

Wonford Methodist Church



Contact Newsletter December 2017 / January 2018

(No: 464)

Minister: Rev Bruce Sawyer (01392 256716)

www.wonfordmethodistchurch.org.uk



Girls' Brigade

invite you to their:

"Christingle"

**Monday 4th December
2017**

6.00 p.m.

(see separate notice)



Exminster Christmas Tree Festival

**Friday 1st - Monday 4th
December 2017**

**Exminster Methodist
Church**

Entrance FREE

**Viewing times - see
separate article.**



Annual Christmas Evening

All Welcome

**Tuesday 19th December
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 16th
December 2017**

4.30 - 6.30 p.m.

**Please come and join us for lots of
games, food & fun!**

A Message From The Minister

Keep silence.

For some of us, this might be one of the harder rhythms of discipleship.

That might be because we are the one always talking! Or because we are the kind of person whose head is always full of ideas, thoughts, questions or worry; silent on the outside, but inside there is a noise of competing thoughts.

For others, the idea of being silent itself might be problematic because we see the damage that has been done when people have been silenced, or because we see too much about which we feel we should not, cannot, keep silent (e.g. poverty).

Perhaps you are thinking that Christmas is hardly the appropriate time for silence! What about all the Christmas cheer? What about angels filling the skies and singing “Glory to God”?

But keeping silence is a part of Christmas too.

One of the most well-known carols begins, “Silent night”. When the angel first appears to Mary to announce she is pregnant, she is confused, she ponders what greeting she is given, but initially she does not speak (Luke 1: 29). Does Mary keep silent here because she instinctively realises that this is a time to listen? There will be a time to give thanks, to praise (Luke 1:46-55), but for now, she needs to listen, to seek to hear, to take in, all that God is doing.

Later, when the shepherds appear in Bethlehem after the birth, they are the ones talking of what has been made known to them, and leave telling of all that has been seen and heard. But again, Mary appears to be silent, treasuring the shepherd’s words and pondering them in her heart (Luke 2: 19). Is her silence here one of intimacy? A silence through which God speaks tenderly of the blessings of what has begun that night.

In both these instances, silence is an appropriate response. Were Mary to speak, it would seem to jar with the sweep of the story – God is at work, God is the central character, not Mary. Words might get in the way. Mary’s silence creates space for God’s grace to be at work. For the gift to be received.

As part of the rhythm of discipleship, when and where will you keep silent this Christmas? How will you use silence to listen for God, to take in what God is doing? Perhaps you too, in the stillness, and the slowing of silence, will discover a deeper intimacy with God.

With every blessing for a peaceful and joyful Christmas

Rev Bruce Sawyer

Dates For December 17 / January 18

Flowers

December

3rd Beryl Violet
10th Eileen
17th Mandy
24th Mandy
31st Mandy

January

7th TBA
14th Barbara Jackson
21st TBA
28th TBA



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. More volunteers are required for 2018.

Many Thanks - Eileen.

Coffee

December

3rd Fran & Pauline
11th Madeline & David
17th 10.00am Elizabeth & Helen
5.30 pm Carol Service - Mince pies and offers of help welcome
24th Christmas Eve - TBA
31st Madeline & David



January

7th Melanie
14th Fran & Pauline
21st TBA
28th Jenny & Ruth



Minister's Monthly Bible Study Group

This meets in the lounge at 2pm normally on the third Thursday each month. All are welcome and if you'd like to learn more, do speak with Bronwen or Clifford Maddicks. Dates for Dec 2017 and January 2018 are below.

Thursday 14th December

Thursday 18th January

Stationing Update

The circuit is delighted that, subject to Conference, two successful matches have been made.

Rev'd Wayne Grewcock has accepted an invitation to serve in the Budleigh/Exmouth/Lympstone section, and Rev'd Ben Haslam has accepted an invitation to serve at Wonford (where he will also be responsible for Exminster, Honiton, Ottery St. Mary and Farway).

Again, subject to Conference, our own minister Bruce has accepted an invitation to serve in the West Durham circuit. The family will move to Stanhope over the summer where from September Bruce will be working with 3 churches and 3 fellowship groups spread throughout Weardale.

Please remember all circuits and ministers still awaiting an appropriate match as the stationing process continues, and continue to pray for those who have been matched as a time of transition begins.

Advent Service

On Sunday 3rd December there will be no evening service at Wonford Methodist Church as we will be joining with other local Christians from the Heavitree area for an Advent Service at St. Michael's Church, at 4pm. It would be great to see this well supported by Wonford folk – it's a great opportunity to worship with other local Christians, and sing some great Advent Carols.

Carols in the Ruins

Following the success of the first act of worship at the ruined chapel in St. Loyes (Rifford Road) for hundreds of years, another is already planned! On Monday 18th December at 6pm there will be Carol Singing in the ruins, with soup. Please bring a torch.

Messy Church in January 2018

This will be on the 21st, 4-6pm and the theme will be 'Love Rules'.





Exminster Christmas Tree Festival

**1st to 4th
December 2017**

Opening times:

Friday 1st from 3 pm till 7 pm

Saturday 2nd from 10 am till 7 pm

Saturday Coffee Morning from (10-12 noon) with various stalls
when the '**Santa Lady**' comes with some of her many toy Santas

Light lunches 12.15 pm till 2.00 pm

Sunday 3rd from 3 pm till 5.30 pm

Sunday Service amongst the trees for all ages at 10.30 am

Monday 4th Group visits - by arrangement only

Admission is free

Light refreshments available during all opening times

Carol singing as it gets dark - from 5.00 pm ***each day***

For more information please contact Jeny on 01392 832553 or
exminstermethodists@yahoo.co.uk

**Be sure to come and see all the Christmas Trees
at Exminster Methodist Church (EX6 8BT)**

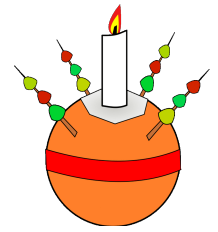
Stagecoach No 2 and 'B' buses stop nearby

**All money raised is for children's charity *Action for Children* who work
in Devon and for *Bramble Children's Ward* at the RD&E Hospital**

Girls' Brigade Christingle

2nd Exeter Girls' Brigade invites you all to it's Christingle Service at 6pm on Monday 4th December 2016. Everyone is welcome to join us on this special occasion.

The Girls' Brigade team



Tuesday Group Meetings in December 2017 / January 2018

Tuesday 12th December	7.30pm	Home Group Party at 20 Whipton Lane
Tuesday 9th January	7.30pm	20 Whipton Lane
Tuesday 23rd January	7.30pm	20 Whipton Lane

New members are always welcome. Please contact Monika for details.

Monika

Away Group

Away Group is the House Group that isn't Home Group. We have really wonderful times of Bible Study, prayer and fellowship with a lovely group of people.

We meet every week and most times there are 12 of us present - sometimes more; sometimes less. There's always room for more if you want to experience a great supporting group of people in your Christian life. Come and try us.

After the Christmas/New year break we will be starting up again on the 8th, 15th and 22nd of January 2018 with a new study topic. Watch the church notices for the venues.

Tony

Cranbrook & Cornerstone Prayer Day

This gave me plenty of new information about that ever-growing new town, and its various needs and challenges. From it's beginning in September 2012, when the first residents moved in, there have been a few dedicated Christian workers making up the Cornerstone Church there. The first minister, Mark Gilborson, and others visited and welcomed all new house occupiers and began to form a real community working for all who lived there, enabling different groups to form and build each other up.

As time has passed, this continues as part of the work of their present minister, Lythan Nevard. I learned there are now 43 different community groups in Cranbrook, some part of larger outside organisations; but some

set up by and for Cranbrook folk - from a Running Group to BSL/British Sign Language Social Group, and 41 others as well!

Lythan shared the challenges of Cornerstone Church organised events - some overwhelmed by the numbers attending, and others hardly attended at all. She asked for our continuing prayers for the town and Cornerstone Church; and gave thanks for all that is good in their growing community.

Please do continue to keep Lythan and Cornerstone Church folk in your prayers.

Margretta Bowstead

Exeter Foodbank

We were pleased to read in the Foodbank newsletter that Rev Terry Spencer is joining the Exeter Foodbank's management team. It says that Terry has been a team leader for them at the Mint and at Beacon Heath and is starting to get involved at the store too. After retiring from full time Methodist Ministry four years ago, Terry chose to volunteer in a community role - something he'd not been able to do given his church commitments. Many thanks for the continued support for the Foodbank. Gifts of non-perishable food are welcome. In 2016/17, Exeter Foodbank provided 3 days' worth of emergency food to 5,174 local people.

You can find out about Exeter Foodbank at <https://exeter.foodbank.org.uk/>

Wonford Community News

Christmas Fayre

All welcome to the Christmas Fayre on Wednesday 13th December 2017 from 1.30pm to 3.30pm with crafts and gifts, teas and cakes in the Phoenix Centre (next to Wonford Sports Centre).

Carols by Candlelight

Everyone is invited to Wonford Community and Learning Centre for their annual Carols by Candlelight event with the Summerland Singers on Wednesday 6th December 2017 at 7.30pm. FREE entry and FREE tea, coffee and a mince pie.



Holocaust Memorial Day 2018

Inherit the Truth

An evening of words and music reflecting the events of the Holocaust
with Raphael Wallfisch and Anita Lasker-Wallfisch



HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
DAY TRUST

- Exeter Cathedral
- 7pm Thursday 1st February 2018
- Free event (for booking details see below)

Anita Lasker-Wallfisch, holocaust survivor, one of the few remaining members of the Women's Orchestra in Auschwitz. She will speak about how art can survive the worst human atrocities

Raphael Wallfisch Anita's son and a world-renowned musician. He will play a recital of evocative and sublime cello music, inspired by his Jewish heritage



Booking details: Please state the name of your group on the booking form. Booking through <http://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/event/all-events/inherit-the-truth.ashx> 01392 285893 Contact Ed Pawson more info: efpawson@gmail.com or at [Devon Faith and Belief Forum](http://www.devonfaithandbelief.org.uk)

THE POWER
OF WORDS
HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL DAY 2018

What Do You Believe Heaven Is Like?

Having received encouraging reviews of my 'Do You Believe in Miracles Still?', I thought that I'd write this sequel to warm you up in the bleak mid winter.

Jesus said in John 14 (KJV) "My Father's Kingdom Is like Mansions with many rooms." In 1964, we travelled up this long, windy and overgrown drive and as we passed the old red glass lantern a huge 60 room mansion came into view. We visited on several weekends and then mum said that this was going to be our new home.

Mum was a trained district nurse and became a live-in secretary to a new Christian Community on the outskirts of Withycombe Raleigh. We moved into Bystock on August 4th 1965.

To me, an 8 year old boy, it was a wonderland, especially with my best friends Mark and Laura. Let me tell you about two of those 60 rooms.

The hallway, walled with reindeer heads, had a splendid stairway, that Father Christmas would come down, ringing his bell, to be greeted by the children, all the while being watched by the eyes of Jesus, who followed you wherever you went from the painting opposite. After Father Christmas was led into a magnificent ballroom, which had elaborate chandeliers and a huge fireplace, to a really tall and decorated Christmas Tree. From under the tree Father Christmas called us each by name to receive our very own present.

Bystock, truly was a Winter Wonderland, when snow laid all around and a foretaste of heaven on earth.

I dedicate this article to my dear mum who passed away in February of this year, who is united with her friends and family in one of those mansions today.

Enjoy every moment, that this Christmas brings.

With love From Sharon and Nick.



Prayer Focus for December/January

December

Pray Without Ceasing

Week beginning 3rd. The 1st Sunday of Advent.

Pray for the All Age Worship in the morning at Wonford & the United Service at St Michael's, Heavitree. On Monday pray for the Girl's Brigade as they hold their Christingle service at 6pm. Also, please pray for the Ladies night out on the 7th.



Week beginning 10th. Advent 2.

Pray for our circuit as we unite at Budleigh Salterton Church at 6.30pm. Pray that we will work well as a circuit to spread the Gospel of the Christmas Child & pray especially for all our ministers, deacons & stewards.



Week beginning 17th. Advent 3.

Pray for the Carol Service which takes place at 5.30pm. Pray that the service will be well attended & people will enter a new relationship with the Lord.



Week beginning 24th. Advent 4.

Christmas Eve Sacrament takes place at 6.30pm. As our children get excited for Christmas Day please pray for those children who face Christmas without presents. Pray for all people who will be lonely, cold & without a loved one or who face illness. Thank God for all those who reach out to those less fortunate.



Week beginning 31st.

With only a morning service & no meetings this week, pray for the New Year ahead to prepare for the Covenant Service & how you can be used by God in the coming year.

PLEASE NOTE the Tuesday prayer meeting will NOT meet on Dec 26th & Jan 2nd. However if you have any prayer requests please contact in the usual way.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE &
GOD BLESS YOU ALL IN 2018**

January

Pray Without Ceasing

Week beginning 7th. Happy New Year everyone.

We begin 2018 with our All Age Worship at 10am. Please pray for all our young people as they start the new school term & for the Girls Brigade, Junior Church & Messy Church & all the leaders as they prepare. Also pray for the Mums & Tots group. Pray for all who attend & for all the leaders & helpers as they meet together.



Week beginning 14th

Pray for our Covenant service that takes place today. Pray that we will think about our role in the life of the church. How can we use the gifts that we have been given to reach others.



Week beginning 21st.

Today sees the start of The Week For Christian Unity beginning with a united service at Belmont Chapel at 6.30pm. Pray that ALL denominations will unite to show God's love at a time when there seems to be so much division in our world.



Week beginning 28th.

Pray for Messy Church today as they start the New Year with lots of fun learning more of our wonderful Saviour. Pray for those who attend that would not normally go to any church. May their hearts be open to the Gospel.



During this month please pray for the M.E.T Conference that takes place in Torquay over the weekend of January 26th, 27th & 28th. Pray for Rev Paul Smith as he prepares the talks & for all who attend. Pray also for the hotel staff that they will see Christ in us & find Him for themselves.

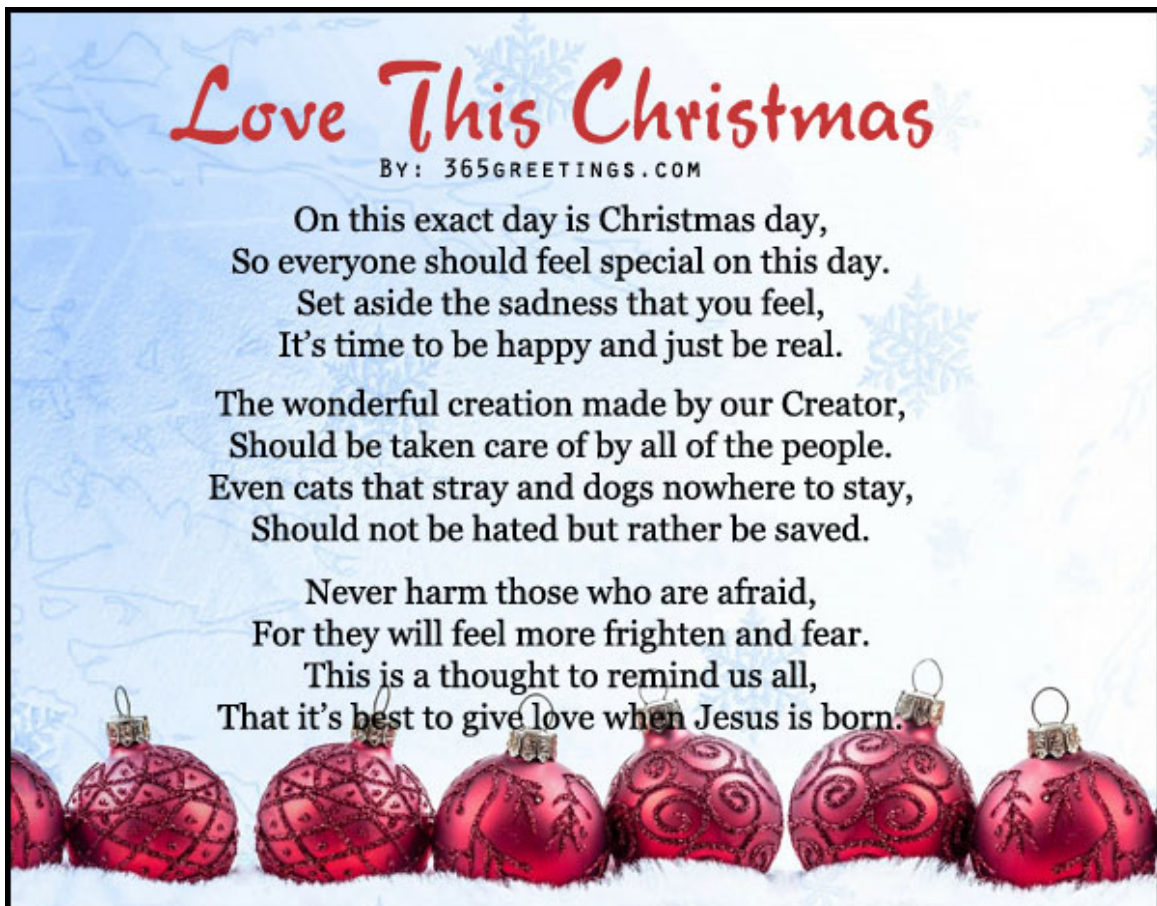
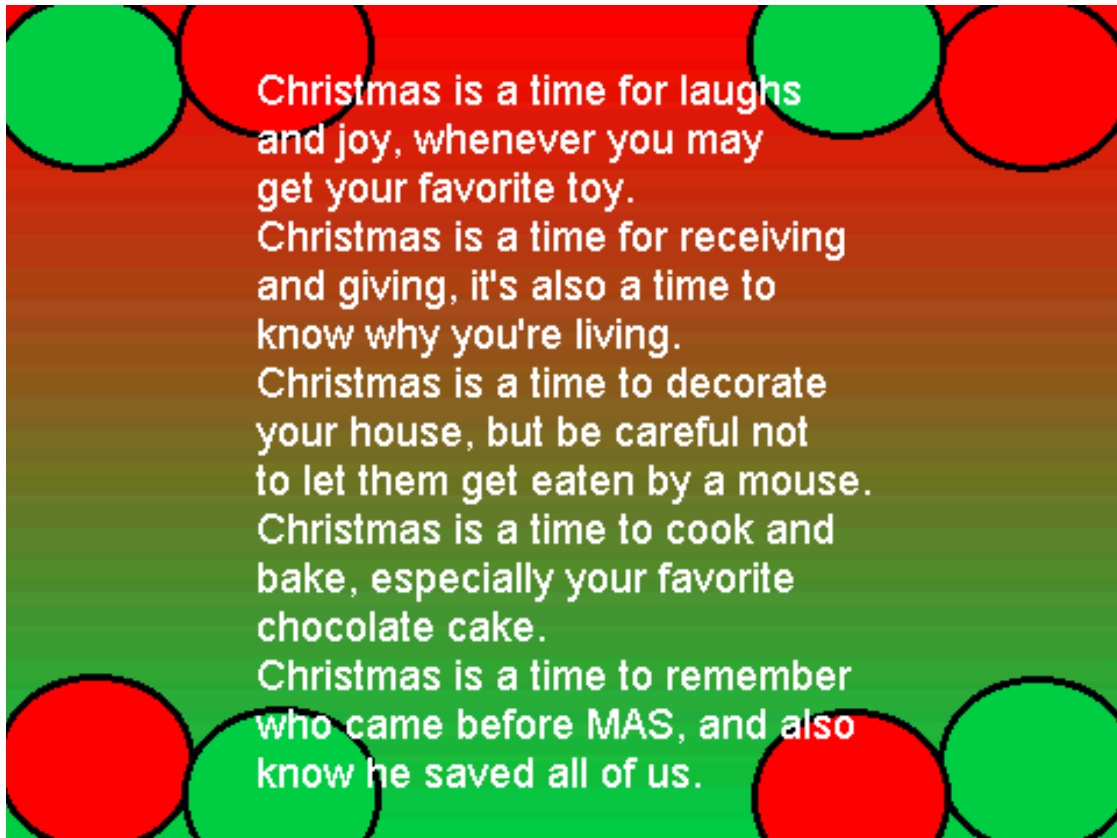
Phone Prayer Link

Should you, or those you know, wish to be supported in prayer, the first contact is now Rev Alan Rothwell (01392 926840). Your request will then be passed to members of the Prayer Link who will pray for your need. If the first contact is unavailable, please contact Margretta Bowstead (437329) or Margaret Kearns (679949).

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



CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD

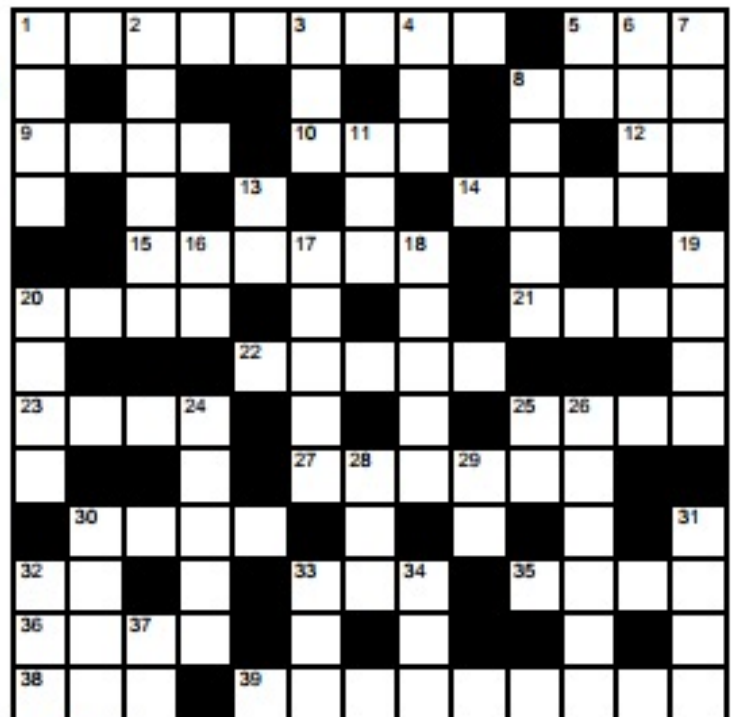
Across

- 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)



by Colin

- 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)

Maze

Can you be a star and guide the wise men to Jesus?



Word search

Can you find these Christmas words?

BETHLEHEM	JOSEPH	SHEEP	CARD
STAR	ANGEL	CHRISTMAS	TURKEY
KING	GOLD	PRESENT	SNOW
JESUS	FRANKINCENSE	CRACKER	CAROLS
MARY	MYRRH	TREE	DONKEY

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



Across

1. Herald the herald _____ sing
4. The day before Christmas is called Christmas ____
5. _____ Peace and Joy
8. Who gave gifts to Jesus? (3-4-3)
9. Once, in Royal _____ City

Down

1. Type of calendar we open before Christmas
2. One of the gifts the Wise Men gave Jesus
3. The town where Jesus was born
6. How many days of Christmas are there?
7. Who was born at Christmas?

Spot the difference

Can you spot 11 differences between the pictures?



News From The Methodist Church

ICAN win Nobel Peace Prize

The Revd Loraine N Mellor and Jill Baker, the President and the Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, congratulated the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) on being awarded the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize.

ICAN, a coalition of hundreds of non-governmental organisations and faith groups, received the award after being instrumental in getting the majority of the world's nations to sign up to a UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

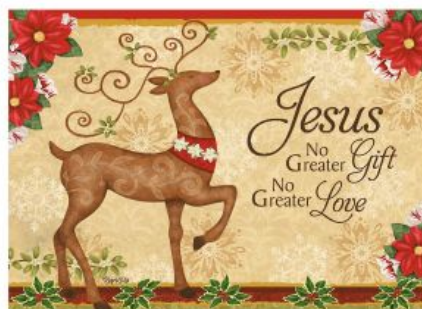
The Revd Loraine N Mellor said: "Nuclear weapons are totally opposed to the love that God has for humankind. They represent a denial of hope, a challenge to community and a threat to peace. We live in a world of tension and it is becoming abundantly clear that nuclear weapons do not make us safer but are themselves a source of fear and dispute."

The Methodist Church has consistently stated that nuclear weapons are incompatible with ethical principles and international law. It has advocated for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons through resources and support of community action. Methodist Church leaders and members have joined with other churches and faith groups in the UK on many occasions, for example with statements in 2015 and in 2016.

The most important Christmas card you'll send this year

Methodist Homes (MHA) is asking church members and children to write just one extra Christmas card and share the joy of Christmas with an MHA resident or Live at Home scheme member. If you can send them your greetings MHA will pass them on.

For more details please see the MHA website.



Dates For Your Diary

December 2017

Exminster Christmas Tree Festival - 1st to 4th December 2017**

Sat 2nd	2.00 p.m.	Christmas Cream Teas, Bring & Buy, etc at Whiddon Down Village Hall **
	7.00 p.m.	Big Christmas Extravaganza at University Great Hall London Community Gospel Choir **
Sun 3rd	10.00 a.m.	All Age Worship - Caroline Sawyer
	4.00 p.m.	United Advent Service at St Michael's, Heavitree **
Mon 4th	6.00 p.m.	Girls' Brigade 'Christingle' - everyone welcome **
Wed 6th	7.30 p.m.	Carols by Candlelight at Wonford Community & Learning Centre **

Sat 9th to Thursday 21st - The 12 Days of Christmas Display at Temple Methodist Church, Budleigh Salterton **

Sun 10th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Bruce Sawyer - Sacrament Service
	6.30 p.m.	United Service at Temple MC, Budleigh Salterton
	6.30 p.m.	Carol Service at Whiddon Down MC **
Tue 12th	7.30 p.m.	Home Group Christmas Party at 20 Whipton Lane *
Wed 13th	1.30 p.m.	Christmas Fayre at The Phoenix Centre **
Thu 14th	2.00 p.m.	Bible Study in the Lounge - Job 9&10
Sat 16th	4.30 p.m.	Young Church Christmas Party **
Sun 17th	10.00 a.m.	Margaret Cole
	5.30 p.m.	Christmas Carol Service
Tue 19th	10.00 a.m.	Roundabout Cafe (until 12pm)
	7.30 p.m.	Joan & Tony's Annual Christmas Evening **
Sun 24th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Bruce Sawyer
	6.30 p.m.	Rev Terry Spencer - Christmas Eve Communion **
Mon 25th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Bruce Sawyer - Christmas Day Service **
Sun 31st	10.00 a.m.	Ann Skinner
	6.30 p.m.	No Evening Service



January 2018

Sun 7th	10.00 a.m.	All Age Worship - Karenza Cordery
	6.30 p.m.	Rev Steve Santry
Tue 9th	7.30 p.m.	Home Group meets - 20 Whipton Lane
Sun 14th	10.00 a.m.	Rev Bruce Sawyer - Annual Covenant Service
	6.30 p.m.	Rev Alan Rothwell - Prayer & Praise
Mon 15th	7.30 p.m.	Circuit Meeting at The Mint
Tue 16th	10.00 a.m.	Roundabout Cafe (until 12pm) **
Thu 18th	2.00 p.m.	Monthly Bible Study in the lounge **

18th to 25th January 2018 - Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Sun 21st	10.00 a.m.	Monika Noronha
	4.00 p.m.	Messy Church
	6.30 p.m.	Pray4Exeter at Belmont Chapel
Tue 23rd	7.30 p.m.	Home Group meets at 20 Whipton Lane **
Sun 28th	10.00 a.m.	Steve Jones
	6.30 p.m.	Local Arrangements

February 2018

Thu 1st	7.00 p.m.	Holocaust Memorial Day Concert, Exeter Cathedral
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***** For more information see a separate item in this newsletter, or look on the noticeboard for a poster***





Carol Service

All Are Welcome

Sunday 17th December 2017

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

**Sunday 24th December
6.30 p.m.**

Rev Terry Spencer



Christmas Day Service

**Monday 25th December
10.00 a.m.**

Rev Bruce Sawyer



New Year Party

**Date, Time and Theme
to be confirmed.**

Bring & Share Supper

More details to follow

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

5.45 to 7pm Girls' Brigade (4-16 year olds) *A*
7.30 p.m. Away Group Bible Study

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. The Roundabout Cafe (3rd Tuesday each month)
7.30 p.m. Home Group Bible Study Meeting (fortnightly)

Thursday

2.00 p.m. Bible Study (3rd Thursday each month)

Friday

9.30 a.m. Friday Toddlers Group *A*
2.00 p.m. Friday Fellowship in the lounge

**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 2018 Newsletter will be Sunday 14th January 2018. 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