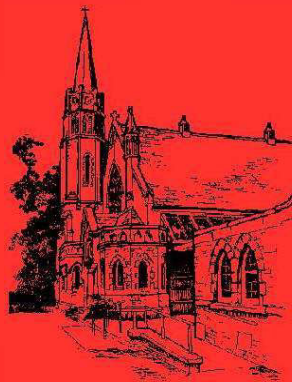


**Fulwood Methodist Church
Crossroads Centre**



**CHRISTMAS
2024**



Twinned with the Evangelisch-methodistische Kirche,
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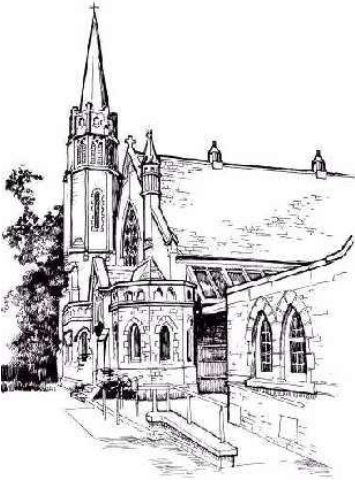


THE FULWOOD METHODIST

FULWOOD METHODIST CHURCH

Watling Street Road, Fulwood, Preston, PR2 8EA

Tel. Preston (01772) 718741



MINISTER

Revd. Jane Wild - jane.wild@methodist.org.uk

Tel. 01772 715134

YOUTH, CHILDREN AND FAMILY WORKER

Darren Arnold - darrenarnold.church@gmail.com

Tel. 07811 775825

CIRCUIT PASTORAL WORKER

Denise Johnson - djpastoral@outlook.com

Tel. 07719 200451

Registered Charity No. 1133929

SUNDAY SERVICES

9.45 am. SINGING PRACTICE (occasional)

10.30 am. MORNING WORSHIP & SUNDAY CLUB

We offer a welcome to all ages on Sunday mornings, there is a CRÈCHE for babies and toddlers while parents are in worship. The first 15 minutes of worship are for all ages and then on most Sundays the children leave for their own time in SUNDAY CLUB, where there are groups for different ages. Parents can go out with the younger ones to see them settle, and then come back into Church for worship. Sunday Club and worship finish at the same time and an invitation is extended to everyone to stay and share in fellowship in the Willow Grove, where tea, coffee and orange juice are served.

The CHURCH MINIBUS provides free transport to and from Church on Sunday mornings. The timetable and route information are available at Church. Should you wish to make use of it please complete one of the request cards in the Willow Grove.

HOLY COMMUNION is celebrated monthly and once a month there is ALLTOGETHER WORSHIP involving children from the youth groups.

For BAPTISMS, MARRIAGES AND FUNERALS contact Revd. Jane Wild

* * * * *

**If you need any help, or have any concerns, please contact
Revd. Jane Wild or Mrs. Sue Penrith (862273)**

PASTORAL LETTER

From Revd. Jane Wild

ARE YOU A HALF-FULL OR HALF-EMPTY PERSON?

In life, we often encounter the proverbial question: “Is the glass half-full or half-empty?” This simple query reveals much about our outlook on life. Are we optimists who see the potential and abundance in every situation, or are we pessimists who focus on what is lacking?

Optimists, or ‘half-full’ people, tend to focus on the positive aspects of life. They see challenges as opportunities for growth and believe that every setback is a set-up for a comeback. This mind set aligns closely with the message found in John 10:10, where Jesus says, “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full”. This verse emphasise the abundance and fullness of life that Jesus offers, encouraging us to embrace a perspective of hope and positivity.

On the other hand, pessimists, or ‘half-empty’ people, often dwell on the negatives. They may see the same glass, but focus on what is missing rather than what is present. This outlook can lead to a life filled with anxiety and dissatisfaction. The thief in John 10:10 represents these negative forces that aim to steal our joy and peace. By recognising this, we can strive to shift our focus from what we lack to the abundance that is promised to us.

John 10:10 invites us to live life abundantly. This doesn’t necessarily mean material wealth, but rather a richness in spirit, relationships and purpose. By adopting a ‘half-full’ mind set, we open ourselves to the fullness of life that Jesus speaks of. We become more resilient, more grateful, and more capable of seeing the good in every situation.

So, as you take time to reflect this Advent and receive the gift of Jesus who brings abundant life, or next time you face a challenge, ask yourself: “Am I seeing this as a half-full or half-empty situation? Am I seeking abundant life?” Your answer might just change everything.

Wishing you a Happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.
God Bless.

Jane

* * * * *

CHRISTMAS AT FULWOOD

SATURDAY 21st DECEMBER

10:00am - HOT CHOCOLATE & GINGERBREAD SOCIAL

SUNDAY 22nd DECEMBER 5:30pm - CAROL SERVICE

TUESDAY 24th DECEMBER 3:00pm - CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

11:30pm - MIDNIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE

WEDNESDAY 25th DECEMBER 10:00am - CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

SUNDAY 29th DECEMBER 11:00am - JOINT SERVICE AT PENWORTHAM

EDITORIAL

These Christmases do seem to come around quickly and that's another year gone by for me as Editor of FMC's magazine; exactly 25 of them in fact. As ever, my sincere thanks to all who have supported the publication over the years with contributions, and long may it continue!

A reminder that the **copy date** for our **Easter 2025 issue** will be **Sunday 30th March** at the latest. Any material submitted prior to that date would be most welcome – and please do remember that articles may be subject to editing!

Roy Smith (Editor)

* * * * *

CHURCH LEADERSHIP TEAM

Ladipo Adepoju: **God for All**, John Ferris: **Property**, Mavis Fletcher: **Worship**
Karen Hunt: **Outreach and Service**, Amanda Latham: **Finance**, Judith Lowe: **Worship**,
Laura Pavlikova: **Learning and Caring**, Sue Penrith: **Learning and Caring**,
Sonia Phillips: **Communications**, Margaret Squire: **Governance**.

* * * * *

COMMUNION STEWARDS

John Butterworth, Jacqueline Clarke, Anne Garsed,
Sue Hogarth, Olivia Parkinson, Laura Pavlikova.

* * * * *

EDITORIAL TEAM

EDITOR Roy Smith 7 Southgate, Fulwood Preston PR2 3HX
Assisted by Ken Wales, Ann Done
Computer layout - John Butterworth
e-mail fmc magazine@yahoo.co.uk

* * * * *

THE DESIRE OF ALL NATIONS CAME

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!
The Desire of all nations came!
He came to save us from our sin.
Jesus Christ is His holy name!

God sent His only begotten Son
From His home in Heaven above.
God sent His only Son to die
Out of His great, tremendous love!

All nations desire a leader
Who will bring peace to the earth.
The Desire of all nations came
At the advent of Jesus' birth.

Jesus came to this earth below.
He came to die for the sins of all.
He arose, and He lives forever.
Upon the Saviour, let us call!

By Margaret Cagle

“Glory to God in the highest!”
Sang the angels, a glorious sight!
“Peace on earth, good will to men.”
The Saviour was born that night!



HOW HAVE WE GOT TO DECEMBER ALREADY?

It seems like only yesterday that I was sitting out in the evenings, enjoying the last of the sunshine. In a week that we have experiences, storm Bert, snow, hailstorms and rainbows I turn my focus to the approaching period of Advent and Christmas. The chaos of the weather matches my preparations for the weeks ahead – rushing and dashing, preparing messages and events, managing family logistics and meeting up with family and friends to exchange greetings. It's a little busy to say the least.

I came across an article written by a friend of mine which speaks about “Practising the pause”. The original article refers to our wellbeing and reducing our anxiety and stress – encouraging us to step back and breath and pause before we respond or act to situations which make us feel that stress. I wonder how we feel about “practising the pause” spiritually. Our churches are busy with events, services, performances etc. Let's search for some space within all that for a pause, time to reflect, listen and experience the peace of God. There are always ‘tingly’ moments in our Advent and Christmas events. For me the carol Silent Night, sung solo in a full candlelit church, always gives me goose bumps, or watching small children dressed in tea towels and sheets holding onto sheep being shepherds in a field creates a smile within me. What are the moments that you are going to savour? What will create a pause within you that allows the stress within to be replaced by the love and peace of God? I hope that those moments find you and that you will enjoy them and that you will be able to hold onto the feelings that they create in you.



Denise, during morning service recently at Fulwood

I hope that you have a wonderful Advent and Christmas – may it be ‘tingly’.

Denise Johnson (Pastoral Lay worker)

* * * * *

REMEMBER

Has it ever occurred to you:-

That other people may find it difficult to get on with you?

That you were young yourself, once?

That others have a right to their own opinions?

That what you do and say helps to shape other lives?

That home is where you ought to be at your best, not your worst?

That you can begin again?

That you might have tried harder?

“Another Cheerful Day” – Methuen

From the ‘Strand’ magazine, May 1945 – one shilling & three pence

(Many thanks to Joan Smith for this item.)

3GENERATE 2024



On the weekend of 4th - 6th October, five young people from Fulwood joined others from the Circuit for the annual '3Generate' weekend at the NEC in Birmingham. Friday evening started off with settling into the camping area and going for something to eat. They then had a chance to walk around the arena to see where things were going to take place and maybe join in a couple of activities or talks. Bedtime was at 11.00pm, although the ladies had to queue for about 20mins to use the facilities! In the end I think most were asleep by 2.00am!



Saturday started at 7.00am with the lights coming on and waking everyone. This was followed by breakfast - full English on offer, followed by a varied



programme for all ages and taking part in preferences - sports, climbing, art, crafts, talks, tech, music, caving or even taking part in a scratch choir. Then came lunch, followed by the rolling programme. Three of our 4 - 7 year olds came for the day, to join a mini 3Generate which was separate from the main event.

Activities for the youngsters included crafts, and sessions led by Forest Church, Rainbow Fish Theatre show and the Brass Band. The youngsters were very tired at the end of the day but really enjoyed their time. A big 'thank you' needs to go to John Ferris who drove the minibus on the day!

Back to the older group and later in the afternoon we all came back together at the camp site for some group time. There the youngsters were asked the question, “What has God been saying to us and how we would like to respond and take action?” Answers included ‘trusting in God’; ‘being grateful for what we have’ and lots about ‘looking after the environment’. Then it was time for more of the programme and dinner and we finished the evening with a Late Night Communion. Bedtime was earlier, thankfully!

The next morning it was time to pack our things away, followed by breakfast, again full English was available. Some played in the dodge-ball tournament, whilst others chose things from the programme. After this there was a choice of 13 different styles of worship which included arty worship. Taizé, silent disco worship and Forest Church worship. We then finished with a big picnic in the park area and more worship, before finally departing for home after a great weekend.



Some quotes from the weekend,-

“fun”, “tiring”, “lots to do”, “exciting”, “good experience”,
“a must do”, “recommend going”, “best weekend ever”,

“a bucket-list thing for children”,

“I really liked listening to the Moses Brothers and the
magic show, it was all amazing”,

“I’ve never seen an actual brass band before”,

“I loved the late nights but the food needs to be better
and the queues were humungus”.

My favourite was, “They had a pub there, Mum, and
we weren’t allowed in it, but Darren was in there all the
time. He was relaxing!”

Darren

PS. The pub was ‘The Well’, a place where staff could go and eat cake, and have a drink and also listen to various talks. Ginger beer was the strongest drink available!

Have a look at <https://tinyurl.com/bddxp2jj> to find out more about the weekend.

HOPING FOR ADVENT

Are you a member (whether closet or open) of CAMRAD? Don't panic. It is alright for Methodists to belong. It has got a "D" at the end of its name. It is the Campaign for Real Advents, a movement I proposed forming many years ago now. Not that it has made any apparent difference. In 'normal' years, Advent has been taken over by Christmas.

I know that Advent can properly be called a time of preparation for Christmas. But preparing for something is not the same as having it or experiencing it. Are we in danger of living in a world where "I want, I get; and I get it now" is the norm to which we all now conform? Is that affecting us in our churches? Are we just looking forward to letting things rip?

It is sometimes said that Advent is a time of hope. But in what do we place our hope? Jesus suggested that where your heart is and where your energy goes tells you what it is that you treasure the most. It will be those things that will be the most important for you over the weeks of Advent. It is easy for them to take over, partly because it is easier for us to identify them and get our minds round them.

It is harder to remember the Christian story (which all those things are meant to celebrate), and to let what the story represents become real for us. In the northern hemisphere Advent comes when the days are physically darkening, and it feels as if the world is too. We get a few weeks in November of remembering the saints and all the dead. Traditionally that remembering has led people in Advent to reflect on what are sometimes called the "four last things" - death, judgement, hell and heaven and to prepare themselves for them. It is not surprising therefore that we react to it all by rushing to turn away from all those dark thoughts and by repacking Advent as a busy but indulgent festive preparation for Christmas!

A 'proper' Advent calendar would begin with a time of getting ourselves made, our churches ready and the world ready for something else. We need to be ready to receive afresh the good news of God's love coming to us all, embracing us, filling us with light and life and joy. The Jewish people looked for God to intervene decisively in the world through a king or special agent (a "Messiah"). Looking back, we celebrate the fact that God did come, through the birth of Jesus. Looking forward, we pray that Jesus will come to us again. As we celebrate both past and future in the present, we can discover that above all he comes to us now, so that when he comes to us in the future, he will find us prepared.

So in Advent we prepare ourselves to celebrate that Jesus was born over two thousand years ago to show us in human ways that God's love which was there in



Revd. K G Howcroft

the creation of the world in the beginning is here for each one of us now. We prepare to celebrate the promise that, if and when the world as we know it comes to an end, Jesus will still come to us to show us that the same love of God is there for us in and through it all. We celebrate that the same Jesus comes to us now, knocking on the door of our hearts; and we open ourselves to receive him.

We do not know when God will come to us. We have to be on the lookout and always be ready. God might even come in the form of a helpless baby, and we and the world might be judged by whether we notice and whether we are ready.

In this time before Christmas
things pass by like shooting stars,
whether leading to good things,
or heading for disaster,
is hard to tell

As we journey on, one star
catches our attention, and
stops over a baby in a manger,
the still centre of our turning world.

Rev. K G Howeroft (revised 3. 11. 2024)

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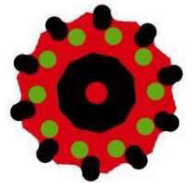
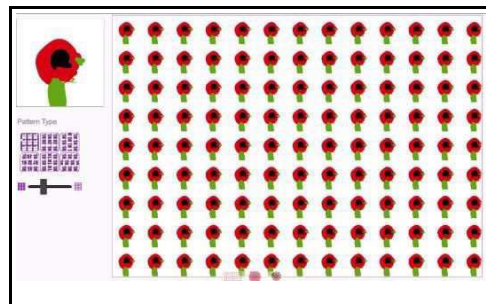
AUTUMN AT RAMJS

The autumn term at RAMJS is a vibrant and meaningful time for everyone. It is a time for reflection, faith and community. We've celebrated several important events, including Remembrance Day, Diwali and Odd Sock day as part of Anti-Bullying Week. The children also enjoyed supporting Children in Need by coming to school in spotty clothes and pyjamas; this event helped raise awareness and funds, with generous donations from our families. Our Remembrance assembly was especially moving, as the children showed great respect when observing the silence.



Remembrance Day

The year 3 Nest (Nurturing & Emotional Support Team) children have worked hard to create digital remembrance artwork on the computers using Purple Mash. Through creativity and thoughtful design, they crafted beautiful tributes that reflect the themes of remembrance and respect. The whole school completed work for a Remembrance display.



Artwork



Year 3 have also created some wonderful artwork inspired by Lowry. They explored his unique style, capturing scenes of everyday life with their own creative touches. Their artwork showcases Lowry's characteristic matchstick figures, bustling townscapes and colours, beautifully.

Diwali Art work


Here are some examples of the Diwali art work created by our pupils.



Wood End Farm

Year 4 have been to Wood End farm this half term. They represented our school with outstanding behaviour and enthusiasm. They demonstrated our school values, especially respect and were a credit to us all. We are immensely proud of them all. They have done some great work about what they learnt too.

Our School Trip



Wednesday 13th November 2024
We're reflecting on our visit to the farm

WOOD END FARM

All about our day
First when we arrived we met Stella and she introduced us to the farm. We split into 6 groups. One group went with sheep and the other went with Alpacas who lived in this fence.

Lunch time
After we saw the cows and ponies we had our lunch and watched a video of 10 sheep through a baby.

Unsup bridge
The animals that we saw the cows and there was two different types of cows. One was a dairy cow and the other was a beef cow. Then we saw the pony, the pig and the lamb in the field.

Forest walk
We went to a wood and saw the trees. We heard our own and listened to the birds.

Playground
Then we went to the playground to play and there was this thing that you could talk to someone through a hole.

Fun facts
- The sign says clean and tidy.
- When they are bad and it's down it's called ashing.

Owned by
My favourite part was the alpaca party and when we saw the alpaca we were cute and fluffy and we got to hold the sheep and it felt so good because she was the one.

Plant

Wednesday 13th November 2024
We're reflecting on our visit to the farm

Wood end farm

All about our day
When we went to the farm trip we first went to see some calves they were eating food and it looked like people's hands! Also some calves were a bit scared!

The animals
we saw so many animals we saw:
- a pony
- a pig
- Alpacas
- 2 sheep
- 1 horse

Lunch time
At lunch time we ate our food. We also watched a video about wood end farm and in the video we saw a female sheep pregnant and we saw a man putting grass on and seeing the baby sheep out when they were getting the baby sheep out grassy things were out!

Forest walk

When we went to the forest walk we were told to listen to the sounds in the forest and there were woodpeckers, birds, larks, 05 sounds we heard!

The playground
At the playground we played for some time and next to the park there was a little river. When we were back to the coaches we got our bags and we were gone. When we were going back we saw bridges and flowers!

My favourite part
My favourite part was when I hugged the alpaca because they were nice and fluffy. Sister.

Fun facts about the farm!
When alpacas rest they call it clucking!
Also that land is owned by King Charles III.
In April over 3000 lambs will be born!

Where it is.
It is at Dunsop bridge.



Now, as we move into the Advent season, we are all preparing for Christmas- a season filled with joy, giving and celebration across our school community.

Fran Nickson Head

Note - The drawings are larger on the web version.

CHRISTMAS FUN AND WELL-BEING

With Christmas fast approaching and continuing my quest to promote wellbeing, I thought it may be of interest and value to focus on tackling stress and tension associated with the Christmas and New Year festivities. I plan to explore ways and suggest ideas to minimise the mayhem which many are caught up in.

Many people regret that the true meaning of Christmas has been lost and overtaken by commercialism and the excesses of eating, drinking and expenditure. Also, of concern, there is evidence of increased strain, depression and fatigue during January, particularly when the bills need paying.

So, I've chosen to counter the problem of exhaustion, staleness and feelings of dejection, by extolling the benefits of tradition, nostalgia and fun and share some ideas for family and friends to engage with, namely quizzes, puzzles, Christmas cracker jokes and stories, to amuse, have fun, divert and help to uplift our mood sustain our wellbeing and banish the blues!

NOSTALGIA

First up, nostalgia. I once read “nostalgia is not what it used to be”!!

Recalling happy memories and reminiscing about enjoyable occasions or special events and people can be therapeutic, raise our spirits and restore our equilibrium.

What are your favourite childhood memories associated with Christmas?

I respectfully suggest you follow my example and make a memory list. I'd be interested to hear of yours. Mine are...

- In October, helping my Mum to prepare the Christmas cake and pudding mix by inserting the silver sixpences and threepenny bits, wrapped in greaseproof paper. The big treat though was licking the spoon at the end! Then experiencing the joy of finding the coin in my slice of cake or pudding on Christmas Day!
- Opening my Christmas stocking which always included liquorice pipes, chocolate coins wrapped in gold foil and orange and lemon slices.
- Enjoying the aroma from my grandad smoking his ‘once a year’ King Edward cigar as the smoke wafted throughout the parlour.
- My friend Vernon, calling at our house on Boxing Day morning asking, “Have you got ‘owt’ to swap?”
- As a choir boy, learning carols by heart, then visiting the home of parishioners on Christmas Eve, prior to the Midnight service.
- Playing traditional family party games, led by my Mum such as, ‘Nelson’s eye’, ‘pass the parcel’, ‘murder in the dark’, ‘who am I?’ and ‘forfeits’.

As an adult, I recall choosing to work every Christmas Day, in different hospitals around the North West for most of my career and always being emotionally moved by the Salvation Army Band playing carols, and staff dressing up to amuse and entertain patients and their relatives. We usually had the local mayor and mayoress visit, and often the ward consultant turned up to carve the turkey!

In 1969, as a student nurse, I was placed in the casualty department at PRI. In the afternoon I dressed up as '*Jake the Peg*' with three legs and a long beard. I filled in the casualty card as follows. **Occupation:** Entertainment. **Condition:** Congenital abnormality. I sat on the front row and when the bell summoned me in for triage, the casualty officer was clearly startled and bemused, he stepped back, and when I said "Can you do 'owt' for me doctor?" He instantly recognised my voice and requested that I do the same act for his colleague on the Boxing Day shift.

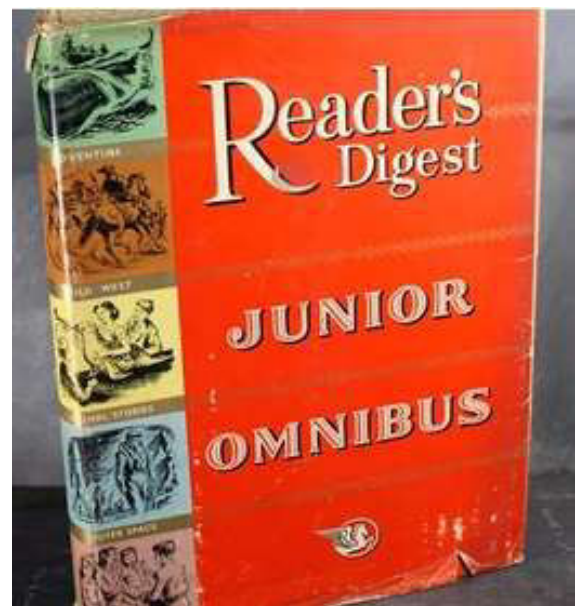
All good fun designed to lift the spirits and morale, encourage team work and divert from the often unpleasant, sad and tragic events encountered in casualty.

When I occasionally reflect on these events, it brings back fond feelings and a reminder of my deep respect for brilliant and dedicated former colleagues, unforgettable patients, some with immense courage and others with a wicked sense of humour. All of these ensured I loved my work and gained enormous satisfaction when I reminisce about the happy times of personal growth, fulfilment and achievement and of making a difference to the lives of others.

By reminiscing, it can lift one's mood, enable you to feel grateful for happy experiences, distract you from concerns and perhaps make you smile.

I would love to hear about your own reflections about Christmas and perhaps I could pool them together for a future article for the interests of others.

Staying with the nostalgia theme, I recently came across a book I received from Father Christmas in 1958. It has been my favourite book of all time. The book was **The Reader's Digest Junior Omnibus** and contained fascinating stories and articles on a range of topics. Rereading the book has given me lots of pleasure, and material of jokes, puzzles, games and much more to amuse and entertain me. I have used some of these to inform this article. I suggest you take time to read them and then share with others.



Malcolm Rae

A CHRISTMAS QUIZ

The editors thought that readers might like a Quiz this Christmas as a change from our regular crossword. Probably a crossword next time! For some of the questions older readers may need to consult younger generations. Use of Google and other search engines is also recommended. In some cases, hints are given, and in others, it is a case of choosing the right option.

No prizes this time – just the enjoyment of taking part. Answers in the next edition of the magazine.

- 1 Stilton cheese often makes an appearance at Christmas time. The smell remains a little longer. Apparently, this cheese is only made in three countries. Can you name them?
- 2 In the UK in 2022, Mars Wrigley created an uproar by removing a particular chocolate bar from the Celebrations selection boxes. What was that bar?
- 3 There are four Gospels in the New Testament. But only two of them contain substantial narratives about the birth of Jesus. Can you name those two gospels?
- 4 Which English actor said that he was going to play the role of Scrooge in a film “as though there are no puppets around me?” Name the actor and the film.
- 5 In which year did the classic animation *The Snowman* (by Raymond Briggs) first appear on UK television? (a) 1972 (b) 1982 (c) 1992 (d) 2002 (e) none of those.
6. *The Miracle on 34th Street* is a much-loved classic Christmas film first screened in 1994. Which English actor played Santa Claus?
- 7 Officially for a blizzard to be declared, the wind speed must be at least (a) 10 mph (b) 30 mph (3) 50 mph (4) wind speed is irrelevant.
- 8 It was first launched as a toy or game in 1978. Two years later it hit the international market. What was the name of this best selling puzzle game?
- 9 One of the best selling toys of all time has been the *Barbie* doll. A UK rival doll was created in 1963 and topped the sales in 1968 and 1970. What was it called?
- 10 Frank Hornby launched on the market in 1898 a construction kit of metal strips, axles, gears and so on. In which northern city was this product invented?
- 11 What did Geraldine have four of in the 1996 Christmas *Vicar of Dibley*? Was it (a) bottles of sherry (b) weddings to officiate (c) Christmas lunches (d) bouts of indigestion



- 12 How many times does Shakespeare refer to Christmas in his plays?
(a) 0 (b) 34 (c) 3 (d) they didn't celebrate Christmas when Shakespeare was alive.
- 13 In *The Snowman* written in 1978 by Raymond Briggs, what is the colour of the snowman's scarf? (a) Grey (b) yellow (c) red (d) multi-coloured check.
- 14 Can you name a novel written by the poet and author who wrote a Christmas poem about the Nativity called *The Oxen* in 1915?
- 15 Who played the drums on Band Aid's 1984 hit '*Do They Know its Christmas?*'
- 16 How many miles south of the North Pole is London? Roughly,
(a) 1660 (b) 2660 (c) 3660
- 17 Which of Father Christmas's reindeers gets its name from the Dutch word for lightning?
- 18 Did Queen Elizabeth 11 ever wear a Santa Hat for her annual Christmas message?
- 19 Do people in Britain and Ghana celebrate the New Year at exactly the same time?
- 20 How many hours are there in a Leap Year?



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tomaseve@virginmedia.com




ARE YOU UP FOR A CHALLENGE?

For the last six years our family has taken on a Charity Shop Christmas Challenge. The idea being that we each buy a present for another family member from a charity outlet with the idea that it is particularly appropriate to that person (maybe funny or just relating to their interests.)

Although it just started with the adults it has now grown and the children find it great fun. It has grown to the extent that there are usually as many as 20 gifts to be opened, all before the 'ordinary presents'. It now proves to be the highlight of our present giving and provides much fun.

Obviously this adds greatly to the spirit but more importantly it helps the charity shops. Imagine the funds created if this were invoked in all of our church families. If you take up this, please let me know and spread the word to others.

PS. It is amazing what you can find; even brand new goods/toys at under £5.

A couple of ideas we have used :- A £5 fruit bowl with a trifle made in it, a £2 vase with a bunch of flowers .



Dave Topping

Martin's

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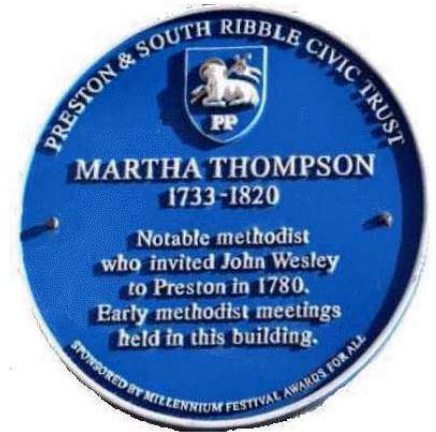
www.martinsthefuneraldirectors.co.uk

A FARRAGO

As part of its election manifesto, the Labour Party committed to a full investigation of the school curriculum and assessment system in England. Accordingly a review was launched in the wake of the General Election, opening on 25th September and closing on 22nd November. This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to halt the decline and to grow music in our schools. As Methodism was ‘founded on song’ we should be more than a little interested in the outcome.

A very recent fire in Preston town centre, in a building to the rear of The Old Dog Inn, Church Street, reminded me that the pub was the early meeting place of the first Methodists in Preston. As teetotalism – founded locally - grew and grew in strength I expect that bit of their history was quietly put aside!

This time around church magazines, weekly information sheets, orders of service and the like have come to us from Clitheroe Methodist Circuit; St Mary’s Parish Church, Eccleston; Trinity Methodist & United Reformed Church, Abingdon; Christchurch Priory; Minehead Methodist Church and from Carlisle Methodist Church at Wigton Road, plus the North Cumbria Circuit’s production ‘The Canopy’.



Did you know: a recent survey has suggested that 77% of people have never heard of Stir-Up Sunday (the last Sunday before Advent, when Christmas puddings were made and family members each took a turn at stirring the mixture – and made a wish)? Or that mince pies were said to be on the menu for the coronation banquet of King Henry V in 1413? Or that Christmas Island, in the Pacific Ocean, was so named by Captain Cook, who discovered it on 25th December, 1777?



We also regularly receive a copy of the magazine from our twinned Evangelische-methodistische Kirche in Recklinghausen, Germany. This is available, translated to English, on our website via a link on the front page.

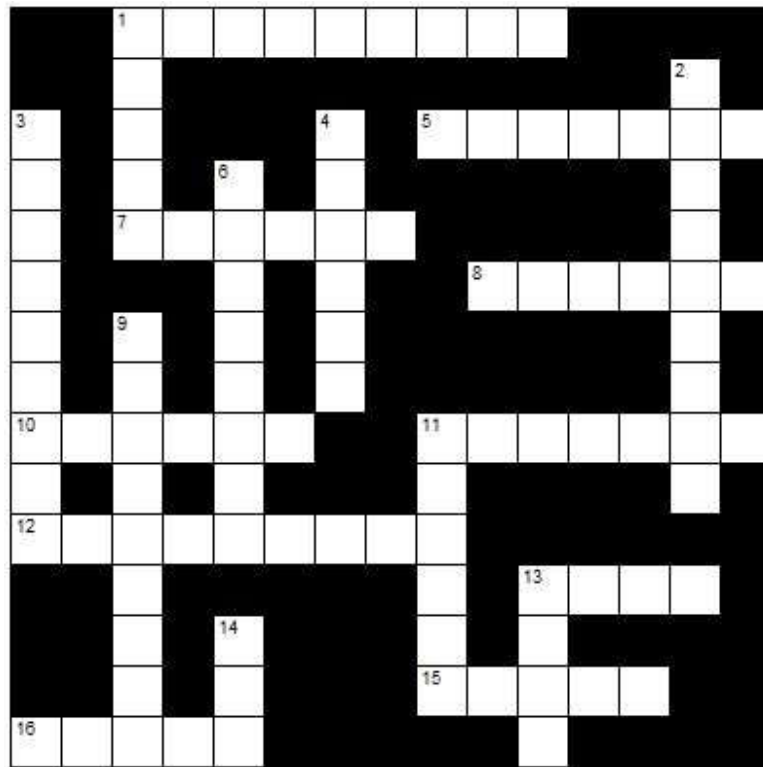
Roy Smith

* * * * *

The greatest legacy one can pass on to one’s children and grandchildren is not money or other material things accumulated in one’s life, but rather a legacy of character and faith. *(Billy Graham)*

If you haven’t any charity in your heart, you have the worst kind of heart trouble.

CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 The main town in the area where Jesus was born; here the temple was located.
- 5 The name of the angel who passed personal messages to Mary and Joseph.
- 7 A humble part of the building the location of Jesus' birth.
- 8 Messengers of God - who seemed to be working overtime when Jesus was born!
- 10 An animal feeding tray which became Jesus' first cot.
- 11 Well, the magi certainly had a long one. And Mary must have found hers very tiring.
- 12 They look after sheep! When they are not descending from the hillside to see a baby.
- 13 Were there three? Were they Kings? Were they Wise men?
- 15 The name of the Roman ruler of the area where Jesus was born. Comes out of the Christmas story very badly.
- 16 What was in the manger? What, no duvet? Where were the knitting group?

Down

- 1 The name of the baby whose birthday we are celebrating at this season.
- 2 and the name of the town where he was born.
- 3and what is this season called?
- 4 The Magi followed a star. We, if we are wise, Jesus.
- 6 The town in which Jesus grew up and lived as a young man.
- 9 The job of the man who kept saying he had 'no room'.
- 11 The husband of Mary and the father of Jesus.
- 13 She wasn't contrary: she was extraordinarily faithful!
- 14 The Testament in which we find accounts of the birth of Jesus.

Solution on Page 38

CHRISTMAS CRACKERS

Despite many people believing that Christmas cracker jokes are lame and at times excruciatingly embarrassing, occasionally the joke may be fresh, clever and makes us smile, I admire and credit the authors for their creative and comical wit. Some of my favourites are:

- 1) **Q** - How do you stop your mouth from freezing at Christmas?
A - Grit your teeth
- 2) **Q** - Why are real Christmas trees like clumsy knitters?
A - They both drop their needles.
- 3) **Q** - Why are photographers often depressed?
A - Because they are always focused on the negatives.
- 4) **Q** - Why is it becoming so difficult to buy advent calendars?
A - Because their days are numbered.
- 5) **Q** - What happened to the man who was sacked from operating the dodgems?
A - He sued for funfair dismissal.
- 6) **Q** - What is Rudolph's favourite day of the year?
A - Red Nose Day
- 7) **Q** - What is so fragile that even saying its name breaks it?
A - Silence
- 8) **Q** - What are never built to scale?
A - Prison walls
- 9) **Q** - How can you get 4 suits for £1?
A - Buy a pack of cards
- 10) **Q** - What do you get if you cross Christmas with a duck?
A - Christmas Quackers



QUIZZES/PUZZLES

I suggest you challenge yourself and then use them for a bit of fun with a group.

Kangaroo Words

As you know, the kangaroo hides their baby in a pouch. Hidden in the spelling of each of these words is a small word with the same meaning. The letters of the baby words are already in their proper order so all you have to do is pick them out. For instance, INSTRUCTOR contains the word TUTOR. Hop to it and see if you can do the others.

FEASTS

SPOILED

OBSERVE

ASSURED

RESPITE

DESTRUCTION

Answers on page 36

SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

In this, and perhaps two further articles, the magazine provides a focus upon activities aimed to assist people in our neighbourhood. First of all we look at our 'New to You' shop. Then we will highlight the catering services which work with other activities in the church. Then a third article which might make you see these activities in a wider and deeper way.

How is the Christmas shopping coming along? Is it all complete and you are relaxing with a cup of tea, a smug smile and a lighter wallet? Do you need a last-minute purchase for a recently discovered relative? Look no further. Try Eva's Emporium!!

Seriously, I want to celebrate a very remarkable development - our own Thrift Shop at Fulwood Methodist Church. Week by week,

not just at Christmas, you may find a treasure trove of goods on sale at very sensible prices. And you will find much more besides as I will try to describe.

In the past many churches, including FMC, offered the occasional sale of used goods through Jumble Sales and the like. Do you remember them – the piled high tables, the queues outside – and the occasional argument over who had spotted which bargain first? What has been created at Fulwood, whilst not unique in Church life, is rather special and continues to grow week by week. Just come along and see!

See the quality and display of the goods on sale: witness the incentive it provides to local people to come into our premises: browse at leisure from a wide variety of goods and be tempted by the very modest prices. Oh, and to have a cup of tea and a little more if you wish in warm surroundings. Just come along to Welcome Wednesday between 10.00am and 12 noon.



All this is the due to the efforts and generosity of two groups of people. First, there are the many people who generously donate much-loved items so that others can have access to them. All these gifts are welcomed as part of our commitment to recycling as much as we possibly can. If we can't sell it ourselves, we make sure it finds its way to other charities and businesses who can use them.

Then, a wonderfully committed and energetic group of volunteers who make sure it all happens, that you are welcomed as a long lost friend and can readily find what might be useful or simply beautiful.

The Thrift Shop in its current format was born just as our remodelled premises were opening in 2012. Over the years many people have worked hard to develop



the shop and the current ‘gang’, or most of them, are to be found in the picture on these pages. It has been hard work, but their experiences are fascinating and, mostly, humorous and uplifting. The regular visitors who always made sure their delightful dog always bought something as a treat, the donors who occasionally don’t check carefully enough and sometimes leave a more valuable

item, even money, in the pockets of garments and bags (always returned when found), the occasional donation which is perhaps not sold within church premises, just occasionally an item whose use is beyond the imagination of most folk! Most weeks there is something to discuss, to raise a smile.

But there is also a ministry to be provided to those who come along to browse. A jigsaw may provoke a memory, sad or happy, which can be shared: an item of clothing may be for a special occasion: a tool or a kitchen gadget may be to meet a need which has arisen – and always a smile and a chat lead to thoughts, fears and joys being shared.

The Church and the community owe Eva Maclaren and her team a huge vote of thanks. Over the last twelve or so years the Thrift Shop has raised some £70,000 for Church activities. And the pleasure, joy and comfort they have given to so many is simply incalculable.



So, thank you Eva, and thanks to so many helpers over the years and to those who I know of such as Denise, Lynn, Judith, Alan, Jude, Michael, Maggie, Anne and not forgetting Fred, Ray and Edna who are there today.

Perhaps you would like to help! The crew always needs more hands on deck (or behind the scenes if that is your style) and they would be delighted to show you the ropes! Just ask Eva or, if you need help, just ask any of the Church leaders and they will point you in the right direction.

Ken Wales

CHRISTMAS POEM

I have a list of folks I know
All written in a book
And every year at Christmas time
I go and take a look,
And that is when I realise
That these names are a part,
Not of the book they're written in,
But of my very own heart.

For each name stands for someone
Whose path touched mine and then
Left such a print of friendship
That I want to touch again.
And while it sounds fantastic
For me to make this claim,
I really feel I am composed,
Of each remembered name.

So never think my Christmas cards
Are just a mere routine,
Of names upon a Christmas list
Forgotten in between.
For when I send a Christmas card
That is addressed to you,
It's because you're on the list
Of folks that I'm indebted to.

And every year when Christmas comes
I realise anew,
The biggest gift life can give
Is meeting folks like you.
And may the Spirit of Christmas
That forever and ever endures,
Leave its richest blessings
In the hearts of you and yours.

Helen Steiner Rice 1949

* * * * *

You cannot do a kindness too soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late..

Ralph Waldo Emerson



THE LIGHTS OF CHRISTMAS

The dazzling, surprising glory of angels;
The blazing beacon of the guiding star;
The Light of Life born into our dark night.
The gentle flickering of many candles;
the coloured fairy lights around the tree;
The amazing illuminations in urban streets.
The glow of excitement in a child's eyes;
The sparkling warmth of love in a friend's;
The Christmas joy shining out through our own.
God's light come into our world at Christmas:
The Light of Love shining brightly in our darkness;
The Light that can never be put out.



Christine Sheasby

Reprinted from our Christmas 2004 issue



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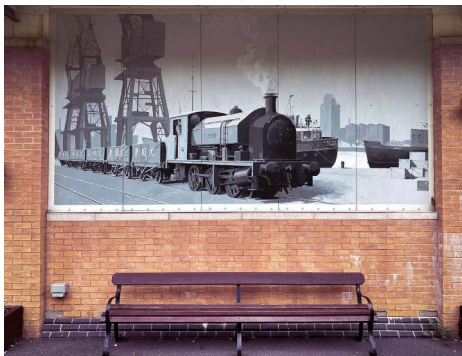
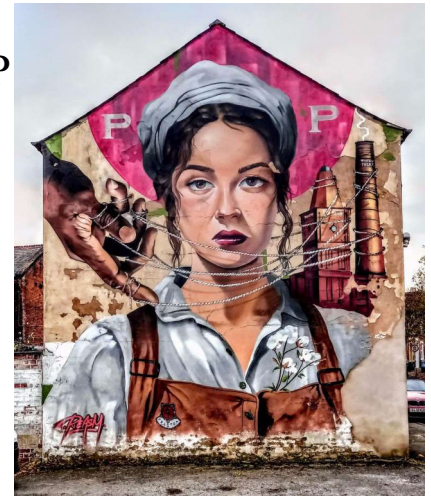
Stuart Black

MORE PRESTON STREET ART

37 Blanche St, Ashton-on-Ribble, Preston PR2 2RP



Inside 'Loom Loft' furniture store, Trident Retail Park, Port Way, Ashton-on-Ribble, Preston PR2 2YQ,



Ribble Steam Railway.
PR2 2PD

In the car park of Slinger's Hardware Store Paley Rd, Preston. PR1 8LT



A temporary example outside the Harris building on Preston Flag Market. PR1 2PP



A new one near the Bus Station, with the Holiday Inn on the right. PE1 1DJ
Photos by **John Butterworth**



Larger pictures on the web version.

Look here for more information <https://tinyurl.com/3tp8k2m3> for here and other towns.

HURON CAROL

Following our quest for finding the oldest Harvest hymn, we have found what may be the oldest Christmas Carol. The “Huron Carol” (or “Twas in the Moon of Wintertime”) is a Canadian Christmas hymn (Canada’s oldest Christmas song), written probably in 1642 by Jean de Brébeuf, a Jesuit missionary at Sainte-Marie among the Hurons in Canada. Its original lyrics are in the language of the Indigenous people among whom de Brébeuf lived, set to the music of a French folk song. In the carol, Jesus is visited not by shepherds but by hunters, and the Magi, who are described as ‘chiefs from afar’, bring gifts of fox and beaver pelts instead of gold, frankincense and myrrh. (BBC History Magazine - 21 Nov. 2024)

Below is an English translation of a shortened version by Jesse Edgar Middleton.

‘Twas in the moon of wintertime
When all the birds had fled
That mighty Gitchi Manitou
Sent angel choirs instead
Before their light, the stars grew dim
And wondering hunters heard the hymn

Jesus, your King, is born
Jesus is born
In excelsis gloria.

Within a lodge of broken bark
The tender babe was found
A ragged robe of rabbit skin
Enwrapped his beauty ‘round
But as the hunter braves drew nigh
The angels’ song rang loud and high

Jesus, your King, is born
Jesus is born
In excelsis gloria

The earliest moon of wintertime
Is not so round and fair
As was the ring of glory on
The helpless infant there
The chiefs from far before him knelt
With gifts of fox and beaver pelt

Jesus, your King, is born
Jesus is born
In excelsis gloria

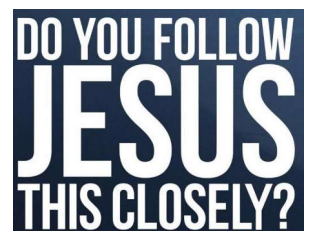
O children of the forest free
O son of Manitou
The holy child of earth and heav’n
Is born today for you
Come kneel before the radiant boy
Who brings you beauty, peace and joy

Jesus, your King, is born
Jesus is born
In excelsis gloria

* * * * *

INTERESTING CAR STICKER

This sticker was seen recently on
the back of a car in Preston.
It, and similar ones, are available on Amazon!



SOME MORE CUSTOMS & TRADITIONS

Did you know that the Annual Conker Championships at Southwick in Northamptonshire had been in danger of cancellation in the autumn? Chillier conditions than normal affecting their growth and strong winds knocking them down early were the causes.



For those of an enquiring mind: the winner of this year's Coopers Hill Cheese Rolling Race, Gloucestershire, was Tom Kopke of Munich, Germany. (Readers in Recklinghausen please note!!)

We've been through many of the Christmastime customs by now, but one I haven't mentioned is the Candle-lit Carol Service at Liverpool's Philharmonic Hall. That's on 20th December this year. There's also the televised Nine Lessons and Carols from King's College Chapel, Cambridge; a 'must watch' for many – as is the New Year's Day Concert from Vienna.

Boxing Day is usually the time for the annual Rugby Union match between Preston Grasshoppers and neighbours Fylde, while another Boxing Day event is the charity Raft Race at Matlock in Derbyshire.

Looking back a number of years: do some of you remember when Preston Dock was in operation and all the ships that were docked there on New Year's Eve sounded their sirens at midnight? That set my mind a whirl, recalling when the onion sellers from Brittany took up temporary residence at the dock. You'd see them going about the area on bicycles, laden with strings of onions.

As far back as mediaeval times, Plough Monday was the first Monday after Epiphany (6th January), the day when people returned to work after the Twelve Days of Christmas.

Remember us poor ploughboys,
A' ploughing we must go.
Hail, rain blow or snow,
A'ploughing we must go.

This was followed on 7th January by Distaff Day, when household work resumed.



In modern times there's been a plethora of new 'traditions' creeping into the annual calendar. An example is National Hedgehog Day on 2nd February.

A total newcomer is the Stottie Cake Week up at Newcastle (24th February to 1st March).

Roy Smith

IT'S CHRISTMAS TIME

It's Christmas time at our house, and we're putting up the tree.
I wish I could find some simple way to remember God's gift to me.

Some little sign or symbol to show friends stopping by.

The little babe was born one day but he really came to die.
Some symbol of His nail-pierced hands, the blood He shed for me.

What if I hung a nail on my shining Christmas Tree?

I know it was His love for us that held Him to a tree,

But when I see this simple nail Ill know He died for me.

It may seem strange at Christmas time to think of nails and wood,
But both were used in Jesus' life to bring us something good.

From manger bed, to crown of thorns, to death on Calvary,

God used the wood and nails of men to set all people free.

Author unknown.

* * * * *

There was a very gracious lady who was mailing an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country. "Is there anything breakable in here?" Asked the postal clerk. "Only the Ten Commandments" answered the lady.

* * * * *

SEEN ON A CHURCH NOTICE BOARD

When you were born, your parents brought you here.

When you were married, your parents brought you here.

When you die, your family will bring you here.

Why not try coming on your own sometime?!

All sent by Margaret Holmes



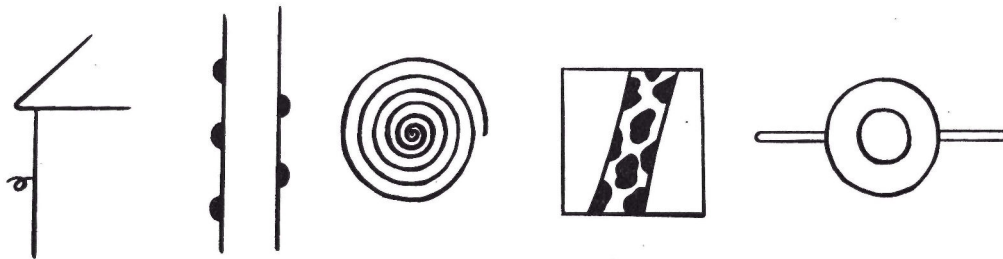
TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Everybody should know the answers to these questions, though very few people do. Try them out on family and friends.

- 1) What fruits have their seeds on the outside?
- 2) Why do people say bless you when they sneeze?
- 3) Why does love mean 0 in a tennis score?
- 4) Why do the English drive on the left-hand side of the road?
- 5) Why does it take longer to hoist a flag to half-mast than to hoist it to the mast-head in a usual way?
- 6) What bird can run faster than a horse, roar like a lion but cannot fly?
- 7) What is the difference between flotsam and jetsam?
- 8) Is it true that there is one place in England where the King may never go?
- 9) All over the world the letters SOS are used as an urgent call for help. What do the letters stand for?
- 10) You often read about 'sailing the high seas', what does this expression mean?

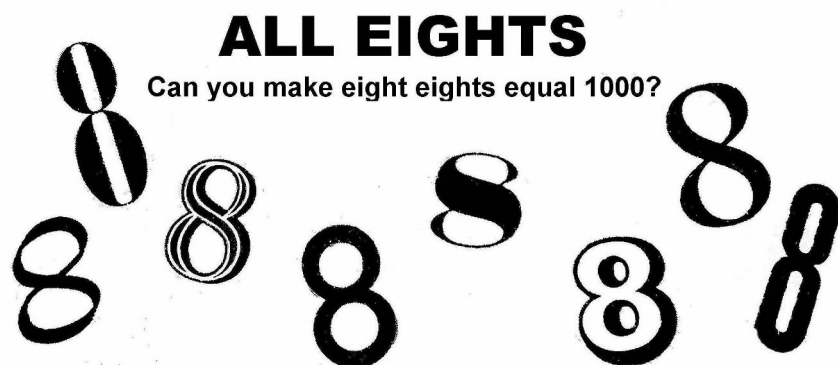
THE LAZY ARTIST

It's not the subjects of these pictures that make them look so odd, but the views of them which the lazy artist has chosen to draw. Perhaps you won't be able to recognise them at once but you will laugh when you turn to the answers and find out what they are supposed to be!



ALL EIGHTS

Answers on page 36



Malcolm Rae

VERSE AND WORSE

I'd like to tell about Christmas:
Long ago, when I was quite young.
About pudding and turkey and presents,
And socks that on bedposts were hung.
We kids were sent to bed early
To let the grown-ups have fun:
"You need your beauty sleep – really,"
Said Mum – but that kidded no one!
Before nodding off like good children,
Important arrangements were made:
A drink and a mince pie for Santa;
Not whisky – we'd only limeade!
We giggled, and waited, and giggled
For Santa at last to appear,
But all were asleep, like angels,
Before he got anywhere near.
He'd been, we were sure, next morning,
When we saw, with wild surprise,
Our socks all bulging with presents,
And his teeth-marks left in mince pies!
From the kitchen came smells of cooking,
Of stuffing to go in the bird,
And Mum was all red in the face
From the pudding which had to be stirred.
Dad, being a dad, didn't do much
Before the dinner was ready:
He just went to sleep in front of the fire
'Cos in those days there weren't no telly.
We all enjoyed that fine, big bird
With stuffing and vegs good,
And really we enjoyed it all the more,
Followed by Christmas pud!
It was while we were eating the pudding
Dad choked, alarming in manner:
With red streaming eyes, he cried with surprise,
"Good heavens, I've swallowed a tanner!"
After all the fuss was over,
And Dad regained his calm,
We all cracked open Christmas crackers,
And swapped the lucky charms.
Dad told a Christmas story,
And sang a carol with Mum,
And we'll always remember the Christmas
When Dad had change in his tum!



(from our Christmas magazine of 1970)

GOD'S HONEST TRUTH

Christmas Eve excitement mounts and wonder fills his eyes.
His little heart is pounding as he looks up to the skies.
Perhaps he'd hear the sleighbells ring or see a reindeers' hoof,
And then he'd know for certain what was God's honest truth.

There really must be Santa 'cause I've seen him in the shops.
And every Christmas party into our school he drops.
But the older boys had told him, and they were quite aloof.
There's no such person - don't you know - and that's God's honest truth.

But he'd always turn to mummy to seek for her advice,
And she didn't want to hurt him, so she thought up in a trice.
It's just a spirit in your mind and it goes away with youth.
It's the only answer I can give and that's God's honest truth.

Well, maybe that's the answer, but the myth lives on for ever.
Perhaps we ought to stop the tales and cut commercial fever.
But think before you broadcast that Santa's just a spoof,
You get more gifts if you believe and that's God's honest truth.



* * * * *

It's Christmas, It's Christmas, Christmas in New York.
Christmas, Christmas, they're happy Christmas folk.

* * * * *

Carols singing, bells are ringing, buskers playing festive tune.
Santas busy, kids are fizzy, Christmas Eve the afternoon.
No more pausing, stores are closing, spending money's almost done.
Shop lights dimmer, night lights shimmer, now's the time for having fun.

All written by *Dave Topping*



OLD HARVEST HYMNS

Since we received the previous old Harvest hymn we were informed of others. The two below were sung by Chiltern West Gallery Quire at a concert at Hitchin, Herts, on 9th November 2024.

The Harvest Field

This is the field; the world below,
In which the sower, came to sow,
Jesus the wheat, Satan the tares,
For so the word of truth declares;
And soon the reaping time will come,
And angels shout the harvest home.

Most awful truth; and is it so,
Must all the world the harvest know;
Is every man the wheat or tare;
Then for the harvest O prepare:
For soon the reaping time will come,
And angels shout the harvest home.

To love my sins, a saint to appear,
To grow the wheat, and be a tare;
will serve me while on earth below,
Where tares and wheat together grow;
But soon the reaping time will come,
And angels shout the harvest home.

But all that truly righteous be,
Their Father's kingdom soon shall see;
Shine like the sun forever there,
He that hath ears, O let him hear:
And soon the reaping time will come,
And angels shout the harvest home.

Words: Joseph Hinchcliffe (1760-1807)
Tune - Thomas Clark (1775-1859)

We bless the Lord, the just, the good
Who fills our heart with joy and food:
Who pours His blessings from the skies
And loads our days with rich supplies.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748)
Tune: Acle, Briston MS

Verse one of six. All verses of the hymn are on the web version of this magazine. The concert was attended by a friend of Roy Smith.



EACH CHRISTMASTIME

Each Christmastime is a time of joy
For every Christian girl and boy,
Because they know God sent His Son
To be a friend to every one.



We exchange gifts both great and small
In memory of God's gift to all:
His only Son, He sent to earth,
A stable was His place of birth.

It was two thousand years ago,
But now the world is full of woe:
With wars and famine, greed and sin;
A sorry state do we live in.

We all can help to put things right,
By working hard with all our might.

Pauline Kirkham

* * * * *

ENTRANCE EXAM

'To get a place in heaven,
Do I have to take a test?
To see if I can sing the hymns
And keep time with the rest?

I never made it to the choir,
I couldn't sing in tune.
Instead I tried to mime the words –
They spotted this quite soon!

Does Peter, at the pearly gates,
When counting good and sin
Ask simply, "Can you play the harp?
And if you can, you're in!"

God smiled, "My child, there's something
You really ought to know:
I made the tuneful nightingale,
I also made the crow.



The peacock with its gorgeous tail,
Its harsh and jarring cry;
The braying ass, the croaking frog,
Who made them all, but I?

All animals – all humans too
Have unique worth for me.
Don't worry if you cannot sing:
Come in and brew the tea!"

(Anon)

You shop, brands donate



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PRESTON BUS STATION 'TWIN'

Did you know that Preston Bus Station has a near twin? It is in Tehran, the capital of Iran. Both were designed by Building Design Partnership when they were based in Preston.



Photo by Mostafameraji - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=81735472>



Tehran South Bus Station



Preston Bus Station

A few years ago there was a possibility that the Preston Bus Station would be demolished due to safety problems, particularly with the car park above and that the land could then be used for part of the eventually cancelled Tithebarn



Redevelopment Project. However it was granted Grade II listed building status in

September 2013. The car park was made safer and the west side facing the town was converted to a park area, with all the buses on the east side. These two areas and the similarities to the Tehran

version can be seen in the photos.

On Good Friday 2012, it was the venue for the 'Preston Passion', a passion play involving thousands of people including the forming of a 'Human Cross', broadcast live on BBC Television. Many from Fulwood took part. Do you have any memories or photos for our Easter magazine?

Text and local photos - John Butterworth

Look at <https://tinyurl.com/4u7tpphx> to read more about the Preston bus station.

PROVISIONAL BOOK CLUB PROGRAMME FOR 2024/5

Tuesday 8th October

'Dragged Up Proppa' by Pip Fallow and 'On Beulah Height' by Reginald Hill

Tuesday 12th November

'Untold Stories' by Alan Bennett

Tuesday 10th December

'A Thousand Mornings' by Mary Oliver and 'Let the Light Pour In' by Lemm Sissay. (plus Christmas surprises for all!!)

Tuesday 14th January

A Short Story evening - introduce us to your favourite authors of this special type of book

Tuesday 11th February

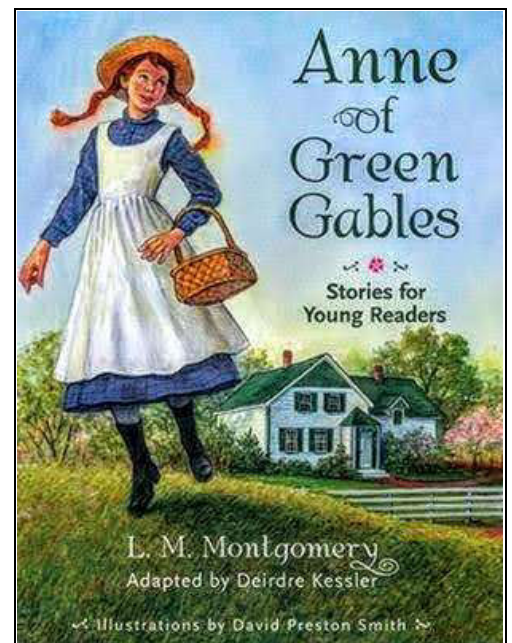
'All The Beauty in the World' by Patrick Bringley

Tuesday 11th March

'Anne of Green Gables' by L. M. Montgomery

Tuesday 8th April

The Big Read! Choose between 'Alexandria Quartet' by Laurence Durrell or 'The Light Years' (vol 1 of the Cazalet Chronicles) by Elizabeth Jane Howard



Tuesday 13th May

'This is Her Life' - introduce us to a biography/autobiography of a female of your choice

Tuesday 10th June

The Methodist Church 'Bible Book of the Year' - we await details.

Tuesday 8th July

'My best ever holiday read'. Tickle our taste buds in preparation for our summer holiday reading.

Tuesday 18th August

'Enlightenment' by Sarah Perry.

Ask *Ken Wales* for more information.

MALCOLM'S QUIZ ANSWERS

Kangaroo Words - EAT, SOILED, SEE, SURE, REST, RUIN

Test Your Knowledge -

- 1) Have a look at the next strawberry you eat, you will see the outside is covered in tiny seeds.
- 2) Because of an old superstition that when a person sneezed his soul left his body and the devil would slip in. Blessing the person would keep out the devil.
- 3) The word 'love,' which we use in tennis, is the English version of the French word 'l'oeuf' meaning 'egg'. L'oeuf is the French slang for nothing, because the figure '0' looks like an egg!
- 4) The custom started when people travelled on horseback, at this time every stranger might turn out to be an enemy. Whenever 2 riders approached each other, they would sidle over to the left so that his sword or pistol would be next to the stranger and ready for instant use!
- 5) A flag at half-mast is a mark of respect paid to the dead. It should first be hoisted to the mast-head for an instant and then lowered to half-mast.
- 6) An ostrich
- 7) A sailor will tell you that flotsam is any wreckage found floating on the sea, while jetsam is cargo thrown overboard to lighten a ship that is in trouble. Being heavy, jetsam usually sinks.
- 8) Yes. The 'House of Commons' has been barred to every King and Queen since Charles I went there to try and arrest 5 Members of Parliament who were opposing his wishes.
- 9) The letters SOS do not have any special meaning. They were chosen as a distress signal in Morse code because they are easy to send and recognise. They are 3 dots, 3 dashes and 3 dots.
- 10) The 'high seas' are those which belong to no particular nation, but to everybody, just as the 'high road' is one that everybody may use.

The Lazy Artist

- 1) A pig walking around a barn. Unfortunately, he has just turned the corner and you can only see his tail.
- 2) A bear, climbing a tree, (seen from the wrong side, of course). If you are wondering why he seems to have 5 paws, the 'top' paw is an ear!
- 3) Water running out of a bath – plug hole
- 4) A giraffe passing a mirror, seen from inside the room.
- 5) Boy Scout riding a bicycle, (seen from above).

All the Eights

8 plus 8 plus 8 plus 88 plus 888 = 1000.

CHRISTMAS EVENTS IN PRESTON

Winckley Christmas Concert - Location - Winckley Square.

Date/time - Sunday 15 December (3.00pm - 5:30pm) Cost - Free

Experience the magic of Winckley Square Christmas, a concert and talk that promises to transform Preston's historic square into a winter wonderland! Join in traditional Christmas Carols around the Christmas Tree with St Stephen's choir, plus Preston Strummers, who will play lots of songs to sing-a-long to, and the wonderful sounds of Kenny on bagpipes.

Traditional carols to Christmas chart topping hits from Brass Half Empty

Location - Chew's Yard. Date/time - Sunday 22 December (from 2.00pm)

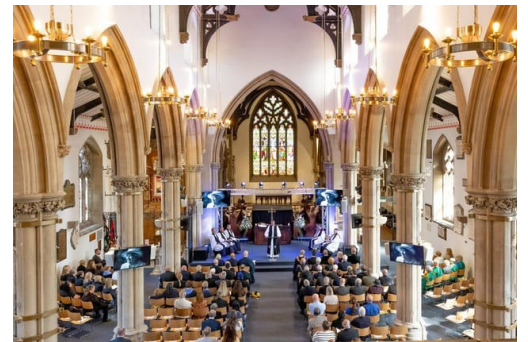
Cost - Donations (Just Giving - Brass Half Empty) Playing traditional carols to Christmas chart-topping hits, there is guaranteed to be music for everyone to enjoy.

Traditional Festive Carols Hoghton Tower. Date/time - Sun 22 Dec (3:30pm - 4:30pm) Cost - £8.50 per person (all ages) What better way to welcome Christmas than listening to traditional Christmas Carols performed by Hoghton in Harmony choir by a roaring fire at Hoghton Towers beautiful Banqueting Hall.



Carols at the Conti Location - The Continental, Date/time - Sunday 22 December (8.00pm - 10.00pm) Cost - Free. Continuing a highly popular Continental tradition, St Stephen's Choir join The Conti once again for an evening of Carol Singing.

Carols at the Minster Location - Preston Minster, Date/time - Tue 24 December (4.00pm - 6.00pm) Cost - Free. Preston Minster warmly invite you, along with your friends, family and colleagues, to save the date for their Christmas 'City Carols' service.



OTHER EVENT

Ribble Steam Railway - Santa Special 2024 21st & 22nd December. Various times.

Create warm and magical memories with Ribble Steam Railway and their Santa Special Steam experiences.

The perfect opportunity for a family get together, sprinkled with a generous helping of festive fun, excitement and laughter. Snuggle up with your loved ones in your warm, steam-heated carriage.



CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Sunday

- 10.30 am Sunday Club Janet Wales
12.30 pm The Sunday Group (2nd Sun of month for years 5 to 8/9) Darren Arnold

Tuesday

- 10.00 am AM Club - (fortnightly) Dave Topping
2.00 pm 'Friends at Fulwood' (fortnightly) Edna Armstrong
5 - 7.00 pm Messy Church (half-termly) for families Delma Whitman
7.00 pm Bible Fellowship (monthly) Margaret Holmes
7.00 pm Book Club (monthly - usually Thursday) Ken Wales

Wednesday

- 10 till 12.30 Welcome Wednesday - food, activities, games and New2U stall
10.30 am Midweek Communion with prayers
7.30 /8 pm WoW (monthly Women's Group) Wendy Gaskell
7.00 pm Community Choir Dave Topping

Thursday

- 2.30 pm Knitting Group Veronica Frost

Friday

- 9.30 am Toddlers' Club (under 5s & parents/carers) Janet Porter

Saturday

- 10.30 - noon Who Let The Dads Out? (monthly) Darren Arnold

FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Monday

- 5.45 pm Beavers (6 - 8 yr) Fiona Jackson
7.00 pm Cubs (8 - 10½ yr) Dave Killingback
4.45 pm Squirrels (4 - 5 yr) Ketran Eastham

Tuesday

- 7.00 pm Scouts (10½ - 14 yr) Chris Thomas

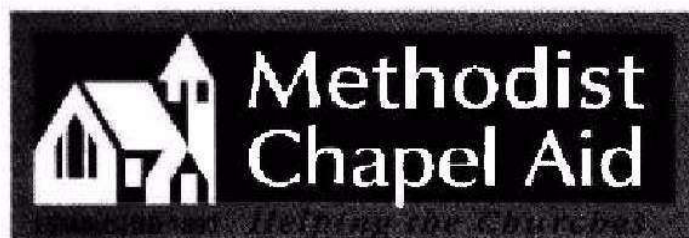
Thursday

- 5.45 pm Rainbows (5 - 7 yr) Jayne Myatt
6.15 pm Brownies (7 - 10 yr) Diane Bird
7.30 pm Guides (10 - 14 yr) Hannah Jones

Friday

- 6.30 pm Escape (7- 11 yr) Darren Arnold
8.00 pm Youth Club Darren Arnold
(not meeting at present)

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