

Wonford Methodist Church



Contact Newsletter

December 2011 / January 2012
(No: 404)

Minister: Rev Mark Gilborson (01392 256716)

www.wonfordmethodistchurch.org.uk

Girls' Brigade

invite you to their:

"Christingle"

**Monday 5th December
2011**

6.30 p.m.

All Welcome

Okehampton Choral Society Christmas Concert

**Monday 12th December
2011 - 7.30 p.m.**

**The Mint Methodist
Church**

**Tickets: Can be purchased
on the door - £6**

Annual Christmas Evening

All Welcome

**Thursday 22nd December
2011 - 7.30 p.m.**

**An evening of food,
fellowship and carol singing
at
2 Wallace Avenue, Whipton
- Joan & Tony Wragg**

**Small contributions to the
table appreciated**

Young Church Christmas Party

**Saturday 17th
December 2011**

5.00 - 7.00 p.m.

**Special appearance by Father
Christmas. Please come and have
some fun!!!**

A Message From The Minister

I am not really a watcher of soaps but I am aware that each year storylines often climax at Christmas. If you look on the internet there are many people trying to guess what might happen and sometimes there are leaks of information giving clues that entice avid fans to tune in and watch. I am aware that sometimes the storylines have 'happy' twists with births and weddings and reconciliations. Often though the themes are far darker with secrets revealed, breakdowns and untimely deaths. It seems that each storyline is devised to catch our attention and pull us in with some kind of scandal or other.

Recently someone asked me why I was a Christian and at the heart it has to do with scandal. An amazing, indeed scandalous story of God doing everything he can to demonstrate his love to the people he created. For me that scandal is best demonstrated in Jesus. We usually talk about the scandal of his death, cruelly killed though innocent, his tomb found empty and when his disciples found him alive the immediate explosion of the church fuelled by the scandalous story of a man raised from the dead.

Perhaps though the scandal does not start with his death but with his birth; for the birth reminds us that the man they killed and the man that rose from the dead was no ordinary man. The man that the disciples were so changed by, even to the extent that they gave their lives for the cause; this man was the Son of God.

Of course it was a scandal that the coming of the Son of God was told to a poor, single girl. That God would choose a person to demonstrate his love so fully. It was a scandal that the first people to visit were lowly shepherds and then foreign kings. It was a scandal that this happened in lowly Bethlehem and stable rather than a palace. It was a scandal that Herod's jealousy would mean that many baby boys would lose their lives. It was a scandal that a lowly carpenter would change the world by demonstrating God's love by offering forgiveness, peace and healing to anyone who asked.

Shhh don't tell anyone but this is the real message of Christmas, that God loved YOU so much that he sent his Son into the world so that you might know that same love, peace and healing. What a scandal!

Yours, in Christ **Mark Gilborson**

Dates For December 11 / January 12

Birthdays - have a great birthday!!

December

2nd Sophie P & Beryl V
4th Ada L
8th Margaret E
23rd Jon C

January

2nd Sophie T
6th Ken C
7th William T
8th Megan A-P
13th Sam F
15th Alan H
19th Jon H
21st Susanna L
23rd Sharon T
25th James W
26th Benjamin L
27th Tasha G
28th Claire C



Flowers

December

4th Ada
11th Barbara Jackson
18th Pat Lowans
25th Bronwen

January

1st Bronwen
8th Jenny Sanders
15th Lilian & Jenny
22nd Karen
29th Kathleen & Norman Dell



A **big thank you** to everyone who has provided the Church flowers throughout the year and also to those who arrange them so nicely each week. It is much appreciated.

Many Thanks - Eileen.

Coffee

December

- 4th Eileen & Melanie
11th Monika, Bill & Abbie
18th 10.00am Lisa & Friend
5.30 pm Carol Service - Mince pies and offers of help welcome
25th No coffee

January

- 1st Rose & Paul
8th The Prowses
15th Leslie & Martin's family
22nd Jenny H & Margaret E
29th Alison & Sue K



Home Group Meetings

December

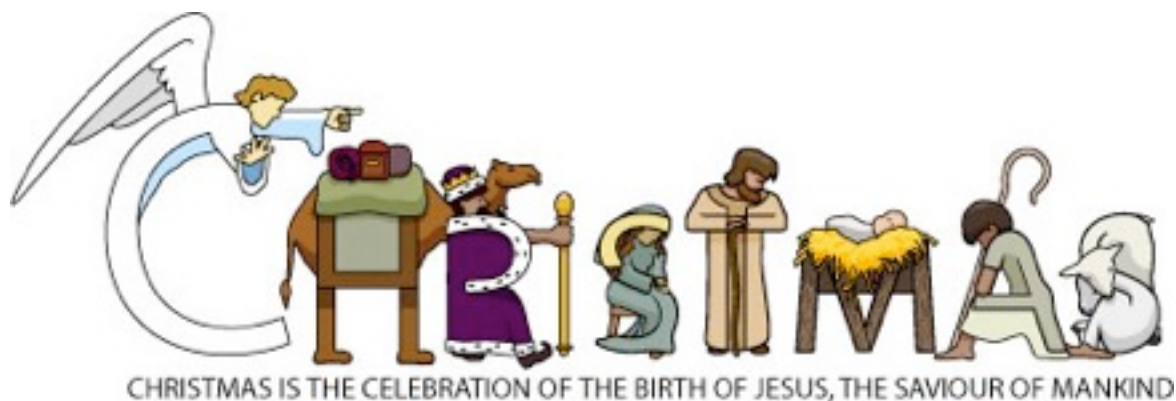
Continuing the 'Cell Group' studies.

- 6th 8.00 p.m. At Joan & Tony's - 2 Wallace Avenue.
20th 8.00 p.m. Home Group Christmas Party at 20 Whipton Lane.
Bring & Share.

January

- 3rd 8.00 p.m. Venue to be decided - start of new study theme
17th 8.00 p.m. Venue to be decided

For more information please contact Sharon on 01392 671289.



Thursday Dates

December

- 1st 7.30 p.m. Church Prayer meeting in the lounge. Everyone is welcome.
- 15th 2.00 p.m. Bible Study led by Rev Mark Gilborson. This is on the subject of 'The Verdict' - Romans 9 v30 - 10 v21 'Misguided Zeal'.

January

- 5th 7.30 p.m. Church Prayer Meeting in the lounge.
- 19th 2.00 p.m. Bible Study led by Rev Mark Gilborson. This is on Romans 11 'The Future Israel'.

Wonford Worms

This group will meet on Thursday 12th January 2012 to discuss '**The Lovely Bones**' by Alice Sebold at 7.30pm - venue to be decided.

For more information see Sharon Gilborson or Gary Lord.



Christmas Card Tree 2011

How can you save sending everyone at church a Christmas card? In previous years we have had a Christmas Card Tree. The idea is that you put a Christmas card to everyone at the church on the Christmas Card Tree, and then place a donation in the box for The Womens' Network of The Methodist Church. Following on from last year, they are running a project to support Methodist Homes for the Aged focusing on dementia.

For further information please see Beryl Violet or the notice board in the church hall.



Beryl Violet



The Biblefresh Celebration

As we approach the great and glorious Christmas Celebration, I wanted to say what a wonderful occasion we had at Biblefresh.

It was a party with balloons and party poppers, to celebrate the Word of God, AND WHY NOT! It means so much to so many.

It was a gathering of a thousand tongues to sing and to have fellowship.

It was a chance to ask those searching questions, the awkward ones, on our minds, with reference to our reading of the Bible., at the Question Time Session. I asked, having read both a lot of the old and new testaments, which part they would have liked to live in ? So like politicians, they avoided giving me an answer. But they did try answering about Adam and Eve and if Adam had been given the fruit instead of Eve!

It was a chance to learn how to engage with people and talk about the Bible in a different media. I went to see how you could use film. And if anyone has a copy of Bruce Almighty, I would be glad if Sharon and I could borrow it please.

Thank you God for Biblefresh.

Thank you for recharging our Bible Batteries.

Please help us to be ambassadors of your Word, this Christmastide.

**May we look for ways to engage with people who have no hope,
and who are madly busying themselves and worrying about the
trimmings.**

So that they too can come and join the party celebrations.

Sharon and I would like to hope that you, our fellow ambassadors at Wonford, will have a happy and blessed Christmastide.

Nick Goddard

New Emmaus Course

A brand new 12 week Emmaus Course starts on Tuesday Jan 3rd 2012. We invite new Christians, those who want to dig deeper into the faith or simply those weighing up what it's all about.

You are all welcome

Why believe in God? Did Jesus really live and who was he? Did Jesus really rise from the dead? What's the Holy Spirit? Is prayer any use? Can we trust the Bible? Why celebrate Holy Communion? What exactly is "The Church"? These are some of the issues discussed.

The venue is the X Centre, Commercial Road EX2 4AD(near Exe Bridges). Lifts may be arranged. This is a joint venture between Jon Curtis's Venture FX group and Wonford. The starting time is 7.30pm. Refreshments each week. Wallet and notes provided. Varied input including short talks, drama, DVD clips, discussion - and lots of fun!!!

Contact Jon Curtis, Joan Wragg or Tony Wragg for more information.

Don't miss it!!!

Update to Church Directory

As most of you will know, at Wonford Methodist Church we have a Directory of Member's and Friend's contact details. In the New Year we are planning to produce an update page so that people can communicate any changes in their details and so that new friends or those who missed out on the first production can add their details. So if you want to notify a change or if you want to be included for the first time then please give your details to Lisa Thomas or Tony Wragg. We can list any or all of the following – address, phone number, mobile phone number(s) and email address(es) for individuals, couples or families (no mobiles or emails for under 16s).

If you would like sight of what the Directory looks like please ask Lisa or Tony.

Tony Wragg

Blisters and Blessings

Here's a bit of news about our South West Coast Path adventurers.

Firstly, hearty congratulations to Dave Westcott for having now completed the 630 mile trek. Dave has taken hundreds and hundreds of brilliant photographs along the way and is in demand as a speaker on his venture.

Natalie Husk, who completed in June, having done it all in one go, is now busy writing her book 'Blisters and Blessings' – a collection of some 30 reflections on selected sections of the walk. It will be published in February by the Leprosy Mission and will cost £5. Buying a copy will, of course, support the work of TLM. By the way, friends will be interested to know that Natalie's sponsorship total has now risen to £25,000. A brilliant result!!

Then there's Gary Lord – doing it in bits – and now round Land's End and up as far as Gwithian (near St Ives). So he's still got a good way to go to reach Minehead – maybe next year, Gary? Of course, Gary's doing it the "wrong" way round and camping rough quite often.

Tony Wragg

Prayer Focus for December/January

**Joy to the world! The Lord has come.
Let earth receive her King.**

Isaac Watts

Week beginning Sunday 4th

Please pray that God will bless Andy and Natalie who are still training as Local Preachers, and also Anna who is now a Recognised Local Preacher. Pray also for our young girls and their parents, holding their GB Christingle Service on Monday, that God would bless them to be a blessing to others.

Week beginning Sunday 11th

Please pray for God to greatly use 'In The Picture', the interactive Nativity scene in Bedford Square on Saturday mornings. Pray that it will draw people to Him and the true message of Christmas.

Week beginning Sunday 18th

Please pray for all the events happening this week; the Carol Concert today, Childrens' party, Tony & Joan's Carols evening, and any others you may know of.

Thank God for the joy they bring to us all, and especially the musicians as they inspire us with their God given gifts.

Week beginning Sunday 25th - Christmas

Thank God for Jesus! Praise God for sending His Son to redeem us. Please pray for those who are homeless, in prison, suffering illness or addictions. Pray that in their struggles and sadness they will catch a glimpse of the deep love that Jesus has for them through the wonder of the Christmas story.

**O Lord, God of Heaven, the great and awesome God who
keeps His covenant of unfailing love with those who love Him
and obey His commands, listen to my prayer!**

Nehemiah 1:5

Week beginning Sunday 1st

Please pray that God will continue to bless, guide and prosper our church, minister Mark, leaders and all activities this coming year.

Reflect and thank God for the past year and the Holy Spirit's inspiration to our church and in our own lives.

Week beginning Sunday 8th - Covenant

Please pray that as we attend the Covenant Service and rededicate our lives to God, we will know His love in our lives.

Thank God for fun and fellowship to be enjoyed at the New Year party on Friday.

Week beginning Sunday 15th

Please pray God's protection and blessings for the Wednesday evening Youth Clubs. Pray especially for commitment, energy and enthusiasm for the Leaders who sometimes need to cope with very difficult situations as they provide a Godly place for local children to meet and play safely.

Week beginning Sunday 22nd - Christian Unity

Today sees the start of a week of prayer for Christian unity. Please pray for that unity to be evident in all aspects of our lives, with Jesus at the centre - in family, church, circuit, city and world.

Week beginning Sunday 29th

Please pray for Cafe Church and all our fellowship groups which challenge and widen our understanding, both spiritually and socially.

Thank God for the gifts of people 'behind the scenes' who work so hard in helping with these events.

Phone Prayer Link

Should you, or those you know, wish to be supported in prayer, the first contact is Beryl Violet (01392) 270132. Your request will be passed to the members of the Prayer Link who will pray for your need.

After Church Prayer Support

This is available in the Quiet Room on Sunday mornings. Two members of the Prayer Team will be available to pray with you.

The Prayer Team



Wonford New Year Social

WONFORD DOES....A MINUTE TO WIN IT

A fun **TEAM CHALLENGE** with 10 crazy all age challenges each to be completed in a minute

How many smarties' can you pick up with a chopstick in a minute?



How many can **WORDS** you make on a scrabble board...in a minute?

How many rubber ducks can you flick into a paddling pool, behind your head....In a..? yes you guessed it? ..a minute?

AND MORE

A great fun evening to invite people to, put it in the diaries

Friday 20th January 2012

7.00pm

Bring & Share Supper

Joe Fisher

News from the Methodist Church

The Fruitful Field

The Fruitful Field is a project about learning, formation, training, theological education, scholarship, research and development. It's about the future of the Methodist Church's connexional learning resources. It's about equipping the Church and its ministries, equipping the Methodist movement in all of its contexts and formational communities, and equipping God's people for discipleship and mission.



The Ministries Committee has issued a consultation document about The Fruitful Field. The Methodist people and all of the Church's partners, colleagues and friends are invited to read and reflect on the document.

Responses to the document should be received by 23 December 2011.

There is also a series of podcasts with the Revd Dr Martyn Atkins about the consultation. They address some of the questions people are asking about the proposals outlined in the report - available on the Methodist Church website.

Gift Aid Raises £9.5 million

Well done to over 3,700 Methodist churches that have made tax reclaims through the central bureau service operated by the Connexional Team's Finance Office. In this year, the last one in which 28p in the pound could be claimed, more than £9.5 million has been claimed from the government by churches across the Connexion.

Thank you to all who are able and chose to Gift Aid their giving to the Church, more than 75,000 people throughout the country. The average reclaimed per church was over £2,500 and the average reclaimed per donor was £126.

All claims received up to the end of September have been processed and submitted to HMRC, and churches should now have received their payments.

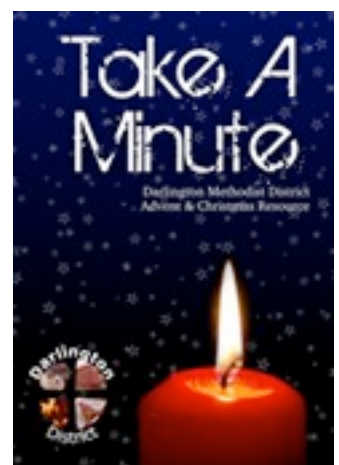
Please support your Gift Aid secretary and encourage other tax payers to use Gift Aid - it really makes a difference to all donations both large and small.

Take A Minute

Take A Minute is an Advent booklet/resource from the Darlington District taking readers from Advent Sunday (27 November) to Covenant Sunday on 8 January.

Each Sunday has a full set of readings accompanied by one reading for every day of the week, with each week having a particular theme. Through the themes and readings there is encouragement to be involved in the harsh reality of the Advent and Christmas season.

Alongside the readings there is an invitation to 'take a minute' to be actively involved through prayer and practical action. Further suggestions and ideas for action can be found on the [Darlington District Website](#).



Wanted: Contributions for the New Prayer Handbook

If you have a prayer or photo which you think might be suitable for the new Methodist Prayer Handbook, please submit it to the editor, [Primavera Quantrill](mailto:Primavera.Quantrill@quantrillmedia.com) (primi@quantrillmedia.com) by 20 December 2011.

The title of the 2012/2013 Prayer Handbook is Crossing the Chasm.

Crossing the Chasm will examine the theme of reconciling discipleship; living the peace of Christ in a broken world and being drawn into God's programme of reconciliation within ourselves, our Church and our world. The title comes from the Hermann Stuempfle's hymn 'When the bonds of love are breaking'.

Prayers should not exceed 120 words or 12 lines. Shorter prayers and prayers for specific themes or countries are more likely to be used. Further information is on the Methodist Church website.

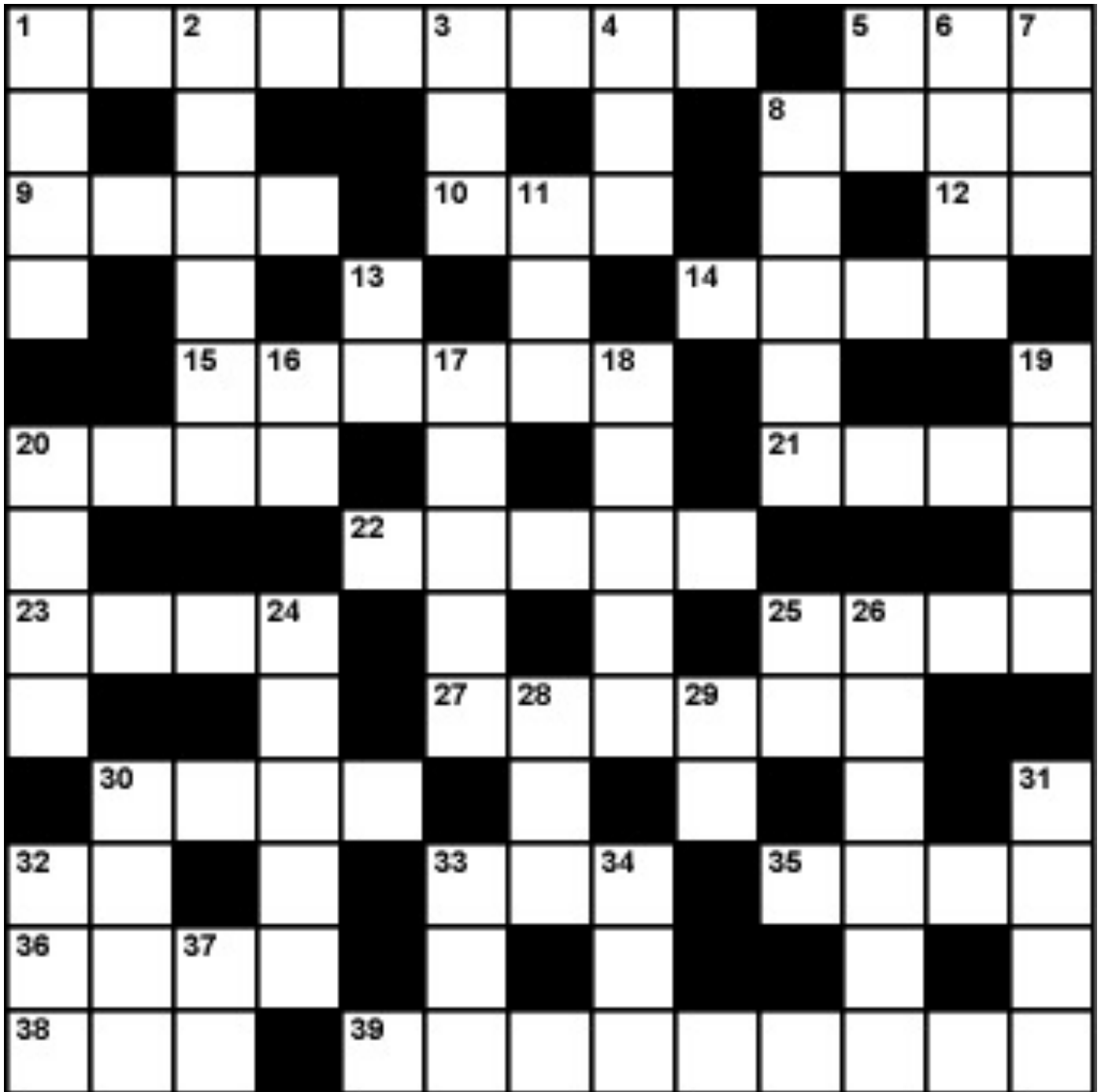
Contributions for children and young people are particularly welcome. To help, a session plan exploring the issue 'Peace in a broken world' has been created. At the end of the session, young people are encouraged to write a prayer that could be submitted for the handbook. (There are also specific resources for those working with younger children.)

You can still use the session even if you choose not to write prayers for the handbook- although we hope you will!

To download this resource go to the Methodist Church website.



Christmas Crossword Puzzle



Across

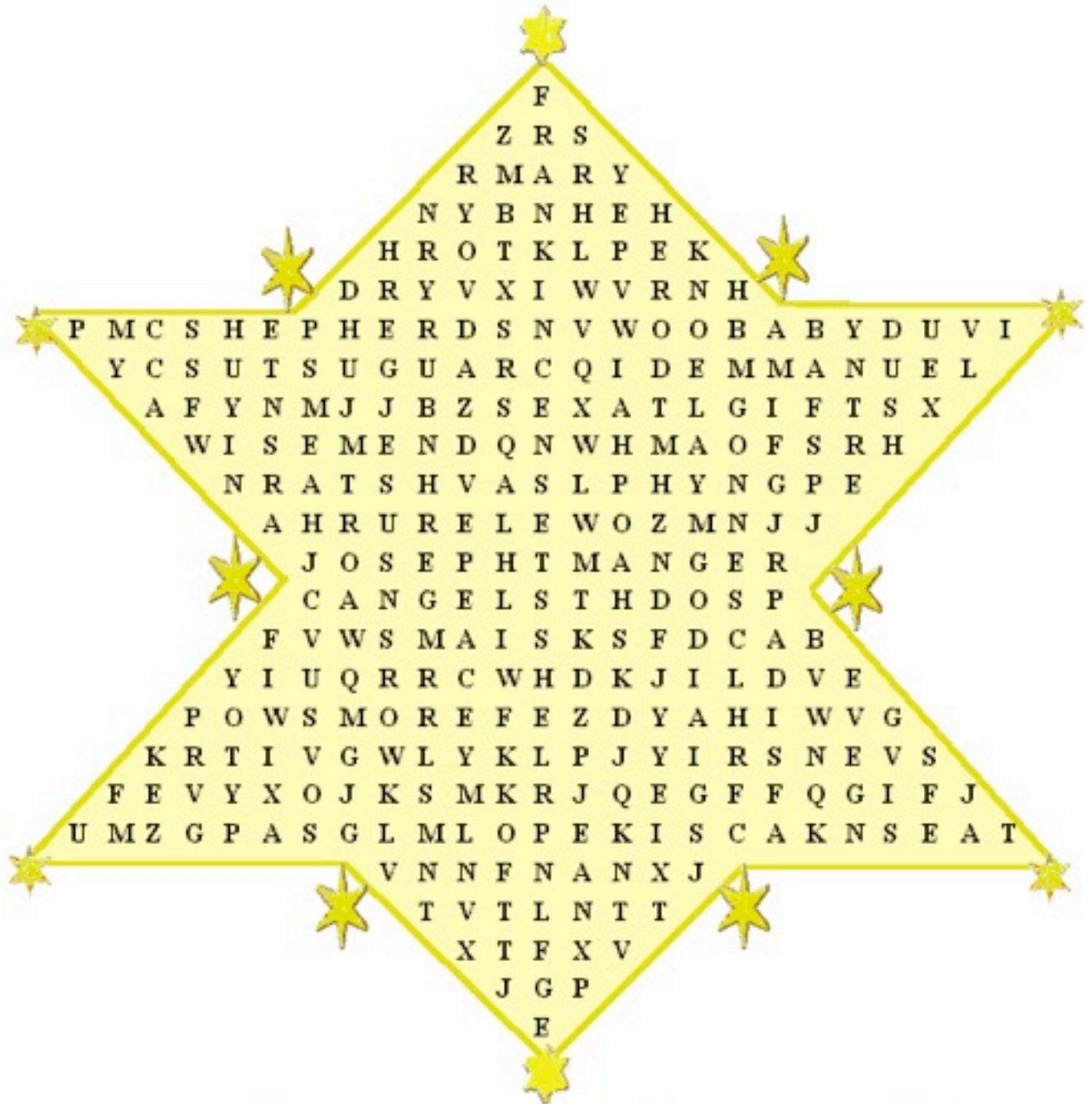
- 1 Jesus' birthplace (9)
- 5 Herod slew the children of this age and under (3)
- 8 Peter quoted his words on the day of Pentecost (4)
- 9 "A ___ shaken with the wind" (4)
- 10 "Ye shall find ___ babe wrapped in swaddling clothes" (3)
- 12 The year from Jesus' birth (2)
- 14 Anna was of this tribe (as recorded in Luke) (4)
- 15 "Behold, a ___ shall be with child" (6)
- 20 "Fruits ___ for repentance" (4)

- 21 The wise men came from here (4)
- 22 "He shall reign of the house of ___ for ever" (5)
- 23 A female ancestor of Jesus, as recorded in Matthew 1 (4)
- 25 The amount of manna to be gathered per person (4)
- 27 He multiplied the widow's oil (6)
- 30 "As soon as the voice of thy salvation sounded in mine ___" (4)
- 32 An altar meaning witness (Joshua 22) (2)
- 33 To increase (3)
- 35 Malarial fever (4)
- 36 To guide (4)
- 38 There was no room here (3)
- 39 These men went to see the baby Jesus (9)

Down

- 1 "Mary, of whom was ___ Jesus" (4)
- 2 Jesus' age when he was taken to Jerusalem (6)
- 3 Jesus did not do this in the wilderness (3)
- 4 Adam's wife (3)
- 5 "Mary was espoused ___ Joseph" (2)
- 6 "They that ___ soft clothing are in kings' houses" (4)
- 7 Zacharias said, "I am an ___ man" (3)
- 8 Grandson of 23 (5)
- 11 A place near Bethel (3)
- 13 "A pair of turtledoves ___ two young pigeons" (2)
- 16 "That ___ might be fulfilled" (2)
- 17 "The ___ of God was upon him" (5)
- 18 Mother-in-law of 23 (5)
- 19 This went before the wise men (4)
- 20 The mother of Jesus (4)
- 24 He was king at the time of Jesus' birth (5)
- 25 "___ that one would hear me!" (2)
- 26 Jesus was laid in this (6)
- 28 The spirit did this to Jesus in the wilderness (3)
- 29 Thus (2)
- 30 The first garden (4)
- 31 "Where is he that is born king of the ___?" (4)
- 32 A priest in the time of Samuel (3)
- 33 A tree of the olive family (3)
- 34 To put into water (3)
- 37 "___ angel of the Lord appeareth" (2)

His Birth



Angels
Augustus
Baby
Bethlehem
Elisabeth
Emmanuel
Frankincense
Gifts

Gold
Herod
Inn
Jesus
Joseph
Manger
Mary
Myrrh

Nativity
Noel
Peace
Promise
Savior
Shepherds
Star
Swaddling

Taxes
Virgin
Wisemen

Dates For Your Diary

December 2011

Thur 1st	7.30 p.m.	Monthly Prayer Meeting in the lounge
	7.30 p.m.	Wonford Worms meet at 39 Meyer Court
Sat 3rd	9.00 a.m.	'In the Picture' Nativity in Princesshay (Until 1.00pm)
	All Day	Action for Children Advent Abseil in the Princesshay Shopping Centre **
	2.30 p.m.	Anna William's Local Preacher Recognition Service
	2.30 p.m.	Whiddon Down MC Annual Christmas Fair in Village Hall **
Sun 4th	10.00 a.m.	All Age Worship - Monika Noronha
	6.30 p.m.	Rev Mark Gilborson - Sacrament Service
Mon 5th	6.30 p.m.	Girls' Brigade Christingle **
Tue 6th	8.00 p.m.	Home Group at 2 Wallace Avenue ** Cell Values 11
Sat 10th	9.00 a.m.	'In the Picture' Nativity in Princesshay (Until 1.00pm)
	7.30 p.m.	Christian Aid 'Night of a Thousand Voices' in Exeter Cathedral - free admission **
Sun 11th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Mark Gilborson Bible Baddies Made Good - Saul
	6.30 p.m.	Rev Mark Gilborson - Film Service
	6.30 p.m.	Whiddon Down MC Carol Service in the Village Hall followed by refreshments *
Mon 12th	7.30 p.m.	Okehampton Choral Society Christmas Concert at The Mint Methodist Church **
Thur 15th	2.00 p.m.	Bible Study with Rev Mark Gilborson **
Sat 17th	9.00 a.m.	'In the Picture' Nativity in Princesshay (Until 1.00pm)
	5.00 p.m.	Young Church Christmas Party **
Sun 18th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Francis Acquah - Sacrament Service
	3.30 p.m.	CTaX Exeter Nativity - Princesshay to Cathedral Green **
	5.30 p.m.	Carol Service + mince pies
Tue 20th	8.00 p.m.	Home Group Christmas Part at Sharon and Mark's - 20 Whipton Lane **
Wed 21st	10.00 a.m.	Well Cafe (until 12pm) - note change in times
Thur 22nd	7.30 p.m.	Joan & Tony's Annual Christmas Evening **
Sat 24th	6.30 p.m.	Christmas Eve Communion with Rev Mark Gilborson
Sun 25th	10.00 a.m.	Christmas Day with Rev Mark Gilborson.

January 2012

Sun 1st	10.00 a.m.	Rev Alan Rothwell
	6.30 p.m.	Paul Violet
Tue 3rd	7.30 p.m.	New Emmaus Course Start ** The X Centre, Exeter
	8.00 p.m.	Home Group meets - venue to be decided **
Thur 5th	7.30 p.m.	Prayer Meeting in the Lounge
Sun 8th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Mark Gilborson - All Age Worship Annual Covenant Service
	6.30 p.m.	Fiona Budd
Thur 12th	7.30 p.m.	Wonford Worms Meet - venue to be decided*
Sun 15th	10.00 a.m.	Ann Skinner
	6.30 p.m.	Rev Mark Gilborson - Sacrament & Prayer & Praise
Tue 17th	8.00 p.m.	Home Group meets - venue to be decided **
Wed 18th	10.00 a.m.	Well Cafe (until 12pm)
Thur 19th	2.00 p.m.	Bible Study with Rev Mark Gilborson **
Fri 20th	7.00 p.m.	New Year Party - Bring & Share Supper ** 'Wonford Does A Minute to Win It'
Sun 22nd	10.00 a.m.	Peter Jolly
	6.30 p.m.	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service Pray4Exeter - Exeter Cathedral
25th - 26th Christian Resources Exhibition - Westpoint		
Sun 29th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Mark Gilborson
	6.30 p.m.	Cafe Church with Rev David Muir

**** For more information see a separate item in this newsletter, or look on the noticeboard for a poster**





Carol Service

All Are Welcome

Sunday 18th December 2011

5.30 p.m.

Come and sing familiar Christmas Carols and see youngsters in nativity scenes and sketches

Followed by mince pies and coffee



Christmas Eve Communion

All Welcome

Saturday 24th December
2011 - 6.30 p.m.



Christmas Day Service

Sunday 25th December
2011 - 10.00 a.m.



Both services led by
Rev Mark Gilborson



New Year Party

Friday 20th January
2012 - 7.00 p.m.

'Wonford Does A
Minute to Win It'

Bring & Share Supper

More details inside

Weekly Activities

Sunday

- 10.00 a.m. Morning Service and Young Church
(1st Sunday in each month is All-Age Worship)
6.30 p.m. Evening Service
(2nd Sunday in each month is Prayer & Praise)

Monday

- 2.45 p.m. Monday House Fellowship (68 Hoker Road)
(See Beryl Violet for details)
5.45 p.m. and 7.00 p.m. Girls' Brigade *A*

Tuesday

- 9.15 a.m. Weekly Prayers in the Quiet Room
10.00 a.m. Men's Coffee and Games Morning
10.00 a.m. Well Cafe (3rd Wednesday each month)
8.00 p.m. Home Group
(See inside for more details)

Wednesday

- 7.00 p.m. Junior Youth Club (7 - 11 Year Old) *A*
8.15 p.m. Senior Youth Club (11+ Year Old) *A*

Thursday

- 2.00 p.m. Bible Study (3rd Thursday each month)
7.30 p.m. Prayer Meeting (1st Thursday each month)

Friday

- 9.30 a.m. Friday Toddlers Group *A*
2.00 p.m. Friday Fellowship - see Sheila Bricknell for details

To be sure these take place see Dates to Note or the Notice Board
(*A* = No meeting during school holiday)

The deadline for items for the February 2012 Newsletter will be Sunday 15th January 2012. There is no guarantee of inclusion, but they may be given to:
Andrew Jackson - 19 Hills Orchard, Martock, Somerset. TA12 6DF.
Tel: 01935 826072 or e-mailed to andrew.m.jackson@me.com