



Newsletter

WINTER 2017



*Love Came down at
Christmas*

love all Lovely, Love divine





Pastor's Page

A Winter's Tale

Who likes snow? I must confess that as I get older I find I can live without it just fine. Well, it is quite pretty to look at for about five minutes or so and then the cold and the wet and the inconvenience creep in and it all ends up just being deeply unpleasant and downright dangerous. The weather forecasters are threatening us with a lot of snow this winter, as the mild winters of recent years give way to the big freeze. While this may be good news for the children (and adults who are still big kids at heart), it is not good news for anyone who has to go out anywhere or do anything!

The Winter's Tale by William Shakespeare has the line, 'a sad tale's best for winter' and, despite the warm joys and blessings of Christmas, winter can be a difficult time for many people especially the elderly, the lonely, the poor and the homeless. The wintery carol Good King Wenceslas, sung on Saint Stephen's Day or Boxing Day, has no mention of the birth of Jesus but a lot about snow. It concerns a 10th century Bohemian Duke, also known as Vaclav the Good. He was renowned for his good works among the poor, even providing pine logs for a poor man who lived in a forest?

*Good King Wenceslas looked out on the feast of Stephen,
When the snow lay round about deep and crisp and even;
Brightly shone the moon that night though the frost was cruel,
When a poor man came in sight, gathering winter fuel.*

Less well known is that he laboured tirelessly to spread the gospel and Christianise his dukedom. This incurred the wrath of his wicked brother, Boleslaw the Bad, who assassinated him. Despite this sad tale, his story lives on and continues to inspire people to spread the Good News of Jesus that, as the angels proclaimed, is good news of great joy for all people (Luke 22:10), and seek to alleviate poverty in the world. Wenceslas's remains are interred in St Vitus's cathedral in Prague, and he was recently made patron saint of the Czech Republic. The last verse challenges us all to live more like him and look to the needs of others.

*Therefore, Christian men, be sure wealth or rank possessing,
Ye who now will bless the poor shall yourselves find blessing.*





Editor's Ramblings

(UN)EXPECT(ING)

I often have to ask my son if he is expecting any parcels and if he is will a signature be needed. The answer often is "Yes Dad."

Recently he was expecting a delivery by special post on a Friday, which he paid extra for. Unexpectedly it turned up on Wednesday!

When my wife had an unexpected fall not far from home and had a nasty cut above her eye a gentleman and a lady in another car stopped and helped us home (just a few yards away). The lady called for an ambulance and within minutes a paramedic arrived. We were advised to go to hospital as she needed stitches, and the lady who stopped to help took us to St. Peter's, stayed with us, and brought us back home. She was French and said if we ever needed any help to let her know. She helped out at Knaphill Care. As it so happened I needed a lift to St. Peter's myself and as my daughter was away and all my church friends were unable to help I gave her a ring. Popped the question



and yes only too pleased to take you she said and did. Another angel in my life. We did take her some flowers as a thank you.

We had two unexpected phone calls from friends of the church youth club who we grew up with saying that two of our friends had been called home to be with the Lord.

Of course phone calls can be unexpectedly sad or good news.

Our Granddaughter Pippa was expecting her first baby on December 3rd. She arrived on December 2nd - early! We now have our first Great Granddaughter - 8lb, 6oz, and her name is Phoebe India, and both mother and baby are doing well. (Have you ever known a girl to be early! !)

Life is full of expectations one way or the other. We have just celebrated the birth of a new life. Born into a Christian family where she will be loved and nurtured in the ways of the Lord.

Two thousand plus years ago God sent His unexpected gift into the world. Freely given and unexpected, sent to us in God's time.

A free gift for all to receive. The choice is yours.

Of course Christmas is about giving and receiving, what are you expecting?

**And finally, I wish you all a happy and joyful
Christmas.**

1 John 5, verses 14 - 15



It doesn't seem possible it's December already. It's been quite a year.

My thanks to everyone who has contributed to the News Letter, and thanks to Ray my son who does all the typing and technical bits, otherwise this might not happen.

What about YOU writing something, maybe something you have experienced and would like to share.

For all who took part in the Questionnaire, thank you. I have always seen the need for vision for the work of the church. Vision means action so again thanks to Ruth for starting a quiz team and

to Susan for starting the Knaphill Fellowship group 18 - 80 plus meeting on Thursday evenings at 7-30. Please support these events and let others know what is going on. Small beginnings can grow into something big.

SHOE BOXES

Our thanks to everybody who supplied shoe boxes and gave money to Ruth to help to do many more. It is with grateful thanks that we were able to send 162 boxes to lots of unexpected smiling faces to give children somewhere a happy Christmas.

Fellowship News



Mick and Rita

In mid October we said our fond farewell to Mick and Rita as they prepared to move to a new home in (God's own country) Yorkshire.

On behalf of the church they were presented a gift of a leaded framed glass cross by Julia, who thanked them for all their love and loyal service to the church.

The four years we were without a Minister Mick preached for us Sunday mornings and evenings and Rita looked after the Tuesday Women's Fellowship.

We all have fond memories of them both and wish them every happiness in their new home.

Christmas

Blow up the balloons, hang up the chain,
Light up the tree, it's Christmas again.

Hear the Angels, follow the star,
shepherds in field, Kings from afar.

Cries of delight, presents unwrapping,
Jesus is come, everyone clapping.

burst the balloon, remove the chains,
Christmas has past, nothing remains.

Angels are silent, star is now gone,
shepherds forgotten, Kings have moved on

Cries of despair, love is lacking
Jesus forgotten, nobody clapping.

God in His Heaven, watching above,
Calls to His children, remember my love.

I came to bless, to take away fear,
Remember it's Christmas, all of the year.

Forget the balloon, undress the tree,
Follow the star and REMEMBER ME.

This poem was submitted by George Fletcher who was a friend of
the Church of Christ and who often came to preach



January – No Birthdays

February 13th Eileen Webber
14th Judy Spink
20th Eileen Byde
25th Sylvia Elliott

March 1st Ruth Moore
2nd Mick Dennison

This is the difference your gift can make:



£35
can provide a special pressure relieving mattress for a patient with spinal injuries at Surkhet clinic, Nepal, essential for their return home



£20
can pay for a nurse for two days at Guinebor II Hospital in Chad, a country with one of the highest maternal and child mortality rates in the world. With your help, we can save lives within this poor community



£11
can help us employ a care worker for four days at Hope Home, Thailand, giving love and medical care to the children with disabilities

Your gift will help to transform lives - thank you!

A Special Letter



When you got up this morning, I was right there, eager to share the new day with you. But in the kitchen over coffee, you turned the radio on. Back in the bedroom, it was a mad rush to get ready for work.

So I waited



When the trains were late, you sat idle on the station platform for fifteen minutes. I hoped you might share that time with me, but instead you phoned a friend to get the latest gossip. Finally on the train, you buried yourself in your newspaper. .

So I waited.



At work, of course, you were hectically busy all morning. At lunch I thought you might just remember me for a moment, because you paused before you started to eat - but then you recognised some people nearby, and the moment was gone. As was the rest of the afternoon back at work.

So I waited..



I hoped we might have a quiet word on the way home on the train, but you dozed off. At home there was supper to make, and then various household jobs to do.

So I waited.



Finally you had finished for the day. You collapsed on the couch with a hot drink and looked around you. I drew close, eager for you to turn to me. But you reached for the remote control, and on went the telly. I backed off – I know from experience that I can't win when it comes to competing with a quiz show.

So I waited.



Now you are tucked up in bed again, feeling worried about several things and generally worn out. The Bible is right beside your bed, full of my words of love and comfort for you. But sadly somehow, the latest issue of your favourite magazine has been put on top of it, and so you reach for that instead.

In a little while you will be asleep, and I shall take up my loving guard and protection over you for yet another night. I will wait. I love you so much that I will Wait for you again tomorrow. But it is hard to have a one-sided conversation.

Your friend,

Jesus

Ruth's Page

Here's a set of fairly random trivia questions to get you thinking about Christmas. How many questions can you answer before checking the answers at the bottom of the page?

- 1) Which Old Testament prophet predicted the miraculous virgin birth of Christ?
- 2) Which two of the four Gospels make no mention of the birth of Christ?
- 3) Which carol began in the ancient church as one single word and what was that word?
- 4) How many miles did Mary and Joseph have to travel to get to Bethlehem?
- 5) How many angels spoke to the shepherds?
- 6) In which carol do 'shepherds quake at the sight' of a host of angels?
- 7) As well as a gift from the wise men, at what other times was myrrh associated with Jesus?
- 8) Which animals does the Bible say were present at the birth of Jesus?
- 9) Which carol was voted No. 1 carol by Classic FM listeners in 2016?
- 10) Which carol came second?
- 11) What is the name of the priest who was told he would not die until he saw the Saviour?
- 12) Who wrote the words for the carol "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing!"?
- 13) What was the original first line of the carol?
- 14) Who was the father of Jesus?
- 15) In which country would traveling troubadours go from town to town singing songs, reciting poetry and carrying the news of the day, often calling "Noel, noel, noel!" to indicate that an important birth was about to be announced?
- 16) Can you translate these carols from Latin?
 - a) Adeste fidelis
 - b) O parum civitate Bethleem
 - c) Regis olim urbe David
 - d) Gaudium mundo
 - e) Tacet nox

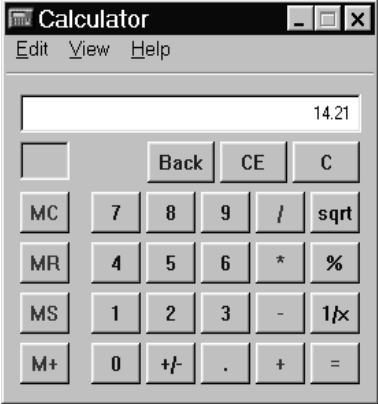
Volo vobis felix Nativitatis Domini

I wish you a happy Christmas

1. Isaiah (Isaiah 7:14); 2. Mark & John; 3. The antiphon anticipating the advent of Christ consisted of a long, drawn-out "Oh!" called "The Great O of Advent," intended to express a deep sense of longing for the coming of the Saviour. As time went by, other phrases were added and in 1851 it was translated into English and became the carol, "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"; 4. 80 miles; 5. One; (Matthew 2:9); 6. Silent Night; 7. At His crucifixion (Mark 15:23) and burial (John 19:38-40); 8. There is no mention of any animals in the New Testament, but Isaiah 1:3 says "The ox knows his master, the donkey his owner's manger" which could mean they would be present at the birth; 8. O Holy night; 9. Silent Night; 10. Simeon (Luke 2:25-35); 11. Charles Wesley; 12. Hark, how all the welkin rings!" (welkin is an old word for the sky); 14. God; 15. France; 16. a. Come all ye faithful; b. O little town of Bethlehem; c. Once in Royal David's City; d. Joy to the World; e. Silent Night.

From The Treasurer's Calculator

Did you know you can contribute to church funds by shopping online?



Give As You Live run a scheme where a small percentage of what you spend at internet retailers is given to a cause of your choice. The list of retailers is pretty wide, for example Amazon, Boots, John Lewis, Sainsbury's, Argos, and Lakeland will all donate between 1 & 2% of your order value. For others it's as much as 3%. All you have to do is sign up at GiveAsYouLive.com, pick and save

Knaphill Baptist Church as your charity, then each time you go online shopping. make sure you connect via GiveAsYouLive.com. The internet fairies then make the rest happen as if by magic.

There are some other innovative ways to give as well listed in our leaflet "Giving" as well as some useful thoughts about how and why to give. I commend it to you.

December is the time of year when the budget for next year has to be put together. Most of what we budget for is routine expenditure, straightforward, and barring unexpected bills for anything that breaks, we normally run pretty much on target.

But what about the “real” work of the church? What should we be budgeting for 2018? I would love to hear your thoughts. I’m not promising everything will make it in, but I do promise to listen!

Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes – how did we do?



Many thanks to everyone who helped towards sending an amazing 162 shoeboxes from the Church to needy children around the world through the Operation Christmas Child campaign. Whether you supported the campaign by giving filled shoeboxes or by giving donations to use to make and send shoeboxes, your contribution will mean so much to the children who receive the gifts. In all, the GU/KT area was able to process and send 16,247 shoeboxes this year. This is quite a large drop from last year's figures and caused by a number of different factors, but mostly because of the increase in the suggested donation and the fact that many other organisations now run similar schemes. But it makes the shoeboxes that we were able to send even more valuable!

Finally I'd like to wish you all a blessed and peaceful Christmas, and that 2018 is all you hope and pray for.

Eric

Our recent offering figures...Thank you.

[illegible]