

Mickleover
Methodist
Church
Magazine



Sarah Lavelle

December 2018/January 2019

The Mission of Mickleover Methodist Church is to develop a church family which is continually growing in Christian faith, worship and outreach so that all may know the love of God through Christ.

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Thanks to all who contribute articles for the magazine

At present there is no charge for the magazine
but a small donation would be appreciated.

**Items for the February 2019 magazine by
Sunday 20th January 2019
please to Liz Royle via the Church Office or
Church Magazine email address above .**

Services in December 2018

Sunday School, Beginners Group and Crèche meet every Sunday morning at 10.00am in the Large Hall. They all come into the Church near the end of the service for "Show and Tell"

Refreshments are available after Sunday morning service.

Sunday 2nd December

1st Sunday in Advent

10.00am Morning worship - Roy Milward
6.30pm Evening worship - Revd Jenny Dyer

Sunday 9th December

2nd Sunday in Advent

10.00am Morning worship - Dave Green
Spark to a Flame in Large Hall - Hope. Hope, Hope
6.30pm Evening worship - Holy Communion
Revd Ted Ager

Sunday 16th December

3rd Sunday in Advent

10.00am Morning worship - All Age Worship
Janet Patmore
6.30pm Evening worship - Revd Keith Burchell

Sunday 23rd December

4th Sunday in Advent

10.00am Morning worship - Holy Communion
Revd Ted Ager
6.30pm Evening worship - Carol Service
Revd Ted Ager

Sunday 30th December

1st Sunday of Christmas

10.00am Morning worship - Revd Jenny Dyer
6.30pm No Evening worship

Please remember all the preachers in your prayers, as they prepare and conduct their services in churches in this Circuit during this month

Creating a Manger in our lives

In the carpenter's shop the tools were tetchy.

'Brother Hammer, you're too noisy'

'Me? Brother Plane's work is all superficial. No depth.'

"Me? Brother Tape Measure is always telling others what to do, measuring us all by his own standards."

"Me? It's Brother Screwdriver who drives us all crazy going round in circles."

"Me? Sister Sandpaper is always rubbing the wrong way."

"Me? Sister Saw goes back and forth endlessly."

Then the footsteps of the carpenter could be heard and the bickering ceased.

When he entered the shop, he put on his apron, went to his bench, and picked up Brother Tape Measure, then Brother Plane, then Brother Hammer and Sister Screwdriver, then Sister Saw, and lastly Sister Sandpaper, whom he used to smooth all the rough edges of the manger he had made. A manger for a herd of animals to snuffle their noses in so as to find the oats in the bleak midwinter.

Perhaps through the season of Advent we should make a manger in our lives, being guided by He who learnt these skills in a Nazareth workshop.

Measure where we are in relation to He who gave the length of his life.

Plane away the places where forgiveness is needed.

Hammer against the injustices of the world and screw together the fragments in need of reconciliation

Saw away the dead branches that need to be pruned so that we might grow.

Sand the rough edges of our tongues, our thoughts, our lack of generosity.

In such a way we respond to the invitation "come let us walk in the light of the Lord" and Jesus is laid again in the manger of our lives and our communities.

From the manger he looks at us, and the whole world, with eyes of peace and forgiveness and love.

Just as he will when others use their carpentry skills to fix a wooden beam to a tree outside a city wall.

Services in January 2019

**Sunday School, Beginners Group and Crèche
meet every Sunday morning at 10.00am**

**They all come into the Church near the end of the service
for "Show and Tell"**

Refreshments are available after morning service.

Sunday 6th January Epiphany and Covenant Sunday

10.00am Morning worship - Covenant Sunday
Holy Communion - Revd Ted Ager
6.30pm Evening worship - Matthew Cadden-Hyde

Sunday 13th January 1st Sunday in Ordinary Time

10.00am Morning worship - Rita Wright
Spark to a Flame in Large Hall -
6.30pm Evening worship - Judith Neal

Sunday 20th January Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity

10.00am Morning worship - Terry Root
6.30pm Evening worship - Covenant Sunday
Holy Communion - Revd Ted Ager

Sunday 27th January Holocaust Memorial Day

10.00am Morning worship - Holy Communion
Revd Lorraine Mellor
6.30pm Evening worship -
Revd Keith Burchell

*Please remember all the preachers in your prayers, as they
prepare and conduct their services in churches
in this Circuit during this month*

Additional services at Christmas

Sunday 16 December

3pm 149th Scout Group - Carol service - everyone is welcome

Monday 24th December

3pm Christingle service

Not just for children and families - everyone is welcome

Monday 24th December

11.15pm Midnight Holy Communion

Rev Ted Ager

Tuesday 25th December

10am Christmas morning service - a short service for everyone.

Bring a present to show.

Revd Ted Ager

At Church during Advent.

During Advent we invite you to travel on the Journey to the stable, an interactive experience helping to explain the real meaning of Christmas. This is ideal for adults and children alike.

There are several stages on the journey focusing on a person or part of the Christmas journey with readings and suggestions for prayer. Each stage is sponsored by one of the Church groups and at each stage there is a small activity or object for you to take away.

In the busyness of all the Christmas shopping, writing cards, and icing the cake take a few minutes to be still and reflect on what Christmas is all about.

Pop in any weekday morning from 10am to 12noon, all day Monday and Tuesday until 3.30pm.



A time of prayer
at 8am for approximately
one hour at Church.
If you are unable to come
please consider praying
wherever you are during this time.
Saturday 8th December
Saturday 22nd December
Saturday 5th January
Saturday 19th January

Also prayer time in Church on Wednesday mornings
for half an hour starting at 9.30am.

PLEASE DON'T FORGET THE FOOD BANK

For all sorts of reasons the Christmas season is a time when the most vulnerable members of our society face particular hardship. The Food Bank provides essential support for many such people throughout the year and demand in the weeks leading up to and just after Christmas can be especially high. Sadly, some will find themselves turning to the Food Bank for the first time. As you do your shopping please remember those who face such challenging times and add a little something to your trolley that can be passed on via our collections in church.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to all those who have contributed articles, checked the articles, helped with the printing and distribution and supported the magazine in any way during the past year. .Marilyn

The Management team wish you all a Joyous Christmas and a Peaceful 2018.

MICKLEOVER PRIMARY SCHOOL YEAR 1'S VISIT TO OUR CHURCH

As part of a Churches Together in Mickleover initiative, on Wednesday 21st November 59 Mickleover Primary, Year 1 pupils, along with their teachers and helpers, walked from their school to our church to hear the story of Jesus birth – 30 in the morning and 29 in the afternoon. They arrived full of excitement and anticipation but were very well behaved and we were full of joy welcoming them and t sharing the real meaning of Christmas with them.

We began by gathering in church around Hilary, the children comfortably seated on the carpet. Hilary immediately captured their attention and made friends by telling them she thought they must be much older than 5 because of how well behaved they were.! Then followed a very interactive time, learning that the building they were in was a church, what people did in church, what the cross signified and why it was empty. She explained to them that Christmas is not just about giving and receiving presents, but that it is the time Christians celebrate God's gift of Jesus to the world. She went on to say that, for her, the most special part of Christmas Day, which is Jesus's birthday, was coming to church to thank God for the gift of his Son which is so special it fills us with thanks and joy.

After this, half of the children stayed with Hilary in church to learn about the nativity and act it out, dressing up as the characters, which they thoroughly enjoyed. The other half went with Dot and her team of helpers into the Wesley Room to make Christmas tree decorations of the three kings. We have 5 children and 2 helpers to each table which ensures that we get plenty of time to help them and to talk about the part the kings played in the Christmas story. The children love doing craft and it is so lovely to see that no two decorations are alike but they are all individual. Their favourite time is when they take their decoration to our Christmas tree and choose the place to hang it. They are rightly proud of their efforts and want to be able to point out to their parents which one is theirs.

Then it's time for a drink and a star shaped biscuit, which Marilyn has specially made for them, before going into church as the previous group come out for their refreshment and craft session. In this way we are interacting with a no more than 15 children at once giving us quality time together.

The volunteers who help are vitally important to our church being able to tell the story of Jesus birth to the young children of this generation who have no compulsory religious education and Hilary and I thank you all so much for giving your time and patience to enable us to make the most of this precious opportunity.

We pray that when Christmas is over and we step forward into a new year that the children will remember that Jesus is God's special gift to the world and that he loves us always. Their decorations will be returned to school so that they can hang them on their own Christmas trees next year.

Sparky's Slot



Did you remember? I did. On November 11th I remembered to go to Spark to a Flame and I remembered all the people who had suffered in wars and fighting around the world.

Lots of my friends who are usually at Spark to a Flame were marching in their uniforms to the war memorial to lay their poppy wreaths, so I took my special friend, Spike, to church with me to sit on the window sill by the music group

.We listened to a story about elephants - black elephants and white elephants who ganged up on each other and fought each other till they were all dead. So there were no more elephants until many years later some grey elephants came out of the jungle and they lived very happily together until they began to notice that some of them had big ears and some of them had small ears. We were left to wonder what might happen next. Friends or enemies? War or peace? Well, Spike and I, me with my grey prickles, Spike with his brown prickles, we just looked at each other and winked - those elephants should stay friends like us. Peace and friendship are better than fighting and war.

Jesus talked about peace and we listened to him telling his disciples that he would leave a special peace with them and then in our activities we made a banner with all the peace symbols and the word peace written in lots of different languages - check it out in the Wesley Room, - and we made peace plaques or did peaceful crayoning and discussion.

When Big Ben struck 11 o'clock we were all stood together in silence with the people in London and then Kathy sang a lovely song " We will remember them."

And me and my friend, Spike, snuffled home together through the Autumn leaves. But we're not going to hibernate this year - because we don't want to miss Christmas!

Happy Snuffling!



Back to My Roots

Young Johnny (8 years old) came home from school and asked his Dad, “Where do I come from?”. His father being a diligent parent decided to bite the bullet and started to explain about mums and dads, birds and bees and so on. After a very embarrassing half hour, little Johnny turned to his dad and said “That’s really interesting, but my friend Sally says she’s from Birmingham.”!

It is of interest to many of us to research our backgrounds, and there are quite a number of Church folks who have delved very deeply into their family trees. I am sure that this has resulted in many surprises and fascinating discoveries along the way. My dad once dug up (not literally!) a distant ancestor in a churchyard in Macclesfield – one Bernard de Royl (they spelled my name incorrectly even then!) who existed in the thirteenth century.

I have wanted to know something about my origins for quite a while now but do not have the patience to delve into historical records and so on. I found an easy way out this year, and Liz bought me a DNA testing kit for our wedding anniversary (who said that romance is dead?). A few weeks after returning the cheek swabs to a laboratory in Houston, Texas, I received an email with the results and I can now reveal that I am 62% English – so will be OK on March 30th 2019, 22% Scandinavian, 11% Welsh/Scottish/Irish (Celtic), >1% Middle Eastern and >1% Indigenous Amazonian.



I found the Scandinavian link very interesting, because the first time I visited Norway I felt in a strange way that I “belonged” there. Also, I feel very comfortable when holidaying in Scotland, Wales and Ireland and have an affinity with Celtic Christianity. I’m not sure about the Middle Eastern or Amazonian link, so although I may, at some point, descend on Mickleover with a helmet and battle axe, you are unlikely to see me wandering around clad in a handful of feathers! There are now some geneticists who wonder whether there are deep memories carried in our DNA as well as all the other aspects of the code which we inherit and make us who we are, and I find this a fascinating subject, although my jury is still out at the moment.

It is good to look at our roots as individuals, Churches, communities and nations, as it gives us a context in relation to our present situations. We have roots which may be very deep and firm and are useful to us in all of our different situations, enabling us to acquire sustenance from these foundations.

Without roots, a tree or plant cannot thrive and will cease to exist within a short space of time. Roots are not the only part of a plant or organism, and are there in order to allow that plant to develop and grow and such is the case within our Church. We should acknowledge our heritage and take pride in it, whilst at the same time growing and developing in appropriate ways. I believe that we cannot and should not ignore our tradition, wisdom and knowledge that has been carefully passed into our hands but should use it as a firm foundation upon which to develop and move forward.

In many aspects of our life we are faced with challenges which we could not have foreseen a few years ago, and we should all do our best to be positive about the changing world, whilst at the same time having the courage to reject those ideas and dogmas which are holding us back or which, having tried them, are not working to our advantage.

“Where do I come from?” is an important question but “Where do I go from here?” is at least equally relevant and merits great consideration and thought.

Phil Royle

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY. 18 - 25 JANUARY 2018

Praying for the unity of the Church involves a recognition not only of the brokenness of Christian relationships but also how injustice in the world at large separates Christian communities and impedes our participation in God’s mission. History too plays a part, casting a shadow over how we live our lives together in community. All of these issues emerge from the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Details available soon of services and prayers during this week at the various churches in Mickleover.

Waiting from



Our word Advent comes from the Latin *adventus*, which means 'coming'. In everyday thinking and speaking, it's come to mean the arrival of an important person or thing. For us it's the time before Christmas, but it really signifies a future that comes towards us as God's gracious gift.

Each Advent we need to reflect again on our experience of waiting, of waiting on God and of waiting for the coming of Jesus. There is something in this time about waiting: about being prepared, for something new, waiting for cards and presents, getting the house ready with decorations, trimming the tree, preparing the food, getting everything ready.

In nature too it's a season of waiting. We look at creation in the autumn with all the amazing colours in nature's palette at that time and then see the leaves gradually falling from the trees.

But things are not dying but getting ready: waiting, beneath every falling leaf was a bud, ready, waiting, for new birth and new growth in the spring.

Waiting can be exciting, draining, a challenge, a time of anticipation, a joy, a difficult thing to sustain. How would you describe different times of waiting? Waiting for a bus or a train,, for an appointment, for an operation, for an interview, for birth, for a special event, etc.

Waiting may feel different at different times in our lives. How has it changed for you in your lifetime.

Waiting in the Bible

Read Psalm 139 carefully The psalm suggests that God has been waiting with us and for us for a long time. God's desire is to be present to us, to be in relationship with us, constantly creating us and bringing

us to birth as we move deeper into that relationship. Prayer can be a way of waiting with God, in which we become more tuned into God and what God hopes for us.

At the end of the psalm the writer seems to get rather carried away, but perhaps because it has been possible to be safe in God's presence, the writer is able to say what is really on their mind and not hide even these difficult thoughts from God.

Read Psalm 42 carefully.

Here the psalmist writes about other strong feelings. This time it is being far away from God, even in exile that troubles the writer.

Our birth into the human family means constantly travelling and making choices for ourselves along the journey of life.

We have each received the gift of journey. Sometimes our journeys are easy: we walk with purpose, there is a focus to life, there is a joy and a delight. There is a lightness in our step and the road seems level and easy. It's often at times like this too that God's presence is vivid and indisputable. We forge ahead with confidence, certainty and clarity. We walk with boundless energy and enthusiasm and are eager to face the challenges ahead.

But then suddenly the terrain seems to change. Things aren't so clear and obvious. We seem to be battling through feet of mud that pull us down with every step. Or maybe it's dry and arid like the desert.

As we come to Advent again, think about this year. Has your journey being easy or difficult?

Prayer

Loving God, teach me to seek you, and reveal yourself to me as I seek; for unless you instruct me I cannot seek you, and unless you reveal yourself I cannot find you.

A Politically Correct Christmas

~ Anon



Twas the night before Christmas and Santa's a wreck...
How to live in a world that's politically correct?
His workers no longer would answer to "Elves",
"Vertically Challenged" they were calling themselves.
And labour conditions at the North Pole,
were alleged by the union, to stifle the soul.

Four reindeer had vanished without much propriety,
released to the wilds, by the Humane Society.
And equal employment had made it quite clear,
that Santa had better not use just reindeer.
So Dancer and Donner, Comet and Cupid,
were replaced with 4 pigs!

The runners had been removed from his beautiful sleigh,
because the ruts were deemed dangerous by Health and Safety,
And millions of people were calling the police,
when they heard sled noises upon their roof tops.
Second-hand smoke from his pipe, had his workers quite frightened,
and his fur trimmed red suit was called "unenlightened".

To show you the strangeness of today's ebbs and flows,
Rudolf was suing over unauthorized use of his nose.
He went to the union, in front of the Nation,
half of the reindeer were gone, and his wife
who suddenly said she'd had enough of this life,
joined a self help group, packed and left in a whiz,
demanding from now on that her title was Ms.

And as for gifts...why, he'd never had the notion
that making a choice could cause such commotion.
Nothing of leather, nothing of fur...

...
Which meant nothing for him or nothing for her.
Nothing to aim, Nothing to shoot,
Nothing that clamored or made lots of noise.
Nothing for just girls and nothing for just boys.
Nothing that claimed to be gender specific,
Nothing that's warlike or non-pacifistic.

No candy or sweets...they were bad for the tooth.
Nothing that seemed to embellish upon the truth.
And fairy tales...while not yet forbidden,
were like Ken and Barbie, better off hidden,
for they raised the hackles of those psychological,
who claimed the only good gift was one ecological.

No baseball, no football...someone might get hurt,
besides - playing sports exposed kids to dirt.
Dolls were said to be sexist and should be passe.
and Nintendo would rot your entire brain away.

So Santa just stood there, disheveled and perplexed,
he just couldn't figure out what to do next?
He tried to be merry he tried to be gay,
but you must have to admit he was having a very bad day.
His sack was quite empty, it was flat on the ground,
nothing fully acceptable was anywhere to be found.

Something special was needed, a gift that he might,
give to us all, without angering the left or the right.
A gift that would satisfy - with no indecision,
each group of people in every religion.
Every race, every hue,
everyone, everywhere...even you!
So here is that gift, it's price beyond worth...

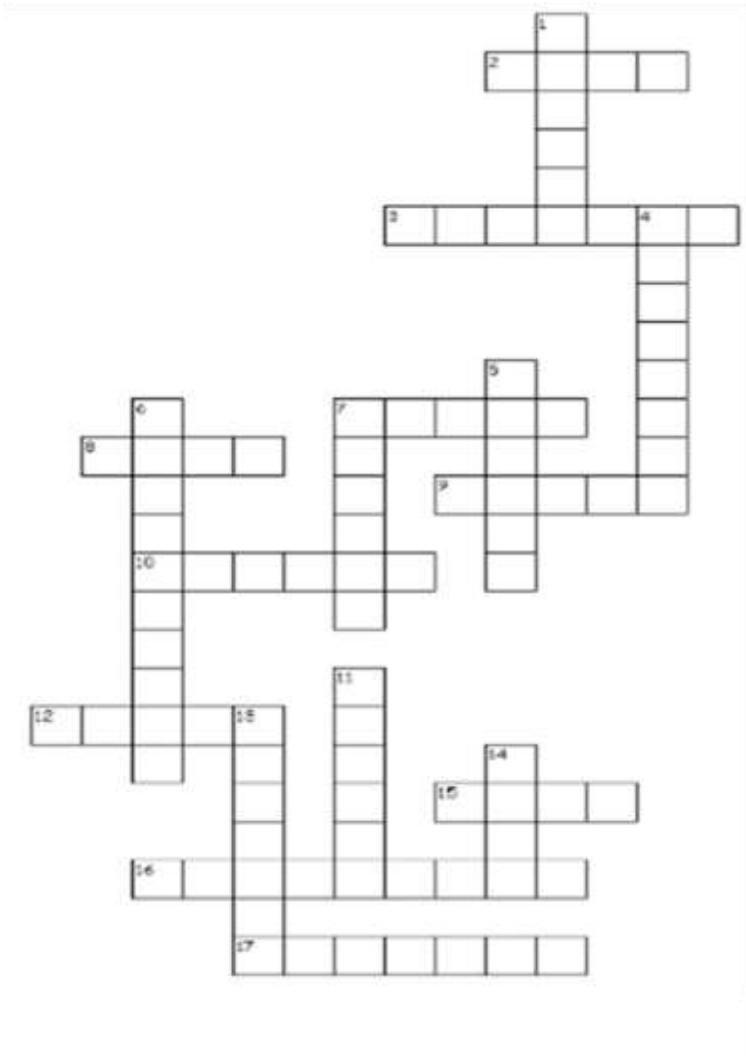
“May you and your loved ones enjoy peace on Earth.”

Across

2. "For the wages of sin is death; but the _____ of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Romans 6:23
3. "Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, Where is He that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the east, and are come to _____ Him." Matthew 2:1-2
7. "And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary His mother, and fell down, and worshipped Him; and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto Him gifts: gold, and frankincense, and _____." Matthew 2:11
8. "O come, Let us sing unto the Lord; let us make a joyful noise unto the _____ of our salvation." Psalms 95:1
9. "And the _____ answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee; therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God." Luke 1:35
10. "But when the fulness of time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to _____ them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons." Galatians 4:4-5
12. "Yea, all _____ shall fall down before Him; All nations shall serve Him." Psalms 72:11
15. "The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the _____, Make straight in the desert a high- way for our God." Isaiah 40:3
16. "And the _____ returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them." Luke 2:20
17. "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: but made Himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a _____, and was made in the likeness of men; and being found in a fashion as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." Philippians 2:5-8

Down

1. "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of _____, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." James 1:17
4. "Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a Virgin shall conceive, and bear a Son, and shall call His name _____." Isaiah 7:14
5. "And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a _____ shall grow out of His roots." Isaiah 11:1
6. "For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the _____ shall be upon His shoulder; and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God,



7. “And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a ____.” Luke 2:12 **11.** “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not ____, but have everlasting life.” John 3:16

13. “Christ Jesus came into the world to save ____; of whom I am chief. Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on Him to life everlasting.” 1 Timothy 1:15-16

14. “And the ____ was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of Grace and Truth.” John 1:14

Carol the Reindeer

There are 24 phrases from Christmas songs and carols, hidden within this story. How many can you find?



Carol had been a reindeer for as long as she could remember. It wasn't a bad life really, though the frost was cruel sometimes in the winter – and sometimes it was so cold that it froze her water like a stone. Carol lived with seven other reindeers on Farmer Jim's farm.

Farmer Jim was a kind man, but he had a very shiny nose and was often seen with a corn cob pipe. He also had two front teeth that stuck out at strange angles, making him look a little like a reindeer himself.

Every Sunday Carol heard a strange sound coming from the farmhouse. 'Do you hear what I hear?' she would say to the rest of the herd. The sound always started very early in the morning, so early, in fact, that the stars were gleaming still.

The herd found the strange sound terrifying. In fields, as they lay, listening to the early morning noise and watching the silent stars go by, they felt as if a mighty dread had seized their troubled minds. What was that infernal racket?!

Carol decided it was time to find out what was going on. She waited until the moment was right – 'all is calm now,' she thought as she left the field. As she wandered over towards the farmhouse she chuckled to herself as she remembered the day that the whole herd decided to go on a field trip.

'When we were gone astray,' she thought, 'we had the most fantastic adventure... every new hill brought a thrill of hope... new and succulent grass was waiting for them around every corner... we just kept on plodding onwards, going wherever our hooves wanted, doing whatever we wanted and laughing all the way...'

Carol was so engrossed in her happy memories that it was a little late in time when she realised she'd already reached the farmhouse door – banging her head against the letter box quite by mistake. 'Woe is me,' she thought as she sat down on the doorstep and a big lump started to swell up on the end of her nose.

Feeling little, weak and helpless Carol wondered if she'd arrived on the only Saturday morning when the terrible noise wasn't going to be heard – but then it started.

Carol leapt to her feet and pushed at the letter box again – if she angled her head with her nose pointing down from the sky, she could just about hold the letter box open and see through the gap.

Inside there was a very odd human view displayed. 'The lights are turned way down low,' Carol thought, 'all apart from that lamp next to Farmer Jim.'

Farmer Jim was sitting in front of a big wooden box that had black and white stripes all over it. Perhaps it was some sort of screaming zebra. Whenever he touched one of the stripes the terrible noise blared out of nowhere. Now she was closer to the source of the noise, Carol thought it sounded even worse – and decided she would run back to the rest of the herd and tell them the terrible news – Farmer Jim had a big square zebra in his house that screamed whenever he stroked it!

The strange sound was actually the playing of the merry organ – something that brought Farmer Jim great joy. He loved to make a joyful and triumphant sound and saw his playing as a way of bringing good cheer to the entire farm.

The start of a new year is an ideal time to reflect on the past, take an account of our Christian walk, and consider the direction God may want to lead us in the coming days. Set aside some time to pause and evaluate our spiritual condition as we seek God's presence.

A New Year's Poem for Christians

Instead of making a New Year's resolution
Consider committing to a biblical solution
Your promises are easily broken
Empty words, though earnestly spoken
But God's Word transforms the soul
By His Holy Spirit making you whole
As you spend time alone with Him
He will change you from within

Mary Fairchild

SCOUT GROUP NEWS

How time flies; the last update was back before the summer when we were looking forward to camps etc.

Now we are in the middle of getting ready for stamp & deliver, and the Scout Carole Service, so couple of dates for your diaries:

Stamp & Deliver kicks off with Mickleover Christmas Fair on the 25th Nov. You will see us in church set up from the 2nd Dec; again, we are very grateful for the support of church members in allowing us to use the landing for our sorting office. Don't forget to get your stamps & post early in the post box in the church foyer.

The Carol Service is planned for the 16th December, and we would be pleased to welcome you for the service, and a drink & mince pie afterwards. The service will be led by our Group Scout Leader and a long-time favourite Rev Ted Ager, and, as always, will feature contributions from the young people in the group. Please come along.

The Summer: over the summer our scouts went over to the USA, where they were hosted by our friends from the Philadelphia area. A fantastic time was had by all. We are now looking forward to welcoming our US cousins back in 2020.

The Cubs had a fun weekend camp a bit closer to home at Spitewinter in Derbyshire. They enjoyed night hikes, walks & other outdoor activities and all came back in mainly one piece.

Remembrance Parade: the Group played their role in the significant anniversary, remembering the residents of Mickleover involved in the First World War.

The New Year: looking into January we are hoping for snow or at least cold weather for the Chilly Camp in January, when scouts will be out in tents for a quick burst, then we start canoe lessons, in the warmth of Lonsdale Pool, for older cubs & scouts, and then back outdoors to Gradbach in Staffordshire, which last year had to be abandoned due to snow making it impossible to get there.

Finally, if you have any questions about the Scout Group, suggestions, or want to help please contact us.

Frank Bell & Pete Loftus

Christmas 'Elf & Safety'



1. All members of the congregation planning to dash through the snow in a one horse open sleigh, going over the fields and laughing all the way are advised that a Risk Assessment will be required addressing the safety of an open sleigh for members of the public.
2. Benches, stools and orthopaedic chairs are now available for collection by any shepherds planning or required to watch their flocks at night. While provision has also been made for remote monitoring of flocks by CCTV cameras from a centrally heated shepherd observation hut, all users of this facility are reminded that an emergency response plan must be submitted to account for known risks to the flocks.
3. The angel of the Lord is additionally reminded that, prior to shining his/her glory all around, s/he must confirm that all shepherds are wearing appropriate Personal Protective Equipment to account for the harmful effects of UVA, UVB and the overwhelming effects of Glory.
4. While it is acknowledged that gift bearing is a common practice in various parts of the world, particularly the Orient, everyone is reminded that the bearing of gifts is subject to Hospitality Guidelines and all gifts must be registered. This applies regardless of the individual, even royal personages. It is particularly noted that direct gifts of currency or gold are specifically forbidden, while caution is advised regarding other common gifts such as aromatic resins that may evoke allergic reactions.
5. Finally, in the recent instance of the infant found tucked up in a manger without any crib for a bed, Social Services have been advised and will be arriving shortly!

All We Can Christmas catalogue is available on the table in Church foyer - gift suggestions at various prices to improve the standard of life for people struggling to live in the poorest countries of the world.

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 shows the blessings lie within peacemaking – 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.

Driving Lessons

A young teenage boy had just received his driving licence and inquired of his father, a vicar, if they could discuss the use of the car.

His father took him into his study and said to the lad, "I'll make a deal with you, son. You bring your grades up from a C to a B average, study your Bible more, get your hair cut, and we'll talk about the car."

Well, the son thought about it for a moment and decided he would settle for the offer, and they agreed on it.

After about 6 weeks, the boy came back and again asked his father about using the car.

Again, they went to the study, where his father said, "Son, I'm real proud of you. You brought your grades up, and I've observed that you've been studying your Bible more, and participating a lot more in the Bible study class on Sundays. But, I'm really disappointed, since you haven't had your hair cut."

The young man paused a moment, and then said, "You know, Dad, I've been thinking about that, and I've noticed in my studies of the Bible that Samson had long hair, John the Baptist had long hair, Moses had long hair, and there's even a strong argument that Jesus had long hair."

His father replied, "You're right son. Did you also notice that they all walked everywhere they went?"

I really wanted a camouflage shirt, but I couldn't find one.
My friend said she did not understand cloning. I told her that makes two of us.
My friend's bakery burned down last night. Now his business is toast.
My job at the concrete plant seems to get harder and harder.
I think Santa has a riverfront property in Brazil. All our presents came from Amazon this year.

Carol the Reindeer

Here's where those phrases were hiding!

Carol had been a reindeer for as long as she could remember. It wasn't a bad life really, **though the frost was cruel** sometimes in the winter – and sometimes it was so cold that it froze her **water like a stone**. Carol lived with seven other reindeers on Farmer Jim's farm.

Farmer Jim was a kind man, but he **had a very shiny nose** and was often seen **with a corncob pipe**. He also had **two front teeth** that stuck out at strange angles, making him look a little like a reindeer himself

Every Saturday Carol heard a strange sound coming from the farmhouse. **'Do you hear what I hear?'** she would say to the rest of the herd. The sound always started very early in the morning, so early, in fact, that the **stars were gleaming** still.

The herd found the strange sound terrifying. **In fields, as they lay**, listening to the early morning noise and watching **the silent stars go by**, they felt as if a **mighty dread had seized their troubled minds**. What was that infernal racket?!

Carol decided it was time to find out what was going on. She waited until the moment was right – **'all is calm** now,' she thought as left the field. As she wandered over towards the farmhouse she chuckled to herself as she remembered the day that the whole herd decided to go on a field trip. **'When we were gone astray,**' she thought, 'we had the most fantastic adventure... every new hill brought **a thrill of hope**... new and succulent grass was waiting for them around every corner... we just kept on **plodding onwards**, going wherever our hooves wanted, doing whatever we wanted and **laughing all the way**...'

Carol was so engrossed in her happy memories that it was a little **late in time** when she realised she'd already reached the farmhouse door – banging her head against the letter box quite by mistake. **'Woe is me,**' she thought as she sat down on the doorstep and a big lump started to swell up on the end of her nose.

Feeling **little, weak and helpless** Carol wondered if she'd arrived on the only Saturday morning when the terrible noise wasn't going to be heard – but then it started.

Carol leapt to her feet and pushed at the letter box again – she angled her head with her nose pointing **down from the sky**, she could just about hold the letter box open and see through the gap.

Inside there was a very odd **human view displayed**. '**The lights are turned way down low**,' Carol thought, 'all apart from that lamp next to Farmer Jim.'

Farmer Jim was sitting in front of a big wooden box that had black and white stripes all over it. Perhaps it was some sort of screaming zebra. Whenever he touched one of the stripes the terrible noise blared out of nowhere. Now she was closer to the source of the noise, Carol thought it sounded even worse – and decided she would run back to the rest of the herd and tell them the terrible news – Farmer Jim had a big square zebra in his house that screamed whenever he stroked it!

The strange sound was actually **the playing of the merry organ** – something that brought Farmer Jim great joy. He loved to make a **joyful and triumphant** sound and saw his playing as a way of **bringing good cheer** to the entire farm.

Charity Messiah in a Day

Come, Sing, and Perform! Our Lady of Lourdes
Church, Mickleover **Sunday 16th December 2018:**
In aid of the Kaoma Orphanage Appeal in Zambia
and the Jeel al-Amal boys home in Bethany,
Palestine

Regular Activities at MMC

Mon-Fri	10.00am	Church Office open until 12.15pm	
Mon-Fri	9.15am	Preschool group-Term time only	Crèche
Mon	1.30pm	Little Micklers-Toddlers -Term time only	Large Hall
Mon	6.00pm	Derwent Beavers	Large Hall
Tue	2.30pm	Women's Fellowship	Wesley Rm
Tue	6.30pm	Red Fox Cub Scouts	Large Hall
Wed	9.30am	Prayers and meditation	Chapel
Wed	5.00pm	Dove Beavers	Large Hall
Wed	5.30pm -	Girls Brigade - Explorers/Juniors/Seniors/ Brigaders	Large Hall
Wed	7.30pm	Wesley Guild	Wesley Rm
Thurs	6.30pm	Brown Bear Cub Scouts	Large Hall
Fri	10.00am	Drop in café -Refreshments & chat	Social Area
Fri 4th in month	10am	Scrabble	Wesley Rm
Fri	7.30pm	Kinder Scouts	Large Hall
Sat 1st month	12noon	Lunch (except January)	Large Hall
Sat 3rd	10.00am	Fairtrade café & Traidcraft stall	Wesley Rm

Diary for December 2018

Sat 1st	12 noon	Lunch
Tues 4th	4pm	Messy Church -
Tues 4th	2.30pm	Women's Fellowship - Mr & Mrs Fitzpatrick—Life of Incas
Weds 5th	7.30pm	Wesley Guild - Christmas Carols
Fri 7th	9.15am to 12noon	Friday Café
Tues 11th	2.30pm	Women's Fellowship - Carol service
Weds 12th	10.00am to 12noon	Funtime -coffee, games and fellowship
Weds 12th	7.30pm	Wesley Guild - Christmas quizzes and Party.
Fri 14th	10.00am to 12noon	Friday Café
Tues 18th	2.30pm	Women's Fellowship - \Christmas break
Weds 19th	7.30pm	Wesley Guild - Christmas break
Fri 21st	10.00am to 12noon	Friday Café

House Groups and Bible study

Thursday morning 10am to 11.30am

Thursday evening 7.30pm - check Church notices for dates as no meeting when it is the Bible study Does the Bible matter? on Thursday evenings.

Diary for January 2019

Tues 1st	2.30pm	Women's Fellowship—no meeting
Tues 1st	4pm	Messy Church - no meeting Next one 5th February
Weds 2nd	7.30pm	Wesley Guild—no meeting
Fri 7th	10.00am to 12noon	Friday Cafe
Sat 8th	12noon	Lunch
Tues 8th	2.30pm	Women's Fellowship meeting
Weds 9th	10.00am to 12noon	Funtime -coffee, games and fellowship
Weds 9th	7.30pm	Wesley Guild - Ray Gumbley Scams and how to avoid them
Fri 11th	10.00am to 12noon	Café
Tues 15th	2.30pm	Women's Fellowship meeting
Weds 16th	7.30pm	Wesley Guild - Rosemary Hollingworth My childhood in China
Friday 18th	10.00am to 12noon	Café
Tues 22nd	2.30pm	Women's Fellowship meeting
Weds 23rd	10am to 12noon	Funtime -coffee, games and fellowship
Weds 23rd	7.30pm	Wesley Guild - Revd Ted Ager Any Questions
Fri 25th	9.15am to 12noon	Café
Tues 29th	2.30pm	Women's Fellowship meeting
Weds 30th	10am to 12noon	Funtime -coffee, games and fellowship
Weds 30th	7.30pm	Wesley Guild - Chris Moore The Mary Rose