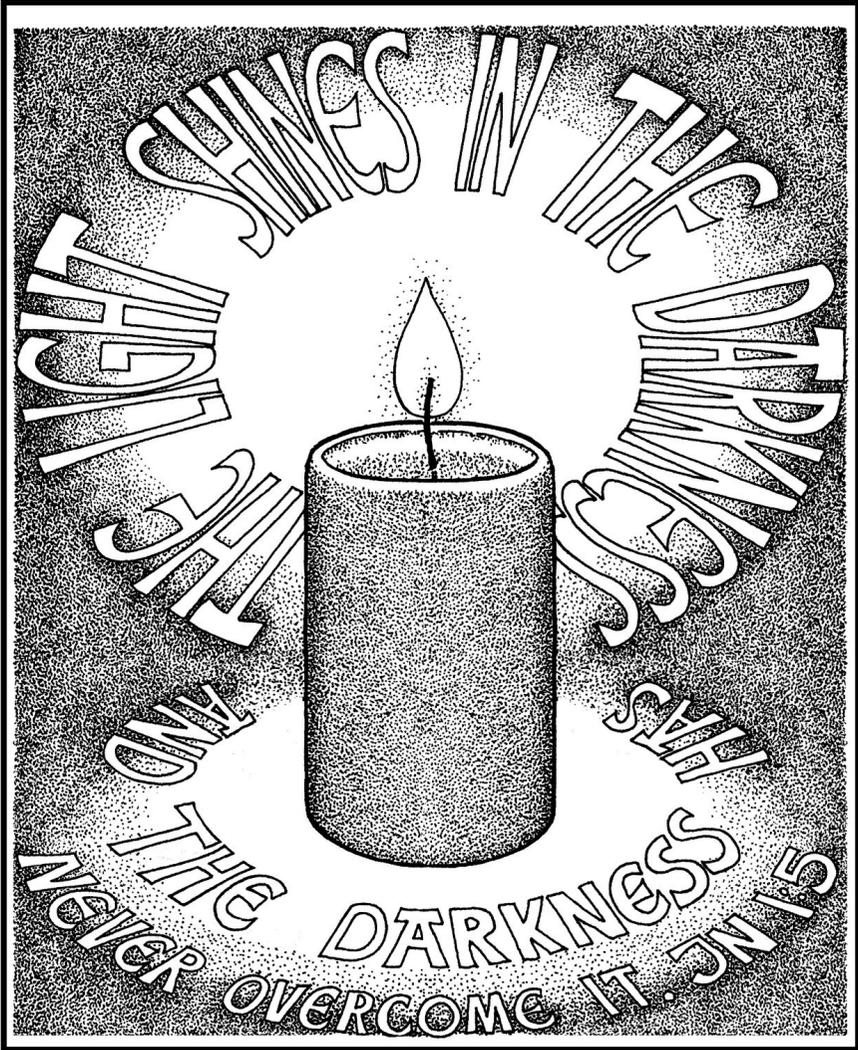
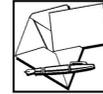


 December 2018 &
January 2019



St John's Methodist Church

From The Manse:



Dear Friends,

Has the backlash started yet? It's coming up towards the end of November as I write this, and I'm beginning to wonder. While many of the shops are already decking their halls ready for Christmas (and beyond - I've already seen Hot Cross Buns....) and there's one or two houses close by lit up like - well, a Christmas Tree - there seem to be many more waiting until December.

More interestingly, the idea of Christmas being a time for conspicuous consumption is also coming under attack. Martin Lewis, money saving expert of TV, Radio and Internet fame, is leading the charge - saying people should not buy "unnecessary" presents, meaning really the ones bought for the sake of giving them, that in many cases aren't ones that will stay the course. I'm seeing other people suggesting that rather than give a physical gift, people could offer time, or talents, to help someone out.

We've been trying to do something similar within our own family for a little while now. We have a sort of formula - something you want, something you need, something to wear, something to read, something to share. It hopefully means that the presents we give and receive are more meaningful - not just novelty items that are here today and gone tomorrow. And we always try and do something special together as a family in the lead-up to Christmas.

And as well, isn't there something about gifts with meaning in the Christmas story? The big gift to us of course was Jesus himself - God with us, the Grace of God come down on us. But look as well at the gifts offered to him: the praise of the shepherds, the rejoicing of the angels. The gifts of the Magi - symbols of kingship, holiness, and a foreshadowing of the lengths Christ would go to. The love and devotion of Mary, the acceptance of Joseph.

I pray for you all that over Christmas and into the New Year, that you will know the gifts of God's Grace and God's Peace, and that God's Blessing will rest upon us all. God Bless

Rob

STEWARDS' LETTER

Dear All

I must begin this Newsletter by thanking all of you who helped in any way to make our "100" exhibition such a successful morning. Thanks to all those who searched old documents, photographs, medals, rifles, swords and even a WW1 Australian Army uniform, worn by our very own Vic Trigg! Thanks everybody.

We live in a world full of conflicts and disagreements. Peace talks between the various countries involved have very often sown the seeds for more conflicts in future years.

I suppose you have heard of BREXIT? You cannot do a deal with a person who does not want a deal but only on their terms. Why not just walk away until the Europeans are ready? It looks to me that we will pay £39Billion and get absolutely nothing in return.

The heating system is working well now that we have managed to remove the air from the many air pockets in our system. It may not reduce the gas bill but at least we will be warm! I know the church is still draughty, but Peter & I have found another section of parapet under the roof which has a large gap. We will deal with this ASAP - any volunteers to help?

In October this year I had an operation on my left wrist at Goben and I'm delighted to report that they have done an excellent job! October saw another first for me - I attended my first WI meeting with Sheila - something I thought I would never do, al-

though I was massively outnumbered!

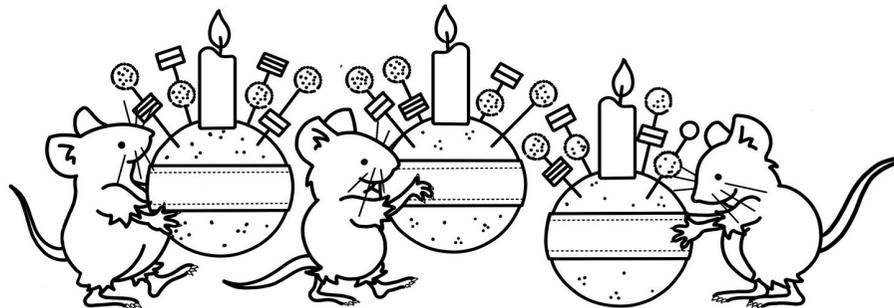
One of the many jobs I have been doing recently has been cleaning windows. I have noticed that the window cleaner will not remove fly dust—but I will tell you what will! Put some saliva on your finger and you will be amazed how quickly it works! It doesn't say much for the cleaning properties of Windolene! So that's why my mother used to spit on her handkerchief to clean my face when I was a little lad!

Our Accessibility Project begins on 7th January 2019 and will be completed by mid April, depending on weather conditions. We will be able to use Chapel at weekends and evenings when the contractors are not at work. We will not be able to wander in and out during the working week when site work is in progress. Watch this space for a progress report.

Sheila & I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.

God Bless you All

Maurice.



Christmas past

No, this is not a Christmas ghost story or reference to the Dickens book, but just a look back at how Christmas was for us in days gone by.

I was born in 1942 in the middle of the second world war, so I was a child of the 50's and 60's. This is how I remember our Christmas.



The preparations would only really begin about a week before the 'big day' but the day was not so 'big' in those days! Just to be able to have more food than usual as we were in rationing of course. Also, the excitement of Santa Claus delivering all those toys that we imagined we would get!

Imagine was the word as, mostly, on the ends of our beds on Christmas morning was one big present and a small woollen sock full of tiny bars of chocolate, an orange and a sugar mouse. The selection box days had yet to come! I think I guessed who was delivering our presents to us quite early on, being the elder sister, but was sworn to secrecy on this matter as my sibling firmly believed of course!

Streamers decked our rooms and crepe paper flowers as well as home made paper lanterns. Our Christmas tree was a very poor little affair, looking more like a chimney brush with sparse rigid branches. We decorated it with cheap plastic toys and tinsel to cover its hideous appearance! Despite which we thought it all magical especially the fairy on the top of the tree who was a bedraggled doll in a muslin dress and had a wand. We just thought it all wonderful though and our dolly a fairy princess!

We had no fairy lights on our trees then, but I seem to remember lighted candles which we moved around - not at all compliant with health and safety as it would be today. Needless to say, we survived despite all these dangers. We had a real coal fire in our bedrooms and used to wander around in our winceyette nighties at will- how

different life is today!

Our Christmas dinner was usually a chicken as it was a real luxury to us then. All our vegetables were easy to get as my Dad grew most of these in his garden and put them in store for winter use. I remember one Christmas my Dad coming back home having gone to a poultry auction with a large goose slung over his shoulder. He had walked many miles with this from the market - no cars for us then. Everyone seemed to walk everywhere! There were no fancy table settings just a plain hearty dinner and a pudding just good simple food. The goose seemed to go on forever and produced jars of goose fat which was rubbed on to our chests to prevent winter chills- it was horrid!

Teatime produced yet more food – a plate of sandwiches and Christmas cake and I remember there were little dishes of chocolate and nuts placed round the room. We thought we had gone to heaven!

Christmas lasted just two days and on Boxing day it was all over not like the extended holiday it is today. It was a great anti-climax after the excitement and all the food of the previous day. There was no New year holiday as I remember then, just a quiet passing of yet another year. No fireworks like today just a solemn bell ringing the new year in.

Fast forward on a few more years and we spent our Christmases with our parents and our families still except that there were other little ones who had joined our throng now.

My Dad took on the role of Christmas cook for us all – he had always been a good cook and was very interested in food and culinary things; he worked so hard to please us all and relished in the joys of his grandchildren now. My dear mum who was a lovely, gentle, fun loving lady was no cook really, so Dad took on this role once he had retired and made his own bread and all sorts of pies and delicacies. He tried quite exotic recipes too once he had got going with this - I think my mother just went around cleaning up after him! Still it was a good partnership and it seemed to work. Mum was so good in other ways knitting and sewing and becoming the peacemaker in our family.

Now Christmas is so much more in some ways, and so much less in

others.

Christmas has become big business now with TV adverts parading the latest in table settings and designer Christmas trees, what to eat and what to wear etc it has become so sophisticated and has lost most of its simplicity.

Carol singers no longer come to the door and the Salvation army band does not parade the streets like it did - even snow which always seemed to arrive then does not happen very much these days.

Maybe, as we get older, we get a rosy glow remembering all these things or maybe it is the love that we felt from our families that gladdened our hearts, and still does today of course.

Whatever sort of Christmas you have may it be a peaceful one full of love and may the new year give us hope for the future.!

Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all!

Sheila Walwyn

Property & Finance

It has been a busy & difficult year for the committee, I wish to express my thanks to you all for your support & work throughout the year.

We should be having a lot warmer winter in Church now we have got the heating installed properly & hopefully no more leaks. The lighting within the Church is now mainly LED's so we will have reduced our electricity bills for lighting by approximately 80%.

Thanks to a grant of £450.00p from Whitchurch Town Council towards the cost of repairs our Tower Clock is once again showing the correct time to the people of the Town.

Now we have the disabled access work starting in the New Year it will be time to start thinking how the Church can move forward & continue our mission of God's work in Whitchurch.

God Bless you all, have a Happy Christmas & Prosperous New Year.

CIRCUIT SECOND HAND BOOKSHOP

The Circuit Second Hand Bookshop,
Hassall Road, Alsager, Cheshire, ST7 2HH
is open Fridays and Saturdays 10am – 2pm.
40,000 books on all subjects.
Parking outside. Tea and coffee available.
Buy books or donate your books.

Action For Children – Advance Notice

For those who have Action for Children collection boxes, please note that I shall start collecting them from January 2019 onwards if you would bring them to church. Please also note that we will holding a coffee morning at St John's church in aid of "Action for Children", on

Saturday, 23rd February 2019 from 10am to 12 noon.

Please come and support this worthy cause - Everyone is welcome and thank you all for supporting this Methodist Charity

Yours in faith

David Whiteley

ST. JOHN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

The St. John's Christmas Party is on **Sunday 9th December** and starts at **12noon** after the service.



There will be lovely food, games and carols and Father Christmas will hopefully be visiting us!

Come and join in the fun and fellowship. There is a list on the table at the back of the Church for you to put your name on if you intend coming.

What if ?

What if you or a neighbour living on their own were taken into hospital unexpectedly how would the hospital know what medication you were on? The Lions Clubs supply a datalink pot into which you put the details of the medication you are on; you put the pot in the door of your fridge and then put the sticker that comes with it by your front door. The ambulance service recognise this sticker and know to look for the pot. Then the information can travel with you to the hospital and is there when the doctors need it. Ask at your local pharmacy or health centre or Lions Club. A great idea, just remember to update it if your prescription changes!

Avril

Christmas by John Betjeman

The bells of waiting Advent ring,
The Tortoise stove is lit again
And lamp-oil light across the night
Has caught the streaks of winter rain
In many a stained-glass window sheen
From Crimson Lake to Hookers Green.

The holly in the windy hedge
And round the Manor House the yew
Will soon be stripped to deck the ledge,
The altar, font and arch and pew,
So that the villagers can say
'The church looks nice' on Christmas Day.

Provincial Public Houses blaze,
Corporation tramcars clang,
On lighted tenements I gaze,
Where paper decorations hang,
And bunting in the red Town Hall
Says 'Merry Christmas to you all'.

And London shops on Christmas Eve
Are strung with silver bells and flowers
As hurrying clerks the City leave
To pigeon-haunted classic towers,
And marbled clouds go scudding by
The many-steepled London sky.

And girls in slacks remember Dad,
And oafish louts remember Mum,
And sleepless children's hearts are glad.
And Christmas-morning bells say 'Come!'
Even to shining ones who dwell
Safe in the Dorchester Hotel.

And is it true,
This most tremendous tale of all,
Seen in a stained-glass window's hue,
A Baby in an ox's stall ?
The Maker of the stars and sea
Become a Child on earth for me ?

And is it true ? For if it is,
No loving fingers tying strings
Around those tissued fripperies,
The sweet and silly Christmas things,
Bath salts and inexpensive scent
And hideous tie so kindly meant,

No love that in a family dwells,
No carolling in frosty air,
Nor all the steeple-shaking bells
Can with this single Truth compare -
That God was man in Palestine
And lives today in Bread and Wine.

(Editor's Favourite Christmas Poem!)

Christmas looms

And cardboard boxes stored away
With tinsel, tree and trinkets
Are brought out –
Fripperies spared the ever-growing landfill sites
Because they have the power to bring our memories
Of yester-year into the present day.

So too the Church in all its Advent preparations
Paves the way to celebrate the past and present Incarna-
tion
In ancient tales told year by year
To weave the fabric of eternal truth
Into the garment of our loving
In God's world to-day:

That truth of God's activity
Through human kind
In the Christ who came
And still comes to His own
To live
And love
And serve God's world

Through those who welcome Him
In heart and home.

by Sam Doubtfire

DECEMBER / JANUARY SERVICES AT ST JOHN'S

December 2018

2nd Dec	10.30	Revd. Rob Weir (Bap) Steward: Pete Shingler (WL Lucy)	
9th Dec	10.30	Revd. Jenny Arthurs Steward: Maurice Latham (WL Rachel)	
16th Dec	10.30	Revd. Rob Weir (Nativity) Steward: Avril Bradfield	
23rd Dec	10.30	Elizabeth Jennings Steward: Brian Faulkner	
	6.30pm	Revd. Rob Weir (Carol Service)	
25th Dec	9.45	Christmas Morning Celebration with Revd. Rob Weir	
30th Dec	10.30	Revd. Ian Duffy Steward: Rob Hewson (WL Rachel)	

January 2019

6th Jan	10.30	Pat Maidment Steward: Maurice Latham (WL Lucy)	
13th Jan	10.30	Revd. Rob Weir (COV. Service) Steward: Brian Faulkner (WL Rachel)	
20th Jan	10.30	Pulpit Exchange. Christian Unity Steward: Avril Bradfield (WL Lucy)	
27th Jan	10.30	Brian Faulkner Steward: Pete Shingler (WL Rachel)	

Winterley Brass Band Concert 6th October

We were delighted to welcome Winterley Brass Band for a second time on Saturday 6th October. The concert helped us to celebrate our Harvest, and the church looked wonderful after the ladies had decorated it.

Once again, we took a bit of a risk. We advertised the concert as "Free" and just invited donations. The fact that we don't actually sell tickets saves us a lot of work, and we find that people are incredibly generous. Once all our expenses were deducted we made over £500 for our Disabled Access Fund, which was a wonderful result.

My thanks to all the people who made it possible, from the stage hands to the refreshment helpers. In particular I must thank Maurice and Peter for all their hard work with the heating. It was touch and go as to whether it would be repaired in time. Thank you all.

Thanks also to Neil Barnett and his wonderful band. They were very generous in allowing us to keep the money from their booklets. Two days after the concert I was delighted to receive in the post a couple of copies of a recording of the concert. If you would like to borrow one please let me know.

Our concerts are beginning to become well known in Whitchurch. Negotiations are currently taking place to try and bring back the Newport Male Voice Choir some time next year. Watch this space!

Please note: This item was omitted from last month's Newsletter, so I'm including it retrospectively now. I'm also pleased to inform you that at our next concert we will be holding a raffle which should increase our profit!

JRW

PS Our thanks to the Fauls Singers for their concert "A Taste of Christmas" in support of our Access Project last night. It was a lovely occasion!

Be a peacemaker for Christmas Aid

At Christmas time, we celebrate the birth of Jesus, given to bring hope, love, peace and justice to a broken world. We get the chance to spend time with our loved ones celebrating the Prince of Peace, but for millions of people this Christmas, peace seems like an impossible dream.

Violence and conflict remains the norm for many across the globe, from South Sudan to Colombia. In 2016, more countries experienced violent conflict than at any time in nearly 30 years. If current trends persist, by 2030 more than half of the world's poorest people will be living in countries affected by high levels of violence. But while peace is broken every day, it is also built every day through the tireless work of peacemakers. This Christmas, Christian Aid is calling for you to stand together with peacemakers around the world who are working tirelessly to bring hope to seemingly hopeless situations.

In South Sudan, Bishop Paride Taban is relentless in working for peace in his country where millions of citizens are suffering from hunger caused by years of civil war. Now in his eighties, he believes that peace is something you practice and every day he repeats 28 words for peace: 'If all put these 28 words into their hearts, and every day they repeat them, there will be no war in South Sudan, there will be permanent peace in South Sudan.'

Elsewhere in the shadow of violence and conflict, Diana Abbas sows the seeds of peace through counselling and therapy. She is the only psychologist at a children's centre run by Association Najdeh, Christian Aid's partner in Lebanon. Through psychotherapy, literacy classes and art therapy, the centre gives young Palestinian refugees the chance to overcome the violence they have witnessed. Thanks to Diana and others at the centre, more children can find peace.

Now more than ever, we need peace. With your support, peace is possible this Christmas. Matthew 5:9 'Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called children of God.'

In this world it is up to us to do what we can in our daily lives to help frontline peacemakers like Diana and Bishop Paride. You can be a peacemaker with your donation to Christmas Aid – an appeal to raise vital funds for Christian Aid's work.

It costs just £10 to pay for three young women to attend a community dialogue event that will help them learn about effective ways of reducing crime. £130 could pay for a psychologist to provide one week's worth of counselling and therapy to young refugees in Lebanon.

Will you stand with the peacemakers this Christmas? ***There will be envelopes in the pews on the first two Sundays in December.***

Book Review – Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth

I have now finished reading the Richard Foster book – Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth. I hope the articles I have written over the last few months have been helpful. As a final piece, I thought I would share my reflections on the book as a whole and the experience of sharing it with you all.

One of the Disciplines which resonated most with me is ‘study’. The Bible tells us to be transformed by the renewing of our mind – the mind is renewed by applying it to those things which will transform it. Clearly studying the Bible is hugely important and Richard Foster also advocates the careful observation of events and actions. Watching, praying and discerning the significance of what is happening today. Biblical truth applied to current events is something I’m very interested in.

The other Discipline which resonated with me is ‘submission’ – surrendering our heart, mind and spirit into the hands of God. Recently I keep being drawn to passages in Isaiah: “Stop trusting in man, who has but a breath in his nostrils, of what account is he?” Learning to yield to God and to Scripture often goes against our natural inclinations but is so important in our walk with God.

One conclusion I have drawn is actually how hard it is to be a Christian in 21st Century Britain. At times our culture seems to be quite self-centred, self-absorbed and self-indulgent, which is helped along, in no small part, by social media and the “selfie” culture. I think this makes the Christian life of denying yourself and living in obedience to God quite hard – or certainly I think it is!

Living in obedience with my time is something I will carry on working at and hopefully get better at. Our relationship with God can be like any friendship – if we don’t speak to that person or listen to that person regularly we can hardly expect to have a close friendship with them! I know I need time of prayer and Bible reading every

day.

I'm pleased that I've read the book and for me it has answered many questions and given me a much greater understanding of Christian spirituality. I have to confess that I often didn't feel like reading the book and I had to make myself do it in the evenings. I often think that if I hadn't committed to doing the monthly newsletter articles, I might not have finished the book at all – the newsletter deadlines made me keep on track!

The whole experience has taught me that you really do need to be intentional about discipleship – it doesn't just happen – you have to make the effort!

What next for me? Well as I feel that the Discipline of study is something I need to focus on, I'm thinking of looking more deeply into the book of Isaiah which I keep being drawn to recently. In addition, I'm also considering a couple of new books - "How to Hear from God" by Joyce Meyer or "Listening to God" by Joyce Huggett.

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas!

Jenny Marston

Bring & Share Lunch

Thanks to everyone who came to the Bring & Share Lunch in November – it was a lovely occasion and a nice opportunity to chat. This is one of the initiatives from the Pray, Think, Act Group and we are hoping to hold maybe two lunches each year. Look out for the next one in 2019.

Jenny Marston



PRAYER REQUESTS

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION



As we reflect on the Christmas story in the coming weeks, let us ask God to give us fresh insight and new revelation so that the familiar story excites us again and energises our faith.

As we meditate on Mary's response to God's call on her life, let us pray that we, too, may respond in faith to what God is asking of us at this time. Give thanks for the amazing truth that God longs for us to work with Him to fulfil His purposes in our church, in our town and in our nation.

As the Wise Men travelled together on a journey of discovery, let us give thanks for the people of St John's, with whom we make our faith journey. Give thanks for all that we share together: friendship, fellowship, meals and social occasions, and especially our life together in Jesus Christ. Pray that together we may experience understanding, acceptance and friendship on our journey of discovery to that special Friend who is coming again this year.

Each of the Wise Men brought a different gift to the Christ Child. Ask God to reveal to you your unique gift and pray for the faith and courage to use that gift to His praise and glory. Remember that God made each one of us different. Nobody else in the whole of human history has the same personality and situation that you have. Your call is to use your particular gift in your particular life-setting.

Let us give thanks for those who will be visiting St John's this Christmas time – especially for the Carol service and the Toddler Group nativity – and let us pray that they will not only receive a warm welcome, but will sense the presence of God in our midst as we offer Him our praise and thanksgiving.

During the busyness of our Christmas preparations let us pause and consider those for whom Christmas is not a time of joyful anticipation. For some people, maybe people known personally to us ,

Christmas will be a sad and lonely time. Ask the God of all comfort to meet with them and give to them according to their individual need. Ask God if He wants us to be part of the answer to our prayer.

We continue to pray for the wider world:

Pray for those parts of our world where there is conflict – pray for wisdom for those seeking to resolve the conflicts peacefully. Ask God, the God of all comfort, to comfort those people, especially children, who are being traumatised by conflict and war.

Ask God to encourage and strengthen Christians who are being persecuted for their faith in Jesus Christ. Pray especially for Christians in China who are facing severe restrictions on worship and Bible study.

Pray for refugees – that they may find safe havens to live, with shelter, food, water, education and healthcare for their children.

Pray for those who have lost their homes and livelihoods during the recent natural disasters. Ask that they may receive the help that they need to rebuild their lives.

*Give to us, Lord, the peace of those who have learnt to serve you,
the joy of those who are glad to obey you
and the delight of those who rejoice in your praise;
through Christ our Lord. Amen*

Aidan of Lindisfarne

Room (Luke 2:6,7)

There was no room for Him.
There is no room.

In a world full of
grasping, acquiring and keeping,
of rights and demanding and self-centred living,
there is no room for Him,
the Child who is God.
The world is full.

And yet... without Him,
without Jesus,
this full world is empty.

Make room.
Invite Him in.
Make room.
Find life in all the fullness
Christmas offers –
Love and hope and joy and peace.
Emmanuel,
God with us and in us, always.

Make room!

by Daphne Kitching



Accessibility Project – What’s happened to Disabled Access?

You will remember that for months (and years probably) I’ve been writing about something called the Disabled Access Project – indeed it has become an all-consuming passion in my life! Imagine, to my surprise that this week I have been admonished for using the word “Disabled”, and that instead I should be using the word “Accessibility” instead of “Disabled”. Our architect has pointed out that not all people who will use our new facilities will like being labelled “Disabled” – for example the elderly or mothers with buggies – and yes – I get it!

So, that it! Goodbye Disabled Access Project and welcome Accessibility Project.

In five week’s time (Monday 7th January) the builders will move on to our church site to start work on our Accessibility Project. The building period has been extended by two weeks, so now everything should be completed by 14th April. They will start by making sure that the site is secure because there will be expensive equipment which has to be made safe. They will screen off the site meaning that there will be no access to members of the public. Church members have been asked to stay away because it will be dangerous. However, having said that, there will be very limited access during the week, so that if it is imperative that you visit the church, you are asked to contact Jim or Brian first.

We will all be curious about what is happening behind those big white boards! We are planning to have regular meetings with the site foreman – perhaps a “come and see tea” where we will be told the latest progress. No-one will be kept in

the dark! We are considering if we need alternative arrangements for some of our planned, usual activities. We may have to seek alternative accommodation for our Toddlers on a Monday and for our scheduled Church Council Meeting in February.

What will be happening on Sundays during the building work? I'm pleased to tell you that it is business as usual! All our Sunday Services will go ahead as planned! However, parking will be a problem – there will be hardly any on-site parking on a Sunday. Please park on the car park next to the old manse or on the road. We are investigating ways of accommodating our regular events such as Parents & Toddlers each week or our Church Council Meeting in February

Forward in Faith!

JRW

St Johns Methodist Church Whitchurch

Accessibility Project Phase 1

We are very grateful to these donors

All Churches Trust Garfield Weston Foundation

Methodist Insurance Company

Cheshire South Methodist Circuit

Chester & Stoke-on-Trent Methodist District

We also gratefully acknowledge the

**help & Support of all members of
the Church and the local Community**

TAXI drivers for Dec 2018 & Jan 2019

The following drivers are available in Dec 2018 & Jan 2019 to transport you to the services. Please 'phone before 9:30am

Dec 2nd	David Whiteley
Dec 9th	Sheila Latham
Dec 16th	Jim Walwyn
Dec 23rd	Sheila Latham
Dec 30th	Brian Faulkner
6th Jan	Hazel Nimmo
13th Jan	Jim Walwyn
20th Jan	Hazel Nimmo
27th Jan	Brian Faulkner

Food Bank

We have had a request for help from the Food Bank.

They have a shortage of these items:

Sugar Steamed Puddings
Chocolate treats.

If you can help, please leave your donations in the basket at the back of the church.

Tea & Coffee Rotas for Dec 2018 & Jan 2019

Dec 2nd Ruth Dawson & Einwen Kelly

Dec 9th Christmas Party - no coffee



Dec 16th Sheila Latham & Dot Charlesworth

Dec 23rd Nancy Millington & Chris Crowther

Dec 30th Jim Walwyn & Dorothy Faulkner

Jan 6th Elizabeth & Pete Shingler

Jan 13th Linda Jenkins & Sarah Lunt

Jan 20th Brenda Aumeer & Helen Trigg

Jan 27th Eileen Grunner & Lynn Fowler

Christian Aid Christmas Cards sale

Thank you to everyone who came along to Bargates hall on the 3rd November. Donations on the door totalled £56 and 10% from Traidcraft goods on sale on the day plus 10% from the Christmas card sales, together with a donation from the Fairtrade group will mean we hope to send over £200 to Christian Aid to continue funding ongoing projects which are relieving poverty.

However, we have not yet sold all the cards so do please buy a pack or two at the Fairtrade stall on the first Sunday in December.

Helen Trigg

Flower Rota for Dec 2018 & Jan 2019

2nd Dec	Sheila Walwyn	
9th Dec	Flowers provided by wedding	
16th Dec	Ruth Dawson	
23rd Dec	Christmas Arrangements	
7th Jan	Sheila Latham	
14th Jan	Brenda Dudley	
21st Jan	Sue Davies	
27th Jan	Jean Fisher	(Feb 3rd Hazel Nimmo)

Spick and Spanners for Dec 2018 & Jan 2019

6th Dec	Elizabeth Shingler, Briony Miles-Hook & Linda Jenkins
20th Dec	Mike Nimmo, Vic Trigg & Dorothy Faulkner
3rd Jan	Joan & Gordon Davidson & Eileen Grunner
17th Jan	Jane Cliffe, Ros Rawson & Sue Davies

Sound System Operators for Dec 2018 & Jan 2019

2nd Dec	David Whiteley
9th Dec	Wendy Proffitt
16th Dec	David Whiteley
23rd Dec (am)	Jim Walwyn
(pm)	Andrew Fawcett
30th Dec	Jim Walwyn
6th Jan	David Whiteley
13th Jan	Jim Walwyn
20th Jan	Wendy Proffitt
27th Jan	Mike Nimmo



With Christmas in mind....

What do you call a cat in the desert? Sandy Claws.
What goes oh oh oh? Santa walking backwards.
What did the dog get for Christmas? A mobile bone.
Who delivers presents to sharks at Christmas? Santa Jaws.
What did Adam say in the Garden of Eden on December 24? It's Christmas, Eve.
Why do turkeys never go hungry at Christmas? They're always stuffed.
Which Christmas carol is most popular with new parents? Silent Night!

Regular Church Activities

Mondays 9:30-11:30am Parents & Toddlers (Term time)

Thursdays 7pm: Music Group Practice

1st/3rd Tuesdays at 7.30pm: Bible Study at 7 Queen's Road

2nd/4th Thursdays at 7:30pm - Prayer Meeting at 7 Queen's Rd

Dates for your Diary Dec 2018 & Jan 2019

Tuesday 4th Dec: Network Carols at 2pm

Saturday 8th Dec: Wedding at St John's

Sunday 9th Dec: Christmas Party at 12 noon

Saturday 22nd Dec: Coffee Morning at 10 until 12noon

Sunday 23rd Dec: Candlelit Carol Service (6.30pm)

Christmas Morning Family Service at 9.45am

Monday 7th Jan Accessibility Work Starts

Tuesday 8th Jan: Worship Committee

Sunday 13th Jan Covenant Service

Sunday 20th Jan Pulpit Swap

Tuesday 22nd Jan: United Service for Week of Prayer for
Christian Unity here at St John's
at 7.30pm

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February 2019 Newsletter

Please let Chris Crowther have all your submissions for the next Newsletter by 20th January 2019.

The proceeds from advertising in this magazine will be used solely for 'Access for All' improvements to our church. Inclusion of an advertisement in this magazine does not imply an endorsement of the products or services of the advertiser by St. John's.

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