



# ST JOHN'S NEWS AND VIEWS

Number 4

## Worship in December



The church will reopen for worship on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> Dec. - the 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our move across the road!  
December services will be as follows:

- 6<sup>th</sup> Dec. Toy service with Holy Communion led by Revd. Tim Broughton
- 13<sup>th</sup> Dec. led by Jane Mansergh
- 20<sup>th</sup> Dec. led by Wendy Holt
- 20<sup>th</sup> Dec. 3.30pm and 5.15pm – a “drive-in” carol service at Bibby’s yard in Ingleton. More details to follow in the next newsletter.
- 25<sup>th</sup> Dec. 10.0 a.m. Christmas celebration led by Revd. Tim Broughton
- 27<sup>th</sup> Dec. Online service only**  
Online services, led by Tim, will be posted on our Facebook page at 10.30 a.m. every Sunday ([facebook.com/settlemethodist](https://facebook.com/settlemethodist)); these are also available on YouTube later in the day. Short services of Evening Prayer, led by Rev. Stephen Caddy and Christine Caddy will also be posted on Facebook at 6.30 p.m. every Sunday.



## Advent

Tim and Stephen hope to produce daily reflections throughout Advent, sent out by email. Please tell Tim if you would like to receive them by post on a weekly basis. It will also be available on a podcast.

## Christmas Dinner

This year, could you put together an extra plate for someone who is on their own this Christmas? As I’m sure you understand we are unable to host the annual Christmas lunch in St. John’s church hall this year and so we have been thinking of ways that we might support and connect with those who we would normally serve.

Our idea is that people who are able to offer a meal will make an extra portion of their own Christmas lunch and deliver it to someone who would otherwise be on their own. It is not simply about the meal, but also about our contact with those who might otherwise spend the day alone.

If you might be willing to be part of such a scheme, please will you let me know and we can begin to

match people who would like to receive a meal with those who are willing to make one.

Thank you,  
Tim

## Reminders



Our annual Toy Service will be held on Sunday 6 December. There will be more families than usual unable to spend money on presents this year, so all gifts will gratefully be received.

Food Bank donations need to be deposited at Booths before Friday 4 December if they are to reach those who need them by Christmas.

## Letter to God

Dear God,

*I encountered a spider today, clear evidence of cobwebs. I tried catching it in a jar to evict it. My beloved stopped me, explaining that house spiders die if put outdoors. I'm no fan of spiders but reckon that's a great excuse for not dusting in the corners - "I couldn't possibly disturb the cobwebs and risk killing one of God's creatures!" Though why you made hairy-legged, knobbly-kneed spiders, I don't know. Talking of knobbly knees, I was watching some surfers in October. Let's get this clear, these were not the Hawaiian shirted, Bermuda shorts wearing style of surfer dancing in playful blue waves on a sun-drenched beach. These were the wet-suited (hence seeing the knobbly knees!), pneumonia risking, Geordie style of surfer throwing themselves recklessly into the North Sea on the stormiest day in years. Every time the wave formed they attempted to leap onto their boards and the*

gales and tide dragged them off and under. They looked frozen. The only blue things about them were their noses. But they just kept getting back on the boards and carrying on. Bit like the spider seen by King Robert the Bruce in the story about determination! These weren't just determined, they were laughing with exhilaration - quite a message for these troubled times and stormy seas of life. Don't just keep calm and carry on but instead be joyful and keep on keeping on. Your smile might be what is keeping others going.

Love,  
Old Lil Nongle

**Out of the mouths of babes.....**

Immortal, Invisible,  
God Ernie Wise

Thank you, Gill

**Action for Children**



Like many other charities, Action for Children have been affected by the cancellation of fund-raising events, but they are working hard to help children all over the UK who face a Christmas without food, warmth or love.

In 'normal' times, they receive the offerings from Soup-a-Carol and our Carol Service, as well as the Christmas Day service. You can still support Action for Children by buying a ticket for their online Carol Service on 8<sup>th</sup> December (see [www.starry-night.co.uk](http://www.starry-night.co.uk)) or by becoming a Secret Santa (visit [www.iamsanta.org.uk/methodist](http://www.iamsanta.org.uk/methodist)).

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**Yorkshire Preachers: no.2.**

Of the 21 people listed in David Whiteley's book "Illustrious Local Preachers", published in 1891, no fewer than 15 were born and preached in Yorkshire. (I can think of 3 others who could have been included). Among them was **William Dawson**, 1773-1841 (Wesleyan). William was born at Garforth near Leeds and has been called "the prince of local preachers." His eloquence was legendary. On one occasion when he was preaching to sailors about the wreck of a soul, a seaman leaped to his feet shouting "Launch the life-boat." Dawson was also in great demand as a preacher of funeral sermons. By occupation he was "steward" at a colliery and was also involved, I think, in estate management.

*Jane Mansergh*



**An Advent Prayer by Caryl Micklem**

Lord God, we praise and adore you because you have come to us in the past.

You have spoken to us in the Law of Israel.  
You have challenged us in the words of the prophets.  
You have shown us in Jesus what you are really like.

Lord God, we praise and adore you because you still come to us now.

You come to us through other people and their love and concern for us.  
You come to us through men and women who need our help.  
You come to us as we worship you with your people.

Lord God, we praise and adore you because you will come to us at the end.

You will be with us at the hour of death.  
You will still reign supreme when all human institutions fail.  
You will still be God when our history has run its course.

We welcome you, the God who comes.  
Come to us now in the power of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen