

# FAREHAM FOCUS

December 2012



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Circuit website: [www.gosportandfarehamcircuit.org.uk](http://www.gosportandfarehamcircuit.org.uk)

Number 599

December 2012

## SERVICES DURING DECEMBER

2nd	10.30	Revd Malcolm Groom	Toy Service & Holy Communion
	18.00	Revd Malcolm Groom	Circuit Advent Service
9th	10.30	Alex Jameson	
16th	10.30	Stephen Oliver	Nativity & All Age Worship
23rd	10.30	Kathy Elvy	
	18.00	Revd Malcolm Groom	Carol Service
24th	23.30	Revd Malcolm Groom	Holy Communion
25th	10.30	Revd Malcolm Groom	United Service with URC
30th	10.30	Milly Aquilina Gray	

## SERVICES DURING JANUARY

6th 10.30 Revd Malcolm Rothwell

## LOCAL PREACHERS' & TEAM APPOINTMENTS

### DECEMBER

2nd 10.15 Andrew Wilcock at Stubbington  
23rd 18.30 Andrew Wilcock at Portchester

Please remember the preachers above in your prayers, as they prepare and conduct their services in our Church and in the Circuit.



## DECEMBER 2012

Dear Friends

As I come to write this letter we are entering the season of Advent. **Advent**, anglicized from the Latin word *adventus* meaning "coming", is a season observed in many Western Christian churches, a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas. It is the beginning of the liturgical year which commences on Advent Sunday.



Advent then is a time of expectant waiting and preparation. - I know we're all very familiar with waiting - after all, we spend a huge chunk of our lives doing it. We wait for buses and trains and planes and in queues of all sorts. We wait for the results of tests. We wait our turn for an operation.

I have heard that if you live to be seventy years old, you will spend three years of your life just waiting: Waiting in line at the supermarket, waiting at the doctor's office, waiting for lunch to be ready, and so on.

I don't particularly like waiting, do you? I don't like it, but I don't know any way to avoid it. While we are waiting, life goes on and we must make good use of our time. Perhaps we need to rest and waiting gives us the perfect excuse. More often than not there are other things that we could usefully be doing.



When it comes to Advent the description "*expectant waiting and preparation*" gives us a clue. Don't just waste your time waiting, but use it to prepare for that which you are waiting for - the celebration of the birth

of our Lord.

Let's use the time to get our minds into focus on **what** we're celebrating and not just on **how**!

Best wishes,



## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Friends,

It is easy at Christmas to be lulled into a sense of security – familiar people, familiar places, a familiar story. And yet the Christmas story is disturbing and unpredictable (a chance place of birth and an uncertain future for the Christ child) and deeply uncomfortable (the people of power and those with enough money to have their own beds did not witness the birth of Christ). God came close to us as a homeless, needy baby born in a backstreet, away from the limelight of power, money or fame.

It seems to me that only if we can rediscover a sense of the humble, risky nature of the story of a baby born for us, can we also find the hope and the spiritual strength needed to live in these times. The American preacher Harry Fosdick wrote in his hymn *God of grace and God of glory* a prayer: “Grant us wisdom, grant us courage for the living of these days”. The people in the Christmas story needed wisdom and courage and found them in dreams but also in common sense and making the best of what they had, in angels’ messages but also in the solidarity of people in a cowshed wondering and glorifying God together.

At Christmas and New Year we think of times ahead as well as being thankful for what we have received. We face many challenges and opportunities in the year ahead as Methodists, but we have much to be thankful for, and grounds for confidence as we face our future together. As a District, we continue to offer help and support to churches and circuits through our training, development and youth/children’s officers. I am also committed to offering support for hard-pressed ministers and lay leaders. But above all, as we think and pray through the Christmas story, we have faith in a God who draws close, in unexpected places, to people at the end of their own human resources. God draws close with love – and with grace and glory for the living of these days.

Andrew Wood .



## VESTRY JOTTINGS

Congratulations to Samuel and Joseph Brooks who were joint winners of the Christmas card competition. A combination of the images from their entries have been used to produce the card detailing Christmas services, this edition of Fareham Focus and the Carol Service sheet.

A reminder that the Church Christmas post box will be available for posting cards to Church attendees on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> December. Please remember to include the recipients surnames.

Also a reminder that there will be a Circuit Advent service at Fareham church at 6.00pm on 2<sup>nd</sup> December that we hope that you will be able to attend.

Thank you to Alan Sargent who has kindly taken on the job of looking after the Church Photocopier and Copying Machine and printing Fareham Focus. Also our grateful thanks go to Harvey Brosgall who has been doing this job for many years.

We wish you a peaceful Christmas.

The Stewards



## THANK YOU

Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers from the Church with a friendly visit from Jean Petter. Both were so much appreciated. All good wishes and a very happy and blessed Christmas to all.



Mavis Parish

Thank you so much for the lovely flowers kindly brought to me by Rosemarie. The cards and wishes were also very much appreciated.

Lynda Thomas

Many thanks for the lovely Church flowers on Sunday, 18th November brought to me by Lynda Young. An early breath of Spring.

Irene Field

Thank you for the Church flowers delivered by Joan Padley. They are still lovely also thank you for the cards, phone calls and good wishes following my diagnoses of Motor Neurone disease. Your thoughts and prayers are much appreciated. God Bless you all.

Eileen Long  
Cont...

## **THANK YOU Cont....**

Thank you for the beautiful flowers and Joan for bringing them, also for the prayers, it is appreciated and makes a difference.

Shirley & Eric Grant

Thank you Jill and helpers, for all the hard work doing the Sunday lunches this past year.

Rita Jackson

The Rainbow Centre would like to say a heartfelt thank you to Fareham Methodist Church for holding a Harvest Supper in aid of Rainbow. You were able to raise a fantastic £301.20 for us.

Rainbow works to transform the lives of children with Cerebral Palsy and adults recovering from a Stroke, Parkinson's Disease and Multiple Sclerosis, by helping to secure them a better future.

Rainbow doesn't receive Government funding and need to raise £600,000 every year to keep our doors open. We therefore rely on the support of the local community to help us towards reaching that goal.

We would like to extend an open invitation to anyone that would like to come and visit Rainbow to see the fantastic work that we do. It is also an excellent way to see exactly what your support is helping to achieve for our children and adults. Just give us a call on 01329 289500.

Rainbow are extremely grateful for the continued support from Fareham Methodist Church.



## **HAPPY CHRISTMAS**

Ian and Garry Bagshaw wish everyone a peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Meg and Nigel wish all their friends a very happy Christmas. We are not sending cards but have made a donation to Christian Aid.

Jill and Malcolm Groom wish everyone a very happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

We hope you all have a pleasant and enjoyable Christmas and would like to wish you a Happy New Year too. In lieu of sending Christmas cards, Tony and I will be making a donation to Naomi House.

Jenny & Tony Chalmers

## **HAPPY CHRISTMAS Cont ...**

Again this year we will not be sending Christmas cards but we are making a donation to Action for Children. We wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year

Cyril & Margaret Fielder

A very Happy Christmas to all our Church friends at Fareham. This year we are sending a donation to Mercy Ships in lieu of Christmas cards.

Sheila & Graham Dyer

Mary Bailey sends Christmas Greetings to all our Church family with a card on the Action for Children display, together with a donation..

All very good wishes and love are, this year, encapsulated in a gift to Action for Children. So, instead of cards, warm thoughts from us all. Thank you for your fellowship all year.

Una & Scott Peters

Bobby & Patrick wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and good health and happiness in the coming year. We are making a donation to Action for Children this Christmas.



## **PRAYER GROUP**

The next Healing Prayer Group will be held on , Wednesday, 5th December, at the home of Joan and Jeff Padley. All are welcome at 2.30 pm at 2 Archery Lane, Fareham.



Rita Jackson



## **COFFEE CENTRE**

Please note that the Coffee Centre will be closed on Thursday, 27th December. It will re-open on 3rd January 2013.

Jill Race



## **POINTS TO PONDER**

The best vitamin for a Christian is B1

You can give without loving, but you<sup>7</sup>cannot love without giving.

Beat the Christmas rush, come to church this Sunday!





## **MYSTERY OF THE DISAPPEARING COLANDER**

Do you know of the whereabouts of the large stainless steel colander from the Church kitchen? It has been missing for several months and was an essential piece of equipment. Any information to this mystery would be most welcome as otherwise a new one will have to be purchased.

Many meals are now prepared in the Church kitchen and it is imperative people do not 'borrow' items without prior agreement with Jill Groom or Lynda Haydon-Jones.



## **RECENT QUIZ**

You generously supported Action for Children by taking part in the Olympic Games Quiz. Surprisingly no one returned their quiz — was it too difficult? Remember, the winner is the one to get **most** correct answers, not necessarily **all** correct. For your interest, the answers will be displayed in the corridor for two weeks.

Also look out for a forthcoming new quiz, given to me by a friend, concerning Musicals of Stage and Screen. It is much easier, because I could do most of it!!

Mary Bailey



## **CHRISTMAS SERVICE**

Everyone is welcome to the Christmas Service in the Worship Area on Wednesday, 12th December, 2012 at 1.45 pm

The Service will be led by Lynne Matthews and will be followed by Tea and Mince Pies in the Wickham Room

This Service has been arranged by Wednesday Fellowship, but we hope that many other people will join us.

Shirley Henderson



## **METHODIST HOMES IN BRITAIN**

This year the project is a local one. Each church in the Circuit is supporting their own charity. Fareham Church is supporting the local Stroke Club

Pat Croker





## **LIVE AT HOME ASSISTANT MANAGER**

**Bridgemary, Gosport**

**£4,243 actual p.a. (10 hours per week) pro rata based on £15,700 p.a.**

Gosport MHA Live at Home scheme provides a range of community services including one to one befriending and support, led by volunteers, to enable older people to live independently.

This is a new initiative, funded by Hampshire County Council, aiming to make a real difference to the lives of older people who need early intervention with the onset of dementia, by establishing a weekly meeting offering companionship, activity and afternoon tea. This pilot project will run within the already established MHA Live at Home scheme and will be funded initially for one year.

Established 70 years ago MHA's aim is to improve the quality of life for older people, nurturing mind body and spirit.

Previous community experience, and working with older people and volunteers is essential. Access to a car is necessary.

In return we offer MHA's Staff Membership Scheme which includes training, pension, life assurance, sick pay, annual reward, and lots more.

For more information and application pack please contact **Lucy Rothwell**, MHA Live at Home scheme Manager on **01329 234409** or **07729537022**.

**Closing date: 17.12 2012:**

**Interviews: 10.1 2013:**

**Commencement of post 1<sup>st</sup> February 2013.**

**HCC and MHA are committed to Equal Opportunities.**



## **CONSULTATION ABOUT THE FORMATION OF A NEW CIRCUIT**

All Church members are invited to a meeting at Portchester Church on Saturday, 19th January, at 10.00am when information will be shared and questions answered about the proposal to form a new Circuit from September 2013. For more information about the process please see the letter from Malcolm Groom on the Church notice-board or speak with Nigel Cox.





**FAREHAM METHODIST  
CHURCH  
Kings Road**

**Christmas Tree  
Festival**

Thursday Dec 6th 10.30am – 6pm

Friday Dec 7th 10.30am – 6pm.

Saturday Dec 8th 10.30am - 4pm

Voting and refreshments cease at 3.00 pm on this day.

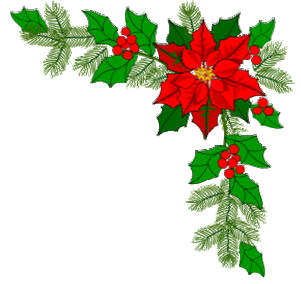
Carols among the trees

Saturday at 3.30 pm

Admission £1.50 inc. refreshments

Accompanied Children Free Entry

Supporting National and Local Charities



## **CHRISTMAS PRESENCE**

(Isaiah 9:6, 7:14)

Unto us a child is born

To us a son is given...

And you will call him Immanuel,  
God with us.

Jesus, God actually with us.  
God's greatest gift,  
Born into weakness and vulnerability,  
Sharing life's raw reality,  
Family rows, family rejoicing,  
Broken relationships, broken hearts,  
Grief and great suffering,  
Rejection and injustice,  
Despair and death.

Yet through it all  
Still the gift goes on  
Revealing God's grace and power  
And peace to overcome.  
This is a gift that cannot be wrapped,  
That will never break  
Or pass its sell-by date.

This is Jesus,  
The greatest gift.

Receive God's Christmas presence  
And walk on with him.

*By Daphne Kitching*



## CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Dear Lord,

What's it really all about, this "season of celebration"? People rushing everywhere, overspending, double-booking diaries in frantic attempts to meet the demands of a twenty-first century Christmas. And what about those who find Christmas anything but joyful – those who have lost loved ones, those who are old and alone and tired and longing for it all to be over? What's it really all about?

Lord, in the middle of the busy-ness and bustle, help us to remember that this is nothing new. Jesus came into a world of rush and frenetic activity. He came to a town so busy that there was no room for his family. And help us to remember that you know what it's like to have a loved one – your dear Son - away from home at Christmas.

Lord, still our hearts, and open them to recognise and receive your great gift to us. May we make room for Jesus and know the peace and security of his presence this Christmas. Help us to know that this is what it's really all about.

In the name of Jesus,                      Amen.

*By Daphne Kitching*



## Tie a Prayer Card on the Christmas Tree

**You are invited to write your prayers and tie them onto the Christmas tree, using the ribbons and cards.**





## **MAKE CHRISTMAS SPECIAL FOR SOMEONE IN NEED**

You can add a little joy to Christmas for homeless and vulnerable people by responding to the appeal from Churches Homeless Action to buy them a gift voucher/card (for not more than £5) from stores such as Tesco, Asda, Sainsbury's and Argos. You can write a friendly Christmas card to go with the voucher, but please don't give your name and/or address, and don't seal the envelope. Send them to Inner City Portsea Parishes, All Saints Centre, All Saints Church, Commercial Road, Portsmouth PO1 4EJ, to arrive before 19th December. It means a lot to people to know they are thought of with kindness.



## **MINCE PIES AT FAREHAM COMMUNITY HOSPITAL**

The friends of Fareham Community Hospital are holding a Christmas coffee morning at the Hospital, Brook Lane, Sarisbury, on Friday, 14th December from 10.30 am to 12.30 am, and would be glad to welcome anyone who would like to join them for coffee, tea and mince pies in the pleasant surroundings of the Tom Smith Room, and hear about their activities.





**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2012**

**Fareham Methodist Church  
Kings Road, Fareham PO16 0NU**

**Messy Christmas!**

**4.00 pm – 6.00 pm**

**Everyone is welcome to join us for games, craft,  
worship and a meal**

**Come and see our tree  
at the Christmas Tree  
Festival December 6th - 8th**

**See us on Facebook**

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## SUNDAY LUNCH 16th DECEMBER

at 12.15 pm approx.

This is open to all members of the congregation and all family and friends. There is no set charge for the meal we just ask for donations for 2Saints. If you would like to make a Christmassy pudding of your choice and bring it along that would be very good – thank you. There will be a special guest visiting!

### The Menu

- Starter:** Soup or Pate
- Main Course:** Roast Turkey, Chipolatas  
Roast Potatoes, Roast Parsnips  
Selection of Vegetables
- Puddings:** Variety



There will be a list in the vestibule for you to sign. Please come along and enjoy a Sunday Lunch!

Jill Groom



## TITCHFIELD FESTIVAL THEATRE AT CHRISTMAS

TFT's seasonal offering is the enchanting, funny, heart-warming tale "Miracle on 34th Street".

Is the Father Christmas on duty in Macy's department store in New York the real Santa Claus, or a loveable old con man? If Kris Kringle is an impostor— - why do strange things happen when he's around? What ensues is an exciting courtroom drama that quickly tests everyone's belief in the magic and spirit of Christmas. A must for all the family to start the Christmas season, it runs from Thursday 6th December to Saturday 15th December at 7.30 pm at St Margaret's Arts, St Margaret's Lane, Titchfield, with matinee performances on 8th and 15th December.

For more information and booking, call the Box Office on 01329 556156  
Or go to [www.titchfieldfestivaltheatre.com](http://www.titchfieldfestivaltheatre.com)







**Fareham Methodist Church**  
invites you to come and join us for  
**Carols**  
and  
**an Impromptu Nativity**  
on  
**Saturday December 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
**West Street Podium, Fareham**  
**At 10.00**



**FX DECEMBER DIARY DATES**

The FX teams within the Church and the Circuit have been busy organising lots of events to help everyone celebrate Christmas

December 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Circuit Advent Service	18.00 at our church
December 21 <sup>st</sup>	Knowle Village Carol Singing	18.00 in the Square
December 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Carols and an Impromptu Nativity	10.00 West Street Podium

I hope to see some of you at these events which help to spread the message of Christmas, especially to those who don't come into the Church.

Garry Bagshaw



## **A CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH**

**Sponsored by Christians Together in Fareham and  
Community Action Fareham**

You are warmly invited to a Christmas Day lunch to take place in Fareham from 12 noon on the 25th December 2012. It will be at St Jude's school, Bishopsfield Road, Fareham.

There is no charge for this and after lunch there will be entertainments into the afternoon until the event ends at around 3.30pm.

If you would like to attend, please fill in the form on the Church notice board. If the forms have run out ask Bobby for some more copies.

Applications by 3rd December please



### **WANTED for Christmas Day**

At St Jude's School - after the Christmas Day lunch organised by Christians Together in Fareham, an afternoon of entertainment is planned. To help with this they are looking for:

1. Keyboard player to accompany carol singing approx 2.00 - 3.00 pm
2. Raffle prizes are required.

If you are able to help with either of the above please contact Lucy Docherty or Jennie Romicheva at Community Action Fareham



**Editor:** Here is a light-hearted version of the history of Father Christmas...

## **HOW FATHER CHRISTMAS GOT WHERE HE IS TODAY**

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: 'Twas 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 exhausted just rushing around getting ready for Christmas, that is a sobering thought.



## **A WINTER CONCERT**

### **Start celebrating the birth of our Saviour**

Gosport Musical Theatre Products company and JUCE (The junior section) will be holding a Winter Concert of Carols and Christmas music in our Church on Saturday, 15th December 2012.

Plenty of opportunity to join in the singing. Tickets are obtainable from Andrew or Elizabeth Wilcock..



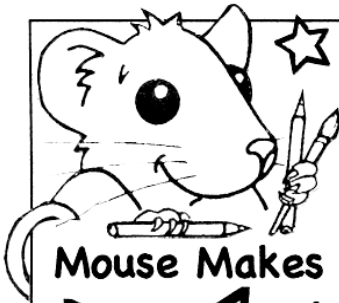
## **POINTS TO PONDER**

Come early for a good seat at the back!

Forbidden fruit creates many jams

The wages of sin is death. Repent before pay day!





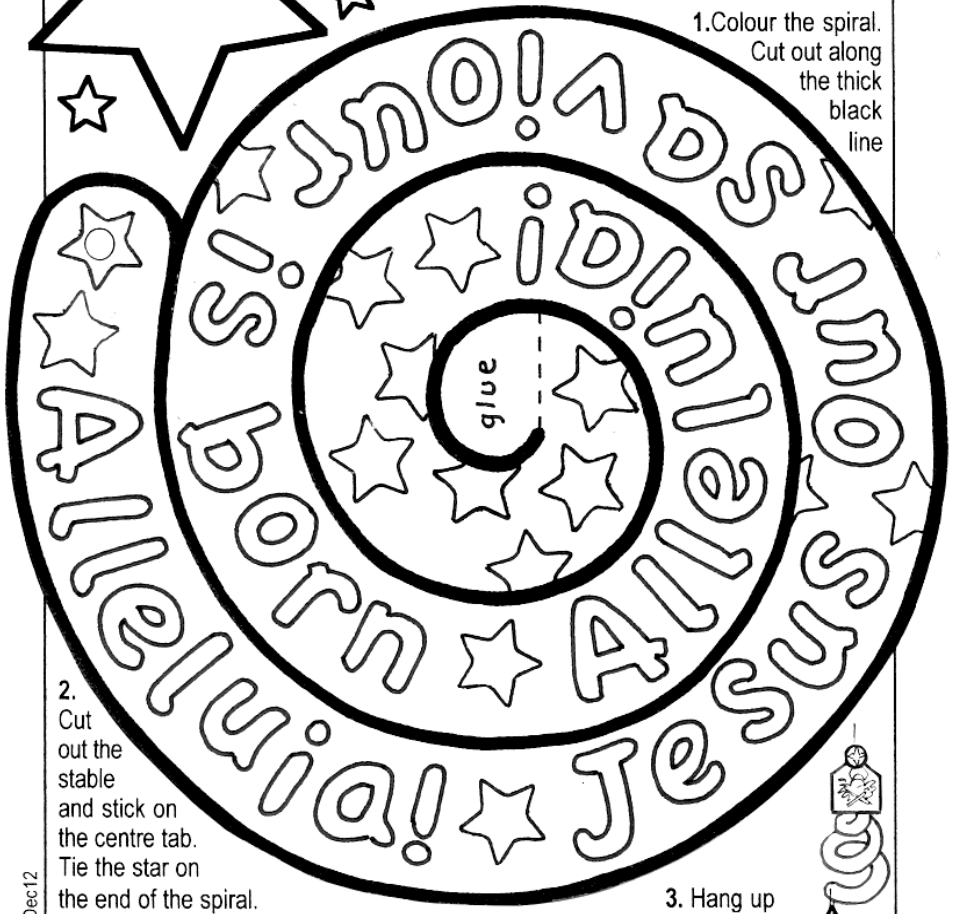
# Mouse Makes

"I bring you **good news** that will cause **great joy** for all the people. Today in the town of David a **Saviour** has been born to you; he is the **Messiah**, the Lord"

Read:  
Luke 1-20



1. Colour the spiral.  
Cut out along the thick black line



2. Cut out the stable and stick on the centre tab. Tie the star on the end of the spiral.

3. Hang up





## CHRISTMAS LIVE

Sometimes when people tell you a story it doesn't really mean as much as it would if you could see it for yourself. St Francis of Assisi had often preached about that very first Christmas in Bethlehem with the animals round the manger and the baby lying on a bed of straw. But he wanted the story to come alive for his congregation. In the year 1223 he had a brilliant idea and planned a very special surprise for Christmas Eve.

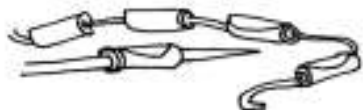
Instead of the sermon in church, Francis led the people to a cave. There, to their amazement, was a manger set out with a doll in it, and all around were real animals who watched while Francis told the old story with a new meaning because people could now see it for themselves. The idea grew each year, soon they used a real baby in the crib (an orphan with no home because someone would then willingly take in the 'Christ-baby'). And still today, churches and homes everywhere put up their cribs and wonder anew at the story of God come down to earth, a child like us.

## CHRISTMAS BEADS

A nice present to make for someone you love. Cut strips of paper out of Christmas wrapping paper. Each strip 6" (15 cm) long and 3/4" (2 cm) at the widest part. Cut these strips into long triangle shapes so that the tip of the paper is narrower than the base.

Put widest end of the paper strip onto a knitting needle or pencil and begin to wrap it round itself. When you get close to the end, add a very small dab of glue and press it down. Slide the bead off the knitting needle. Repeat. Let the beads dry. Thread the beads onto string or yarn and then tie to make a necklace. You can also make longer lengths into garlands to decorate the Christmas tree.

Use plain colours or the shiny pages of magazines to make beads for all year round.



**What did the snowman and his wife hang over their baby's crib?**

A snow mobile.

**What is claustrophobia?**

Fear of Santa.

## **SOME OBSERVATIONS ON CHRISTMAS ...**

I heard the bells on Christmas Day their old familiar carols play,  
and wild and sweet the words repeat of peace on earth, goodwill  
to men! Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

If Jesus were born one thousand times in Bethlehem and not in  
me, then I would still be lost. Corrie ten Boom

We must not have Christ Jesus, the Lord of Life, put any more in  
the stable amongst the horses and asses, but he must now have  
the best chamber. George Fox

The hinge of history is on the door of a Bethlehem stable.  
R Sockman

Christ has outlasted the empire that crucified him 19 centuries  
ago. He will outlast the nations who deny him now. Anon

As the print of the seal on the wax is the express image of the  
seal itself, so Christ is the express image – the perfect representa-  
tion – of God. Ambrose

The nature of Christ's existence is mysterious, I admit; but ....  
reject it and the world is an inexplicable riddle; believe it, and the  
history of our race is satisfactorily explained. Napoleon Bonaparte

We know how God would act if he were in our place – he has been  
in our place. A W Tozer

Jesus Christ disturbs everything he confronts. Rolfe Barnard



## **VISITING SANTA**

A mother took her young daughter to visit Santa in his grotto at the garden  
centre. He greeted the youngster merrily, and asked: “What would you like  
for Christmas?”

The child stared at him, open mouthed in horror. Then she gasped: “Didn't  
you get my email??!!”





## CHRISTMAS TRIVIA

### Question 1

In which of these two countries do children expect Father Christmas on the 6th December, rather than on Christmas Eve:

- A Greece and Spain
- B Poland and Hungary
- C Australia and New Zealand

### Question 2

The people of Greenland often sit down to a Christmas treat of:

- A battak - a butter pudding with gold coins hidden inside
- B mattak - whale skin with a strip of blubber inside
- C rattak - roasted rat with stuffing and potatoes.

### Question 3

In Elizabethan England a luxury Christmas dinner would consist of:

- A Caviar and foie gras
- B Roasted swans and gilded partridge
- C Chocolate covered goose and treacle potatoes

### Question 4

Christmas crackers were invented by:

- A The maker of sherbet dips
- B the maker of bon-bon sweets
- C The maker of jelly babies



## SMILE LINES

A Sunday school teacher asked her class, "What was Jesus' Mother's name?" One child answered "Mary"

The teacher then asked, "who knows what Jesus' father's name was?" Another child ventured: "Verge"

Confused, the teacher asked, "Where did you get that?"

The child replied hesitantly: "Well, you know they are always talking about Verge n' Mary".



## ANSWERS

### If you answered mostly B's

Wow, you're a true Christmas expert, well done! In case there were a few you didn't know, you can impress your mates with even more festive facts by checking out the answers to all of these questions:

1. The tradition in Poland and Hungary is that Father Christmas delivers gifts on the 6th December, the birthday of Saint Nicholas and not on Christmas Eve
2. In Greenland it is not uncommon for mattack to be passed around after the coffee and cakes on Christmas Day. This delicacy of whale skin and blubber is usually so tough that it has to be swallowed down without being chewed.
3. Wealthy families in Elizabethan England would often enjoy roasted swans and gilded peacocks (peacocks covered with a thin layer of gold) for Christmas dinner.
4. Christmas crackers were invented in the mid 19th century by London confectioner Tom Smith; the maker of bon-bons.



### NOT A GOOD MOVE?

The failure of the Synod of the Church of England to agree to women bishops is not only a missed opportunity but a step backwards. It causes me to reflect that I am not sure I want to progress a Covenant with a body so out of touch with today's world and so out of step with our Methodist position where we regard women and men as equal. I am considering asking Circuit to send a memorial to Conference on the subject expressing these sentiments. If you are supportive please let me know so that I can find a suitable form of words for the next Circuit meeting.

**Nigel Cox**



## CHURCH MEMBERS' CAR LIST

Have you changed your car lately?

If you have, and intend to park it in the Car Park in Queens Road, please give the details to one of our Church Stewards.

They will need the car drivers name/s, the car's make, the colour, and the registration number. Please make sure you tell the Steward about any car that needs to be removed from our Car List.



Patrick Watson



## THE ROCKING SONG

**Little Jesus, sweetly sleep, do not stir;  
We will lend a coat of fur,  
We will rock you, rock you, rock you,  
We will rock you, rock you, rock you.**

Fur is no longer appropriate wear for small infants, both due to risk of allergy to animal fur, and for ethical reasons. Therefore faux fur, a nice cellular blanket or perhaps micro-fleece material should be considered a suitable alternative.

Please note, only persons who have been subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check and have enhanced clearance will be permitted to rock baby Jesus. Persons must carry their CRB disclosure with them at all times and be prepared to provide three forms of identification before rocking commences.



## LORD'S PRAYER UPDATED

I had been teaching my 3 year old daughter, Caitlin, the Lord's Prayer. For several evenings at bedtime, she would repeat after me the lines from the prayer. Finally, she decided to go alone and I listened with pride as she carefully enunciated each word right up to the end of the prayer: "lead us not into temptation," she implored, "but deliver us some e-mail".



**The Methodist Church  
Southampton District**



**Wednesday 27 February 10am – 3pm**  
**Amesbury Methodist Church**  
High Street, Amesbury, Salisbury SP4 7ET

# Forbidden Fruit and Fig Leaves

What is difference between guilt and shame and how do they affect how we speak of the Gospel today?

Come and be challenged at this District Lent Event

led by the Rev Dr

## **JUDITH ROSSALL**

*Lecturer at the Southern Theological Education  
and Training Scheme (STETS)*

*Coffee will be served at 11am please bring your  
own lunch and a bible*

*To reserve a place or for more information,  
contact Julia Wills, Training Officer, tel: 01962  
621061, email: [juli-wills@ntlworld.com](mailto:juli-wills@ntlworld.com)*



**This study day is free to all, donations towards the cost of  
refreshments appreciated**

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

(All meetings at Church unless otherwise stated)

### **DECEMBER**

2nd	Circuit Advent Service		18.00
6 - 8th	Christmas Tree Festival	Th & Fr	10.30 - 18.00
		Sat	10.30 - 16.00
7th	Friday Lunch		13.00
11th	District Superintendents Meeting at Petersfield		9.00
12th	Wednesday Fellowship		14.00
	Messy Church		16.00
15th	Gosport Musical Theatre Products Company		19.30
	Entertain us for Christmas		
21st	Carol Singing at Knowle Village (meet at square)		18.00
22nd	Impromptu Nativity & Carols @ Podium, West Street, Fareham		10.00
24th	Christmas Eve Communion		23.30
25th	United Service with URC		10.30
	Christmas Day Lunch at St Jude's School		12.00

### **JANUARY**

9th	Circuit Leadership Team meeting @ Circuit Office	12.00
	Wednesday Fellowship	14.00
	Messy Church	16.00
	Worship Consultation	19.30
15th	Church Council	19.30
16th	Local Preachers & Worship Leaders meeting @ Lee MC	19.30



Mini-Market every Monday 9.30 to 11.45 am  
(Not Bank Holidays)

Coffee Centre every <sup>27</sup>Thursday 9.30 to 11.45 am

## DOOR STEWARDS

### DECEMBER

2nd	10.30	Liz Haigh, Lynda Haydon-Jones, Eric Wheeler
	18.00	Rosemarie & Tony Jackson
9th	10.30	Janice & Vic Collins
16th	10.30	Brenda & Peter Taylor, Liz Haigh
23rd	10.30	Bobby & Patrick Watson
	18.00	Rosemarie & Tony Jackson
24th	23.30	Rosemarie & Tony Jackson
25th	10.30	Bessie & Daniel Taabu, Patrick Watson
30th	10.30	Lynda Young, Mary Bailey

### JANUARY

6th	10.30	Gwen & Harvey Brosgall
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## FLOWER ROTA

### DECEMBER

2nd	Lynda Young
9th	Rosemarie & Tony Jackson
16th	Maggie Allingham & Bill Batchelor
23rd/24th/25th	Garry Bagshaw
30th	Flower Fund

### JANUARY

6th	Lynda Haydon-Jones
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## REFRESHMENT ROTA

### DECEMBER

2nd	Sheila Dyer, Sarah Brooks, Meg Cox
9th	Margaret Temple, Sally Bland, Brenda Bennett
16th	Cath Stevenson, Vic Collins, Judith Bramall
23rd	Pat Croker, Mary Bailey
30th	Liz Haigh, Liz Avison

### JANUARY

6th	Ruth & Tony Elvery
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## PRESS DATE



All items for the **JANUARY** Magazine should be placed in the box in the Welcome Area or handed to the editor - **Jill Groom** - by **Lunchtime** on **Friday, 28th December 2012 please.**

**Fareham Focus is now available to be read on Fareham Church Website**