

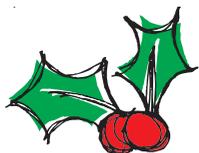
...Christmas lists

I don't know if it is my age but I have noticed that I have to make a note now of things that I need to remember to do. As we approach Christmas, I am sure that most of you will have a list of one thing or another. Perhaps it is cards to send, presents to buy, food to be prepared or it may be something else. It is even possible to make a list of lists that we need to write! Where would we be without our lists?

These are helpful in reminding us of things that we need to do to be ready for something. Here's a question for you – if God had made a list of things to be done for the time when Jesus was born – what would it contain? It would need a mother to carry the child and a father (although he wouldn't be involved in the conception). Then there needs to be a place for it to happen, announcement of the birth (including a foretelling hundreds of years earlier!) and a way to let everyone know. It would involve prophets of old, an angel choir, a census to get Mary and Joseph to the place where the prophets said it would happen, shepherds in fields, wise men travelling hundreds of miles... we could go on.

If we are ever tempted to complain about all the work involved in celebrating our Christmas, then we ought to look at the preparation that was needed for the birth to even take place. And there's something else that we often hear: "Christmas costs such a lot!" Maybe the cost determines our lists... we might decide to cut the number of cards we send, spend a little less on presents or forego an expensive foodstuff. I am glad that when we think of God's preparation He didn't base it on cost – for the cost was very great – He gave His only Son, that those who believe in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

One final thing – I hope your list of things to do leading up to Christmas will include times to focus upon the reason for the celebration. I look forward to sharing with you in our various activities this year, and hope that you will have a very **'Happy Christmas'**.



...THOUGHT
FOR THE
MONTH



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the word for today

'When I smiled at them... their faces lit up'

Job 29:24
- The Message

Source:
The Word for Today
United Christian
Broadcasters,
Westport Road,
Stoke-on-Trent, ST6 4JF

Free issues of the daily
devotional are available for
the UK & Republic of Ireland.

smile, and start a chain reaction...

If you think you've nothing to smile about, consider these words from a man who'd just experienced the death of all his children, the loss of his entire fortune, and was now covered from head to toe in boils. 'When I smiled at them, they could hardly believe it; their faces lit up, their troubles took wings! I was their leader, establishing the mood and setting the pace by which they lived. Where I led, they followed' (Job 29 v 24-25 MSG). **That's the power of a smile!**

One Christmas a big department store posted this sign: 'The Value of a Smile: it costs nothing, but creates much. It enriches those who receive it, without impoverishing those who give it. It happens in a flash, and the memory of it sometimes lasts forever. None are so rich that they can get along without it, and none so poor but are richer for its benefits. It creates happiness in the home, fosters good will in business, and is the countersign of friends. It is rest to the weary, daylight to the discouraged, sunshine to the sad, and nature's best antidote for trouble. Yet it cannot be bought, begged, borrowed, or stolen, for it is no earthly good until it is given away. And if in the last-minute rush of Christmas buying some of our salespeople should be too tired to give you a smile, may we ask you to leave one of yours. For nobody needs a smile so much as those who have none left to give!'

Start a chain reaction this Christmas! Walk around with a smile on your face and see what happens.



church offerings

SUNDAY 16th	OCTOBER	£209.00
SUNDAY 23rd	OCTOBER	£297.30
SUNDAY 30th	OCTOBER	£514.70
SUNDAY 6th	NOVEMBER	£355.50
SUNDAY 13th	NOVEMBER	£325.60
SUNDAY 20th	NOVEMBER	£324.00

In addition to this, the sum of £950 is paid direct into the bank each month. If you would like to give in this way, please see Richard Weekley.

The Thank Offering final total was £2244.00

Many thanks for your generous giving to God's work at High Street



missionary report

Kevin Deighton

Missionary
Secretary

At the time of writing this report Karen Baxter has not been granted a new visa to renew her work in Nepal. Thankfully six of her colleagues have been granted theirs so it's not all bad news. Please continue to pray for Karen as she waits patiently on the Lord.

Thank you to all those who have handed in their WRU Missionary boxes. We have decided this year to donate this money and also our annual Christmas Card Donations to the WRU Project in Zimbabwe, known as Jessie's House. They would like to build a primary school, which is Phase 2, as they already have a building and clean running water catering for the younger children. So let's hope we can send a combined healthy gift to this deserving project.

You will be pleased to know the stamps have been mailed to Operation Mobilisation - philately will get you everywhere (that joke comes straight out of a Christmas cracker, circa 1982!)

May I take this opportune link to wish everyone an early merry and peaceful Christmas and offer a big thank you to all who have given a total of £2683 to the Missionary Fund this year. The majority of this money goes overseas where it can make a tremendous difference. So once again a massive THANK YOU!



start the new year with us!

As we approach the dawning of a new year and all that may entail, we notice that January 1st will fall on a Sunday in 2017. Therefore, this year the leaders have decided that there will be just the one service, at 11.00am.

However, as we thought that many of you may have been up late seeing in the new year we would make it a special informal family time, starting with brunch! So please join us **from 10.15am onwards** for a **'cafe' style service**, beginning with cereals, croissants, toast, tea, coffee, fruit juice, not to mention **bacon rolls!**

So let's start the new year as we mean to go on, in the House of the Lord, **sharing in fellowship and worship together!**



A Christmas prayer...

Father,

Thank you for creating us and for loving us so much that you sent Jesus to become one of us and to be our way to you. This Christmas may we know the love, peace, comfort and joy that only you can give, no matter what our circumstances. And may we reflect your light and love in this dark world to bring glory to you. **In Jesus' name. Amen**



december 2016

weekday diary dates

THURS	1st	6.00pm	Allsorts Children's Club
FRI	2nd	6.00pm	Christmas Family Film Night – The Polar Express
SAT	3rd	10.00am	ENCCS Christmas Fayre in the hall

TUES	6th	10.00am	Prayer Meeting
		2.00pm	Short Mat Bowls
WEDS	7th	9.15am	Jellybabes Toddler Group
		7.30pm	Home Group at the Manse
THURS	8th	1.30pm	Women's Auxiliary Christmas Afternoon incl. Tea
		6.00pm	Allsorts Children's Club
FRI	9th	7.30pm	Quiz Night – All welcome!
SAT	10th	10.00am	Coffee Morning

TUES	13th	10.00am	Prayer Meeting
		2.00pm	Short Mat Bowls
WEDS	14th	9.15am	Jellybabes Toddler Group
		7.30pm	Home Group at the Manse
THURS	15th	10.00am	Denfield Park Primary School in Church
		6.00pm	Allsorts Children's Club
SAT	17th	10.00am	Coffee Morning

MON	19th	1.30pm	Alfred Street Junior School in Church
TUES	20th	10.00am	Prayer Meeting
		2.00pm	Short Mat Bowls
WEDS	21st	2.00pm	Carols at Kilburn Place – all welcome
		7.30pm	Home Group at the Manse
THURS	22nd	6.00pm	Allsorts Christmas Party
SAT	24th	4.00pm	Christingle Service



december 2016

sunday diary dates

SUNDAY **4th** 10.45am Visit of Denfield Park
Primary School Choir

6.00pm Home Meeting

SUNDAY **11th** 10.45am Rev. Phillip Hearson
(*incl. Communion*)

4.00pm **Christmas Second Sunday!**

SUNDAY **18th** 10.45am Nativity Service

4.00pm Lessons & Carols
followed by Tea

SUNDAY **25th** 10.30am **Christmas Morning
Celebration!**

*Please note that the Sunday evening
activities may be subject to change.*



the challenges of Christmas

Christmas is a great time of year, but it's not without its challenges! One household had 250,000 Christmas lights, but could not boil a kettle for fear of blowing the system!

THE CHALLENGE OF OVER-INDULGING

We may remember the episode of the Vicar of Dibley, where she had to consume four Christmas dinners! Christmas is a time when people can often eat and drink far too much, the average person gaining 6 pounds in weight. But Christmas is not simply about gaining weight, but losing what weighs us down. 'Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you.' (1 Peter 5:7). Whatever your concerns or worries this Christmas, bring them to God.

THE CHALLENGE OF OVERSPENDING

In the rush to buy Christmas cards, a woman bought a pack of 50 identical cards. Without reading the verse, she hastily signed and sent them off, but for one. A few days later she read the message: 'This card is just to say a little gift is on the way.' Christmas is not about getting into debt, but God getting us out of debt. He spent exactly what was needed on the first Christmas night: 'You are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins.' (Matthew 1:21).

THE CHALLENGE OF OVER TOO QUICKLY

Christmas doesn't last very long, yet the effect of the first Christmas is long-lasting. 'For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.' (John 3:16). Jesus has come to bring us life in all its fullness, both for now and all eternity.

How do we face the challenges of Christmas?

'Yet what I can, I give Him - give my heart'.



what sort of a Christmas card person are you?

The time to send and receive Christmas cards has come round again – time for our annual shock at the cost of coloured card and disbelief at what the Post Office wants to send them.

It seems there are three kinds of people when it comes to Christmas cards: the total abstainers, the total givers and the selective givers.

Abstainers write 'Happy Christmas everyone' on Facebook, and consider the job well done. **Total Givers** spend a fortune on cards and stamps and send them to everyone they know. **Selective Givers** try to cut corners, but then cannot remember who sent who what, and as the cards pour through their door, spend time worrying...

However you do it, it is good to stay in yearly touch with your widest circle of friends and family. Proverbs points out that: 'Like cold water to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country.' *Prov 25:25.*

They will enjoy hearing from you!



church birthdays this month

If you would like to be included please let Jeanette know and we'll endeavour to get a card to you on the Sunday nearest the date, it would be nice for us all to have the chance to wish one another all the best on our birthdays.

3rd - JILL WALLER
7th - CAROL BUTLER
13th - VERA TIMPSON
20th - DAVID TRUSLER

21st - KEVIN DEIGHTON
22nd - EBONY WEBB
25th - ANNE BRYANT



flowers this month

If you would like to provide some flowers for the church, Jill and Madge have a new list for 2017 which still has some spaces. Thank you to them for arranging the rota over the last year, and for distributing the flowers during the following week.

In December, there is just one week when flowers will be provided. **Ann Lawman will give them on 11th December in memory of Richard.**



Did you know that mince pies have been traditional English Christmas fare since the Middle Ages, when meat was a key ingredient?

The addition of spices, suet and alcohol to meat came about because it was an alternative to salting and smoking in order to preserve the food. Mince pies used to be a different shape - cradle-shaped with a pastry baby Jesus on top.



"Thanks very much for the beautiful jumper," said Charles, kissing his grandmother dutifully on the cheek.

"Oh, there's nothing to thank me for," she murmured.

"That's what I thought, but Mum said I had to."

dates for your diary - january 2017



TUESDAY	10th	7.30pm	Leaders Meeting at the Manse
SATURDAY	14th	10.00am	Church Members AGM in the Vestry
SATURDAY	21st	10.00am	Circuit Meeting at Wymington

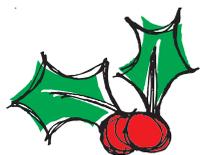


puzzle page



Here's a Christmas songs puzzle. The following are the initials of Christmas songs and carols. In numbers 1 – 10, the initials are in the right order. Numbers 11 – 20 though may have been mixed up! Hand your answers in to the minister before 31st December and you may win a small prize.

1. DTKIC
2. SCICTT
3. RATCT
4. ITBM
5. IWICBCED
6. WWYAMC
7. ISTS
8. WW
9. MAW
10. LD
11. NS
12. CTW
13. NSL
14. TFS
15. CTL
16. MCB
17. WC
18. WITA
19. ODC T
20. DBL



Answers to last time:

Balmoral; Glenfield; Kilburn; Greenacre; Boundary; Montague; Bluebell; Beaconsfield; St. Margarets; Hove; Pine; Dingle; Abbotts; Sylmond; Coltsfoot.

Contacts:

Minister: PHIL HEARSON
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Hall Manager/Caretaker:
WENDY NEWMAN
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High Street Independent Wesleyan Church

