



Welcoming,
Caring,
Sharing

December 2010 and New Year 2011 Newsletter

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The Sunday Plan



Sunday 5th December
11 am Morning Worship

Conducted by Rev Jim Brown
Coffee after the service

Sunday 12th December
11 am Worship & Holy Communion
Individual glasses

Conducted by Rev David Ryan
Coffee after the service

Sunday 19th December
11 am Carol Service

Conducted by Rev Jim Brown
Coffee after the service

Friday 24th December
11:30 pm - Christmas Eve Service
Communion

Conducted by Rev Jim Brown

Saturday 25th December
10 am Christmas Family Service

Conducted by Rev Jim Brown

Sunday 26th December
10 am Worship & Holy Communion
Common Cup

Conducted by Rev Jim Brown

Sunday 2nd January
11 am Morning Worship

Conducted by Rev Jim Brown
Coffee after the service

Sunday 9th January
11 am Worship & Holy Communion
Individual glasses

Conducted by Rev Jim Brown
Coffee after the service

Sunday 16th January
11 am Morning Worship

Conducted by Rev Jim Brown
Coffee after the service

Sunday 23rd January
11 am Worship & Holy Communion
Common Cup

Pulpit Exchange
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
Preacher to be announced
Coffee after the service

Sunday 30th January
11 am Morning Worship

Conducted by Rev Jim Brown
Coffee after the service

From the Manse



Dear Friends,

'Dear God, what's the use of being good if nobody knows about it?' Out of the mouths of babes as the saying goes, for this prayer was written by 6 year old Mark. You wonder what the circumstances were, don't you!

With Advent under way and Christmas just round the corner, we're very definitely entering the season of 'being good'. Good, because it's the season of goodwill; good because its expected of us and if we're not then Santa won't deliver! And good because (nearly) everybody else is being good. On the radio, on television and in the papers, we're in danger of being smothered with 'goodness'.

This whole notion of goodness might well be tempered by the words of another prayer: 'Dear God, please make Christmas earlier because I can only be good for so long!' Yet its precisely because we struggle to be good that we have Advent and Christmas at all. Christ, the babe in the manger, is sent to enable us to achieve what was thought to be unattainable – the ability

to be 'Good'. So, as we prepare to buy and wrap up and give all sort of gifts to family and friends, lets spend some time about the third part of that sentence – 'Give'.

'The best things in life are free' is no less true just because it's overused. Time, patience, joy, love, compassion are just a few of the things we have in abundance. Family, friends, music, clear crisp winter mornings are just a few more. Advent is a 'good' time to think on these gifts and to think about how we might use them to the glory of God who gave them to us.

I hope and pray that you will be enriched by the very process of selecting and giving gifts to those special people. I hope too that we can be grateful for the fact that somebody thinks enough of us to give us a gift; humble too, to remember the reason for it all, the greatest gift of all, the baby in the manger.

I hope you will all have a truly memorable Christmas and I pray for God's blessing to continue to be felt by each of you in the coming New Year.

With love and best wishes,

Jim



Our Commitment for Life collection raised £2150.00 this year - a good effort by all concerned.

A special Holiday Monet's Garden

I had for many years wished to visit this place, and at last the opportunity came when my brother and sister-in-law showed an interest too. Riviera Holidays came up with a tour to suit us all. We arrived at 9.10 in the morning. As we reached the water garden we were almost the only ones there. How beautiful and peaceful it was; even in late September there were a few water lily buds and many flowers in bloom planted between shrubs and willows. I could imagine Monet spending hours planning the two diversions of the little stream, and further hours creating the garden itself; then watching the water for days before starting to paint. We found places where he put up his easel, and the rose arch under which he sat from time to time. The Japanese inspired bridges were still painted green. It was a tranquil harmonious place. I would have liked longer to enjoy the atmosphere.



We wandered on into the flower garden which stretched down to the road from the house laid out formally in borders and gravel paths. Such was the abundance of tall Autumn flowers spilling onto the gravel that the structure was almost lost in the colourful display. There were many plants, nasturtiums, cosmos, hollyhocks, dahlias and of course sunflowers. Further along there was a lawn with fruit trees and colchicums in bloom underneath. What was the secret of such a display? Planning, aspect, soil, climate and a chicken run.

By the time we reached the house coach loads of Japanese had arrived and were taking photographs. It seemed quite a modest house for a family of 8 children- 2 of Monet's own and Alice, his

second wife brought 6 with her.

Monet was inspired by two passions, nature and art. The garden offered insight into Monet's art with a beauty and clarity he could not put into words.

Carol.

A 90th Birthday Thankyou



Many thanks Lynne for the lovely arrangement you did for me in the church for my Birthday. Afterwards it was given to St. Richards Hospice to give someone some pleasure. Also, thanks to Albany Fellowship for the lovely arrangement done by Jean (lovely colours), and the lovely Birthday cake made by Teresa, enjoyed by all.

Many thanks for the lovely card and present. Thanks to you all.

Thanks to all my friends for the kindness giving me a lift on a Sunday. Thanks for the cups of coffee and the Hymns found for me. Thank you all. If I've forgotten anything put it down to AGE!

Eileen.

Recipe for Christmas all year round

Take a heap of child-like wonder
That opens up our eyes
To the unexpected gifts in life—
Each day a sweet surprise.
Mix in fond appreciation
For the people whom we know;
Like festive Christmas candles,
Each one has a special glow.
Add some giggles and some laughter,
A dash of Christmas food,
(Amazing how a piece of pie
Improves our attitude!)
Stir it all with human kindness;
Wrap it up in love and peace,
Decorate with optimism, and
Our joy will never cease.
If we use this healthy recipe,
We know we will remember
To be in the Christmas spirit,
Even when it's not December.

By Joanna Fuchs

Table Tennis

Our table tennis group is having a rest during December, but will be restarting on Friday January 7th 2011 at 7:30 pm.

We have had eleven people play altogether over the 5 or 6 weeks we have been playing, but the most we've had on one night is seven. A few more people for the nights we drop to only four or five would be really good, it allows us to rest!

Tim Dunn



Childrens Pages

Colour this Christmas Picture



The First Christmas Wordsearch

G
W I X
I O F N Q
H P R T L N Q
H I H S S T A R D
C H I L D
Q O I R V U F
S H E P H E R D S
D S A M X C A N J K X
T M A N G E R
M H A I G I J B Y
E E Y N B D I E Q J P
O V H C U A L Y S F F U O
E E E Y O E U L K
N L H L W G J S I E A
S O H P S Z O X N U M X D
E Z S T O L S W G E J A X S W
U E R E J O I C E R M
V Y B P G D S B A B Y G C
J W W H S N T I H R R V D U Y
X F I Y B F A T H E R O D J A F U
W Y H
H Q N
F E G

Angels Baby Bethlehem Census Child Christ Emmanuel
Father Worship Gifts God Gold Herod Inn Jesus
Joseph King Magi Manger Mary Myrrh Prophecy
Rejoice Shepherds Son Stable Star

There is more to Christmas than pretty Christmas trees and shopping, more than presents and family time together. Christmas is the time when we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, Emmanuel (God with Us). Just like the shepherds and magi of the first Christmas, we should worship Jesus as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Christmas Conundrums

Can you unscramble these Christmas Songs?



- (1) nlt oei stw
- (2) bsiuarclts emh
- (3) gseeihir dl
- (4) wtts schemiirah
- (5) sriaitcfthmssr
- (6) el egbjllins
- (7) sh erstrco maiet
- (8) reilv sbells
- (9) lhtyhi ongho
- (10) intieshtng l
- (11) yhjetor dw lt oo

Answers on Page 15

Carol Singing

Carol Singing Opportunities for 2010 are:

Saturday 11th Dec from 11am North Worcs Churches at The Co-op, Ombersley Rd

Wednesday 15th Dec 7.30pm at Himbleton House, Himbleton Road (Liz's workplace)

Saturday 18th Dec 11.30 - 12.30 Christian Aid Singing for Change, Cathedral Plaza (Nr Edinburgh Woollen Mill)

Margaret & Roger

Pause for Thought

from the Worship Group



This month the following extracts have been taken from Sightsavers Charity. For further information on any of these stories visit the web-site <http://www.sightsavers.org>

Welcome to Sightsavers

We are an international charity which works with partners to eliminate avoidable blindness and promote equality of opportunity for disabled people in the developing world

Our history

For 60 years Sightsavers has been restoring sight and improving the lives of people who are irreversibly blind in poor countries around the world. We were founded in the 1950s by Sir John Wilson, with the express aim of restoring sight - wherever possible - in former Commonwealth countries.

Prevention and cure

Sightsavers works to both cure people who have reversible eye conditions and prevent people from becoming needlessly blind. One of the key ways of doing this is by training local eye care experts and volunteers.

Our work in Bangladesh

Bangladesh is one of the world's most densely populated countries. The majority of the country's eye care facilities are based in the big cities, but around 80% of the country's population live in rural areas, many of them living below the

poverty line.

Of the 72 million children who are out of school, it's estimated that a third are children with disabilities. 11-year-old Ahsanullah Mohammad, who lost his vision in early childhood after contracting measles, is an example of how Sightsavers and our partners in developing countries are trying to eliminate the inequalities that are too often related to disability.

ABC, one of Sightsavers' partners, operates a rehabilitation programme for visually impaired people in the area. Ahsanullah was taken to the Islamia eye hospital in Dhaka, where he was certified as irreversibly blind. It was devastating news for his family, but with the advice of the rehabilitation assistant his parents were able to enroll him in mainstream education.

He now attends a primary school which was made accessible for visually impaired students, and where the teachers had received specific training from ABC. Children like Ahsanullah are provided with Braille books and a white cane, so he can make his way to and from school. He also has the assistance of a rehabilitation worker, who visits the school twice a month to train him in orientation and mobility techniques.

February Deadline



Items for inclusion in the February Newsletter should be given to Tim Dunn. 27a Cornmeadow Green, Claines, Worcester. WR3 7PN. Tel 01905 457909, Email newsletter@worcesterurc.org.uk by Sunday 16th January at the latest please.

Christian Aid



Far from home at Christmas:
an update on Christian Aid work in haiti

The Haiti earthquake in January 2010 left thousands of families without homes.

Many of those left homeless have sought shelter with family members or friends living in rural areas in Haiti. Homes are being shared, and families devastated by the impact of the disaster are helping one another to rebuild their lives.

Christian Aid supports families forced from their homes in places as varied as the Thailand-Burma border and Sudan. This Christmas, we are asking you to give generously to support our work with people displaced by conflict or natural disasters, all over the world.

Christian Aid is working with seven partner organisations across Haiti to support vulnerable families who have lost everything following the earthquake. We are providing food and shelter for those left homeless; healthcare and counselling for those injured and traumatised by the disaster; and we are distributing seeds and fertilizer to poor farmers, to allow them to take advantage of the planting season and provide food for their families. Thanks to your generous donations we are reaching thousands of the most vulnerable families in Haiti and giving them the support they need to rebuild their lives.

When the earthquake struck, Rosemund Ernest was at home, several hours from the epicentre of the quake. Although she was so far away, she saw her home collapse. Afraid of aftershocks, she slept in the open for many nights afterwards. Rosemund is unsure about what the future holds for herself, her children and

her grandchildren. With no home and no secure income, their lives are lived tenuously. But the help of Christian Aid partner KORAL has given Rosemund hope that she and her family will be able to rebuild their lives.

A friend has now loaned Rosemund a room, which she shares with her five children and seven grandchildren, ever since they arrived from Port-au-Prince several days after the quake.

As a member of a local women's organisation, Rosemund received cash grants from Christian Aid partner KORAL, and this allowed her to buy food for her family members. 'When I received the money, it was like paradise. The cash allowed me to feed my family. I can't send them to school yet, but at least we can eat.'

Albany Fellowship



I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jean and Teresa for taking on the running of the Albany Fellowship - and what a cracking good job they are making of it too!

It was a great wrench to give up the job because I knew how much so many people, living on their own, appreciated the opportunity of getting together and the companionship it gave them.

So bless you Jean and Teresa and I hope both of you will have similar satisfaction and the support that I had for nearly 25 years.

With love and best wishes,

From Pat Smith

Albany Fellowship News

Our last meeting on 4th November found us taking part in a quiz, organised by Lynne Brown – many thanks Lynne. This was followed by a music quiz and a poem dedicated to Eileen Barnett, whose 90th birthday it was on 5th November, by Doreen Yeates. There were gifts, flowers and a birthday cake to share.

Our next meeting will be on 3rd February 2011. Happy Christmas and Best Wishes for a wonderful New Year.

Love

Jean and Teresa

Chistmas Conundrum Answers

1. Let it Snow
2. Blue Christmas
3. Sleigh Ride
4. White Christmas
5. First Christmas
6. Jingle Bells
7. O Christmas Tree
8. Silver Bells
9. Oh Holy Night
10. Silent Night
11. Joy To The World

Duty Rotas

	Dec 5th	Dec 12th	Dec 19th	Dec 26th
Carry in the Bible	Tom Cheesbrough	Doreen Cheesbrough	Barbara James	Carol Hardyman
Books / Offertory	June Barber Betty Forrer	Teresa & Tim Dunn	Alison Hall Brian Jones	Brian & Jean McCluskie
Reading	Michael Clarke	Rosemary Clarke	Rob Peachey	TBA
Prepare Table		Nicky & Bryan Neville-Lee		Rob Peachey Lynne Brown
Serve Communion		Michael Clarke Roger Morris Sarah Lodge Helen Moore		TBA
Beadle	Sarah Lodge	Sarah Lodge	Sarah Lodge	Sarah Lodge
Foyer	Paul Denham Rita Michelman	Paul Denham Rita Michelman	Paul Denham Rita Michelman	Paul Denham Rita Michelman

	Jan 2nd	Jan 9th	Jan 16th	Jan 23rd
Carry in the Bible	Helen Moore	Helen Yare	Tom Cheesbrough	Doreen Cheesbrough
Books / Offertory	Barbara & David James	Margaret & Roger Morris	Dorren & Tom Cheesbrough	Paul Denham Rob Peachey
Reading	Betty Forrer	David James	Paul Denham	Tim Dunn
Prepare Table		Jean McCluskie Pat Berryman		Margaret Morgan Nicky Neville-Lee
Serve Communion		Paul Denham Helen Moore Sarah Lodge Tom Cheesbrough		Rob Peachey Lynne Brown
Beadle	Teresa Dunn	Teresa Dunn	Teresa Dunn	Teresa Dunn
Foyer	Tim Dunn	Tim Dunn	Tim Dunn	Tim Dunn