



Aylestone Baptist Church
Learning God's Love, Sharing God's Love



**November & December
2020
Church Magazine**

Our Immanuel

I'm sure we're all fed up with the news lately, I am for sure, so rather than bad news let's remind ourselves of the good news. As what may be a different Christmas to usual approaches, it's time to remember the most important 'Good news' story of all time.

Behold, I give to you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people (Luke 2:10). The virgin will conceive and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call His name Immanuel (God with us) Isa 7:14) For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given (Isa 9:6). for God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life (Joh 3:16).

His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace (Isa 9:6) and is born today, in the city of David, a Saviour, Jesus Christ the Lord (Luke 2:11). This is a sign to you. You will find the baby wrapped, lying in a manger, and suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. (Luke 2:12-14)

This good news was announced long before Jesus was born, and was hoped upon by those who trusted in God's promises. Knowing that the Messiah would be a descendent of David – (Isa 9:6-7- Matt 1:1) from the tribe of Judah (Gen 49:8-10 - Heb 7:14; Matt 1:1-3; Rev 5:5) born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2- Mat 2:1) and visited by distant kings who would bow down and bear gifts (Psalm 72:10-11 Matt 2:11) but would have to flee to Egypt (Hosea 11:1-Matt 2:13-16) were just a few of the prophecies they looked for.

They believed that God knows the future (Isa 46:10-11) trusting Him in it, and for it, knowing He is faithful to fulfil all He has said, and so too for us today.

In an ever changing world that seems so uncertain at present, to keep trusting Him brings the promise that *'the peace of God which passes all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. (Php 4:7)*

So this Christmas as we celebrate Jesus' birth, rest assured in God's love and faithfulness, remembering not only Jesus as the baby in the manger, but also as the risen Lord whose Spirit dwells with all those who love Him. So wherever your Christmas is this year, let us take time to thank God for the presence, peace and joy of the risen Lord with you, in all that you do.

Now that really is Good news.

May God bless you all, hope you have a great Christmas

Graham

Services for November/December 2020.

November

- Sunday 1st Ellie Cockbill preaching. Theme: Hebrews Ch.7:20-28
- Sunday 8th Ellie Cockbill preaching. Theme: Hebrews Ch.8: 1-5.
REMEMBRANCE Act led by Stan Mackley & Jill Walton.
- Sunday 15th Elaine Pantling preaching. Theme: Hebrews 8:6 – Ch.9:14
Service to include **COMMUNION**.
- Sunday 22nd Pippa Berry preaching. Theme: Hebrews Ch.9:15-22
- Sunday 29th **Advent Sunday** Martin Gage preaching with Maxine Elliott leading. Theme: Hebrews Ch 9:23 – Ch.10:18

December

- Sunday 6th Stan Mackley preaching. Theme: Hebrews 10:19-39
- Sunday 13th Graham Hill preaching. Theme: Hebrews Ch.11: 1-16
- Sunday 20th David Statham preaching. Theme: Hebrews Ch.11: 17-32
Service to include **COMMUNION**
- Sunday 20th **Carol Service** – recorded. Led by Stan Mackley and to
Include favourite carols, readings and meditations.
- Thursday 24th **Christmas Eve Midnight Service – 11.30pm.**
Led by Stan Mackley.
- Friday 25th **Christmas Day** Recording of Midnight Service available for
Christmas morning.

Please note: There will be NO service on 27th December

Church Family News

Our prayerful sympathy to Mary Shipton and the family on the passing away of mum Jean. Jean had lived most of her life in Cosby, where she was the village postmistress for many years. In her retirement she was a regular at our Lunch Club until she was admitted to Westview Retirement Home where she was happily cared for until her death. She is very fondly remembered by her four children, and her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and is sadly missed.

We were saddened at the death of Tony Pope, a much loved member of our Lunch Club and Open House. We know that Tony was greatly missing our Thursday Groups, closed due to Covid-19 and we are sorry that we had not been able to share fellowship with him for the many months of lockdown before his passing. Our sympathies to Mrs. Pope and the family.

We remember in prayer Bulus and Lydia as they mourn the death of their baby nephew in Nigeria. At these times we long to be on hand to give a hug, but we know that Jesus is holding that little family firmly in his arms of Grace.

Thank you for prayers for Lucia Wisbar, 6 year old daughter of our former youth worker, Anni, in Germany. Lucia has now had a lung transplant, but is diagnosed with long term effects, including paralysis. Please continue to pray for her, but also for Anni and Lenni as they face the future.

Mavis Sharman is recovering well after a collapse in church on Harvest Sunday. We continue to pray for a full return to health for Mavis.

Maureen and Eric Clarke are moving to a new flat. We wish them every happiness in their new home, but we are sorry that they will not be able to get to our church from their new address. We pray they will find a place of worship nearby. Eric will be missed by all the children and families at Montrose School where he has been the "Lollipop man" for many years.



SIGMA UPDATE

We are very grateful to all those regular donors to Sigma and those who have responded to the desperate need in the Akividu area in India where Calvary Baptist Church is working. [we also recently received almost £1300 from Gift Aid] This has enabled us to maintain support for the project at this time of crisis. The Church's response has been recognised with great thanks by the local community – even the regional TV recognised their relief work recently. Covid19 had a devastating effect with many areas being closed off with resulting lack of basics. The Church were sometimes having to hand out supplies through security fences. With so many people living in poverty and in very basic accommodation – some just in grass huts and with limited sanitation and water access the virus ran wild.



Then further tragedy struck when a cyclone hit their area bringing terrible flooding – Rev. Yesupadam wrote:-

Very sad news: a big river (Upputeru) overflowed, because the river wall was damaged. Now 45 surrounding villages fully in the water, people hopeless. no way village to

village all roads are fully water. It is a major disaster. Kindly pray. Please pray for flood victims. These are all villages you have visited.

Undeterred the Church continue to distribute food and other supplies to folk who have again lost everything.



Just the other day Rev. Yesupadam wrote *Brother, Praise the Lord. We visited the most dangerous flood areas. God saved us with His powerful hands. You and my Sister Dorothy fully knew our area's poor people's living conditions. We are thankful to you, your Family and all the Church Families and who are supporting the SIGMA project. Many needs for the Ministry activities. Please continue to pray.*

We thank God for the work they do! If you wish to find out more information or make a donation please ask Stan or Dorothy.

Wash your hands – we all have the message in these days of virus, and we have the facilities, here are some facts from homes in England from the 15th century and earlier, that may make you smile.....



June was a very popular time of the year to get married, not because of the sunshine or blossom, but more because people took their annual bath in May and so they still smelt quite sweet by June... but just in case, the bride carried a bunch of flowers or herbs to hide any body odour on her big day.

Hence the custom today of the bride carrying a bouquet.

Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water in which the man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, followed by women and children and last of all were the babies. By this time the water was so filthy that you could actually have lost someone in it.



Hence the saying – Don't throw the baby out with the bath water.



Houses had thatched roofs with thick straw piled high and no wood underneath for support. It was the only place for smaller animals to keep warm so dogs, cats, mice, bugs etc. took refuge there. However, when it rained, it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall out of the roof.

Hence the saying – Raining cats and dogs.

When these accidents happened, there was nothing to prevent rubbish from falling into the house, which posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could mess up the sheets. This led to a bed with posts at each corner and a sheet over the top to catch any such creatures.

Thus – four poster beds came into being.



Made in Mozambique: Behind the masks.

For Gloria, the Capaz sewing school was everything. It gave her a way to provide for her five-year-old son who can't walk. It gave her friends – a family really – who could support her and who she could share fellowship with. It gave her a chance to learn vital skills, the chance to dream of a future, the chance to create things herself, when so few clothes carry the label “Made in Mozambique”. It gave her hope when so much was against her.

And then Coronavirus happened – and it took so much away.

Within days of the first cases of Covid-19 the entire country was locked down and you could be fined for not wearing a mask. Capaz sewing school was shut down together with many businesses.

All seemed hopeless, then, amazingly, they were given the opportunity to fight back.

BMS Missionary, Susanna Barrell, who trains the women at the school, was asked by Maputo Central Hospital if her school could make much needed masks.

They were happy to have this work. The sewing machines were distributed between women so they could work from their own homes.



It was a big ask to provide 30,000 masks – how could it be done! Then a wonderful thing happened. Other women from different groups involved in the sewing school joined in; women from the local Baptist church, women with tragic backgrounds in prostitution, women from all walks of life coming together to achieve an incredible feat. In the face of a virus that threatened to disrupt and divide, these amazing women were able to stand together and fight back – even if they were apart. An amazing 31,550 masks were provided to the hospital.

[Some of us went to last years BMS meeting where Mark Barrell was speaking.]

BMS sends us their thanks for our support that makes these life-changing events happen. Full story in the ENGAGE magazine, together with many other heart-warming stories from across the globe.

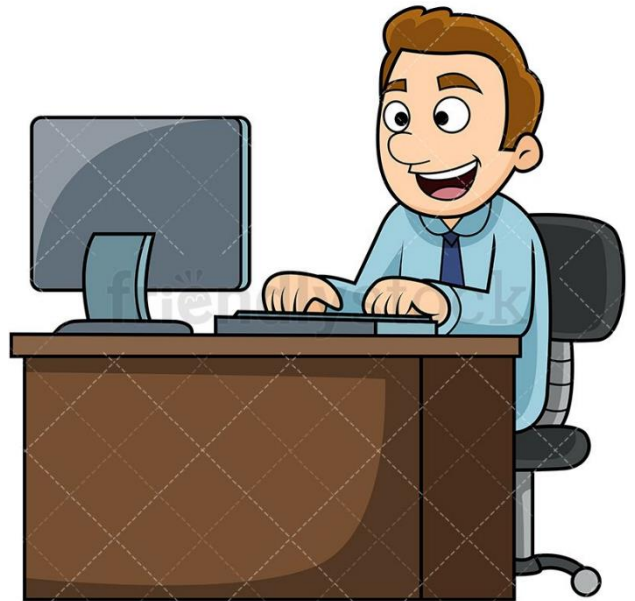
- Don't forget to save stamps for BMS this Christmastime. Put them in the basket at Church, or give to Stanley. Thanks ☺



Using their talents.....

A great big THANK YOU to our wonderful “tech guys” – Lee, Keith and Mike, who have used their expertise to broadcast our services on the website, both audio and video. This is such a blessing to those who are unable to get to church at the present time.

Also to Lisa and Annette who continue to bring Sunday School to the little children via zoom, and Julie and Maxine’s House Groups who are using technology to continue their studies together, and of course thanks to Jill who keeps us up to date with church business by Email.



Sunday morning video recordings...



Those of you who have been attending our Sunday morning services have probably spotted me standing behind a tripod with a camcorder sat at the top. I have been recording the services since we re-opened the church in September (with appropriate Coronavirus safeguards in place) and have been putting a link to the resultant recordings on the church website.

I confess to being a near total novice at both the filming and subsequent editing of the resultant video and I am learning through experience. The editing is a very time consuming exercise (although I am getting better) but I feel that the results are worth the effort. I have received a few, mostly positive, comments and would appreciate more feedback.

The objective of the exercise is to enable everyone to experience a feeling of being part of the service. If you have not been attending the services and have not realised that the video recordings are available, and if you are able to access the church website, please do take a look and let me know what you think.

Keith Elliott

(Keith.Elliott.Home@Gmail.com)

If you are having trouble accessing the video recordings, please see the back page for some detailed instructions.

HARVEST – but not quite as we know it !

Well, it was not quite the same, but we were able to have a wonderful Harvest Service, and lots of goods were donated for the Glen Parva Salvation Army Food Bank. It took 3 cars to transport the food, and we were told of the great need for food help at the present time. The Centre is open daily and they told us that there had been 30 service users on that morning alone.



Many of our folks are unable to join us in worship during the pandemic, and so we sent out “Harvest Gifts” to all. These contained Harvest wordsearches and quiz, a letter from the deacons, a small cottage loaf and a blackberry and apple crumble. But best of all was to have a doorstep chat with people we haven’t seen for months.



There's a thought !

After spending some time with my grandson and talking to him of “many things”, he told his mum – “I’ve been listening to mama talking wisdom.” Here are some “wisdom quotes” from famous people:



*Earth's crammed with Heaven,
And every common bush afire with God.*

Elizabeth Barrett Browning 1806 – 1881

It is better to wear out than to rust out!

Bishop Richard Cumberland 1631 – 1718

The man who makes no mistakes does not usually make anything !

Edward John Phelps 1822 – 1900

*A game which a sharper once played with a dupe,
Entitled “Heads I win, tails you lose”.*

John Wilson Crocker 1780 – 1857

*Auntie, did you feel no pain
Falling from that tree?
Would you do it, please, again,
'Cos my friend here didn't see.*

Harry Graham 1871 -1936

*I never had a piece of toast
Particularly long and wide,
But fell upon the sanded floor
And always on the buttered side !*

James Payn 1830 - 1898

*Life is mostly froth and bubble
Two things stand like stone,
Kindness in another's trouble,
Courage in your own.*

Adam Lindsay Gordon 1833 - 1870

Last Night of the Proms @ South Lodge care home

Well, it was more of a Last Afternoon of the Proms really! The home was decorated with Union Jacks to get everyone in the spirit! I performed a little concert (behind a Perspex screen) on a variety of instruments...clarinet, flute and descant and treble recorder, just for a bit of variety! We had a mixture of well know classics, some less well known, and of course those rousing songs that make the Last Night of the Proms! Land of Hope and Glory, Rule Britannia and Jerusalem. I know these have had some negative press this year, but it truly was wonderful to see the residents waving their flags and singing their hearts out! After the concert the residents were treated to a posh buffet. They all had a wonderful time.



After the main concert I went on to the dementia suite and played and sang some more well-known tunes, mainly from the musicals, as I know they can remember those songs. One resident I had never heard speak was singing 'Somewhere Over the Rainbow' at the top of his voice, which brought a tear to my eye. They waved their flags and sang along too



All in all, it was a very rewarding afternoon. Unfortunately, that was the last music I was allowed to do in the home as they are being extra cautious with the second wave hitting. I'm hoping to be back to singing there soon!

BMS BIRTHDAY SCHEME in aid of Medical Missionary Work.

Happy Birthday and thank you to:

Nov. 3rd Lee Wafforne

Nov. 5th Wendy Hall

Nov. 6th Amy Craston

Nov. 8th Keith Elliott

Nov. 27th Sam Elliot

Dec. 6th Susan Craston

Dec. 11th Hannah Mackley – Happy 40th Hannah !

Dec. 18th Isabelle Tait.

Dec. 22nd Christopher Sayer.



“I have decided to follow Jesus – no turning back.....”

A great worship song that we have so enjoyed singing in our Services (pre Covid!) and I recently heard the story behind those words.....

“Nokseng, a Garo tribesman in North East India, who accepted Christ, was asked to “Reject the faith in this foreign God” by the village chief.

He replied, “I have decided to follow Jesus. There is no turning back.”

His two sons and his wife were killed in front of him, but he refused to recant and was killed. His martyrdom led the Garos to become Christians.” (Peter Pothan).

Thank God for the freedom we have to believe and worship, and remember the many Christians whose faith costs them their livelihoods, their freedom, and for some, ultimately, their lives.

CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS

For a number of years now we have had the opportunity to send Christmas cards to persecuted Christians in some of the most oppressive countries in the world. We have used the 'Connect & Encourage' initiative from CSW [Christian Solidarity Worldwide].

Here are a few notes about the organisation:

The CSW's team of specialist advocates work in over 20 countries across Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East, to ensure that the right to freedom of religion or belief is upheld and protected.

Their vision is a world free from religious persecution, where everyone can practise a religion or belief of their choice.

The right to freedom of religion or belief is also known as the 'first freedom' given to humanity by God. It's a touchstone human right, often serving as a 'litmus test' for whether other rights are at risk of being abused. It's a right we must protect, defend and restore.

CSW seeks to challenge and change the laws, behaviours and policies which lead to abuses of the right to freedom of religion and belief. They have over three decades of experience advocating for freedom of religion or belief around the world

Sending a card to a prisoner or persecuted person is not only a great encouragement to them – knowing they are not forgotten by their brothers and sisters in Christ. It is also a reminder to their persecutors that the world is watching and caring."

Stan will be putting the book, shown here, out in Church in November and separate printed pages with addresses you can take. Choose a person from the book and take the appropriate address to send your card. Thank you so much for caring. Please pray for the person you send to, that they will be greatly blessed by receiving it.



If you are not able to attend church just now but want to join in – give Stan a call.

“So here it is, Merry Christmas, everybody’s having fun....”

We can be pretty sure ‘everybody’ won’t be ‘having fun’ in the same way this year, but we are looking for different ways to bring Christmas Joy to the season.

“Virtual” Christmas Market.

We can’t have our face to face event this year and so we have put together a catalogue of some of the wonderful hand-crafted gifts and decorations, cakes, pies, jams etc., that you would normally expect to find at the Christmas Market.



The catalogue will be available from 14th November, by Email, on the Website and a few paper copies for those who prefer. Goods will be available for collection on 29th November and 6th December (pick-up times to be agreed), also delivery service by arrangement.

Please feel free to share the catalogue with family and friends. Whilst it is not the same, we hope you will still enjoy browsing, buying and supporting our church.

Online Carol Service



We won’t this year be able to hold our ‘Carols by Candlelight’ service, but an on-line Service is being put together for Sunday 20th December and available throughout Christmas, which we hope will bless you, and that you will sing along heartily, by yourself, in your own home.

Christmas Eve ‘Midnight service’

At 11.30 Christmas Eve the church will be open (usual restrictions apply) for late night Communion, which will be available on the Website on Christmas morning.

It won’t be the same, but let’s remember the “Reason for the Season”, and put all our efforts into thanking God for Jesus.



CHRISTMAS QUIZ



1. Who thought Christmas was 'humbug' ?
2. Who wrote Auld Lang Syne ?
3. Who was crowned King of England on Christmas Day 1066 ?
4. Who popularised the Christmas Tree in Britain ?
5. Who made life-sized crib scene with real people and animals in Italy?
6. Where did our Christmas turkey originally come from?
7. Where did Good King Wenceslas live?
8. Where is the Baddeley Cake eaten on Twelfth Night?
9. What is the name of the weeks leading up to Christmas Day?
10. What were 'The Waits' ?
11. What number of Lords are a-leaping in the well-known song?
12. What sort of food was a 'Shrid-Pye' ?
13. What does 'Wassail' really mean ?
14. When is Epiphany?
15. Which three of our favourite carols were composed in the United States?
16. Which English ruler banned the eating of mince pies by act of Parliament?
17. Which Patron Saint of Horses has his feast at Christmas Time?

(Answers on the last page)

Between 18th December and Christmas Eve 2011, Sainsbury's distribution centre at Waltham Abbey sent out the following to it's shops:

- 100,000 bags of sprouts.
- 15,000 salmon
- 200,000 bags of clementines.
- Enough Coco-Cola to fill two Olympic swimming pools.

Sainsbury's
live well for less

In the entire Christmas Season they also sold:

- 5,400,000 mince pies.
- 5,600 tons of cheese
- Enough mulled wine to fill four Olympic swimming pools.

(Current figures not available)

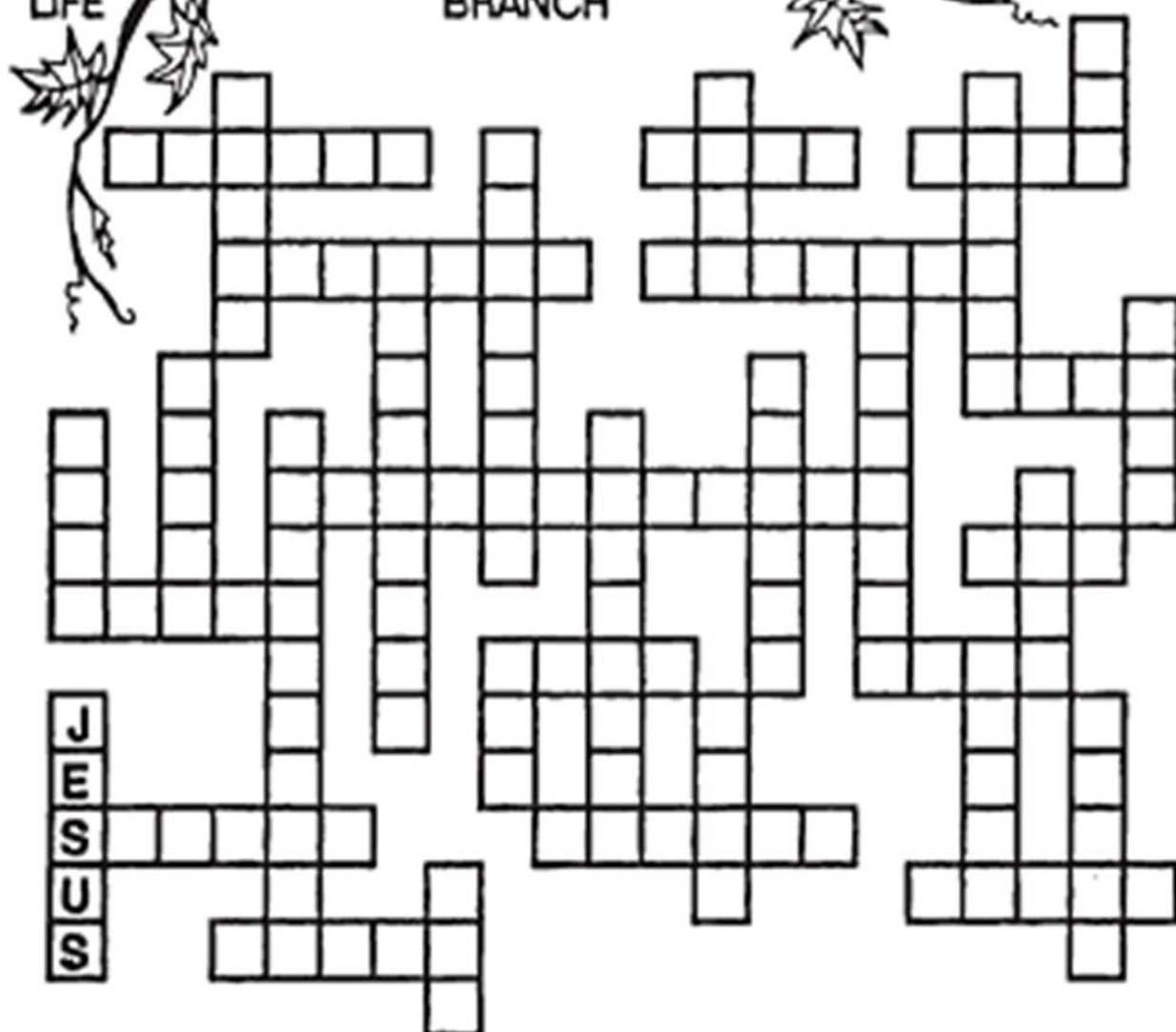
And His Name Shall Be Called . . .

Jesus had many names. All the words below were used to refer to Jesus in the Bible. Fit the names into the puzzle. (Hint: Start with the longest names.)

GOD
SUN
WAY
ONE
ROOT
WORD
LAMB
GATE
LORD
KING
VINE
LIFE

SEED
STAR
RABBI
BREAD
LIGHT
TRUTH
ALPHA
OMEGA
STONE
FATHER
PRINCE
BRANCH

CHRIST
SAVIOR
MESSIAH
TEACHER
REDEEMER
IMMANUEL
SHEPHERD
COUNSELOR
BRIDEGROOM
RESURRECTION





Phillips Brooks, the composer of this famous Christmas carol "O little town of Bethlehem", was the minister of Holy Trinity Church in Philadelphia and had visited Bethlehem in December of 1865. He asked the church organist, Lewis Redner, to compose a simple melody for the children to sing on Christmas Eve. Mr. Redner sat down at the piano to find just the right tune to carry the descriptive words.

But nothing he wrote seemed to fit. On the night before the Christmas Eve service he felt defeated, so he went to bed. During his fretful sleep it seemed that he heard music. Immediately, he got up and wrote down the melody just as we sing it today. When he joyfully presented it to Rev. Brooks he said: "I think it was a gift from heaven." The children sounded like a choir of angels as they sang the new carol written just for them. "O Little of Bethlehem" quickly became a favourite after it was published in 1874. We are blessed to continue singing it over one hundred years later.

Within the beauty of "O Little Town of Bethlehem" is one of God's promises from the prophet Micah: "Bethlehem Ephrathah, you are one of the little towns of Judah, but from you I will bring a ruler for Israel, whose family line goes back to ancient times." ([Micah 5:2](#), GNB).

The last verse is a [prayer](#). In fact, it is such an awesome Christmas prayer that we sing it with evangelistic fervour:

*"O Holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray.
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels,
The great glad tidings tell.
Oh come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel!"*



Joy to the World



ADVENT
ANGEL
BETHLEHEM
BIRTH
BLESSINGS
CAMELS
FRANKINCENSE

INFANT
JESUS
JOSEPH
MAGI
MANGER
MARY
MIRACLE

MYRRH
NATIVITY
REJOICE
STABLE
STAR
THREE KINGS
WISE MEN



Answers to the quiz:

1. Scrooge in A Christmas Carol; 2.The Scots poet Robert Burns; 3.William the Conqueror. 4. Prince Albert, Queen Victoria's consort; 5.St. Francis of Assisi; 6.South America; 7.Bohemia in Czech Republic; 8.Drury Lane Theatre, London; 9.Advent; 10.Carol singers; 11.Twelve; 12.A mince pie; 13.Good health; 14.6th January; 15.'O Little Town of Bethlehem' 'Away in a Manger' 'We 3 Kings'; 16.Oliver Cromwell; 17.St. Stephen, 26th December.

*It takes the Christ of Christmas
To change man's point of view.
For only through the Christ Child
Can all men be born anew.
And that is why God sent His Son
As a Christmas gift of love
So that wickedness and hatred
Which the world had so much of,
Could find another outlet
By following in Christ's way
And discovering a new power
That violence can't outweigh.
And in the Christmas story
Of the Holy Christ Child's birth
Is the answer to a better world
And goodwill and peace on earth.*



No place for You in the inn?



Thou didst leave Thy throne and Thy kingly crown,
When Thou camest to earth for me;
But in Bethlehem's home was there found no room.
For Thy holy nativity.
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus,
There is room in my heart for Thee.

Aylestone Baptist Church

Lutterworth Road Aylestone Leicester LE2 8PE

Church Moderator Rev Elaine Cockbill / Youth Minister: Graham Hill

Sunday 10.00am Morning Service

[ALL OTHER ACTIVITIES SUSPENDED AT PRESENT DUE TO COVID19]


Our services current and recent you can get on line
ACCESSING OUR ONLINE SERVICES – AUDIO AND VIDEO

Audio – go to our website use www.aylestonebaptistchurch.org.uk/sermons

Video - go to our website use www.aylestonebaptistchurch.org.uk/videos

These to take you direct. Otherwise go to the website

www.aylestonebaptistchurch.org.uk and click on Media/ sermons for audio or Video for videos as shown below



The screenshot shows the Aylestone Baptist Church website. At the top, there is a header with the church's logo, name, and contact details. Below the header is a navigation bar with links: Home, Video, What's Going On?, Who we are?, Get Involved, New to ABC, Media, and Sermons. The main content area features a large, colorful, abstract graphic with the text 'Aylestone Baptist Church Learning God's love. Sharing God's love. CHURCH ONLINE'. To the right of the graphic is a 'Welcome to Aylestone Baptist Church' message. At the bottom of the page, there are three icons: a book for 'Church Magazine', a person for 'Sermons', and a gear for 'What we do?'. Three blue arrows point to the 'Video' link in the navigation bar, the 'Sermons' link in the bottom bar, and the 'Media' link in the navigation bar.

Video – click on this one

Audio – click on either of these



Loop System Installed



WC Facilities



Wheel Chair Access

To find out more about church membership, Baptism, etc. Or any of the activities Please call us on 01162 832 527; by email: minister@aylestonebaptistchurch.co.uk or by visiting the Church website at, www.aylestonebaptistchurch.org.uk

**WE ARE STILL HERE FOR YOU AND ARE PRAYING FOR YOU
IF WE CAN BE OF ANY HELP PLEASE Phone 0116 283 6422
AND PLEASE LOOK AT OUR WEBSITE**

www.aylestonebaptistchurch.org.uk