

MINISTER'S LETTER

During the season of Advent, we look forward to Christmas and all that is to come. At the same time, entering the month of December reminds us that another calendar year will soon be behind us. Quite naturally, we find ourselves looking backwards at this time of year, reflecting upon the days, weeks, and months that we have journeyed through since we last celebrated Christ's birth together.



Once again, this past year has been difficult for many. With ongoing and developing wars and conflicts around the world, and with climate change targets repeatedly being missed, it would understandable if our overriding feeling at this time was one of despair. Rising inflation and energy costs that have continued to fuel the cost-of living crisis, have only served to compound our feelings of despondency. Sometimes it's difficult to hold onto hope. Add more personal losses and struggles into the mix and it's easy enough to understand why not everyone feels able to celebrate at Christmas-time.

And, even if we do still feel able to celebrate, that's not to say that even the most joyous of moments won't in some way be tinged with sadness of one kind or another. For all of us there will be loved ones who have died who'll we'll still miss being at our table. My guess is that amidst all the sparkling Christmas lights and all the joyful sounds of celebration, most of us need to find a place of quiet and calm somewhere, to sit with our thoughts and feelings.

On the evening of December 10th, we will be holding a Blue Christmas service for the first time. It is a service for all of us.

Whatever our overriding thoughts or emotions might be at this moment in time, this is an opportunity to lay all our feelings before God and to reflect gently upon the promise of Christmas. Please join us if you can that, together, we might continue to seek, even if tentatively, the light and life, love and peace that this world and all its people are so desperately in need of. Our hope is that this will provide a suitable starting point and gateway for all our other Christmas celebrations, rooting them as we will, in something heartfelt and real.

With every blessing

Paul

**Sunday 10th
December
18:00**



**BLUE
Christmas**

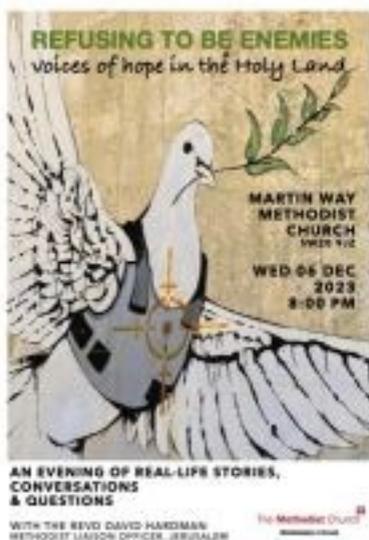
This gentle time offers us space to lay all our feelings before God, as we gather seeking light and life, love and peace...

Refusing to be enemies

Voices of hope in the Holy Land

Martin Way Methodist Church, Buckleigh Avenue, SW20 9JZ
Wednesday 6th December, 8pm

An evening of real-life stories, conversations & questions with the Revd David Hardman, Methodist Liaison Office, Jerusalem



If the horrific attacks on Israel by Hamas on October 7th shocked the world, the subsequent military response from the Israeli government and the resulting (and ever-rising) death toll has seemingly divided it. Calls for an immediate end to the killing, and protest marches demanding justice and peace, have sparked controversy. This age old conflict is one that many of us feel ill equipped to talk about, yet we will undoubtedly have questions that we would like to raise if we could.

The Revd David Hardman is a Methodist minister who served city-centre, inner city & suburban congregations in Manchester and London, and worked for Christian Aid as Senior Regional Coordinator in the North West, before joining the Joint Public Issues Team as interim Methodist Team Leader and Deputy JPIT Team Leader (see <https://jpit.uk>).

In September this year, David left these shores to take up a position in the Methodist Liaison Office in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories (IOPT). Launched in October 2012, the Methodist Liaison Office, Jerusalem, seeks to engage the world Methodist family in Christ's ministry of peace, justice, truth, and mercy among all peoples living in the Holy Land in partnership with the Palestinian Christian community.

Due to the escalation of violence in the region, David is currently fulfilling his role from the UK but is still very much in touch with local people who are living in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza, as well as with organisations who continue to work for Human Rights in the region.

We are delighted that David is able to join us on the evening of Wednesday 6th December. As well as sharing something of his work with the Methodist Liaison Office, and providing a little background to set the current outbreak of violence in a wider context, he will bring us personal stories and images of day to day life under occupation.

Perhaps most importantly, this evening will offer us all a chance to get involved in the conversation and wrestle with questions theological and political.

Needless to say, we very much hope that you will be able to join us. David is keen to engage with those questions that are most pressing for us. It would therefore be really helpful if you could submit these in advance via paul.timmis@methodist.org.uk.

GIFTS FOR CHILDREN

We would like a range of new items that will benefit boys and girls from birth to 11 years. These may be given as birthday presents or to families who have few toys and games to stimulate learning. Also do include some outdoor clothing to keep them warm in the cold days ahead. Items do not need to be wrapped.

For all ages

- Woolly hats, scarves, gloves, tights, socks

For babies and toddlers –

- baby toiletries – bath wash, lotion, shampoo, talc, bibs etc
- rattles, pull-along toys, puzzles, anything from Night Garden,
- Thomas the Tank Engine / Bob the Builder ranges, phones, baby dolls, building blocks etc

Appropriate for different ages

- Cars, trucks, trains, Lego, games
- Dolls, tea sets, toy food and kitchen gadgets, buggy,
- Anything from Frozen, Paw Patrol, Action Man, Spider Man and Superman ranges
- Stationery – crayons, gel pens, pencils, pencils cases, drawing books, craft activities for boys and girls
- Books – fun activity and story books for all ages, some appropriate for children where English is not the first language for the family
- Accessories - bags, umbrellas, jewellery, hair accessories

We do not accept or want this time around

- Jigsaws and games with small pieces that are easily lost or put in the mouth.
- War games and Monopoly are generally not suitable
- Soft toys
- Dictionaries, encyclopaedias

We are always particularly short of toys for the older age ranges (6 -11yrs) especially BOYS.

Community Garden

The Garden has been tidied and is now quiet over winter (apart from a few winter veg in the beds) - so we won't be meeting now until next year.

We have had two great fund raising events over the last few months. The Community Garden meal at Bella Donna and a Quiz night. These events have raised a total of £703 towards the patio. Thank you to Sylvia and team for organising these great events.



Our first planning meeting will be on **Monday 5th February 2024** at **The Mor-den Brooke Pub** at **7.30pm**. Come along to find out what the plans for the project in 2024

*Thank you
Abby & Shelley*



Meet our new Chief Executive Officer, Jenny Fletcher



The trustees of Care for Uganda are pleased to introduce Jenny Fletcher to our supporters.

She has vast experience of working across Africa, in schools, supporting international development projects and working in sustainable development, in Wales for Africa and Welsh Government.

Jenny has experience of managing large development budgets, reporting back to government officials and monitoring projects.

The Care for Uganda trustees have been working with Jenny as a consultant for the past six years. She has got to know the trustees and how they work as a body. She has been both supportive and has challenged us in this work to move forward.

Jenny Fletcher

Jenny has delivered training courses for charities in Wales that are working in Africa. She has experience of working in a charity supporting and applying for grants. Her last role was within the Africa division of the Office for National Statistics. The trustees are pleased that she has joined us to continue to develop the work of Care for Uganda and we look forward to working with her.

June 2023 visit to Uganda

Andy and Jenny visited Uganda in June 2023. This was an invaluable opportunity for Jenny to meet our partners, further develop relationships with the Care for Uganda/ Aabaagala Uganda team and to start to learn about the projects that are currently happening in Bbowa.

They visited the District offices where the main officers were pleased to introduce themselves to Jenny and to talk about how Care for Uganda can work alongside the District's plans.

Jenny met with the team members in Bbowa and listened to them talking about their work. She sat in on meetings and supported planning.

She visited schools to see recent developments and met with other non governmental organisations to see how we can work together.



Together we can make a difference



This half built house is on the same plot as a crude wooden structure housing a jaja (grandma) and two of her grandchildren. Her situation was discovered by one of the Care for Uganda team in a village out in the bush. When the trustees were visiting Uganda, she took the trustees to visit the family. The children's father was building the house, but sadly died. If a roof isn't put on this structure it will all fall down.

We are grateful to those who have donated towards finishing the roof so the family can move in. Physica gym in Bridgend raised over £500 through various boot camp activities. We're grateful for their support.

Trustee monitoring visit May 2023

The trustees are pleased to report that their first visit since the pandemic was carried out. This visit was to monitor the work of the charity and to ensure that procedures are working effectively. They are grateful to the team in Uganda for their hard work and willingness to share the successes and areas for improvement. This helps us to move the charity forward.

They followed up individual children, met with parents and officers from the District. The trustees carried out job reviews with the staff. They observed the team working, and reviewed the impact of their work. They were able to make a full report to the trustees and make a number of recommendations, many of which are already in hand. One of the highlights was seeing the way that the Ugandan team work together and support each other in achieving their work.

The trustees wish Andy Pilcher, CEO of Care for Uganda since 1999, a very happy retirement



The trustees are grateful to Andy for the way that he has led Care for Uganda for almost 25 years! His passion and commitment to the charity has been valued both in Uganda and the UK, which has been evident over the past few months as he has completed his last few official visits.

Jenny is excited at the prospect of taking over a charity that has great potential to develop further, whilst retaining those aspects that have characterised Care for Uganda over the years.

Andy is looking forward to retirement, but will maintain his links with Care for Uganda as chair of trustees. He will continue to support Jenny as she moves into her new role.



Thank you for your support

Contact Care for Uganda, 23 Heatherslade Road, Southgate, SA3 2DD
Tel: 01792 233109 Email: andy@careforuganda.org
Website: www.careforuganda.org



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**BRIGHT ANGELS JUNIOR SCHOOL -
BUSULA CAMPUS**

"WE IGNITE EXCELLENCE"

Location: After Government Hospital Busula
Tel: 0704 209424 / 0782914179 / 0703787516

PUPIL'S ASSESSMENT REPORT

NAME: MUSANIE JORAM CLASS: P2

TERM: I YEAR: 2023 AGE: _____

SUBJECT	1 ST SET OUT OF 100	2 ND SET OUT OF 100	3 RD SET OUT OF 100	TOTAL SETS	AV	AGG	REMARKS	TEACHER'S INITIALS
ENGLISH		62	91			1	V.Good	N.S
MATHEMATICS		88	90			1	V.Good	N.H
S.S.T/LIT2		90	92				V.Good	N.S
SCIENCE/LIT.1		84	86			2	Good	N.B
LUGANDA		70	76				Good	N.B
FRENCH								
CHINESE								
I.R.E/C.R.E		84	94			1	V.Good	N.H
TOTAL		478	629			5		
TERM AVERAGE	AGGREGATES: 5					DIVISION: I		

Conduct: Good

General Observation: good

Smartness: Good

Attendance: Good

Punctuality/Time management: Good

Class teacher's comment: Good marks seen. Do not relax.

Head teacher's comment: This is good, don't relax please.

Next Term commences on 29th os. 2023. Ends on: _____

BRIGHT ANGELS JUNIOR SCH.
Tel: 0782914179 / 0704 209424
Sign: _____
"WE IGNITE EXCELLENCE"

SUMMARY FOR ASSESSMENT

90 - 99 = D1	65 - 69 = C4	45 - 49 = P7
80 - 89 = D2	60 - 64 = C5	40 - 44 = P8
70 - 79 = C3	50 - 59 = C6	0 - 39 = 9

REQUIREMENTS

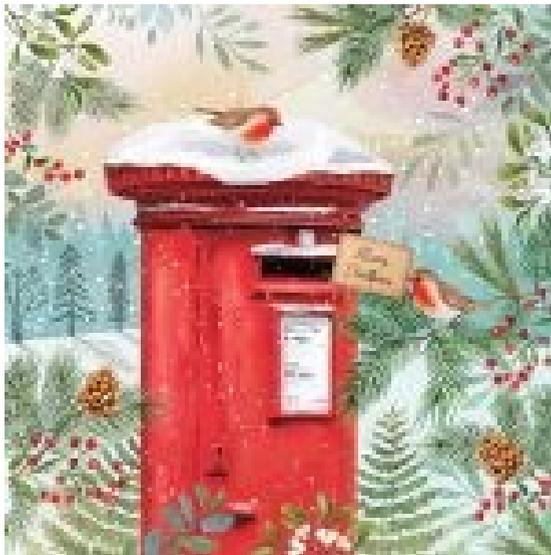
Refer to the School termly requirement sheet attached

"Changing Lives Changing Nation"

Christmas Post Box

Our Christmas Post Box is now available for you to post your Christmas cards to your friends at church. Thank you Geraldine for offering to manage this once more. The box is in the car park vestibule along with a box for your donations. Please remember that the cost of a second class stamp is 75p so please donate generously. All proceeds will go to the Methodist Home for the Aged.

Because of where Christmas falls this year the final date for posting is early, being **Sunday, 10th December**. Cards may be collected from **Sunday, 17th December**.



CHURCH DIARY

December 2023			
Fri	1	12.30am	Lunch Club
Sun	3	10.30am	1 st Sunday in Advent – Morning Worship – led by Valerie Ashcroft
		12.30pm	Community Garden Christmas Lunch & Quiz
Tue	5	10.30am	Coffee & Chat
Wed	6	11.30am	Open Table
		8.00pm	David Hardman
Thur	7	7.00pm	Circuit meeting – @XCSP
Sun	10	10.30am	2 nd Sunday in Advent – Morning Worship – led by Tony Loft
		6.00pm	Blue Christmas – led by Revd Paul Timmis
Tue	12	10.30am	Coffee & Chat
Wed	13	11.30am	Open Table
Fri	15	12.30pm	Lunch Club
Sun	17	10.30am	3 rd Sunday in Advent – Café Worship – Nativity & Gift – led by Revd Paul Timmis
		6.00pm	Carols on the Steps
Tue	19	10.30am	Coffee & Chat
Wed	20	11.30am	Open Table
Sun	24	10.30am	4 th Sunday in Advent – Christmas Eve – Morning Worship – led by Revd Chris Morley
		5.30pm	Christingle Service – led by Revd Paul Timmis
Mon	25	10.30am	Christmas Day Service – led by Revd Paul Timmis
Sun	31	10.30am	Morning Worship – led by Valerie Ashcroft