



ST JOHN'S NEWS AND VIEWS

Number 34
December 2022

Worship



Online services (morning and evening) continue via our Facebook page and on YouTube.

Our preachers in church for the next few weeks will be as follows:

- 4th December 10.30 am Revd. Tim Broughton
Toy Service
- 11th December 10.30 am Revd. David Philo
Holy Communion
- 18th December 10.30 am Worship Group
6.30 pm Carol Service
- 25th December **10.00 am** Revd. Tim Broughton
- 1st January 10.30 am Songs of Praise

Toy Service

Our annual Toy Service will be held on Sunday 4th December. All gifts (unwrapped, please) received at this service will be distributed to children in the Craven and Burnley areas.

Soup-a-Carol

Please join us for an evening of carols and readings (serious and not-so-serious!) at 7.00 pm on Monday 12th December, and bring your family, friends and neighbours.

Carol Singing

13th and 20th Dec. from 10.0 am in Market Place with Churches Together.

20th Dec. 8.30 pm Beer and Carols at the Talbot Arms

21st Dec. 6.30 pm Carols at Limestone View.
You are welcome to come and support the residents.

Songs of Praise - 1st January

We will welcome in the New Year with a Songs of Praise service at the usual time of 10.30 a.m. If you would like to choose a hymn to be sung, please give details to Wendy.

Bible Book Club

Our next meeting will be held at 12.0 noon on Wednesday 14th December, when we will be looking at the 1st letter of Peter. Notes on this can be found at the back of the church.

Charity Coffee Pot



Keep warm at Coffee Pot on Wednesdays from 10.30 am – 12.0 noon – and bring your friends.

The Charity Coffee Pot held on 2nd November raised a total of £240.77 for Guide Dogs for the Blind.

Our next Charity Coffee Pot, on Wednesday 7th December, will be in aid of Dementia Forward. Please come along for a special Mince Pies and Memories morning.



ST JOHN'S METHODIST CHURCH, SETTLE

Warm Space

Tea & Coffee
Chat
Charge your Mobile
Do Homework

We are opening our building to provide a safe, warm space this winter.

Film Showing in Main Church commencing 2:30pm

No need to book. Completely **Free of Charge**

2:00 – 4:30 pm Thursdays
Starting 1st December

TIPS FOR A GREENER CHRISTMAS

- 1) **Start with your advent calendar.** Support overseas farmers by ensuring your advent calendar, and any Christmas chocolate, is Fairtrade.
 - 2) **Go for a natural wreath and decorations.** Holly sprigs, ivy trails (you're welcome to pinch any from the back of church!), pine cones, rose hips....Get creative but leave some berries for the birds - try to use as much as you can from what's already dropped.
 - 3) **Re-use cards and wrapping.** Help reduce the huge amount of trees that go into making Christmas tags by re-using old Christmas cards. Recycled brown paper has a much lower ecological footprint than Christmas wrapping paper.
 - 4) **Give the gift of time.** Too many unwanted gifts end up in landfill. Here's an idea. What about a gift of cooking for someone once a month for a year, taking them for a coffee, babysitting, house cleaning....or whatever. Just make a "GIFT OF TIME" gift tag and put it in a card for them.
 - 5) **Remember the reason for the season.** Practising generosity and hospitality is a great way to show Christ's love at Christmas. Invite someone who would otherwise be on their own on Christmas Day. It's also a way of reducing energy consumption as they'll share your heating and cooking!
- A Rocha UK*



FAIRTRADE

**Action for Climate Emergency
Settle Fairtrade Community?**

**Saturday 10th December 2022 (10.30-12.30pm)
at St John's Methodist Church
Find out how Settle can become a Fairtrade
Community**

Fairtrade goods will be available to buy

10.30-11: Chat over refreshments

11-11.40: Presentation from Liz Roodhouse
(Fairtrade Skipton)

11.40-12.30 : How to get involved

More details about the event:

On our website events page: acesettleandarea.org

Social media: Facebook and Twitter @ACESettle

By emailing us: acesettleandarea@gmail.com

Prayer on Growing Older (A Mother Superior's Prayer)

Found by Janet Wigfield on a post-card (price 1½ d), hidden in the depths of a very old cookery book dated 1915.

Lord, thou knowest better than I know myself that I am growing older, and will some day be old.

Keep me from getting talkative, and particularly from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and on every occasion.

Release me from craving to try to straighten out everybody's affairs.

Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details – give me wings to get to the point.

I ask for grace enough to listen to the tales of others' pains. Help me to endure them with patience.

But seal my lips on my own aches and pains – they are increasing, and my love of rehearsing them becomes sweeter as the years go by.

Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally it is possible that I may be mistaken.

Keep me reasonably sweet; I do not want to be a saint – some of them are so hard to live with – but a sour old woman is one of the crowning works of the devil.

Make me thoughtful, but not moody; helpful, but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom it seems a pity not to use it all, but Thou knowest, Lord, that I want a few friends at the end.

Excerpt from 'Class Leaders' Assistant' 1865

The C.L.A. was a Wesleyan publication by John Bate, published in London by Hamilton, Adams and Co.

Walk in the light, as God is in the light.

Walk in the truth, as Christ is the truth.

Walk uprightly, as under the inspection of your greatest friends and greatest foes.

Walk as a man who is travelling through a wilderness in a foreign land surrounded with danger.....

Jane Mansergh



Monthly Prayer Meeting

This will now be held at 12 noon on the first Tuesday of each

month in the Parish Hall of St Mary and St Michael's Catholic Church in Tillman Close. Led by Dan and Ruth Bavington, it is not expected to last for more than one hour – probably less. The 1st meeting will be on Tuesday 6th December.

Dear God,

As a child I used to love singing Christmas carols. The problem was that sometimes I didn't understand them. Being a Geordie, I was pretty sure that we sang "Haway in a manger!" and in a way that still made sense. However, I was less clear about why "earth stood hard to iron" – why would anyone want to iron earth anyway? Nor could I get my head around why the angels (who I knew were the good guys) should be on the side of King Herod (who I knew was a bad guy because he killed all the baby boys) when we sang "Hark the Herod angels sing" ...

It was all pretty confusing, as is a lot of the flummery which has developed and surrounded our notion of a "traditional Christmas". Looked at rationally, it's hard to see why we cut down a growing tree, drag it into our centrally heated homes and then moan for weeks about the fact that it drops needles all over our carpets. At a time of alleged peace on Earth, I've seen major family rows erupt over whether or not you need Yorkshire puddings with a turkey or whether it is sufficient to have 3 kinds of stuffing and pigs in blankets as dressings for the bird. In times of soaring electricity bills, is it acceptable to cut back on outdoor lighting displays or does it look as though you're a cheapskate if you don't have a display so large it can be seen from the European space station?

When teaching, I once wrote and performed a show dealing with Christmas dilemmas. We portrayed the 1914 Christmas truce, examined "blue Christmases" caused by splits with partners and generally considered how you would explain Christmas to an alien. We called the show "The Question of Christmas." For the final sequence, the whole cast came together, each one carrying a candle, to form a circle of light. Then, while a soloist sang "Love Came Down at Christmas", we slowly moved from a circle to form the shape of a cross – concluding that if the question is Christmas, then the answer is not all

the glitter and razzamatazz but the love that was shown at Easter.

*Wishing everyone a joyous Christmas
Old Lil Nongle*



Prayer for Advent

God, faithful and true, make us eager in expectation, as we look for the fulfilment of your promise in Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen
from Methodist Worship Book

Newsletter

Thank you to all those who have contributed to this newsletter. Please send any material for inclusion to Philip or Wendy by the 1st of the month (preferably a few days before this!).



*We wish all
our readers
a Happy
Christmas
and Peaceful
New Year*