on with



reviews, prayers and poems and the continuing Big Questions to explore views that challenge our thoughts. Watch out for the next Drama Group productions, quizzes and Christmas Fairs and Festivals as we fast approach the Nativity Celebrations, with Special Services and events here and at Hartlip too.

Sadly, Cyril Berry and, recently other much loved members, are no longer with us but leave us their legacy of shared knowledge, commitment and life experience. Cyril played a big part in the life of this Church, dedicating his skills and quietly investing time and financial support where he saw a need. Here you can share the memories his three Sons gave at their Dad's Thanksgiving Service. We will be able to share more cherished memories of those no longer with us in further issues, remembering in particular Ivone and Win

Don't forget readers, there is 'space to fill' for the next issue so please 'make some of that space yours' to share with us all - an experience, an idea or a little ditty!

Ruth

From all of the Editors we wish you a very Happy Christmas and a blessed New Year.

You can contact us anytime by email: messenger@gillinghammethodists.uk
by post: New Messenger | Third Avenue Church & Community
Gillingham | ME7 2LU or come and chat to any of the team.
Deadline to receive articles for the **JAN | FEB edition will be 20 DEC 2019.**

A message from our Minister Rev Robin Selmes...

Waiting People

There is no Advent in this world. Whatever the Church lectionary might say. The world does not understand Advent. It cannot wait; it does not want to wait; It has lost the art. It wants things now. It cannot wait for anything but grabs it while it can before it is too late. Too late for what?

For without the waiting There will be no Coming And without the Coming There will be no meeting And without the meeting God and Man will not be one.

No Waiting by Hazel Whitehead

I'm waiting at the moment. Waiting to hear about a project, waiting for people to get back to my emails, waiting for someone to get back from a holiday so I can book in a time to see them.

I'm not good at waiting. I'm impatient, want everything now, want everyone to follow my timetable rather than me having to wait on others.

I would never be a good farmer! Waiting patiently for the precious fruit of the earth and for the autumn and spring rains. They do not grumble they just wait!

Yet, in our culture, wasting time, not achieving anything, "not having anything to show for ourselves" is considered to be a real failing.

The world doesn't like us to pause, especially at this time of the year when we are in the midst and hype of consumerism. They would say that every minute we spend pondering, and focussing on God, is a minute we're not spending money and making their company richer. They want us to spend money on things we don't need, in order to reach for some elusive, "perfect" Christmas, which cannot be bought.

But I say to you that the best preparation for Christmas is to stop, wait and reflect.

Advent should be seen as a time of waiting, in anticipation for the coming of Christ as a child, born in poverty, in a stable in Bethlehem.

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9: 6

Surely this is a gift worth waiting for this Christmas!

Advent is also waiting eagerly for the return of our amazing, wonderful, just and glorious Saviour and when heaven and earth will be transformed and we will be his people. This is what we are waiting for, preparing for all through our lives and every day of the year. And so Advent is about waiting but it's about an active waiting, deliberate activity as we wait, to do our part to bring justice and joy to earth now, whilst we wait for completeness of that as and when Jesus returns. As we see a glimpse of Jesus' love for us, and learn a small portion of the joy that comes from being loved, we can share it with others. Each day, we can try to find space to think about little ways that we, in our small corner, can show people that love and joy now and in doing so, makes this world a little bit more like the one to come.

This year don't get caught up in the hype of consumerism instead be waiting people.

Merry Christmas to one and all

Robin, Mandy & Family



Worship | 10.30am

Advent

SERMON SERIES

*The Meaning is
in the Waiting*

The meaning of Advent lies in the waiting; a waiting that rests not in frustration but in stillness; not in frenzied anticipation but in an embracing of the present. If we want to appreciate Advent fully we need to relearn how to wait, to rediscover the art of savouring the future, of staying in the present and of finding meaning in the act of waiting

PAULA GOODER

SUNDAY 1 DEC | ADVENT 1
CALLED TO WAIT
REV ROBIN SELMES

SUNDAY 8 DEC | ADVENT 2
JUNIOR CAROL SERVICE

SUNDAY 15 DEC | ADVENT 3
**WAITING FOR THE
DAY OF THE LORD**
REV ROBIN SELMES

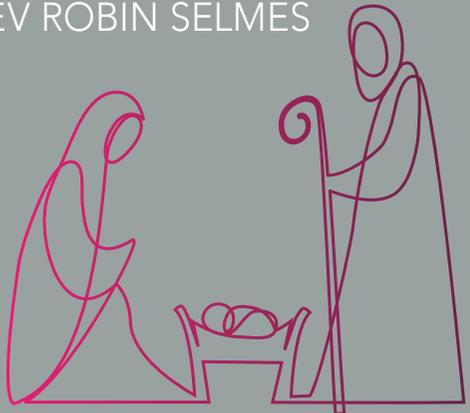
SUNDAY 22 DEC | ADVENT 4
LIFETIME OF WAITING
REV ROBIN SELMES

CHRISTMAS DAY
THE WAITING IS OVER
REV ROBIN SELMES



CHURCH & COMMUNITY

GILLINGHAM METHODISTS | *Part of the North Kent Circuit*



A message from our Youth Pastor...



As I write this article the young people have just started to plan their November **Youth Service**. These acts of worship are always a joy and a challenge to see. It is a joy to see the service grow from a few ideas, which seem all over the place to a coherent and passionate message from our youth. They are a challenge, because they get me thinking about my faith and my relationship with God. Sometimes this can be uncomfortable, but it is always a blessing. We also have the **Junior Carol Service** coming up on 8 December, which is much fun, and it is great to see how the young people want to share this familiar story with us.

In **Bible study** over the next few months we are looking at the life of Jesus across the various gospels, to see how they differ, why one gospel tells an event, but not another, and the different styles of the audiences. In **Spirit Squad**, we are exploring the Lion King and the various themes in the film that are linked to our faith. In **God Squad** we started the term exploring the book of Ephesians and some of the many messages that Paul talks about.

Youth Café and Wednesday Night Youth Group are both going well.

We had a great start to our **Youth Weekend Away 2020 Fundraising** at the Harvest lunch back in September that raised **£180**. Thank you to all who supported it in the various ways. There will be more fundraising events in the future so watch this space.

Thank you for all your love and support with our young people and please continue to pray for them and our youth ministry.

God Bless ~ Helen x

wednesday night
Youth Club
The Green Room | 7-9pm
Every other wednesday

3RD AVE YOUTH
Youth Pastor | Helen Young
youth@gillinghammethodists.uk

Youth Bible Study
For Year 11: 7-9pm
Every other wednesday

Perfect Hub for more information and details or view

3RD AVE YOUTH
Youth Pastor | Helen Young
youth@gillinghammethodists.uk

3RD AVE YOUTH CAFE
Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays
3-5pm

A place to hang out, have refreshments and play games

The Green Room | Third Avenue Church
15 Cornhill | Gillingham, Kent | ME14 2JF
Youth Pastor | Helen Young
youth@gillinghammethodists.uk

hello! Are you 18 to 30? YEP! Then why not join our new group

EVERY OTHER WEDNESDAY IN THE FOYER { 7-9PM

13 NOV GAMES
27 NOV HANG-OUT AND GAMES
11 DEC CHRISTMAS PARTY

Third Avenue
CHURCH & COMMUNITY
GILLINGHAM METHODISTS | Part of the North Kent Circuit

youth@gillinghammethodists.uk for more info

All Creatures Great and small God loves them all

Pet Blessing

On Sunday 8 September we held our first Pet Blessing...and what a great service and outreach to our community



Are Christians who reject Halloween missing a trick?



Note from Mark, one of the editors: I read this article on premierchristianity.com and thought it offered an interesting perspective on Halloween. See what you think...

Baptist minister Rev Peter Laws explains why he believes Christians should embrace Halloween and the opportunities it provides

I used to go trick or treating as a kid, but I was a pretty nervous vampire, to be honest. I'd say 'Trick or Treat' as politely as I could, and I can't remember anybody ever answering "trick". Later, we'd all perch on a wall and compare treasures, then I'd race back home and spend the night munching through my 'kets' (that's North East speak for sweets). It was a great night of spooky fun.

Years later, I moved down south and started going to church, where I was given the news: Halloween is Satan's Christmas...tis the pagan night of evil! To enjoy such things was to risk a mild case of demonism. So I let Halloween vanish into the shadows for a while, and avoided the Dracula masks in Tesco. Yet during those fang-free days, I noticed the Halloween aisle of the supermarket was growing...

Halloween is now the third largest sales 'event' for retailers on the calendar. So how has the Church responded to this tsunami of pound-shop fuelled devil worship? Rather than engage in what culture is already clearly interested in, many churches are now hosting

alternative Halloween events, like the Scripture Union 'Light Parties', where the only ghost you'll find is the Holy one. They're pretty popular too. SU told me that in 2018 they distributed 8,589 packs to churches who wanted to run such events – a rise of 6% on the previous year

At a Light Party you won't get gothic chills, you'll get positive games and wholesome Bible stories that celebrate light. Now let me be clear – there's nothing wrong with that. Some kids hate Halloween and are scared rigid. Light Parties are perfect for those children. I've been to a few of them myself and had loads of fun.

I just have one question.

Where do you find most kids and families on Halloween? Cracking out their Moses fancy dress and lining up at the local chapel? Nope. They're roaming the streets in their millions, dressed as monsters, trick or treating. Are these families lost in the dark and marching to the beat of hell? I doubt it. In fact, I wonder if they might be onto something.

First, we should remember that Halloween acknowledges and makes time for talk of death. Its origins lie in the Christian celebration of All Hallows, the day we recall dead saints. But secondly, Halloween does something ingenious...it turns that darkness into a party. People say Halloween glorifies

death, but when I see families trick or treating it's all laughs and squeals. I see kids dressed in skull masks literally laughing into the face of mortality. It's like when Paul said, "Oh Death, where is thy sting?", but only on a town-wide scale.

If you believe the myths about Halloween (that it's the night when the local witches sacrifice kids or when Pagans lace trick or treat chocolate with razor blades) then you'll struggle to see the light in October 31st. But for most UK families, the actual Halloween experience is rather more benign.

Yes, there are negatives, like teenagers egging pensioners houses. That's not good – but then we don't cancel Christmas when a few folks get drunk at the Christmas party, do we? Most of the family trick or treating I've seen is uber-polite and considerate. Parents hover, keeping an eye on their kids, "Hey, Archie...make sure you say thank you!" There's even a local code too - if you want pint-sized skeletons to knock on your door, light a pumpkin outside. If you don't want

them, then don't. It's all rather civilized and really quite fun.

Halloween is becoming one of the most community-based celebrations of the entire year. Christmas, is a very insular holiday. It focuses on family. Halloween however, is so much wider. It's a party that invites an entire jumble of ordinary people, out on the street. It's an annual time of community connection....so isn't it a little sad that all this happening without a Christian in sight?

The resource packs for alternative Halloween events often say that the real goal is to share Jesus with the community. That's an admirable aim, and I'm convinced Light Parties do achieve that for some, so let's support them. Yet most families are not in church that night. They want to be out in the cold, dark, carrying little lights with them at their party. So why can't some Christians do the alternative to the alternative Halloween and get out there with their friends and neighbours?

Help our patients smile this Christmas

Please sprinkle some festive spirit by filling stockings for our Christmas Day adult patients.

PLEASE DO NOT WRAP THE GIFTS

NHS
Medway
NHS Foundation Tru



Please fill your stocking with **SMALL** but **NEW** items, such as the following:

- ✓ combs & hairbrushes
- ✓ travel-size toiletries
- ✓ small packet of tissues
- ✓ wrapped sweets (not big boxes)
- ✓ socks (male or female)
- ✓ playing cards
- ✓ small books
- ✓ small notebooks
- ✓ small colouring books
- ✓ small puzzle books
- ✓ pens and pencils.
- ✓ Tooth brushes & Toothpaste

Please bring your stocking back to Third Avenue by Sun 15 December

Thank you!

Stewardship

How are the finances in your household?

That was a rhetorical question, so you don't have to answer—besides, this is a letter so we wouldn't hear you anyway. But we still want you to think about that question.

Money is a uniquely human issue, one we all struggle with to one degree or another. Even if you're financially blessed, you still have the burden of stewarding your money wisely.

And we believe that one of the best ways to invest your money is into the local church.

Tithing on a regular basis not only supports the work we do at Third Avenue Church. It doesn't just support local missions and community growth. It also shows that our church has a meaningful place in your heart.

As part of your prayerful consideration we think it is important that you are aware of our financial position.

This year the Circuit has introduced a new formula to calculate the Assessment, which has meant that our Assessment has increased by just under £6,000. It will not be easy to balance our accounts. To help, the Finance & Property Committee have over the last 2 years reviewed our letting incomes. **The Foyer Project** will also provide additional accommodation so that greater support can be given to people in the community during the day with particular emphasis on children, families, vulnerable adults and senior citizens. But not only will it increase our mission it will also provide additional income. In terms of expenditure we have made prudent cuts in our expenditure, secured good deals on our utilities and changed the way we fund building projects. Over time we hope that these measures will either reduce our expenditure or keep us at an even keel.

However, we still need your regular financial support. Your generous giving is a vital enabler for the mission and ministry of our work together as a church.

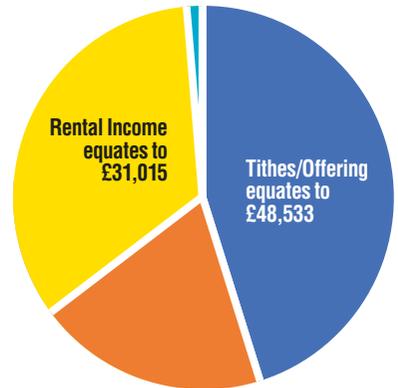
Taking into account the new assessment and a few rising costs our budgeted figure for next year is £107,650. Take away the rental income and this equates to £72,150

In terms of membership these figures means a contribution of:

£616 per year | £51.38 per month | £11.86 per week... per member

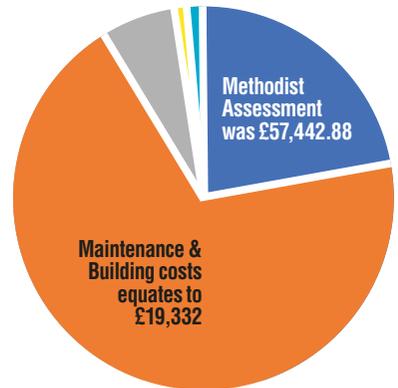
NB. Only 37% of our congregation regular give through the envelope or by standing order.

Income 2018/19



■ Tithes | Offering ■ Gift Aid
■ Donations ■ Rentals ■ Interest

Expenditure 2018/19



■ Assessment ■ Buildings
■ Utilities ■ Sundries ■ Ministry

The spontaneous generosity of our church family is legendary. Over many years it has helped to sustain our activities and extend our ministry into the wider community and the world. It has helped to complete building projects, pay for equipment and fund a youth pastor. God is overflowing with Joy when He sees this happening. Yet, we are concerned that we are not going to be able to meet our costs this year.

So please take the time to prayerfully review your regular financial support for our church and its work. If you don't already contribute on a regular basis the best way to support the church is to set up a regular standing order to **Gillingham Methodist Church** | Sort Code: 40-52-40 | Account No: 00024956.

If you need more information about others ways to give then please speak to Carol Waldoock. Yet whatever amount of money you decide to give each week or month, I know you will make your decision after prayer and thoughtful reflection; being generous but realistic about what you can afford.

Rev Robin Selmes

the **BIG** Questions

Our monthly **DISCUSSION GROUP**

A place of open discussion and exploration on the questions of **Life and Faith**

Are the 10 commandments still relevant today? TUES 5 NOV

How did the gospels come to be written? TUES 3 DEC

No Meeting JAN 2020

Christian perspective on Euthanasia TUES 4 FEB

What do Jews believe about Jesus? TUES 3 MAR



7.30pm in the **FOYER**
All are welcome



Christmas tree Festival

Saturday 7 December
10.30am~2pm

Come & see over
20 Real Christmas Trees
decorated by the different
Community Groups connected
with the life of Third Avenue
Free admission with
refreshments & various stalls



for this years
Christmas tree Festival:

Donations towards the cost of trees
(Gift Aid envelopes available);

Helpers all day to set up
on Friday 6 Dec from 9am
(A great opportunity for fellowship & outreach);

People to deliver leaflets;

Homemade Cakes;

Tombola Prizes (needed by the Friday);

Helpers on the Day;

**You, your family & friends
to come on Saturday 7 December!**

Book & Film reviews... *from Parish Pump*



Follow the Star 2019 – 12 Days of Christmas Wonder **Mina Munns, Justin Welby and John Sentamu | CHP | £1.50**

Follow the Star returns for 2019 with 12 brand-new reflections for the Christmas period. Each day includes a reflection, a short Bible passage, a simple prayer and a challenge to reflect or act differently.

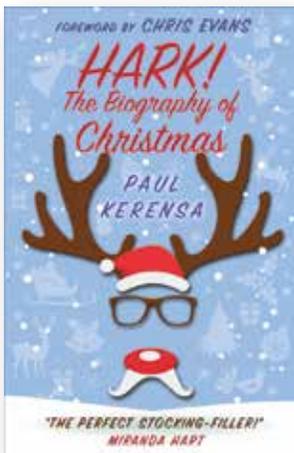
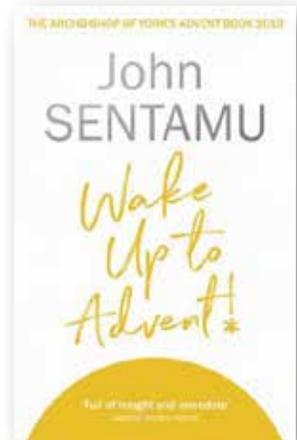
Wherever you are on your own journey, Follow the Star will help you see your life afresh through the light of the Christmas star, a sign of God's hope and promises.

Follow the Star is ideal for churches to give away at Christmas services and events. The booklet will be supported by additional free digital materials, including suggested activities for families based on each day's theme.

Wake Up to Advent! – The Archbishop of York's Advent Book **John Sentamu | SPCK | £9.99**

"This is the hour of crisis: it is high time for you to wake out of sleep, for deliverance is nearer to us now than it was when first we believed."

St Paul's encouraging words to the Christians in Rome are the springboard for the Archbishop of York's Advent book for 2019. With prayers and stimulating questions for reflection at the end of each daily meditation, here is fresh spiritual food for the Advent journey – pressed down, shaken together and running over. Walk alongside Archbishop Sentamu this Advent, as he discusses the meaning and influence of those four gospel imperatives in this lively and invigorating book.



Hark! The Biography of Christmas **Paul Kerensa | Monarch | £7.99**

In this delightful sleigh ride through Christmas history, Paul Kerensa answers the festive questions you never thought to ask... Did Cromwell help shape the mince pie? Was St Nicholas the first to use an automatic door? Which classic Christmas crooners were inspired by a Hollywood heatwave? And did King Herod really have a wife called Doris?

From Roman revelry to singing Bing, via Santa, Scrooge and a snoozing Saviour, this timeless tale is perfect trivia fodder for the Christmas dinner table.



THE ART OF RACING IN THE RAIN

**MOVIE
MOMENTS**

Nick and Carol Pollard from EthosMedia.org share thought-provoking reflections on the latest films.

The art of loving?

Ostensibly, *The Art of Racing in the Rain* might seem to be a film about cars and dogs. But profoundly it is about life and love.

The story is told from the perspective of Enzo, a golden retriever picked out of a litter by Denny, an aspiring Formula One driver.

As Enzo accompanies Denny to the track, racing provides a metaphor for life, and a source of reflective aphorisms such as:

“No race is ever won on the first corner, but many are lost there” and “The best drivers don’t dwell on the future or the past, they focus only on the present”.

We see, through Enzo’s eyes, a different perspective on familiar life events: falling in love, caring for a child, balancing work and family... And the relationship between Enzo and Denny highlights the common thread of love.

Love takes time to build. When Denny first meets Eve, who becomes his wife, it is clear that she is not a dog-person, and Enzo is not an Eve-person. But gradually they too develop a close bond.

Love is self-sacrificial. When Denny’s professional life conflicts with his family responsibilities he relinquishes opportunities that would advance his career.

But misguided love can also be restrictive. Eve’s parents feel that they must protect her from Denny’s lack of financial security and his dangerous job. And when Eve gives birth to a baby girl, they feel it is their duty to step in and provide for her.



As the film switches between the racetrack and the family home we are caused to contemplate life - the bumps along the road, the rain that falls, and the unexpected events that can take us off course. But, most of all, we might reflect on the nature of love – how to build it, how to give ourselves sacrificially for others, and how to enable our loved-ones to flourish.



**ETHOS
MEDIA.org**

EthosMedia.org provides free resources to help people explore spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues through the latest feature films.



He gave us eyes
to see them:
Gauguin's Portrait of a
Breton Girl at Prayer

Godⁱⁿ
the Arts

The National Gallery at Trafalgar Square in London houses one of the finest collections of European paintings in the world. It is home to 2,300 works spanning the centuries of artistic creation. During this year we shall be journeying through the gallery to explore one of those treasures each month.

By Rev Michael Burgess.

During this year we have been exploring the wealth of paintings in the National Gallery in London. Each year the Gallery has exhibitions highlighting the work of one particular artist, and until 26 January there is a major exhibition, 'Gauguin Portraits.' It celebrates in paintings and sculptures the life and work of Paul Gauguin (1848-1903). He is best known for the art he painted when he fled Europe to live in Tahiti in the South Seas. But from 1886 to 1891 he lived in rural Brittany at Pont-Even.

This month's painting is from those years when Gauguin was influenced by folk art and impressed by the simple faith of the Breton peasants. He has captured that faith in this painting of a Breton girl at prayer. His own catchphrase was 'I shut my eyes in order to see.' The girl has her eyes closed as she offers her prayers, but we sense that the inner eye of her heart is open in trust to God's will for her. At this time of the year children step into the limelight of church and school life with nativity plays. They invite us to journey with them in that same simplicity and trust to Bethlehem, just as St Francis of Assisi invited the people of Greccio to a cave outside the town in 1223. As they looked into the cave, they saw the animals and the hay, and in the centre, a new-born babe. St Francis talked to them of the simple message of God's love revealed in all humility and openness in this birth of the Christ-Child. He invited the people to respond with those same gifts.

As we look at this painting, we see something of the simplicity and trust called of us, whether young or old. Too often as we get older, we find our lives weighed down by responsibilities and pressures. We find time is swallowed up in the busyness of this season, and somehow we lose that innocence and simplicity of life. But, pondering the Christmas story and pondering this painting, we can put our hands together and pray for that openness and childlike trust. Fr Faber wrote a hymn with the lines:

'If our love were but more simple, we should take him at his word; and our hearts would find assurance in the promise of the Lord.'



Tea at 2 Christmas

You are warmly invited to share a delicious festive tea with friends, and a candlelight screening of...



Wednesday
11th December
2pm ~ 4.30pm
in the church


Third Avenue
CHURCH & COMMUNITY
100 THIRD AVENUE | GILLINGHAM | ME7 2LU

Oasis

Every
Friday
Open to all

A safe place to
explore & share,
to exercise & relax,
to talk & be heard


Third Avenue
CHURCH & COMMUNITY

Talking Point
12pm to 1pm

Chrysalis
1pm to 1.30pm

Listening Ear
from 1.30pm

Join us for our Carol Service & Party on Friday 13th December. We will then be closed for Christmas, returning on Friday 10th January.

Three lit candles are positioned on the right side of the poster. They are lit, with bright yellow flames and a warm, orange glow emanating from them. The candles are of varying heights and are set against a dark, gradient background that transitions from black at the bottom to a deep orange at the top, matching the candlelight.

Hartlip

Methodist Church
& Retreat Centre

Carols
by
Candlelight

The Christmas Postbox

Sunday 15th December
at 6.30pm with Mince Pies &
Coffee served after the service

Friends of Kent Churches Sponsored Ride & Stride



Many thanks to all who supported the Sponsored Ride & Stride on 14th September...

Hartlip Methodist Church & Retreat Centre

In September our Harvest festival was well attended including some people who came especially for the event. Our worship was a real celebration led by Reverend Penny Foreman, a friend of our church from the Anglican Clergy.

Also an upbeat event was the Harvest Sale on the Monday night led by Derek and helpers. This is always highly entertaining.

In the last month we have had two Sundays that were a little different from the norm.

Heather led us in a service entitled "Born in Song" a phrase often used to describe Methodists who are well known as a group for their love of singing.

We were led through a total of ten hymns ably accompanied by Heather and Rosemary. Heather also took us through a history of the different hymn books that Methodism had produced, including one originally printed in the eighteenth century, though her copy was printed in the following century, so not a valuable first edition! It was a very small page format but quite thick but would have fitted into a pocket which it was designed for. We learned



some new information and had a really good sing as we worshipped.

I was privileged to be invited to lead the afternoon retreat and evening service on Retreat Sunday, the day when we remember and celebrate the work of the Retreat Centre and pray for those who have used the Retreat Centre in the past year.

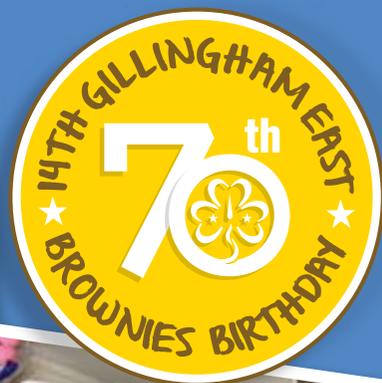
People from our own church and others came together to share stories and reflect on them in the afternoon, have a "Hartlip" Tea, and then follow the theme through to the evening service.

Thank you to all those who attended and helped with the preparation and on the day, including those who rearranged the furniture twice in a couple of hours so that the day ran smoothly.

Please join us for our **Carols by Candlelight service** on Sunday 15 December at 6.30pm. This is a beautiful service that really begins to focus our hearts and minds on the true meaning of Christmas.

Margaret Bowerman

14th Gillingham Brownie Birthday!



12th October was 14th Gillingham East Brownies 70th birthday party.

We were celebrating because of Margaret, the lady who started are Brownie Pack when she was 19 years old in 1949. If it wasn't for Margaret, 14th Brownies wouldn't exist!

It was an amazing night for me, my friends, my family and especially the Trefoil! We had lots of fun, singing, eating and making new friends.

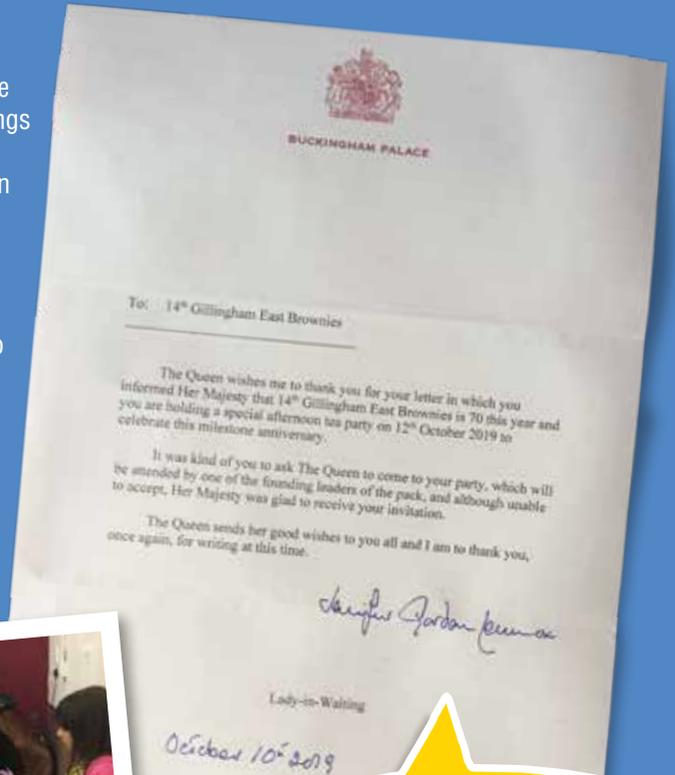
So at first we all had fill out a friendship form and ask people we don't know, if they like cookies, swimming or writing stories. They then had to write their names in the box of the thing they liked or liked doing. Then some people went to a small table to make friendship bracelets with the brownie colours, yellow and brown. There were also tables around the hall where you could make



s'mores, promise owls and shrinkits. As we got closer to the end, we sang some Brownie songs old and new like 'Pink pyjamas', 'Singing in the rain', '40 years on an iceberg', 'Thunderation' and many, many more. Just before the end we gave out bookmarks that we made on Thursday, to the Trefoil and all the adults who came along to help celebrate.

Everyone had a wonderful evening. Whom now have special memories...

**Written by the Sixer of the Elves,
Sadie, age 9.**



We even invited
The Queen...
and she replied!





14th Gillingham Rainbows, Brownies and Guides Christmas Fair

Thursday 28th November 2019

5.30pm - 7.00pm

Refreshments, Raffle, Tombola, Stalls, Christmas Craft

Hook a duck, Guess the name of the Teddy, Hook a bag,
Guess the weight of cake, Whacky races, Christmas craft.

All games 50p

Please join us for a cuppa and a bit of festive fun to get
you in the mood for Christmas.

All proceeds of fair to go towards our unit funds



Fundraising quiz night

for 14th Gillingham Guides.

Friday 13th December 2019

At Holy trinity church Hall Twydall lane



7.30pm start

£5 per person

Teams of 6-8



Bring your own drinks and nibbles

Contact Jenna 07581510572

Drama Group News...

We are now back to our usual Tuesday evening rehearsals, having had a few weeks break over the Summer period, although some members have been working on stage improvements during the 'rest period'.

Our Junior section are putting on the panto '**A Grimm Night for Hans Christian Anderson**' on Saturday 23rd November at 7.30 pm. Mel & Sally are directing this show & would be pleased to have support from the Church family. Tickets will shortly be available from Sally or any group member.

Meanwhile the Seniors have finished auditions for the family panto '**Aladdin**' by Alan P. Frayn which takes place next February and have started learning song words & movement (always an interesting exercise!). Our directors Mel Newman & Sam Digby are looking forward to the challenge of navigating the show through to its first performance.

At our recent AGM, chaired by President Robin Selmes, members agreed to make a further donation to the Church of £1,300, making a total for the year of £3300 .

Thank you for your continued support.

Keith Jackson | www.stpaulsdramagroup.co.uk





Memories of Cyril Berry | 1928-2019

During the beautiful and fitting Thanksgiving Service for Cyril, his son David read out the Eulogy that Cyril had written about his life - always prepared! Back in early 2016, Cyril wrote a 2-part article titled 'The Music in my Life' for the New Messenger and a lot of what was said then, Cyril had included in his eulogy. The editors therefore felt that to honour Cyril here, we would share the Eulogy and poem written and read out by his sons and family. However, if anyone would like a copy of the Eulogy written by Cyril, please speak to Mark.

Our Dad: We've heard David tell Dad's story. However, this service of Thanksgiving would be incomplete without acknowledging his role as a husband, as a father, as a grandfather and as a friend. We have much to thank him for.

Starting with Mum, we know how much you loved Dad, how you were proud of him and how you will miss him. You often say how clever he was and how much you needed him. But the fact is you were partners, each

different from the other but needing each other. You were stronger together. We know you are very thankful for all he did for you, but equally we know he depended on you for so much.

As our Dad, I know I speak for my brothers when I say he had a significant influence on our lives... what we did and what we didn't do. Some things are inherited, and much of who we are today derives from how we saw our parents live their lives and how we were treated growing up. They gave us many strong values to aspire to and encouraged us to stand on our own two feet.

When I thought about our Dad, what he was like when we were growing up, what his strengths were, high on the list was stability. Ironic for someone who, in his last year or so, struggled with his balance!

In Dad, we were fortunate to have a fine role model. With Mum, he instilled a set of principles, based on hard work and core values. From that consistent base, we grew and flourished ourselves, while providing a stable and, hopefully stimulating environment for our own children.

So, what was special about Dad? I'll start with DIY if I may! Dad was always making things and fixing things, like his father and his grandfather before him. It's the Dockyard DNA I guess. Though an office worker for many years, Dad was equally at home with a saw and chisels. Here's an example.

Most of us, I suspect, bought our garden shed. Not Dad. He built his shed from scratch... a long time ago.. and it's still standing. David remembers being instructed on the correct mix for the concrete base that they created together. Now that shed has a special place in our hearts (and maybe in our lungs too). As cub scouts, David and I remember Dad encouraging us up a ladder in Bob a Job Week, to wire brush the moss off the asbestos roof each year. Cough. This was before health & safety was invented. I even

painted and repaired the shed recently, under Dad's supervision. Long may it stand in memory of its proud builder.

Other DIY projects included designing and building an aluminium trailer to carry camping equipment behind a tandem bicycle. Planned camping holidays for the newlywed Eileen and Cyril were scuppered though when David made an early appearance. Dad also single handedly converted the loft into a playroom, complete with an intercom so Mum could call us down for meals.

Box cart races down Audley Avenue were encouraged, using prams converted to heavy chariots made of oak, mahogany and steel. Heaven help anyone walking up the road at the time.

David and Sandra were once proud owners of an E Type Jaguar they fully restored. They are indebted to Dad for enabling them to continue their classic car journey to Geneva, when the gear lever snapped off in Kent. A length of copper pipe and a roll of insulating tape were all Dad needed!

But Dad was more than a DIY enthusiast; he was also an ingenious inventor. When he retired and started working in this Church (in printing and publishing) he decided to automate the dull and time-consuming process of folding letters and stuffing envelopes. His invention, a clever machine to do all this, was pure genius (although I'm not sure it went much beyond the prototype stage). I do know some of his less ambitious gadgets are still in use in the office.

There are not many of us who have the imagination and skill to take on such challenges. But that was Dad... he loved problem solving. He was proud of his achievements, both in his career but in his spare time too and especially in retirement.

We've heard how Dad excelled at sport in his younger days. We all followed in his footsteps to Gillingham Grammar School, and played rugby, just over the road there. Dad went on

to play for the old boys club, The Anchorians. He was a full back but unusually, wore a scrum cap, I guess to preserve his good looks.

I remember as a young boy watching him play. He was good.

Eventually, he gave up rugby, as family life took over but I suspect he missed it...



which might explain why after he stopped playing, his kit bag was hidden in the loft, out of Mum's gaze, for a few years ("just in case"). We would go to watch games together. He would often be on the touch line supporting us in school games. But for me, best of all was the muscle rub he gave my tired legs using, of all things, Ellimans Horse Linement. I bet my niece Jos, a physiotherapist, hasn't used thatnot on humans anyway!

David told us how important music was in Dad's life from boy band, to chorister, to a jazz renaissance. I want to thank Dad for passing on his love of music. Growing up there was always music playing There were so many instruments around too .. piano, saxophone,

clarinet, piano accordion, harmonica, even a violin.

But while Dad may have introduced us to classical music and jazz, we introduced him to Led Zeppelin and the Eagles. David is right, it was definitely cool to have a Dad playing saxophone and bass guitar in a band in his eighties. What a great story to tell of Dad toppling off the stage at rehearsals but getting up and completing the gig before being taken off to A&E for a check up.

Perhaps this is a good time to say thank you to all his friends in this Church for all the encouragement and support you have given Dad and Mum over the years, but especially recently.

So, from Vaughan Williams to Led Zeppelin, Dad will be remembered as a music maestro. I don't think I'm being unfair to my brothers to say the musical talent has largely skipped a generation. I do know that Dad was delighted to hear his grandchildren playing their various instruments.

So, to us Dad was a brilliant all rounder... whether it was sport or music or work or DIY or inventing. But he was not just an all round, high achiever, he also inspired others, whether as School Captain, sports team captain, choir leader or Museum manager. Inevitably there



were sacrifices to be made, yet we know Dad had few regrets. They say "Behind every great man, stands a woman". And while we are proud of our Dad, we are equally proud of our Mum's own talents and achievements. The Oscar for best supporting wife goes to ...our Mum.

Despite all the hard work, Dad still made sure we always had family holidays. Money was tight, so it was usually buckets and spades on the beaches of Kent, Bournemouth, Devon or Cornwall.

Cars were not as powerful then and the roads were not so good. It could take 12 hours to get to our destination, avoiding steep hills of course. As we got older, climbing boots replaced buckets and spades, as we explored Snowdonia and even the Alps in Austria.

As David said, that was our first family holiday abroad .. our first time on an aeroplane and, Dad being Dad insisted we dress appropriately.. jackets and ties were the order of the day for the flight to Munich.

David also told us how Dad's work in the 1960s took him to some interesting and sometimes exotic places.. Moscow, Bonn, Paris, Nairobi , even Beirut. He was away for weeks on end while Mum kept the home fires burning. But on his return, he would share his travels with us, setting up the projector at home to watch the cine films of his adventures. It certainly inspired me to travel and work abroad.

Another influence Dad had on us was a healthy disregard for consumerism. He saw no need to "keep up with the Jones". We always seemed to be the last to get "stuff".. new cars, colour TV, a hi-fi system.. even a telephone. I remember being marched down Darland Avenue to the pay phone for a lesson in how to make a call.. when to push button A and when to push button B! In those days, there weren't many channels on the television, especially in Dad's house, where ITV, with all those "dreadful adverts", was banned.

Dad encouraged us to read widely, not just our school books. In retirement he probably read most of the books in Gillingham library. David has fond memories of the trip to Library every fortnight and buying fish and chips, a treat, on the way home afterwards.

Life growing up at 17 Audley Avenue may have been slightly austere but the fact is, we went without nothing of real value. Dad ensured we had what we needed and more importantly, he always encouraged us to do new things he had never done..., going to university, playing golf or squash, taking on hobbies, maintaining our own cars and travelling.

So, how do we sum up our Dad? Talented, hardworking, solid, inspirational, generous, the driest of humour, slightly old fashioned. Above all he was a good man and we all have much to thank him for.

We are very proud of our Dad and his achievements. As we remember him today, it is only right that we say thanks for all he did for us, whether as a husband, a father, a grandfather or a friend. Thanks Dad.

My Dad

I first met Dad in Nineteen Sixty-One
When he was 33 and I was none
Advice came early from my mother
“Watch out”, you’ve got two elder brothers

The next I remember, I was two
Wearing rugby boots instead of shoes
Pitch-side at a rugby match
With Dad teaching me how to catch

Next he sat me on his knee
So the piano keys I could see
Hoping I would one day be
The next Dave Brubeck or Freddie Mercury

In the army Dad entered boxing bouts
Amazingly he always knocked them out
A pacifist sure, he didn’t box for fun
But extra leave for each time he won

Dad encouraged sport for all
Rugby, cricket, but not football
Playing cricket on the garden grass
Cost Dad a fortune in broken glass

Dad worked abroad a lot, I now know
Africa, The Middle East, even Moscow
Foreign Office administrator, I think, a lie
He never did say if he was a spy

I remember falling from a tree
The barbed wire fence, I did not see
Dad saw the gash, did what he could
Made a splint to close the wound,
from balsa wood

Graeme mentioned that garden shed
“It needs a new roof, Rob” Dad said
Up a wobbly ladder with felt and hot tar
Spilt on my arm left a lifelong scar

But Dad always ensured that his three sons
Did not lack for funds
When, for nine years in a row
Three boys to University did go

Always a source of sound advice
To family, work colleagues, and friends alike
Happiest when helping others
We benefitted most, us three brothers

So now Dad’s joined the angel’s band
Playing bass, saxophone, clarinet and
Singing to his heart’s content
Celebration of Dad’s life, well spent.

By Robert Berry

A Christmas Prayer

Lord, as I enter into the fast-paced season ahead, help me walk slowly and quietly. Let me stop and listen to the angels sing of the greatest news ever told. Let my heart, mind and soul join the chorus. "Glory in the Highest!! The Messiah has been born!"

Among all the bright sparkling lights and cheery holiday tunes, let my spirit travel once again toward Bethlehem to honour and worship Jesus, my King, The Prince of Peace, the Lord of Hosts, Mighty Counsellor, Son of God, the Lamb. All Your love, mercy and power somehow made flesh in the tiny form of a humble baby born in a manger. Let me worship the only one who is worthy to take our sin away and open the gates of all eternity!

by Daphne Kitching | Parish Pump



Blue Christmas

Wednesday 18 December
7.30pm

A reflective service for those who are missing loved ones; searching for peace & quiet; suffering emotionally or any kind of loss this Christmas

Celebrate the true meaning of Christmas

- Sat 7 Dec** **Christmas Tree Festival**
10.30am~2pm *Free Admission*
- Sun 8 Dec** **Junior Carol Service**
10.30am *All age service led by the Sunday Squad*
- Wed 18 Dec** **Blue Christmas**
7.30pm *A reflective service for those who are missing loved ones; searching for peace & quiet; suffering emotionally or any kind of loss this Christmas*
- Sun 22 Dec** **Candlelight Carol Service**
6.30pm *Parking available in the School opposite*
- Tues 24 Dec**
4pm **Christingle Service**
11.30pm **Midnight Communion**
- Wed 25 Dec** **Christmas Morning Celebration**
10.30am

We offer you, your family & friends a very warm welcome to any of our special events & services taking place at Third Avenue this Christmas

WHERE TO FIND US

www.gillinghammethodists.uk 



All my hope on God is founded;
he doth still my trust renew,
Me through change and
chance he guideth,
only good and only true.
God unknown,
he alone
calls my heart to be his own.

Human pride and earthly glory,
sword and crown betray his trust;
what with care and toil we fashion,
tower and temple, fall to dust.
But God's power,
hour by hour,
is my temple and my tower.

God's great goodness aye endureth,
deep his wisdom, passing thought:
splendor, light and life attend him,
beauty springeth out of naught.
Evermore
from his store
newborn worlds rise and adore.

Daily doth the almighty giver
bounteous gifts on us bestow;
his desire our soul delighteth,
pleasure leads us where we go.
Love doth stand
at his hand;
joy doth wait on his command.

Still from earth to God eternal
sacrifice of praise be done,
high above all praises praising
for the gift of Christ his Son.
Christ doth call
one and all:
ye who follow shall not fall.

We are pleased that our friend David Brock, one of the organists at Hartlip, has agreed to write a series of articles for the New Messenger on 'Hymns', with the forth, printed here...

All My Hope on God is Founded

Those of you familiar with the Methodist Hymn Book may recall some hymns by Robert Seymour Bridges (1844-1930), followed by the letters Y.H. These letters stood for Yattendon Hymnal (1899) containing 100 hymns. Bridges, who later became Poet Laureate, described the origin of this book as his attempt to provide better settings of the hymns than those in use and to restore to use old melodies from sources such as the Genevan psalters of the Reformation. He was Precentor of Yattendon church for many years, and a great deal of talent was brought together in the choir.

The Methodist Hymn Book had eight of the Yattendon hymns, of which only **All My Hope on God is Founded** has been included in *Singing the Faith*. This is a paraphrase by Bridges based on Joachim Neander, the first poet of the Reformed Church in Germany. Two tunes are provided: *Mein Hoffnung* is a later form of a proper German melody, and *Michael*, composed by Herbert Howells around 1930 at the request of the then Director of Music at Charterhouse.

Yattendon is a village in Berkshire about 11 miles from Reading, my home town, in a roughly westerly direction. It was a favourite bike ride, particularly on the way home as there was a good bit of free-wheeling downhill.

David Brock

Lola News...

Well hello everyone, it's a Lola update again. It's been a very special time, especially my blessing here at the church in September. I enjoyed all the attention and Trudy was very happy to be part of my special moment. Yes happy, but also a bit emotional I think, as she spoke about our journey together to where we are today.



Since then I've got myself into a bit of trouble! A couple of weeks ago, I had an experience which caused a bit of a panic for Trudy, Steph and the family. Mason loved it all by the way! While staying at Steph and Mason's house, for whatever reason I decided to go for a wander. I was looking through the back bedroom window and nosed through the gap a bit too far, which widened the window more. I went forward and got stuck halfway. I made the decision to keep going and realised I was on the roof! Next thing I knew, I could hear the fire brigade coming, hence why Mason loved it! The firemen got ladders and rescued me... and Steph, who was hanging on to me by that stage. I was going to jump but thought better of it - I'm not as young as I use to be. All ended OK, no harm done, but I was in the 'dog house' you could say!



Woofwoof..... love Lola x





One person you are bound to run into this Christmas season is **Father Christmas**. These days he seems to frequent shopping malls and garden centres. If he looks tired, just remember that he has been around a long time and gone through a lot of transformations.

Father Christmas wasn't always the red-suited, white-bearded star of the retail trade that he is today. He began life as Nicholas, born way back about AD260 in Patara, an important port on the southern coast of what is now Turkey. When his parents died and left him a fortune, Nicholas gave it away to the poor. He became a bishop of the nearby city of Myra, where he almost certainly suffered persecution and imprisonment at the hand of the Roman Emperor Diocletian. Nicholas was a serious theologian: he was a participant at the First Council of Nicaea, which formulated the Creed which we still say today. He even, reportedly, slapped another bishop in a squabble over the exact nature of the Trinity. Nicholas died in Myra about AD343, but the stories of his generosity and kindness were just beginning. One enduring tale tells of the three girls whom he rescued from certain prostitution by giving them gold for their dowries. When the father confronted him to thank him, Nicholas said he should thank God alone.

In the UK, Nicholas became the basis for Father Christmas, who emerged in Victorian times as a jolly-faced bearded character. Meanwhile, Dutch and German settlers had taken him to America with them as Sinter

Klaas and Sankt Nicklas.

It was in America that Nicholas received his final two great breaks into real stardom. The first was when the Rev Clement C Moore, a New York Episcopal minister, turned from his life-work of writing a Hebrew/English lexicon, to write a fun poem for his children one Christmas. His 'The Visit of St Nicholas' is now universally known by its first line: 'T'was the Night Before Christmas'.

From Clement Moore we discovered that St Nicholas is round and pink-cheeked and white-bearded, and that he travels at night with sleigh, reindeer and a sack of toys on his back. It was Clement Moore who also revealed that St Nicholas enters houses down chimneys and fills children's stockings with toys and sweets.

So how did we find out that Father Christmas wears red? That was the US Coca-Cola advertising campaign of 1931, who finally released the latest, up-to-date pictures of Father Christmas: wearing a bright red, fur-trimmed coat and a large belt.

These days, it is good that Father Christmas uses reindeer and doesn't have to pay for petrol. In order to get round all the children in the world on Christmas Eve, he will have to travel 221 million miles at an average speed of 1279 miles a second, 6,395 times the speed of sound. For all those of us who are already exhausted just rushing around getting ready for Christmas, that is a sobering thought.

Who knew?

Who saw the man and pregnant girl
Pressing through the crowded street
Struggling through the human swirl
On tired legs and aching feet?
Who knew?

Who heard her cries, in labour's pain
Deep within a battered shed?
Who cared for their impoverished shame
Who thought about her grassy bed?
Who knew?

Who, listening to an infant's cries
Hearing a birth, they thought it strange?
Expressed an int'rest, or surprise?
Who recognised that awesome change?
Who knew?

Who saw the shepherds rush along
Through sleeping streets at dead of night?
Who heard the angels' glorious song?
Or saw the star that shone so bright?
Who knew?

Who, fighting through the Christmas throngs
Or, settling down to watch TV
Eats Christmas food, sings Christmas songs
Who can the coming Saviour see?
Who knows?

By Nigel Beeton | Parish Pump

Nigel Beeton writes: I'm often struck by the fact that the events of that first Christmas would have passed almost unnoticed by the man in the street. The angels appeared in the night to shepherds out in the hills; Jesus was born up a back alley behind a pub that most people probably didn't even know was there. Was the star even distinguishable from the planets that people were used to seeing? Who actually knew what was happening?

Christingle: A generous present from the Moravians



It is the Moravians whom we have to thank for bringing us the Christingle. Especially one Moravian clergyman: John de Watteville.

On 20th December, 1747, John de Watteville was taking a children's service in his Moravian church in Marienborn, Germany. He led the children in some hymns, and read out verses which the children themselves had written to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Then he explained to the children that true happiness only comes through knowing Jesus. Jesus, said John de Watteville, *"has kindled in each little heart a flame which keeps burning to their joy and our happiness"*.

John de Watteville then went on to illustrate that 'flame'. He gave each child a little lighted wax candle, tied around with a red ribbon. He ended his service with a little prayer: *"Lord Jesus, kindle a flame in these children's hearts, that theirs like Thine become"*.

The visual aid was a great success with the children; for the Marienborn Diary for that day concludes: *"hereupon the children went full of joy with their lighted candles to their rooms and so went glad and happy to bed"*.

The candle and red ribbon were remembered the following year, and the following after that... The years came and went, and as the Moravians began to travel beyond Germany, so they took the custom with them: to Labrador,

to Pennsylvania, to Tibet and Suriname, to the Caribbean and South Africa. In each country the Christians adapted it for their own use.

No one knows for certain when the word **Christingle** was first used with regard to the custom. No one even knows where the word Christingle comes from. Some people say it is from the old Saxon word 'ingle' (fire), meaning 'Christ-fire or light'. Another theory is that it derives from the German 'engel' (angel), meaning 'Christ-angel'.

In any event, the symbolism of Christingle gradually developed, until today the Moravians in the British Province use an orange, representing the world, with a lighted candle to represent Christ, the Light of the World. Nuts, raisins and sweets on cocktail sticks around the candle represent God's bounty and goodness in providing the fruits of the earth. Red paper, forming a frill around the base of the candle, reminds us of the blood of Christ shed for all people on the cross at Calvary.

In Moravian churches, the Christingle Service is usually held on the Sunday before Christmas or on Christmas Eve. The website for the Moravian Church says: *"We are glad that the Moravian Church has been able to make this contribution to the wider Christian world."*

Parish Pump

A poster for a Christingle Service. The background is a warm orange-red color with stylized trees and falling snow. In the center, there is a logo for 'Third Avenue Church & Community' featuring a cross and the text '100 THIRD AVENUE | GILLINGHAM | ME7 2LU'. To the right of the logo, the words 'Christingle Service' are written in a large, white, cursive font. Below this, it says 'Christmas Eve | 4pm' in a white, sans-serif font. At the bottom right, there is a small illustration of a Christingle candle.

Our local preachers value your prayers as they preach in different Churches around the Circuit...

Derek Gallagher | Judith German | Brian Davies | Trish Robb
Margaret Bowerman | Karen Willing | Mandy Harris | Colin Waldock
and those on Note to Preach: Ian Watton | William Appriah

*Post those Christmas cards on time!
Final posting dates as follows!*

- 9 Dec:** Africa, Middle East, Asia, Far East, Caribbean, Central & South America
- 10 Dec:** Cyprus, Malta
- 11 Dec:** Eastern Europe (except Poland, Czech Republic & Slovakia)
- 12 Dec:** Greece, Turkey, Australia & New Zealand

- 14 Dec:** Czech Republic, Finland, Sweden, Italy, Poland, Canada & USA
- 16 Dec:** Austria, Denmark, Germany, Iceland, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland
- 18 Dec:** Belgium, France, Ireland, Luxembourg
- 18 Dec:** Last date for 2nd class UK post
- 20 Dec:** Last date for 1st class UK post.



Every Tuesday in
the Blue Room 1-3pm
All are Welcome



Fun and Games...

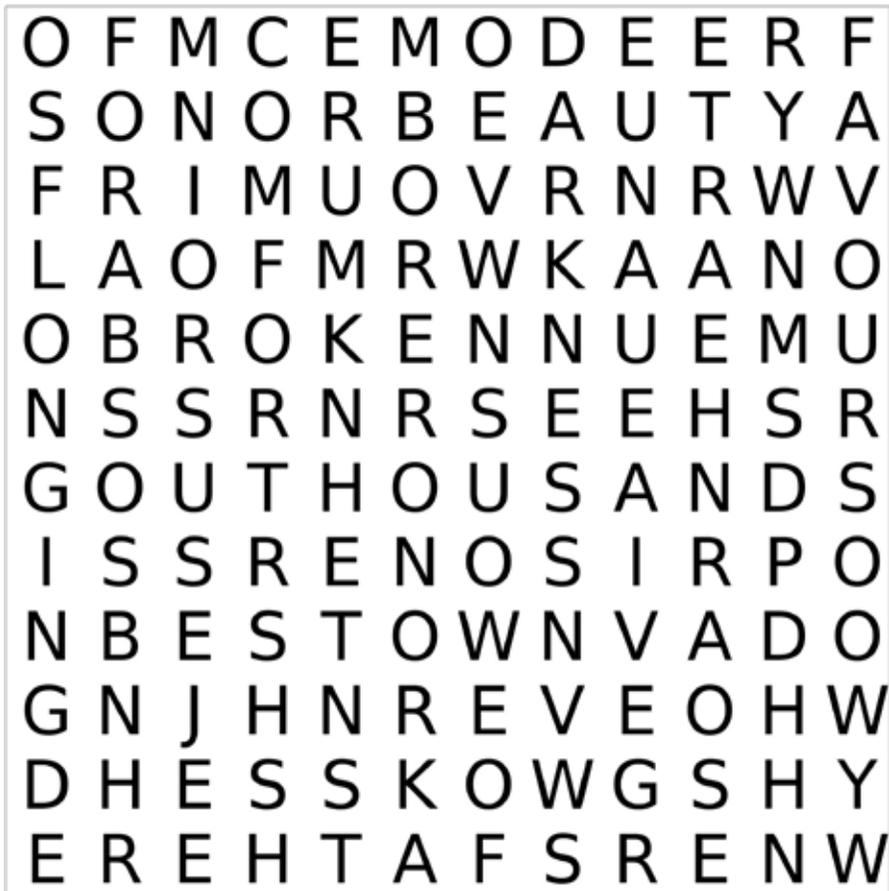
Christmas is nearly here! More than two thousand years ago the Jews were longing for the coming of their Messiah. The Old Testament had promised that when He came, He would preach good news to the poor, bind up the broken hearted, proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, comfort all who mourn and to bestow on His people a crown of beauty instead of ashes. Jesus did all those things. He was and is the Son of God, and whoever has seen Him has seen the Father. Whoever believes in Him will have the best gift of all – His Spirit within them, which gives them eternal life.

Messiah
Broken
Heart
Freedom
Darkness

Favour
Prisoners
Comfort
Mourn
Bestow

Crown
Beauty
Ashes
Son
God
Jesus

Seen
Father
Whoever
Longing
Thousand



Sudoku

Easy...

Intermediate...

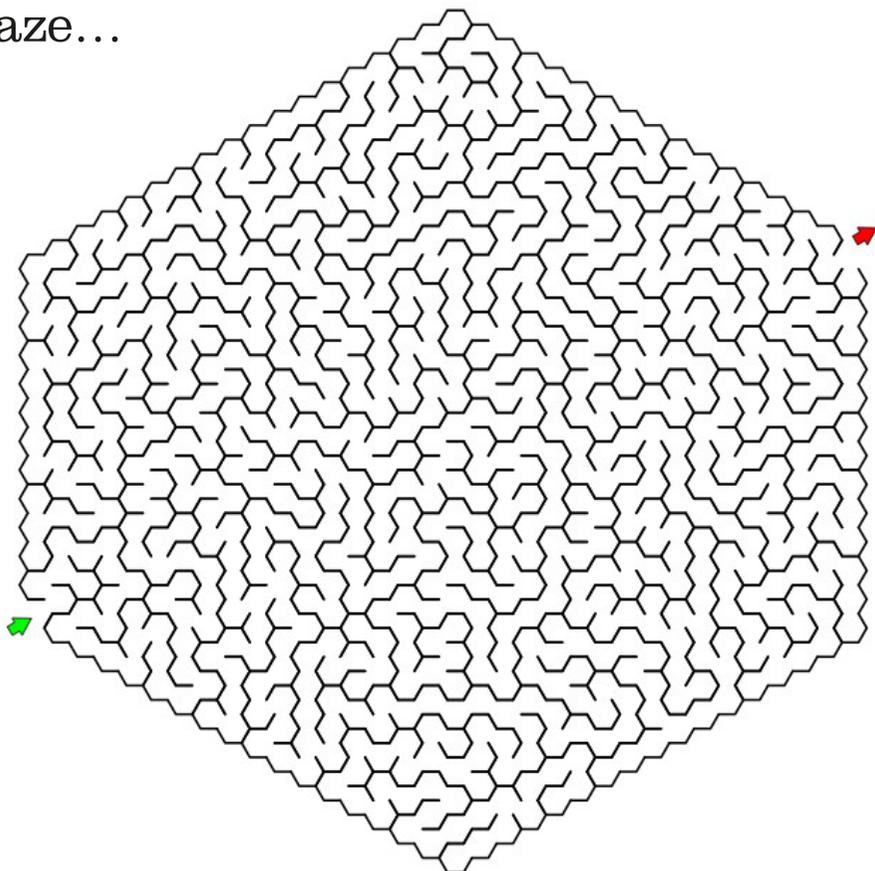
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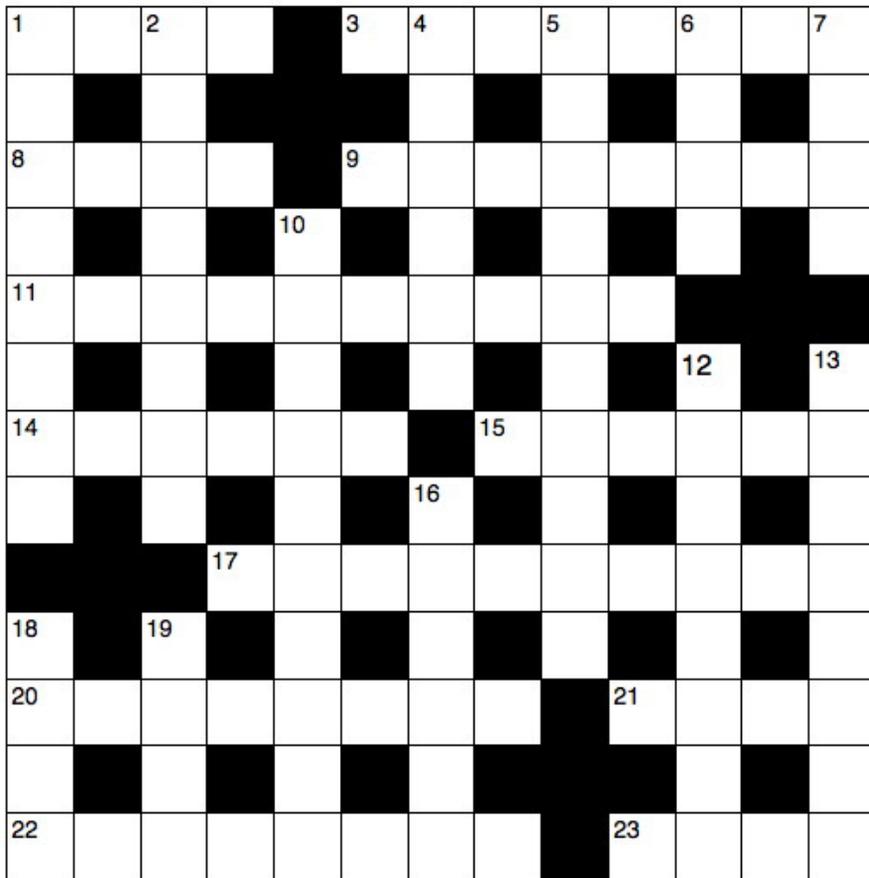
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Maze...

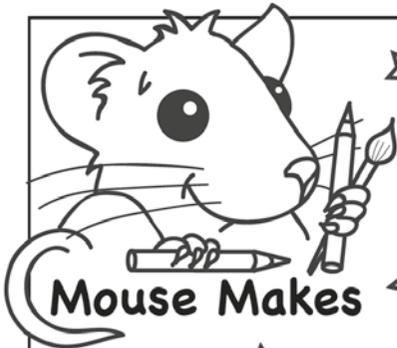


Crossword



Across

- 1 'The blind receive sight, the — walk' (Luke 7:22) (4)
- 3 Got (Philippians 3:12) (8)
- 8 Leave out (Jeremiah 26:2) (4)
- 9 Castigated for using dishonest scales (Hosea 12:7) (8)
- 11 Weighty (1 John 5:3) (10)
- 14 'Now the serpent was more — than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made' (Genesis 3:1) (6)
- 15 'Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot — God' (Romans 8:8) (6)
- 17 Because Israel lacked one of these, tools had to be sharpened by the Philistines (1 Samuel 13:19) (10)
- 20 In his vision of the two eagles and the vine, this is how Ezekiel described the latter (Ezekiel 17:8) (8)
- 21 Rite (anag.) (4)
- 22 Nine gigs (anag.) (8)
- 23 'The eye cannot say to the —, "I don't need you"' (1 Corinthians 12:21) (4)
- Down**
- 1 'Flee for your lives! Don't — —, and don't stop anywhere in the plain!' (Genesis 19:17) (4,4)
- 2 Principal thoroughfare (Numbers 20:19) (4,4)
- 4 'The tax collector... beat his — and said, "God have mercy on me, a sinner"' (Luke 18:13) (6)
- 5 'The zeal of the Lord Almighty will — this' (2 Kings 19:31) (10)
- 6 'The day of the Lord is — for all nations' (Obadiah 15) (4)
- 7 Specified day (Acts 21:26) (4)
- 10 Deadly epidemic (Deuteronomy 32:24) (10)
- 12 Roman Catholic church which has special ceremonial rights (8)
- 13 Tied up (2 Kings 7:10) (8)
- 16 In his speech to the Sanhedrin, Stephen described Moses as 'powerful in speech and —' (Acts 7:22) (6)
- 18 'Although he did not remove the high places, — heart was fully committed to the Lord all his life' (1 Kings 15:14) (4)
- 19 Tribe (Deuteronomy 29:18) (4)



Mouse Makes

Where was Mary's baby born?
Why were Joseph and Mary there?
Read Luke 2 :1-6

Where did Mary lay her baby and why?
Read Luke 2:7

Good news!

What did Mary dress her baby in?
Read Luke 2:6

Why were the shepherds afraid?
Read Luke 2:8

Glory to God

A Saviour is born

What did the angel tell Joseph to name Mary's baby and why?
Read Matthew 1:21

What good news did the angel tell?
Read Luke 2:10-11

What did the shepherds do after they had seen the baby?
Read Luke 2:16

Who appeared praising God and what did they say?
Read Luke 2:13-14



Colour a star each day until Christmas

Smile

Wise?

When I told my children the story of how the Wise Men brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh for the infant Jesus, my six-year-old daughter was not impressed. "Mum, a Wise Woman would have brought nappies."

Lost

Just as I began my Christmas Eve service, the electricity in the church failed. The wardens and I found some candles and placed them around the sanctuary. Then I re-entered the pulpit, shuffled my notes, and muttered, "Now, where

was I?". A hopeful voice called out, "Right near the end!"

Chimney

Why doesn't Father Christmas suffer from claustrophobia when he climbs down the chimney? Because he has had his flue jab.

Bakery

Did you hear about the bakery that was burgled at Christmas? Everything was stolen!

Good advice

If you have a lot of tension this Christmas and you get a headache, do what it says on the aspirin bottle: 'Take two aspirin' and 'Keep away from children.'

Answer?

Politician to aide: "About their charge that I'm indecisive – do you think I should answer it, or let it go, or answer it in part, or what?"

Parish Pump

Puzzle solutions...

Sudoku Easy...

6	9	8	7	2	4	5	1	3
7	4	3	5	1	9	6	2	8
2	5	1	6	8	3	7	4	9
1	6	2	9	7	5	3	8	4
9	7	5	3	4	8	1	6	2
3	8	4	1	6	2	9	5	7
4	1	6	8	9	7	2	3	5
8	3	7	2	5	1	4	9	6
5	2	9	4	3	6	8	7	1

Intermediate...

6	2	1	4	7	9	8	5	3
3	4	9	8	6	5	1	7	2
8	7	5	1	2	3	6	9	4
1	6	2	5	4	8	9	3	7
9	3	4	7	1	6	2	8	5
5	8	7	9	3	2	4	6	1
2	1	6	3	9	7	5	4	8
7	9	8	2	5	4	3	1	6
4	5	3	6	8	1	7	2	9

Crossword...

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

Word Search...

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

There is no charge for this magazine,
but if you are able, a contribution of at
least **60p** would help towards the
cost of production and enable us to
distribute to the wider community

Many thanks



Rev Robin Selmes

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Third
Avenue
CHURCH & COMMUNITY

The logo for Third Avenue Church & Community features a stylized cross with a leafy branch extending from the top. The text 'Third Avenue' is written in a large, white, serif font, with 'CHURCH & COMMUNITY' in a smaller, white, sans-serif font below it.