

## MINISTER'S LETTER



Of all the stories in the Bible, it's the Christmas story that I love most. This has always been the case. I love it for so many reasons, of course. Undoubtedly some of those reasons are bound up with my own childhood and with memories of my dad reading Dick Bruna's *The Christmas Book* to us all by the light of our Christmas tree, just before we put out a mince pie and a glass of milk (ours was a good Methodist household!) and hung up our stockings.

Whilst I no longer make sense of the Christmas story in the same way that I did as a child, still my love for it remains. In fact, my love for it increases as each year passes. And this, I think, is because it says so many things to us.

Among those many things, this story says that the God who created the universe, the God whom the Church worships as being the origin of all that is, seen and unseen, the God who seemingly has the power to do absolutely anything, in fact chooses to enter the world through the risky process of human childbirth – a process that comes with no guarantees, as so many people discover at great cost.

But this in turn says something remarkable about God's view of the world and God's priorities does it not?

It says that God is prepared to take risks for us.

It says that God is prepared to be made vulnerable for us.

It says that God will always put love first.

The Christmas story proclaims that, when God chose people to bring Jesus into the world, God didn't choose to work through people who were in a position to offer the best medical care that money can buy to somehow reduce the risks of childbirth. No. Instead, the story tells us, God chose a young couple able to offer only a stinking slum for a birthplace - knowing that these two people would be prepared to do anything to bring this child into the world, even if it meant living with the stigma and shame of an unexpected pregnancy. Somehow God knew that they'd be prepared to do anything – even become refugees and asylum

seekers in a strange land – to protect their child.

This Christmastime, let us consider what this story says to us, firstly, about how God views the world and, secondly, about God's priorities. Then, in the light of what we discover, let us ask ourselves some questions:

Are we prepared to take risks for God?

Are we prepared to be made vulnerable for God?

Do we always put love first?

Are we the sort of people that God could use to reveal Christ to the world?

Wishing you a challenging but also a joyful and peaceful Christmas.

With every blessing

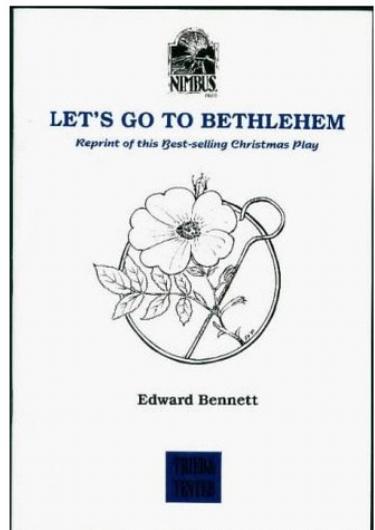
*Paul*

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## **SIGMA CHRISTMAS PRODUCTION**

This years SIGMA Christmas production is called 'Lets Go To Bethlehem' by Edward Bennett. It is a production of three short plays. It will be on for one night only, which will be on Sunday 18th December at 8pm. This hopefully will give people in the circuit time to get across to Martin Way if they have their carol service that day.

We will be adding our own favourite Christmas songs and new ones to the production, so please book that date in your diaries now and join us on the 18th December.



## **Tribute to Doreen Warren**

We give thanks to God for the life of Doreen, our friend, sister, fellow member and hostess of our house group, the house group that together with Fred had been running for many years. Over the years, we have met and shared together, we got to know Doreen very well and subsequently we feel that we know her family intimately. A mutual trust developed as she opened not only her home but herself to us.



Doreen would take her turn at leading the study and made it alive and interesting with her illustrations of the Holy Land for example.

The regular meetings of Bible study, discussion and prayer and the time of chat over a cuppa provided support, love and care for Doreen and each one of us. We of course enjoyed Doreen's renowned baking.

Quite often on the day of our meeting, Doreen would have a fresh copy of the Methodist Recorder and would highlight articles of interest, such as the new president of the conference. She was always up to date with current events. Doreen and her diaries went hand in hand, referred to frequently when sharing information with us and giving detailed accounts of past events.

Doreen had a wealth of knowledge and experience gained from her work in Fleet Street, helping with Merton Youth, as an active Church member enjoying the choir and Midways. She was a long term member of the Martin Way Mission and Service, acting in the role of Chair. Not forgetting her other role as wife, parent and grandparent. We, as a house group were the recipients of all this information which we treasure and will miss.

Her strong faith was evident as she loved to read the scriptures and quite often would like to read and be eager to read the whole passage while the next person was waiting to take part! She didn't even need glasses. Recently a comment was made how well she had read and her curt reply

was ‘ I should be, after all I’ve been doing it a long time and had plenty of practice!’

Joyce would like to add a comment on Doreen’s colourful scarves and her frequent comment, ‘Don’t get old, Joyce, don’t get old!’. Bill Goodrum also expresses his appreciation of Doreen and Fred always being there for him. Music was their common factor especially with regards to Bill’s late wife Betty.

My role as Pastoral Visitor wasn’t that much different from what we were doing within the house group, we cared for each other. The main difference was the one-to-one contact which provided time to talk, to listen, to be quiet in the privacy of her home. I was privileged to hear more of Doreen’s life and family. She spoke proudly of Bill and Liz, Rachel and David, Julia and Will.

A verse that we read recently was 1 Pet 3:8 *Live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic; love as brothers(sisters); be compassionate and humble.* This best describes Doreen.

*Moira Bailey*

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### **Doreen Lillian Warren**

*The following is the address that Rev Paul Timmis gave at Doreen's Thanksgiving Service.*

*It has been edited by Joyce Plant to be used in the Newsletter.*



Doreen Lilian Young was born in Tooting on 15th February 1926, the only child born to Lilian and William Young. William was Company Secretary for Cusden’s Builder’s Merchants and Lilian a nurse at Belgrade Children’s Hospital.

In December 1931 the family moved to the developing area of Merton Park and to a brand new road, Springfield Avenue. It was this house that was to provide Doreen with some of her earliest memories. Doreen

would later recall sitting in a child's wicker chair in front of a blazing open fire in a room that seemed so enormous after their previous house. She'd also speak of other relatives moving into their new home with them and recount how her father quite reasonably asked how much they'd be able to contribute by way of rent only to be told that they had no money and wouldn't be able to make any kind of financial contribution. They undoubtedly contributed in other ways, however. Having Doreen's mother's younger brother and three sisters (one complete with husband) make the move with them, was wonderful for Doreen and in Jack, who was only 17, Doreen found an uncle who for her became more a brother.

And there were other relationships made possible because of the move. Doreen very quickly met and became best friends with June Parker, who'd already moved in next door but one. Together they'd play in the back garden, frequently pretending to be rabbits. So close were they that that it's been said that Doreen and June were more like sisters. They'd later be bridesmaids for one another and it was to be a lifelong friendship.

In 1934 something was to happen that was to change Doreen's life forever. When Martin Way Methodist Church opened its doors for the first time, no one could've foreseen quite how significant this would be for Doreen. Nor could anyone have guessed that the church would play so central a part in Doreen's life. Back in 1934 the two big attractions that the church held for Doreen were 1) that there'd be Brownies and 2) she'd heard that there'd be coloured chairs to sit on. Doreen was subsequently thrilled to join the Brownies but was very disappointed to be told that she was too old to sit on the coloured chairs! In those days, in order to belong to the Brownies, you had to attend Sunday School, so Doreen started going along on Sunday afternoons as well.

Thus began a relationship. And, in the years that followed, this place and the relationships forged her, provided more than a backdrop for Doreen's life. This place - and these relationships - would come to define to a large extent the life that Doreen was to live and the person she grew to be. Not that Doreen was aware of this back then.

By the time Doreen left school, the country was at war. Whilst her mother encouraged her to be a nurse, Doreen was adamant that that wasn't the

career path for her. Instead, at the age of 16, and following two years at the Wimbledon Day Commercial School, Doreen obtained a position at Benn Brothers publishers in Fleet Street.

She loved her job and the life it offered – especially the evening functions that she was obliged to attend at places like the Grosvenor House Hotel. She also enjoyed watching the Victory Parade at the end of the war and other processions pass her office. It was while she was working in Fleet Street that Doreen celebrated her 21st birthday – with dinner for a party of close friends and relatives in a private room at the Cafe Royale followed by the show, “Piccadilly Hayride”, with limousines to take and collect them through the snow. It was an occasion she talked about all her life.

At work, Doreen took her responsibilities very seriously, including once when she had to organise a golf tournament for her boss. She was furious when she discovered that one of the entrants, “A. Driver”, turned out to be a certain Fred Warren. She was also unimpressed when he drove up to Fleet Street to meet her from work in his builder’s truck.

Doreen’s social life was based around the Church, including the Tennis Club and the Music Circle. She was a Youth Club Leader, an interest she maintained for many years. Most importantly, it was here that she met the aforementioned Fred Warren, the son of a local builder.

Recognising the opportunities that it might present, Fred invited Doreen on the Christians 1948 Conference in Reading – a conference that Fred was attending as a Circuit delegate. Doreen accepted and they enjoyed a great week of teaching sessions, outings and evening walks. In addition, it not only led to them accompanying a coach load of Swedish visitors on a tour of the UK, it also resulted in them enjoying, with Fred’s sister Muriel, a two-week exchange trip to Sweden. It was on their return from Sweden that romance blossomed and, in early February 1954 in the office of the builder’s yard in Crown Lane, Fred proposed to Doreen and, having called in at a jewellers in Wimbledon to choose the ring, Fred and Doreen headed into London for a celebratory meal at the fashionable restaurant, Pruniers.

Fred and Doreen were married on Easter Saturday 17th April 1954, at Martin Way Methodist Church. Where else? Celebrations continued at the Old Crown Inn, in Morden, followed by a weeks honeymoon in Bournemouth.

This was a joyful time for Doreen, of course. But it was a painful one too. With married life to begin in a rented flat in Bristol, as Fred was working down there, Doreen reluctantly gave up her job to move with him. Doreen was devastated to be leaving work and, on her last journey home, cried as she made her way over Waterloo Bridge.

The time spent in Bristol was brief. They moved back in the August, as Fred's Dad wanted him back working for the family business and had even found a house that he thought would suit them. So it was that the summer of 1954 duly saw Fred and Doreen move into 17 Woodville Road. This was to be home for Doreen and Fred for the rest of their lives.

In November 1955 Bill was born and Doreen became a full-time mum. Julia arrived 3½ years later, in March 1959. At home, Doreen loved her garden and her cake making skills were legendary. She knew everyone's favourites and there was always a full larder when Julia and Bill's friends visited. Despite the plentiful supply of cakes and puddings, Doreen always maintained that she and Fred ate very healthily. She was proud of her "fat-free sponge" – which she served smothered in cream!

Doreen enjoyed family holidays - to Bognor, Eastbourne and the New Forest - despite their tendency to end in the casualty department of a nearby hospital. Later she and Fred would add Scotland and Guernsey to their list of holiday destinations.

Despite her commitment to family life, Doreen maintained her interest in youth work and was appointed Honorary Secretary to the Management Committee of the new John Innes Youth Centre on the Kingston Road in the mid-60s. Although a voluntary position, Doreen was highly committed and motivated and devoted a great deal of her time to the work. Only recently she was remembering how, in later years, she'd had

to show a young Theresa May round the Centre, then just starting out on her political career as a local councillor.

And Doreen was always very involved at Martin Way. She loved singing in the Choir and arranging flowers. She also served on the Church Council and numerous committees, and, of course, she hosted a house group for many years. She was a founder member of Midways, and later President for around 20 years.

There were, I'm sure, many memorable meetings over the years. But one that stuck in Doreen's mind was a committee meeting she attended at a member's house in Circle Gardens. The house had a large front garden with two gates – one for the path leading to the house, the other for a path leading to a garden pond. I'm guessing that it was an evening meeting but somehow Doreen went through the wrong gate and ended up in the pond. She was unhurt, but soaked through, so the lady whose house it was lent her a rather glamorous dressing gown to wear for the meeting. What perturbed Doreen more than anything was that nobody at the meeting commented that she was wearing anything unusual. Nor did Fred notice when she came home still wearing the dressing gown. Though that was perhaps rather less surprising!

In 1988, Doreen and Fred joined a pilgrimage to the Holy Land with a group from the Church. This had a profound effect on Doreen and she'd often talk about the places they'd visited and the experiences they'd had on this trip.

Doreen and Fred enjoyed a long and close relationship, in which they celebrated not only their silver, ruby and golden wedding anniversaries together, but also the birth of their children (as has been mentioned) and, in time, their grandchildren, Rachel and David. It was then a huge loss when, following some weeks of serious illness, Fred died in December 2008. In the days, weeks, months and years that followed it was the two other great loves in her life - her family and her church - that kept Doreen going.

And, of course, and especially over the last three years – which weren't the easiest for Doreen, coping not only with life without Fred but also

with her own increasing frailty - Doreen was more than grateful for the support she received from her friends at Martin Way, in particular the Friday Luncheon Club which she positively looked forward to.

The family meal that Doreen so enjoyed just days before she died - a belated celebration of Muriel's birthday but also a wonderful opportunity to celebrate Rachel's 18th - was tinged with regret only because it coincided with and meant that Doreen had to send her apologies to the Luncheon Club.

But whatever Doreen received she gave back a hundredfold. She served the church in so many ways over the years - in the roles mentioned and no doubt in numerous others besides - that it's almost impossible to list them. Though she undoubtedly could've done. But just as importantly she served in quiet ways, offering unwavering care and support to so many. And she became the keeper of this community's memory and oral history. Just as it's impossible to think of Doreen and not think of this church, the reverse is equally true - it's almost impossible to think of life here without Doreen being around. Almost as impossible perhaps as it is for you - Doreen's much-loved family and friends to contemplate life without her.

Yet we must. With Julia visiting and staying over as she did every week, and after feeling unwell overnight, Doreen died unexpectedly but peacefully at home on Thursday 3rd November 2011. And though she will long live on in our hearts and in our memories, her death will leave a big gap in the lives of her family and friends and in the life of this church.

She is with her God. And her God is with her. The tears are no more. Death has been passed. Mourning, crying and pain are things of the past.

For us and for Doreen the journey continues. And we can be sure, I'd think, that Doreen will be pleased with that - it'll give her so much to talk about. Doreen, may you continue to know the holding and the hand that holds.

*Rev Paul Timmis*

## **My recent visit to Canada**

During my six weeks in Canada, spending a big part of the time with my family, I was able to spend 10 days in Antigonish, Nova Scotia. Antigonish, is a small town situated between Halifax and Cape Breton.

One of its common surnames is Chisholm, also my mother's family name. Scottish ancestors first settled in Arisaig in the late 1700s and later at St. Andrews. After the American Revolution, groups of Black Loyalists settled in many areas of Antigonish County. Many descendants of these settlers continue to reside there today.

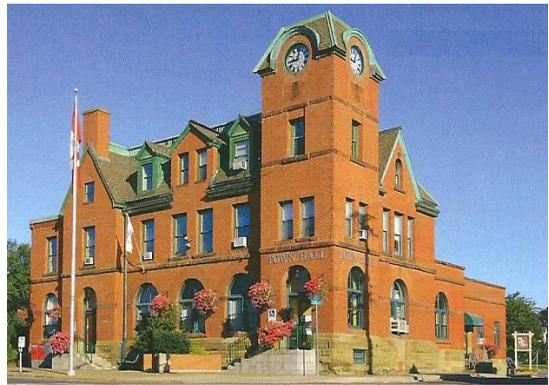
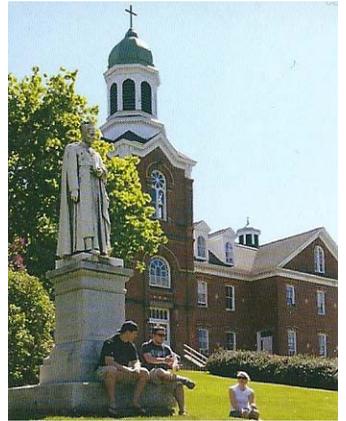
In the 1800's priests were sent out from different parts of Scotland to serve in Antigonish and other parts of Nova Scotia. Antigonish is also the Highland Centre where the games are held annually.

The town is known for its University St. Francis Xavier. When I attended St James United Church there were a number of mature international students who had recently arrived for the new term of the Coady International Institute which was established by St. Francis Xavier University in 1959 and named after Reverend Dr. Moses Coady. The Institute works with innovative people and organisations to create effective, practical and sustainable solutions to reduce global poverty and injustice. Coady accomplishes this through leadership education, active partnership and research. The Institute also engages in initiatives to help young Canadians become active global citizens. These students from Coady representing countries in Africa, Middle East and Asia had been invited to a 'Pot luck' lunch where I was fortunate to meet with them.

As I was free on the day of the Bible study, I joined with about 14 others and participated in the study and discussion led by the Minister using material 'Why pray?' from a DVD of author Philip Yancey . I had the joy of hearing the author earlier this year at the Christian Resource Exhibition.

This has been one of my best and most interesting visits to a country that is my second home.

*Moir Bailey*





MARTIN WAY METHODIST

# One Big at Chr

**Sunday 4th December**

*3.00pm craft and messy play  
4.30pm story and sharing time  
4.45pm seasonal tasty treats*



CHURCH INVITES YOU TO

g Family

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All welcome, the more the merrier. Oh and it's free!

*More information: Abby 8543 9093/ Rebecca 8337 2348*

## THE CHRISMON TREE



Every year we have a decorated Christmas Tree at the front of the church. How many of you are aware it is The Chrismon Tree?

The Chrismon Tree originated in the Lutheran Church in Danville, Virginia, U.S.A. over thirty years ago, and since then the basic idea has been developed and has spread throughout the world. Its growth in Britain in the past ten years has been rapid and widespread.

The idea is that the Christmas tree we have in church should serve as a witness to God's Love and Glory, as well as being a decoration. Therefore Christian symbols are used that remind us of various aspects of our faith and the Life of Christ. The decorations are made by the people of the church and they use their imagination to interpret the symbols using a variety of talents and materials.

**The tree** points to heaven and is an evergreen, symbolising the eternal life available in Christ. It provides the background for tiny white lights, and white and gold Christmons

**The lights** speak of Him who is the Light of the World.

**The Christmons** (Christ Monograms) proclaim the name; life and saving acts of Jesus.

**The colours** are symbolic too.

**White** is the liturgical colour for Christmas, and suggests the innocence, purity and perfection of Christ.

**Gold** is the symbolic colour for the glory and majesty of God.

## The Symbols and Monograms

The cross is, of course, always a reminder of Christ's death, and its different forms have different meanings.



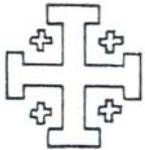
**Latin Cross** with its long upright, is the most widely used form of cross among Christians.

**Cross of Glory.** The rising sun behind the cross suggests the new day when Christ conquered death by His resurrection.



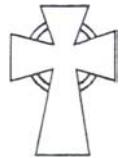
**Anchor Cross.** The cross of hope. Christ the Hope of the World. Or a cross rising from a crescent moon a symbol for our Lord's mother.

**Cross over the world.** Christ over all the world. Christ died for the whole world. A world united in Christ.



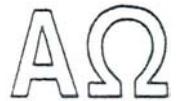
**Jerusalem Cross.** The cross of Crusader Kings made of five crosses.

**Celtic Cross.** Cross and circle representing eternal life.



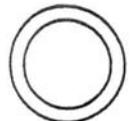
**IHS.** From the Greek word ISHOYS meaning Jesus.

**Alpha and Omega.** The first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. A symbol of divinity, since only God is before and after all things. *Revelation 22: 13.*



**Chi Rho.** The most widely known Chrismon is this group of the first letters of the Greek word CHRISTOS (XPISTOS). Chi Rho (x p) is the oldest monogram for Christ, and was commonly used by the early church.

**Circle.** Eternity. God the Eternal one, or eternal life with God.



**Triangle.** 3 equal sides. Holy Trinity. God in three persons.



**Trefoil.** Holy Trinity. Three in one. Three leaflets on one stem illustrating the triune God.

**Fleur-de-Lys.** Holy Trinity. Also the flower of the Virgin Mary.



**Lamb.** A scriptural symbol for Christ. The Lamb of God.

**Shepherd's Crook.** Jesus said, 'I am the Good Shepherd'.



**Crown.** The Kingship of our Lord. His victory over sin and death. His place of honour at the right hand of God.

**Crown of Thorns.** Not a pretty decoration, but it is a reminder of the crown of suffering that Jesus wore.



**Fish.** An ancient symbol for Christ. It was a sign during early Christianity's persecution. On catacomb walls, fish pointed to places of worship. IXOYS, the Greek word for fish formed an acrostic of the Greek phrase -Jesus (I) Christ (X) God's (O) Son (Y) Saviour (S).

**Butterfly.** A symbol of resurrection. Christ's and ours in Him.



**Lily.** Another symbol of resurrection. Often also used at Easter because of this.

**Dove.** A descending dove is the symbol of the Holy spirit. Symbolic too of peace, it reminds us of the Prince of Peace.





**Seven tongued flame.** Symbolising The Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, and the seven gifts of the Holy spirit.

**Shell and Pearls.** Symbolic of Baptism, with three pearls symbolising three drops of water. Baptism in the threefold name. The shell is also a symbol used by Pilgrims and Methodism.



**Pearl.** The word of God.

**Wheat.** The Bread of Life. A reminder of the Body of Christ given for us.



**Grapes.** A reminder of the blood of Christ that was shed for us.



**Chalice.** Symbolising the Last Supper and Holy Communion.



**Daisy.** A flower of simplicity and innocence reminding us of the innocence of the Christ-child and the simplicity of His birth.

**Stars** remind us of the star that shone at Bethlehem to mark the birth of Jesus.

- 4 points - star Etoile (Star Cross)
- 5 points - Epiphany
- 6 points - Creators Star
- 7 points - Gifts of the Spirit
- 8 points - Baptism-Regeneration
- Several multi-pointed stars - Heaven.
- Star of David. (A Jewish symbol) - Creation



**Angels.** Symbolise the nativity of the Lord for they proclaimed His birth

*Below is a sermon that Moira brought back from her visit to Canada. It was published in the local paper from the first Sunday service; several churches contribute to this opportunity of sharing and witnessing. This is by Rev. Peter Smith who is the minister at St. James United Church in Antigonish, Canada.*

I wasn't surprised to hear the Bible mentioned in recent conversation about vandalism at the Scout Camp in Sunny Brae. After senseless crimes there is often a suggestion that if the Ten Commandments (Ex 20:2-17) were taught in school or posted publicly that our province would be a better place to live. I sincerely wish that complex problems in society were that easy to solve but the truth is that most people, even those with no connection to church, know the commandments.



We may not be able to list them in order or remember the exact wording but we know that it is wrong to steal, to kill, to break vows, to lie, to want things that don't belong to us and that we should respect family members. In faith we understand that God does not want us to worship anything but God, that our words and what we say are important, and that we should keep one day a week as a Sabbath.

None of those rules are surprising or new to us because the Ten Commandments are well known. Our problem is keeping them.

We know what God asks but make excuses or deny we are doing anything wrong thinking that we are the exception to the rules. Of course that isn't anything new either.

From the time Moses delivered them onward, people have broken the commandments and suffered the consequences. Yet we keep looking for loopholes and imagining reasons why we don't need to follow them.

That sort of approach is why Jesus forced the discussion of how we should behave into a different direction when asked about the greatest

commandment (Mt 22:36-40). Instead of singling out a specific law he goes behind the laws to say where they came from and why they are important. Jesus asks us to use love as a measure for judging our behaviour - love for God and love for neighbour.

Paul in his letter to the Romans (13:8-10) picks up this theme by reminding us that as believers if we start with love as our motivation and seek to love others and love God then we don't need to give any more thought to the Ten Commandments because we will already be keeping them.

For if we love God we will not worship anything else or profane God in any way and will keep our lives holy. If we love our neighbour we will treasure life and the promises we make as well as respecting the possessions others have and their place in our lives.

For the solution to the problems of our world, especially violence against property and people, will never come from loudly demanding that people should not do those things. A better world comes about when we encourage each other to love and perform good deeds. If we model and support right relationships with others and God, then we will change the world from what it is into something closer to heaven.

*Rev. Peter Smith*

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## **One Big Family at Christmas**

**One Big family at Christmas** is on Sunday, 4th December to which everyone, young and not so young, are invited. The programme for the afternoon is:

- 3.00pm - Craft and messy play
- 4.30pm - Story and sharing time
- 4.45pm Seasonal tasty treats
- and enjoy the Christmas trees in the church at any time.





## **MARTIN WAY TOY SERVICE 4<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2011**

### **CHRISTIAN CARE ASSOCIATION**

We would like presents – new or as good as new – to give to the boys and girls aged between 1 month and 11 years who attend the Christian Care Association New Year Party.

**For babies and toddlers** – rattles, bath toys, pull-along toys, puzzles, anything from Thomas the Tank Engine/Bob the Builder ranges, phones, baby dolls, building blocks.

**Cars, trucks, trains, Lego, games** – appropriate for different ages.

**Dolls** - including anything from Action Man, Spider Man and Superman

**Outdoor Games** - footballs, skittles etc.

**Stationery** – crayons, gel pens, pencils, pencil cases, drawing books, photo album, disposable camera.

**Books** – fun activity and story books for all ages, but appropriate for children where English is not their first language

**Clothes etc** – hats, scarves, gloves, pretty tights, backpacks, bags, umbrellas, jewellery.

*Sorry but we cannot accept toys and games with batteries which have to be replaced. We cannot use jigsaws and games with small pieces that are easily lost such as Monopoly and Scrabble, nor War games or soft toys.*

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### **MORDEN CAROL SINGING**



It's that time of the year that we serenade the commuters of Morden.

Once again we will be raising money for the National Children's Home and would welcome as many people to come along and join in the singing of carols at Morden Underground Station.

We will be meeting at the Station on Monday 19th and Wednesday 21st December and plan to start singing at 5.00pm and should finish about 7.00pm both of these days.



**BibleLands**  
Christian love in action

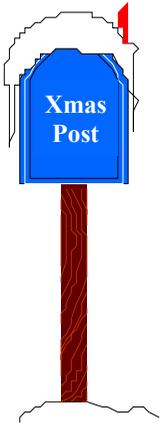
Another year is drawing to a close and yet again it is time to say ‘Thank You’ to everyone who has supported this small, but very worthwhile charity - whether by donations, purchasing cards or gifts from their Annual Catalogue, collecting stamps (always gratefully received).

The Stamp Fellowship raised over £6,000 in one year for the work of the Helen Keller Centre for the Visually Impaired in Jerusalem, so your giving really does make such a difference to the vulnerable and disadvantaged in the Middle East. A heartfelt ‘Thank You’ from the charity and from us, bless you each and everyone.

*Mary and Derek Heaton*

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## **CHRISTMAS POST BOX AND CARDS**



The church Christmas post box will be outside the vestry from Sunday 4th December until Friday 16th December for those sending Christmas cards to members of the church community. Cards will be ready for collection on Sunday 18th December.

As in previous years, you are invited to make a donation which will go to Methodist Homes for the Aged. (In doing so you may wish to remember that you are saving 36p for each card posted in the church post box!)

Please address all cards clearly using surnames and initials or forenames to avoid confusion. (We have several Smiths and several Gwens!)

If you prefer, you are welcome to post a single card addressed to the whole church family. Such cards will be placed on display panels in the vestibule on Sunday 18th December.

# CHURCH DIARY



Sat	3	10.00 am	Big Brunch
Sun	4	10.30 am	Toy/Gift Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
		3.00-6.00 pm	One Big Family at Christmas
Tue	6	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Fri	9	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sun	11	10.30 am	Morning Service led by Tony Loft
Tue	13	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		6.30 pm	Men's Supper Club - <i>Christmas party with Midways- Margaret Wilson on Harp</i>
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Weds	14	7.45 pm	Midways Group - <i>Mince Pies and Carols</i>
Sun	18	10.30am	Nativity Service with Holy Communion led by Rev Paul Timmis
		7.00pm	SIGMA presents "Lets Go To Bethlehem" - A Special Christmas production
Mon	19	5.00pm	Carol Singing for NCH at Morden Station
Tue	20	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Weds	21	5.00pm	Carol Singing for NCH at Morden Station
Sat	24	5.30pm	Christingle Service
		11.30pm	Midnight Communion at Martin Way
Sun	25	10.30am	Christmas Day Service led by Rev Paul Timmis

# CHURCH DIARY



Sun	1	10.30 am	All Age Worship led by Tony Loft
Fri	6	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sun	8	10.30am	Covenant Service with Holy Communion led by Rev Paul Timmis
		6.30 pm	Mark Williamson Accreditation Service at Raynes Park Methodist Church
Weds	11	7.45 pm	Midways Group - <i>Memories of Springfield Ave</i> - Rosemary Keen
Sat	14	10.00 am	Big Brunch
Sun	15	10.30am	Morning Service led by David Eagle
Tues	17	7.30 pm	Men's Supper Club - <i>Member's Evening</i>
Weds	19	8.00 pm	Church Council Meeting
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Fri	20	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sun	22	10.30am	Morning Service led by Mark Williamson
		6.30 pm	United Service at St Mary's Parish Church, Merton Park
Sun	29	10.30 am	Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis

*Please refer to the Website ([www.martinway.org.uk](http://www.martinway.org.uk)) or Weekly Notice Sheet for any additional information*

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## Poppy Appeal 2011



Many thanks for your continuing support.  
The Church and Lunch Club combined raised the sum of  
**£78.79.**

*Fred & Eileen Handy*

We wish all of those who celebrate a birthday  
in either December or January a very

***Happy Birthday***

and especially to:



**Natalie Johnson on 2nd December**  
**Kabelo Sepanya on 13th December**  
**Zandile Sepanya on 16th December**  
**Kutloano Sepanya on 19th December**  
**Floyd Sepanya on 24th December**  
**Christopher Sweby on 23rd January**

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## The **Buzz**

The BUZZ celebrated its **100th birthday** edition in November. For more than 8 years, the monthly newsletter has been keeping Methodists in the loop with news from churches across the Connexion. Its small circulation has grown into a list of thousands of people who all signed up to receive the email. When The BUZZ began, we were struggling to find stories that fitted the bill. Now we have a rich backlog of stories as well as an online archive hosted on the Methodist Church website. We appreciate every story that we receive.



The BUZZ is a great resource that brings the whole Methodist Connexion together and allows us to share what's happening in our districts, circuits, churches and church groups. If you have any stories you would like to share, which illustrate how your church is working out the four aspects of Our Calling, then please get in touch with me. I look forward to receiving your news and stories via my email address, which is [burkek@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:burkek@methodistchurch.org.uk).

Sign up for your e-mail copy of The Buzz at [www.methodist.org.uk](http://www.methodist.org.uk)

*Karen Burke*

Items for the **February Newsletter** should be with Andrew Fox,  
(email: [roife@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:roife@hotmail.co.uk)) by **Sunday 16th January** at the latest