

KNAPHILL METHODIST CHURCH

MAGAZINE



Changing lives for good through the power of God's word



Christmas 2021

A Word from the Editor:

Another far from normal year has passed and here we are in December. As ever I am grateful to all of you who contributed to make this another packed issue. I would particularly like to thank Rev George Quarm (aka Uncle George/King George) and Hugh Bowerman for making time to write for us.

In this issue you will also find Christmas greetings, KMC family news together with Dave's Message and the latest update from Ruth Pugh. Plus, it being Christmas time, there are also jokes and quizzes which I hope will amuse and entertain.



At this time of year our attention is drawn of course to the birth of Jesus for which we celebrate. A new life in our midst with all the wonder and excitement that such an event brings, more than resonates currently with Maggie and I as you will read.

The poem entitled "Spending Christmas Alone" has some interesting and thought provoking sentiments within it. You may know someone who this poem accurately describes in some way. If being alone is their preference this, of course, needs to be respected. However, as the poem suggests, knowing there is another person who they can turn to is the most important thing. For some people praying and talking to God may be enough but if they do not have God in their life they will need somebody else to fill that gap. This Christmas and throughout the year, let us all be mindful of those who are alone and as far as possible not only provide a listening ear but also keep a watchful eye to help ensure they are okay.

I know we have not reached the end of the year yet, but I have been thinking about forthcoming Magazines and what I would like to include in them. One idea relates to the article at the end of this Magazine. So, may I invite you to let me know your favourite hymn and, if possible, why it is a favourite. (Of course, for the next Christmas issue it could be your favourite Carol.) We could make this a standard feature in every future Magazine but only if, of course, I receive your contributions. Have a think now and then you will be one step ahead when we come to putting the next Spring/Easter 2022 Magazine together. Thank you.

May I close by wishing you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas & New Year. Take care, keep safe and God Bless.

Robin Spice, Editor.

KMC MAGAZINE

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Copy to: Robin Spice - editor@knaphillmethodist.co.uk

Message from Dave:

Dear Friends,

As we well know, the birth of Jesus Christ came at a dark time for the nation of Israel. Exiled in her own land thanks to the Roman occupation, her people looked for good news and hope in different forms and places. The Sadducees said, if we just cosy up to the Romans everything will be all right – but actually they were just feathering their own comfortable nests. The Pharisees called for a return to the fundamentals of the faith and God’s Law – but in doing so, a movement that started out with genuine passion distorted into one of harsh judgmentalism. The Essenes said the Pharisees hadn’t thoroughly followed through their beliefs and had compromised – but their solution was to cut themselves off from everybody else in their community at the Dead Sea. And the Zealots said, let’s take up arms against the Romans – but that led to crushing responses from Rome, culminating in the destruction of the Jerusalem Temple in AD 70.



Into this dark context with its panoply of misguided and dangerous responses comes the Good News of the Messiah’s birth. In literal darkness at night, the spiritual darkness is shattered by the light of the angels:

10 But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.’

13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

14 ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.’

(Luke 2: 10-14)

Jesus the Messiah brought light and salvation to Israel in a way that none had expected. How he did so is what we explore in the church year after the Christmas season until Easter.

This year, we come to celebrate the Incarnation of the Light of the World at a dark time. Our world remains dark due to COVID-19, and I write this a few days after the Omicron variant has been identified and the return of some restrictions. The UK has just been blasted by Storm Arwen – friends of mine in Northumberland were without power for 76 hours – and it reminds us of climate change and the relative failure of the COP26 conference to secure the necessary level of changes. I could add many other signs of darkness today, too.

And the season comes at a time of darkness for Knaphill Methodist Church. We are in a perilous situation financially. The situation was tight

anyway, and the crisis of the pandemic accelerated that, but more than all of that we are faced with the closure of the Dreamcatchers Pre-School and their afternoon Mini-Gym. That will leave a massive hole in our accounts. It's not looking good for KMC.

We too need light in the darkness. We need the hope this season brings. The Book of Proverbs says,

Surely there is a future, and your hope will not be cut off.
(Proverbs 23: 18)

However, that hope is not in KMC and its future. Our hope is in Jesus, born in Bethlehem, the King of God's Kingdom, who will make all things new. It is to him that we look, not methods, techniques, five-year plans, vision statements, or the latest fad on the Christian scene. Whatever difficulties we face as a church right now, whatever problems and sorrows any of us has in our individual or family lives, and whatever darkness there is in our world, this is the season when we defy the night and remember that

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.
(John 1: 5)

Jesus may surprise us, every bit as much as he shocked ancient Israel. So let's pray, and let's get on with all the things we know already from the Scriptures that he wants us to do, and let's be ready to be startled by his light, bursting out in ways we would never have predicted.

Your friend and minister,



Dave Faulkner

minister@knaphillmethodist.co.uk

A MESSAGE FROM THE MERROW CHURCH MANSE

Dear Friends.

My name is Rev George Quarm affectionately known as "Uncle George" (my real African name) if it's a bit difficult to do so, do call me "King George" if you are above forty years old. I arrived in Merrow in July 2021, and am still finding my way round. I am a Methodist Minister, looking after Merrow, Stoughton, West Horsley and St Michael's LEP Church in Woking, a bit of voluminous activities with my pastoral work.

My ministry or Church work has brought me in contact with people of Orthodox, Evangelical, Pentecostal, charismatic, Islamic and traditional faiths. This was made possible through organised retreats, and conferences in many countries, cities and towns both home and abroad.



I am married to Ewurama (Ama), a nurse by profession. We are blessed with three adult sons and a daughter in law.

I hope our stay with you for the next six years will be enjoyable, exciting and a blessing.

It was very cold and chilly day on the 20th December 1966 when a little boy of about 7 years, was standing before a shoe shop on a high street, barefooted peering through the window, and shivering with cold. A woman approached the boy and said, "My little, why are you looking so earnestly in that window?" "I was asking God to give me a pair of shoes" was the boy's reply. The woman took him by the hand, went into the store, and asked the clerk to get half a dozen pairs of socks for the little boy. She then asked if the shop keeper could give her a basin of water and a towel. He quickly brought them to her. She took the little boy to the back part of the shop and removing her gloves, knelt down, washed his little feet, and dried them with the towel. By this time, the clerk had returned with the socks. Placing a pair upon his feet, she purchased him a pair of shoes. She tied up the remaining pairs of socks and gave them to him. She patted him on the head and said, "No doubt my little boy, you feel more comfortable now?" As she turned to go, the astonished lad caught her by the hand, and looking up her face, with tears in his eyes, asked "Are you God's wife?"

Christmas is a time of giving, caring, loving and deep thoughts of family members and the need to bridge gaps if there are any in our lives. God loves the world and gave Christ Jesus as a gift to humankind, to bring us back to Himself. A gift unspeakable and beyond our understanding. We all need to be God's wife this Christmas to all people, especially within your own family. Do you care? Let your actions speak louder than your words. Christmas is time of reunion and a time of rejoicing. God's love is Christmas. May our actions bring joy, peace and happy times to all people, be the "wife of God."

Finally, three points which underlines the Christmas season;

1. The best thing about Christmas is that we all go through it. Experience the feeling and enjoy the day. Christmas makes the world magical; everything becomes more beautiful and fun.
2. Christmas is the day that holds the world together. Christmas is a day of blessings and love.
3. Christmas is a special day we show patient and kindness. Christmas is a time to share with the less fortunate. "When God intends to make something wonderful, he begins with a difficulty. When he intends to make something very wonderful, he begins with an impossibility."
- Former Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Coggan.

If young Jesus had a Christmas list, we bet an Xbox, Bingo, Memory, Crossword or Solitaire would not be on it. He would instead ask for love and time spent with family, and I wish you exactly the same!

Enjoy the season with every blessing.

Rev Uncle George

KMC Family News



Congratulations go to **Alice Milne....**

Many of you may recall Alice, daughter of Peter. She and her partner Adam had a baby boy in November. He is named Joseph Grant. We send Peter, his partner Helen and all the family our warmest best wishes and congratulations.

It's a case of a long lost family for **Eileen Lane...**

Eileen's cousin, who lives in Barnet, has a niece Carrie by marriage. Carrie, who is interested in genealogy decided to research Eileen's side of the family. This was quite a mammoth task as her family, the Stockwells, is large! Eileen's grandma was one of 13 surviving children. (Great-grandma Stockwell had 20 children but only 13 survived.)

Carrie recently contacted Eileen to say that she had discovered a second cousin living in Knaphill. Not only that but he lives not far from Eileen in Bagshot Road. His nan was Eileen's grandma's sister!

They have now met up twice. What a small world!

News of a promotion for **Gareth Funning...**

KMC members may remember Liz and Mike Funning's eldest son Gareth, from his Junior Church and Youth Club days.

Gareth has recently been promoted as Professor in the Earth Sciences Department of the University of California Riverside. Apart from his teaching duties his research program uses satellite and GPS technologies to model, map and measure earthquake faults and fault movements of the many faults that exist in California, he lives close to the St Andreas Fault! He also collaborates both internationally and within the US with fellow scientists. Many congratulations to Gareth.

Maggie & Robin Spice are delighted to let us know.....

that their daughter Rachel gave birth to a baby girl on Wednesday 8th December.

Baby Serena is doing well as you can tell from the photo below. We offer Rachel and her fiancé, Ray, many congratulations.

..and finally, news from Scotland.....

Jennifer Gill, daughter of Rob and Ann, is delighted to share the news of the birth of her daughter, Anwen Elizabeth Mary, sister for Ianto, who is now three and a half and thrilled to be a big brother. KMC send their congratulations to Jennifer.



True Christian Christmas

Christmas isn't showy gifts
Or glittering decoration;
It's honouring our Saviour, Jesus Christ
In humble adoration.

It's serving those less fortunate,
Meeting their needs before our own;
It's making sure at Christmas time
That no one is alone.

It's taking what we would have spent
On things that no one needs,
And using it to help someone
With service and good deeds.

Our Saviour showed us how to live
With charity, faith and service,
It makes the holiday a joy,
More peaceful, and less nervous.

So let's remember Christmas is
About our Saviour's birth;
That's the way to genuine happiness,
The way to peace on earth.

Joanna Fuchs



Christmas Messages



Helen Brice: I will be going away for Christmas and New Year, so instead of sending Christmas cards, I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year. I shall be giving a donation to church funds in lieu of Christmas cards.

Shirley & Phillip Chase wish everyone at KMC a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2022. Many thanks for all the prayers and good wishes for Phill in his recent illness.

Linda & Phil Todd and family would like to wish all friends from the Knaphill Church family, far and wide, a wonderful Christmas and a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year. God Bless.

Rob and Ann Gill send warmest greetings for Christmas and the New Year to all their friends at Knaphill. You remain much in our thoughts and prayers and we hope that we shall soon be able to visit again.

Pauline Holden wishes her friends at KMC a very happy and peaceful Christmas. She is now able to have two visitors at a time if a booking is made in advance. She would be very pleased to see people in the New Year.

Lynda Shore: In lieu of sending Christmas cards and making a donation to church funds, Lynda would like to wish all KMC members a happy and healthy Christmas.

Robb and Sylvia Peters: Love & best wishes to everyone for Christmas and the New Year.

Allan, Yvette & Juliette would like to wish everyone at KMC best wishes for a Wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year.

Christmas Greetings from the Garden Gnome



Hello Gardeners,

Well, it has been a very challenging season for growing – (don't we say that every year!) but I think with the very changeable weather it's been a great year for pests and diseases.

Unfortunately, all our tomato plants fell prey to blight, however we were able to salvage most of the crops by picking the fruit quickly and placing them in the refrigerator overnight for the cold to kill the virus, then spreading them out on trays in the garage to ripen.

We tried new varieties of runner beans which were reported to be drought tolerant, but the yield was very poor, even though we watered regularly.

Our first sowing of French dwarf beans was decimated by some insects, probably butterflies, so we resowed in large pots and kept them in the greenhouse on shelves with the door closed and hung old net curtains over the open windows to keep the blighters out. It worked resulting in a magnificent yield and as the autumn was mild and with a little phostrogen feed they cropped longer than expected.

It's no surprise that each year some plants do well whilst others struggle, it all depends on each one's individual requirements and we can't always supply the ideal environment no matter how much we try.

So, looking back over this year's harvest we are grateful for what the garden provided and are reminded it is not what we want but what the Lord thinks we need – give us each day our daily bread - and He has provided for our needs, and we are very grateful especially during this pandemic when there are some empty shelves in the supermarket. So, let's all glory in what we have and share with those less fortunate.

I wish you all a very happy Christmas and peaceful New Year, stay safe, keep well as we all look forward to next year's gardening.

Love & God Bless

Christine (aka The Garden Gnome)



Fundraising Update & Summary

from Lynda Shore



As events have begun to restart during 2021, we have been able to resume some of our usual activities at KMC:

- ◆ We held a collection for Action for Children in September and were able to send £186.34.
- ◆ We did not have a Harvest collection for the Whitechapel Mission, but we appealed for monetary donations. At the time of writing, there is £100 to send, with at least another £100 having been given directly online.
- ◆ In July, we raised £212 for the Circuit appeal for Whitechapel, plus £80 in Gift Aid from previous appeals.
- ◆ By the time this is in print, we will have been able once again to support the Salvation Army with gifts for their Christmas appeal
- ◆ We will also have distributed a small box of chocolates and a “Christmas Blessings” card to the businesses in Knaphill. KMC, along with the other churches in Knaphill, have done this for several years now, and were, fortunately, able to do so last year, just before lockdown resumed.
- ◆ Fundraising Coffee Mornings have also resumed. We started very cautiously, with a couple of stalls and a few seats outside for the first 3 months (June, July and August), gradually adding takeaway drinks. We raised £413 from those events, then dared to move inside in September. That month raised £186.70 and October was a huge success with £314.25.
- ◆ At the time of writing the amount raised from the November Christmas Themed Coffee Morning is £580.00. A fantastic result and many thanks must go to everyone who helped to bring about this magnificent sum of money.
- ◆ Since most hirers returned in September, income has improved, but KMC’s finances are still very precarious, so we continue to need fundraising events for the income they generate, as well as for their great social benefit.

Here is a story about God intervening when least expected with the realisation that it can happen anytime and anywhere.

The Breakdown Driver



I drove to spend the night with a friend who had been my best friend throughout high school. We anticipated an evening of food, fun and catching up on our lives before I left for a speaking engagement in Manchester the next morning.

I was unfamiliar with the traffic patterns in London, so my stress mounted realising that rush hour had begun. I stopped at a red light and was about to hit the accelerator when the light turned green, and my engine died. Within seconds, impatient people were honking their horns - the light had turned, and they wanted to move - now! I desperately attempted to start the car. Nothing happened. Angry drivers began making their way around my vehicle, mouthing words at me that were not Bible verses!

I pleaded: "Lord, you are the God of miracles. Would you please get this car started?" I turned the key in the ignition. Nothing happened.

I began to realise this situation called for a different type of prayer. Placing my hands on the steering wheel with authority, I prayed loudly, "God, what are you going to do with your car? You and I have to be in Manchester tomorrow! How will we get there?"

I thought if I switched ownership to him, he would feel more responsibility to get involved in helping to solve my problem. Again, I turned the key in the ignition, and the car started - and kept running just long enough to get me off the main road and into a side street.

I went to the door of a nearby home and asked if I could use the telephone to call a breakdown service.

When the breakdown truck pulled up, I was surprised to see a *female* driver. This woman knew her business. She hoisted my car into place, and I jumped into the cab as she began driving towards the service garage.

I said, "I hope you don't mind if I ask. You're very skilled at what you do how did you get into this line of work?"

She smiled, "Actually I am working on a master's degree in theology".

She was headed for the ministry, and her heart longed to be there. But she had university debts and needed to pay her bills before she went into the ministry full-time. Becoming a breakdown driver was the fastest way she could make the necessary funds to take care of her obligations. She was having a very hard year.

We pulled into the service garage, and I found myself giving comfort and encouragement to her. Her passion for God was obvious, but she was discouraged. We prayed out loud together in the cab of that truck, and I gave her a hug before we said goodbye.

As I stepped out of the service garage, I realised the home of my high school friend was located right across the street! I knocked on the door of my very surprised friend and related the story of this unusual day.

It seemed even more of a miracle that by calling the first service garage I found in yellow pages I happened to select this one.

The next morning, I crossed the street and walked into the garage and asked the service manager if they had discovered what was wrong with my car.

He scratched his head as he responded "We've taken your car through every kind of test we have, and there's nothing wrong with it. It runs fine, and we have no idea why you had a problem with it yesterday."

As I drove to Manchester, God spoke to my heart – "Carole, you are my Ambassador. Yesterday, I had a lonely, discouraged breakdown driver in London, who desperately needed to be reminded that I care about her and have a plan for her life beyond her present difficult circumstances. You had a little extra time, and I picked you to be the one to pray with her and give her a message of encouragement."

I thought back to the day before. I had been impatient, angry and upset with God. My carefully made plans were interrupted.

At that moment I realised that almost every day I have interruptions that are actually "God-appointments" in disguise.

I wondered how many opportunities I had missed in the past because I saw only the interruption.





THE MESSIAH

.....as you have never heard it before!

Most of us are familiar with the words and music of this great oratorio, but old Bill Jones from Golcar, a little village in the West Riding of Yorkshire, had never been to a performance and he tried to persuade a friend to go with him to the Huddersfield Town Hall to hear the famous choral society, but his friend refused.

“Nay,” he said, “that sort o’ music’s nowt in my line. I like a good comic song or a lively jig, but I reckon nowt to this sacred stuff as they call it. It’s beyond me. An’ another thing, there’ll be none of our sort there. It’ll be mostly religious folk and swells done up in boiled shirts and wimmen wi’ nowt much on. Nay, you go by thee-sen and then you can tell me all about it sometime.” So Bill went by himself and the next time the old pals met, the following conversation took place.

“Well, cum on ... how did you get on at Messiah?” asked his friend.

“Eee, well,” said Bill, “it were fair champion. I wouldn’ta missed it for all the tea in China. When a got there the Town Hall were crowded, it was choc full o’ folk and I had a job to get a seat, but no wonder - it was all them singers - they took up half the gallery.”

“There was a chap larkin’ about on the organ, he weren’t playing nowt in particular, just running ‘is fingers up and down as if he were practicing, Well, after a bit, a lot o’ chaps came in carrying fiddles, then they brought in the Messiah. Well, that’s what I took it to be. It were the biggest instrument on the platform and it were covered in a big green bag. Any road, they took the bag off it and then a bloke rubbed its belly with a stick and you should have heard it groan, It were summat like a dying cow.”

“I was just thinking o’ going when a little chap came on, all dolled up in a white waistcoat and wi’ a flower in his buttonhole and everything went dead quiet. You could have heard a pin drop. He had a stick in his hand and he started waving it about and all the singers stared at him ... I reckon they were wondering what was the matter with him.”

"Then they started to sing and they hadn't been going long before they were fighting like cats. I reckon he shoulda walloped one or two of 'em with that stick. First one side said they were t'Kina O' Glory then t'other side said they were, and they went at it hammer and tongs, but it fizzled out, so I've no idea which side won."

"Then there was a bit of bother about some sheep that was lost. I don't know who they belonged to but one lot of singers must have been very fond o' mutton, 'cos they kept on singing "All we like sheep". I couldn't help saying to a bloke next to me that sheep's all right in moderation, but I like a bit o' beef meself, and he looked daggers at me and said "Shhh", so I shushed.

'A lot o' wimmen stood up after that and all of 'em looked as if they were well gettin' on a bit. Some of 'em must a bin 64 if they was a day. They sang, "Unto us a child is born", and the chaps sang back "Wonderful", an' I thought, "Wonderful, it's a bloomin' miracle!" After that they sobered down a bit and sang about a lass called Joyce Greatly. I've never heard of her myself, but the chaps had, 'cos they all looked mighty pleased about it.

'Then some bloke got up and said he was the king o' kings, another one said he was, and then, blow me, they all started arguing about it. I was gettin' a bit fed up when everybody stood up to see what was the matter and they suddenly shouted, "Hallelujah ... it's going to rain for ever and ever! Well, at that I jumped up and made straight for the door. I'd had me money's worth and besides, I was thinkin' that if it was going to rain for ever and ever, I'd better get home before the flood came!

"It was a real good do though, you shoulda come, but oh, I do hope they find them sheep.'



It was lovely to be able to start the CAMEO meetings again in September after nearly 18 months of no meetings due to the pandemic. Our numbers are still very good, with an average of about 20 including a few gentlemen, who are always welcome.

We've had a variety of speakers this term including a visit from Surrey, Sussex and Kent Air Ambulance, an artist talking about his travels and paintings, to name just a couple.

The programme for next term is coming together and Ella will have schedules as soon as a few dates have been finalised; ask her for one.

Thanks for the help from Ella and Helen who help to keep the group running.

Barbara Humphries

Lost in Translation!

An English lady wanted to spend a holiday in a German village in the mountains. As she didn't know any German, she wrote to the local teacher for help. Hoping he would understand English, she asked him to send her full particulars of the cottage that she planned to rent, and in particular, did it have a WC?

The teacher understood all of her letter, except for the abbreviation WC, so he asked the local priest if he knew what it meant. Together they came to the conclusion that the lady must be a devout Wesleyan church goer, and so replied as follows:

My dear Madam

The WC is situated five miles from the cottage which you will be renting, in the centre of a beautiful pine forest.

It is open on every Tuesday and Sunday, which is unfortunate if you are in the habit of going regularly. You will be glad to know, however, that many people take a packed lunch and make a day of it. As there are a great number of visitors, we would advise you to arrive early to get a position with a seat. A bell will ring 10 minutes before the WC opens and closes. I would advise you to go on a Tuesday as there is an organ accompaniment on this day. If you know well in advance when you want to go, we shall try and reserve a seat for you. You will find hymn sheets behind the door for your personal use.

Unfortunately, my wife and I have not been for 8 months, which pains us greatly, but it is such a long way! (Submitted by Helen Chamberlain)

A Car for Christmas?

Danny had recently passed his driving test and decided to ask his clergyman father if there was any chance of him getting a car for Christmas, which was still some months away.

“Okay,” said his father, “I tell you what I'll do. If you can get your 'A' level grades up to 'A's and 'B's, study your Bible and get your hair cut, I'll consider the matter very seriously.”

A couple of months later Danny went back to his father who said, “I'm really impressed by your commitment to your studies. Your grades are excellent and the work you have put into your Bible study is very encouraging. However, I have to say I'm very disappointed that you haven't had your hair cut yet.”

Danny was a smart young man who was never lost for an answer.

“Look Dad. In the course of my Bible studies, I've noticed in the illustrations that Moses, John the Baptist, Samson and even Jesus had long hair.”

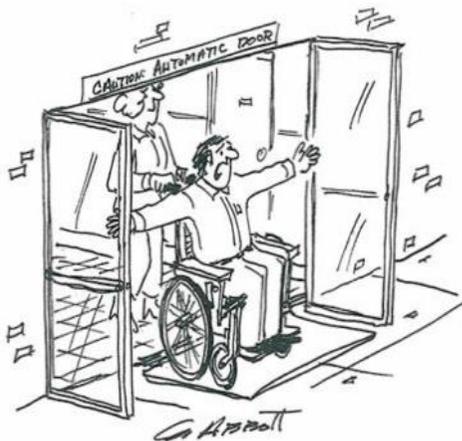
“Yes. I'm aware of that,” replied his father “but did you also notice they walked wherever they went?”



Ho! Ho! Ho!



HOSPITAL REGULATIONS



Hospital regulations require a wheel-chair for patients being discharged. However, while working as a student nurse, I found one elderly gentleman already dressed and sitting on the bed with a suitcase at his feet, who insisted he didn't need my help to leave the hospital.

After a chat about rules being rules, he reluctantly let me wheel him to the elevator. On the way down I asked him if his wife was meeting him. 'I don't know,' he said. 'She's still upstairs in the bathroom changing out of her hospital gown.'

THE MAYORESS

The Mayoress was visiting an old folk's home one Christmas. As she went round she saw an old lady sitting there, and said to her, "Good morning".



The old lady looked a little puzzled, so the Mayoress said, "Do you know who I am?"

The old lady gave her a sympathetic look and said, "No, dear, but if you ask the Matron, she'll tell you."



CHRISTMAS WORDSEARCH

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

BETHLEHEM
 CRIB
 NAZARETH
 CAMEL
 DONKEY
 TURKEY
 VIRGIN
 CANDLE
 MESSIAH
 TREE

KING
 BERRY
 GOLD
 HOLLY
 WISE MEN
 CAROL
 MYRRH
 CARD
 MANGER
 SAVIOUR

SHEPHERDS
 CRACKER
 PEACE
 CHRIST
 STAR
 JUMPER
 CHRISTMAS
 FRANKINCENSE
 ANGEL
 CAKE

JESUS
 WORSHIP
 SANTA
 JOSEPH
 BIRTH
 ADVENT
 HEROD
 MARY
 STABLE
 BABY

CHRISTMAS FILM QUIZ

Name the Christmas movies. Answers on page 31.



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



10



11



12



13



14



15



16



17



18



19



20

FAMOUS YOUNGSTERS

Famous people when they were young - can you name them?

Answers on page 39



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



10



11



12

We Celebrate Your Birth

Dear Lord, as we celebrate Your birth,

Let us remember that You are the true reason for Christmas.

Let every sparkling light remind us how You illuminate our lives,
a shining beacon to guide us in our thoughts and actions each day,
and how you light us from within
in the knowledge of Your love and truth.

Let the Christmas trees, standing straight, tall, unbowed,
remind us of Your uprightness, Your goodness, Your perfection,
and Your refusal to bow to worldly temptations,
no matter how great the challenge or trouble.

Lord, as we feast on Christmas treats,
let us remember that You are the sole provider
of everything worth having, that all good things come from You.

And as we enjoy our gifts, let us never forget
that You are the greatest gifts, let us never forget
that You are the greatest gift of all – our wonderful Saviour,
Counsellor, giver of an eternal life whose wonders we cannot imagine.
So as we delight in Christmas, the happiest and brightest of holidays,
let us remember there would be no Christmas without You, Lord,
and let our hearts be filled with joy, and love
and thankfulness, this Christmas and all the ones to come.

Joanna Fuchs



People in Profile: Hugh Bowerman

Many of you will have got to know me over the years, but it has struck me that there are new faces (at least new to me) at KMC, so for all of you a short introduction to me and what makes me tick.

I was born in Worthing into a Christian family, the middle of 5 children. We moved to Cheam, Surrey when I was 6. My childhood was a happy one. We attended Sutton Baptist Church, and young people's activities filled every spare moment I had. I was baptised aged 14, an experience I recall vividly.



I studied Civil Engineering at Manchester University. I met Helen, now my wife, at the Baptist and URC Society. We initially worshipped at the Chaplaincy, but then at Holy Trinity, Platt, an Anglican church. Helen and I married in 1982 (Ruby wedding alert!). I was working at Wood Green (North London) and Helen had just got a job based in Fleet. Working with its train service to London looked a good place to live. Literally a few days before our wedding we rented a flat opposite Trinity Methodist Church. On return from honeymoon we wanted to find a church to attend. We started with the closest and received such a welcome at Trinity that we never went elsewhere.

You will already sense a strong ecumenical background. Helen and I were always bemused at how often the 'Wesleys' were mentioned by some preachers. I'll be honest, this didn't always sit comfortably with me – who were we worshipping? With no deep Methodist roots, there were several times we contemplated leaving, but each time something significant happened – God moments – and we ended up staying.

For a while I had a job in Woking. I'd walk along the canal to work – a great time for thinking. Often on Mondays I'd find myself musing about what I would have said had I been the preacher the day before. In due course this led to me testing a call to preach, and in 1998 I completed my training and was recognised as a Local Preacher.

During the period 1982-1998 a lot else had been going on. Helen and I had 4 children. Regarding my job, this was taking me all over the country – periods based up on Teesside and at Scunthorpe. I was a Church Steward during this time, and for a number of years ran various young people’s groups. Looking back, I have no idea how we managed it, but we did. We bask in the admiration we get from our now grown-up children – all married with children of their own (8 grandchildren . . . and counting). How did we do it?

The answer to that question is that we had energy and we enjoyed it. However, I subsequently had a couple of short spells where I ceased to manage – in the early 2000’s I was diagnosed with clinical depression. This was the only time I stopped preaching and pulled back from church, though I managed to keep most other things going. I now manage the stresses that led to this and looking back I am so thankful it happened to me – I learnt a lot about myself and reflect now on the spiritual dimension of humanity that I think is so often neglected by society.

Despite my set-backs, my life remained relatively charmed. That was until one week early in 2010. I’d started a business in 2006, but since the financial crash of 2008 it had been struggling. On the Monday of that week I had to put the business into administration. I then went to a friend’s funeral. On arriving home I received a call from my brother to say he was terminally ill. That was a bleak day. Then at the end of the same week we found out our son was seriously ill in Liverpool. Testing times. Where was God? Strangely, as we wandered around Liverpool between hospital visits, we felt God very close. Our son thankfully recovered and looking back the experiences of that time added great depth to my faith.

Those experiences eventually led me to candidate for the Methodist Ministry. To be honest, I felt called to something, but I wasn’t sure it was the Methodist Ministry. However, as I went through the selection process I felt it was increasingly ‘right’. It would be a major change for Helen and I, but one we were ready to make. So having entered the process rather cautiously, we were disappointed when my calling was not endorsed. With hindsight I think that was right – there are traits in my personality that would have struggled in the extreme – amongst them a slight tendency to anarchy!

So that brings me to what I am doing now. I remain a keen local preacher. I still have a few years before my pensions cut-in, so in terms of paid work I do 2 days a week in my old engineering job and 3 days a week for the church as a Community Development Missioner. My mother-in-law now lives with us, and we enjoy seeing our children and grand-children – we are very fortunate in that they all live within 30mins of us. For leisure we have

decided to walk the North Down's Way (2021-22) in preparation (I am told) for the Thames path.

Over the last 40 years I have become very fond of the Methodist Church and its 'theology', but I am worried for its future. I see a lot of good things going on, but much struggles to penetrate to the grass roots. Our people desperately need encouragement. They also need a vision to follow. In my engineering work life I have been an inventor and innovator. How many times have I been told 'that won't work', only to persist and find it does - the anarchist in me! I tend to suppress this characteristic in church circles, but I do wonder whether it's now time for a bit of innovation and anarchy – it would certainly make for some very interesting preaching!

Hugh Bowerman

Knitter Nelly does it again!

Nelly Ford has been busy knitting, as ever, and in the last month or so she has produced the Nativity scene as pictured below with a friend making the stable. This item was one of a number of prizes which were raffled on 5th December at the Christmas Tea. So by now some lucky person is the proud owner of Nelly's handiwork. With many thanks to Nelly for her hard work and making this donation to KMC.



Christmas is always considered a time when people get together, particularly families. Some people, however, might not have a family to share Christmas with and indeed there could be some who prefer to be alone at Christmas.

The following poem expands this theme and provides food for thought.....

Spending Christmas Alone

Do you think it's wrong?
When someone wants to spend Christmas alone?
Do you try to change their mind?
Or should you respect their decision in kind?
I've heard different reasons
That causes people to choose solitude.
Some say it's because of the season.
Others say it's due to their attitudes.
The reason doesn't matter,
That's their choice what they want to do.

I don't believe in casting judgement.
We all have our own issues.
Some people enjoy being alone,
It doesn't mean there's something wrong.
I've learned over time what to do.
I pay attention to signs and clues.
If someone I care about has a problem
I give them a listening ear.
Sometimes people don't want to solve them,
They just want to know someone is there.

Steve Ryan



TARINA BERRY

I was born on Saturday 12th October 1957 at Woking Maternity Hospital weighing 6lb 14oz, to Barbara and Vic Berry of Knaphill.



Not long after I was born, the doctors discovered that I was completely deaf, and I remained deaf until the age of 10.

In February 1968, I went into St. Thomas's Hospital in London where I had Aluminium Grommets put in. I was the guinea pig for this operation as it was the first one of its kind in this country.

I went in on 24th February, had my operation on 25th and came home on 26th. I had bandages round my head, so I didn't get any infections in my ears. Instead of having them on for 6 weeks, I had to have them on for 12 weeks, as I caught Chicken Pox! To this day, I still have the grommets in.

On my 10th birthday, I joined 1st Knaphill Guides at Holy Trinity Church Hall and I left on my 16th birthday. I was made a member of the Knaphill Methodist Church on 17th March 1974.

I lost my mum to cancer in August 1976, when I was 18 years old. I looked after my dad, grandad and brother and I also worked full time. My brother was 14 when mum died.

For a number of years as a family, we used to collect for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal and the Royal Air Force in Bisley, Knaphill and West End. In November 1992 I carried the Royal Air Force Standard at the Festival of Remembrance, the Royal Albert Hall and the Cenotaph.

In July 1992 I had my daughter Kelly and we lived with Dad and my brother Paul for 18 months. Kelly and I then moved to a ground floor flat in Horsell, where I still live today.

I found it difficult to get up to Knaphill by bus on a Sunday, so I transferred my Membership to Trinity Methodist Church. However, in November 2019 I decided to transfer my Membership back to Knaphill where my roots are - and I am happier at Knaphill.

In July 2020 I became a grandmother to Jack, son of Kelly and Adam. Since May 2021 I have looked after Jack whilst Kelly is at work and I go for lots of walks!

For over 20 years I have been organising Coffee Mornings for Macmillan Cancer Research UK and Your Sanctuary and I am hoping to host a Coffee Morning sometime soon, for the Air Ambulance.

Tarina Berry



Unexpected help from the Clothing Bank

At long last the Clothing Bank was able to re-open on 21st August and we were immediately able to help a few families, which was good.

Since then, the Clothing Bank has helped two ladies in particular. The first lady came in one Sunday to a service. It was a really horrible day weather wise, and she was quite upset because she had got the start time of the service wrong and so was late arriving.

After the service she joined us for a hot drink and during conversation it transpired that she was from the Cygnet Hospital and that she didn't have a coat. I went into the Clothing Bank storage room and after 3 attempts I found a warm coat, which was a pale lilac and turned out to be her favourite colour. She was very happy and after giving her a hug (I know, I shouldn't have), she asked for a prayer, so myself and one of the church family said a prayer for her. I found this all quite humbling and it made me realise why we have the Clothing Bank and its importance.

At the last Clothing Bank on 18th October, a lady who was using crutches arrived and asked if this was where the book sale was located. We had to advise it was not but invited her in to join us for a cup of tea. We found out that this lady was also a patient at the Cygnet Hospital and suffers from bipolar disorder. She told us she didn't have many clothes, so a couple of us went to find some for her which were mainly T-shirts and tops. We filled 3 carrier bags and gave them to her which caused her to start crying. Subsequently, she attended a Sunday service which gave everyone a big smile and a wonderful feeling because we had been able to help someone who was less fortunate than ourselves.

Helen Brice





Ella Allen marks 60 Years of BBC's Songs of Praise



Anyone who watches Songs of Praise will know that this programme is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year. I can't believe it has continued week after week for such a long time. (It was first broadcast on 1st October 1961.) I watch it most weeks these days, whilst I am having my lunch and thoroughly enjoy it – the programme I mean, not necessarily my lunch!

It is very varied as you will know. It consists mostly of inspiring hymns and songs and uplifting stories around the UK and beyond.

Many presenters have come and gone but the one who has been consistent and one of my favourites is Aled Jones. He joined Songs of Praise in the year 2000 and has become a household name, although he has been on TV since the 1980s. Other well-known presenters include Clare McCullum, Sean Fletcher, Kate Botley, Kathryn Jenkins and a favourite of many, Pam Rhodes.

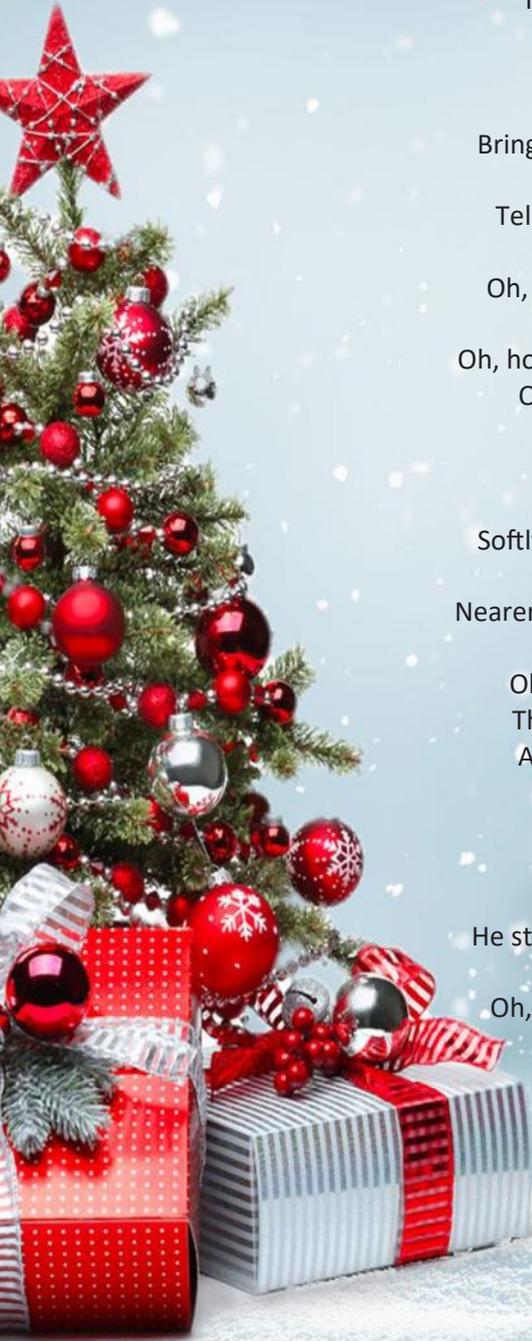
Many of us from our church have been involved over the years with "The Big Sing" Songs of Praise at the Royal Albert Hall, which was held in September and the conductor of the orchestra and choir was Paul Leddington-Wright. We enjoyed our day out immensely and it always involved a rehearsal in a London church the week beforehand. We felt we got to know Aled quite well because he was the main presenter, and he is a friendly, thoroughly nice person. The Royal Albert Hall with 6000 folk singing hymns and songs, some old, some new, is something which is very stimulating and encouraging.

Not all the programmes are my choice, but of course they cater for all sorts of folk in all sorts of different types of churches.

They have had to cope with the lockdown like everyone else, but luckily with the wealth of programmes at their disposal they have had plenty of songs to choose from. If it is convenient, why don't you put the TV on at 1.15pm (usually) on a Sunday. It's well worth it!

Songs of Praise

Christmas Tree



There once was a tree, a beautiful tree
That grew in Fairy Land
In wintertime, the wind would blow
Over the land of ice and snow,
Bringing the sound of the laughter of children,
Bringing the sounds of joy,
Telling the tree of the wonder of Christmas
For every girl and boy
Oh, how he wished they could come and see
Just what a beautiful tree was he
Oh, how he wished that he were a Christmas tree
One starry night, his branches so bright
Were glistening in the snow
And as he stood so silently,
Wishing he were a Christmas tree
Softly, there came from the forest around him
Magic and jingling bells
Nearer and nearer, they seemed to surround him,
Weaving their magic spells
Oh, how he quivered with fright because
There, right beside him, was Santa Claus
Asking him if he'd be his Christmas tree
Now, in his fancy dress, he's the best
Of all the Christmas trees,
Playing with gifts and bon-bons too,
Gay fairy lights of every hue
He stands and waits for the children to see him
Dressed in his party best
Oh, what a thrill when they see all the tinsel
Round Mr. Robin's nest
And as he raises his arms so green,
Santa agrees with the Fairy Queen
He is a very beautiful Christmas tree
He is a very beautiful Christmas tree.

Ron Goodwin

CHRISTMAS FILM QUIZ ANSWERS

Name the Christmas movies. Questions are on page 19.



1 - Jingle All the Way



2 - Bad Santa



3 - Christmas Vacation



4 - Elf



5 - Love Actually



6 - The Nightmare Before Christmas



7 - Home Alone



8 - Die Hard



9 - Gremlins



10 - Miracle on 34th Street



11 - A Christmas Carol



12 - The Grinch Who Stole Christmas



13 - It's a Wonderful Life



14 - White Christmas



15 - Polar Express



16 - Shrek the Halls



17 - Muppets Christmas Carol



18 - Santa Claus - The Movie



19 - The Santa Clause



20 - The Snowman

How did you do? If you scored **20** then you must be Mrs Claus as she always knows best. **15-19** then you are Father Christmas. **Under 15** you are an Elf, **under 10** you are a Reindeer. **5 or less**, then you are a Grinch and *really* need to watch more Christmas films this year!

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The Inspired by musical theatre

News from Ruth Pugh in Dragapur

Ruth is working in India for the Diocese of Durgapur, under the Church of North India (CNI) part of the Methodist Church. Her main role is to teach children music, specifically to play string instruments. She also trains them to be Cathedral musicians enabling them to play for all the services at the Cathedral. Ruth also coaches them to take The Associated Board of the Royal School of Music (ABRSM) and Trinity College London (TCL) exams. The ultimate aim is so they can get jobs as teachers teaching Western Music or playing professionally in orchestras. Ruth also works as a music teacher at a school in Perulia and at another school to help with music in pre-primary classes.



Dear Friends

This year seems to have flown by. After Easter we went into lockdown and had just two girls left in the hostel. We continued services in the cathedral with the 8 or 9 people that live on the compound. So music and preaching were still to be done and the playing of lots of badminton too until it got too hot!



Then from July we have gradually brought back the older children, so we now have 12 in the hostel. Some doing classes online and some offline. They all do music, so it is nice to have a small orchestra back again plus in the Cathedral we have three or four other musicians that join. I teach the Bishop's two

daughters and they are part of the Cathedral Musicians too so we have had music all the way through with a small group.

Priyanka is now conducting on Sundays while I do my duties as a Deacon and is doing well. In October Sameer Masih, a young musician excellent in Indian music, especially tabla, (a pair of twin hand drums) joined us. He is an assistant music teacher but also my student who is being trained for when I eventually have to finish. I hope to do at least another year from March if I can get a visa which is becoming harder and harder to obtain every year. Sameer is excellent at the piano but only plays by ear, so I am working on his music reading and theory and improving his violin playing. I have also started teaching other students from different churches to widen the basis of my teaching and to bring music to more churches.

As I am writing this, Advent has just started, and I am busy arranging music and practicing music for the busy Advent and Christmas season. It will be good to do some live dance and music programmes with bigger numbers after just small videos produced online.

The children are also very much enjoying all their activities again.

We have just finished Home Festival, where we visit each home and take the Home Festival candle and light them, bringing the light of Christ and sharing it. It is a festival that was introduced because other religions here also have festivals with



light. It consists of prayer, a bible reading, a short message and song and we are often treated to dinner as well in the cathedral pastorate. So, I have been very fortunate in having Sameer here who has been able to oversee music practice because I have often had to go out. It is the first year that I have been to them all. Often families bring in friends to share in the evening but in the last two years it has

just been the family, as all our covid restrictions have not yet been lifted. I see you in the UK are going into some new restrictions with face masks again. That has never left here but many do not wear them.



This period of time has been busier still as we had an Ordination Sunday where we ordained another three Deacons. We have also had CNI day on 29th November and a Diocese Thanksgiving Day and Day of Prayer on 1st December which is the day Bishop Sameer I. Khimla was installed here.

I am still teaching for St Peter's School, doing their music classes for the pre-primary section online every week. It's a great time and I enjoy doing something different from my other work. I sing choruses with them and actions songs, teach them about different instruments and also do rhythm work. They all have a bottle shaker, an empty water bottle with some dry rice inside. My office becomes my little music studio for these classes.

In May I moved rooms, having lived in one room with a small bathroom for eight and a half years, which was in between the boys' and girls' dormitories, so was sometimes noisy. The Bishop requested that I move into the empty flat at the other end of the children's hall, as I now do all my own cooking etc.

these days. Now I have a kitchen, living room/study, bedroom and bathroom and the luxury of 24-hour internet which did not reach my other room. It is amazing how much stuff I have accumulated in these years.

This year we have celebrated many different days:



Teachers' Day at St Peter's Cathedral



Tribal Sunday in the School



Children receiving a blessing on Children's Day

It is also the Golden Jubilee year of the Diocese. We started the year with an online Thanksgiving service on 1st July and hope to finish on 1st July 2022 with a big Thanksgiving service, with some of our international friends joining us as well. We had many plans for the year but have not been able to do as much due to the pandemic and still having some



Teachers' Day in the cathedral restrictions in place. However, some have taken place online, with smaller pastorate ones or joint pastorates working together in an area.

Thank you all for your continued, love, support and prayers.

I wish you a wonderful Christmas and a peaceful and healthy New Year.

Yours in Christ

Ruth

Rev. Dn. Ruth M M Pugh

Do you hear what I hear?

This well-known carol has been a favourite of mine since the days when I was a member of the Epworth Choir in the 80s and 90s when the choir sang it quite regularly at their Christmas Carol Concerts.

The carol was composed in October 1962, with lyrics by Noël Regney and music by Gloria Shayne Baker. This couple, who were married at the time, wrote this carol as a plea for peace during the Cuban Missile Crisis. Those of you who were around at the time will recall that this crisis was about the direct confrontation between the US and the Soviet Union during the Cold War and was the moment when the two came closest to a nuclear conflict.

Noel Regney had been invited by a record producer to write a Christmas song, but he was hesitant about doing it due to the commercialism of Christmas. However, write it he did and it subsequently sold tens of millions of copies and has been covered by hundreds of artists. So, I am not alone in my feelings about this carol.

Those of you who are familiar with it will know that the lyrics recall the birth of Jesus and the events surrounding the traditional Christmas story.

Noel Regney was inspired to write the lyrics "Said the night wind to the little lamb, 'Do you see what I see?'" and "Pray for peace, people everywhere" after watching babies being pushed in pushchairs on the pavements of New York City all against the backdrop of the crisis that was unfolding at the time. Gloria Shayne Baker stated in an interview years later that neither of them could personally perform the entire song at the time they wrote it because of the emotions surrounding the Cuban Missile Crisis: she recalled that "our little song broke us up. You must realise there was a threat of war at the time".

For me, it is the simplicity of the retelling of the Christmas story together with the music that make this carol a special one to both listen to and sing. If you are able to listen to it, you will notice how it starts very quietly before gradually becoming louder and more urgent until on a crescendo the carol ends with proclaiming that the child "will bring us goodness and light"! Stirring, thought provoking and evocative of the excitement that those caught up in the story must have felt all those years ago. Editor

Said the night wind to the little lamb,
do you see what I see?
Way up in the sky, little lamb,
do you see what I see?
A star, a star, dancing in the night
With a tail as big as a kite,
With a tail as big as a kite.

Said the little lamb to the shepherd boy,
do you hear what I hear?
Ringing through the sky, shepherd boy,
do you hear what I hear?
A song, a song, high above the trees
With a voice as big as the sea,
With a voice as big as the sea.

Said the shepherd boy to the mighty king,
do you know what I know?
In your palace warm, mighty king,
do you know what I know?
A Child, a Child shivers in the cold
Let us bring Him silver and gold,
Let us bring Him silver and gold.

Said the king to the people everywhere,
listen to what I say,
Pray for peace, people everywhere!
listen to what I say,
The Child, the Child, sleeping in the night
He will bring us goodness and light,
He will bring us goodness and light.

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KNAPHILL METHODIST CHURCH



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minister@knaphillmethodist.co.uk

www.knaphillmethodist.co.uk

Church Mobile 07756 711236

SUNDAY SERVICE

10am - Morning Worship (includes facilities for children)

Our services are warm and cordial. We include traditional and contemporary hymns and songs, led by our Worship Group.

The sermons are Bible based and are sometimes themed over several weeks. Holy Communion is generally on the 2nd Sunday of every month. After the service everyone is welcome to join us for refreshments; a time for a chat and to get to know each other.

We have a special Family Area at the back of the church with lots of things for children to do.

For further information see the notice boards outside the church or contact: admin@knaphillmethodist.co.uk

This is a Q code - scan it with your Smartphone to go straight to our website



A NOTE TO CONTRIBUTORS

This Magazine has a wider readership than just within KMC because it is published on the KMC and Circuit websites as we want to be able to share it with the other Churches.

However, we recognise some contributors may be uncomfortable with being mentioned, particularly on the internet. I will therefore be happy to omit names and any other personal details in any future issue if requested to do so.

Editor (email: editor@knaphillmethodist.co.uk)

Answers to Famous Youngsters on page 21:

1 George Michael 2 Melania Trump 3 David Walliams 4 Joan Collins 5 Helen Mirren 6 Ed Sheeran
7 Camilla Parker Bowles 8 Michael Buble 9 Jeremy Clarkson 10 Chris Evans 11 Stacey Solomon
12 Orlando Bloom



Services @ KMC

Christmas Day	10am Family Worship - Dave Faulkner
26th December	<i>No service at KMC - Circuit Service at Godalming Methodist Church at 10.30am</i>
2nd January	<i>No Service at KMC</i>
9th January	10am Holy Communion - Dave Faulkner
16th January	10am Morning Worship - Dave Faulkner
23rd January	10am Morning Worship - Elizabeth Gurd 3pm Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service at Holy Trinity Church, Knaphill
30th January	10am Morning Worship - Clare Hargraves
6th February	10am Morning Worship - Graham Pearcey
13th February	10am Holy Communion - Dave Faulkner
20th February	10am Morning Worship - Dave Faulkner
27th February	10am Morning Worship - Samuel Sidney Lake

COFFEE MORNING AND SALE

10am to Noon

Dates for 2022:

22nd January
26th February
26th March
23rd April
28th May



Please be aware that due to the increased risk of COVID Omicron variant, services and other events at KMC may be cancelled at short notice. Please check the web site for up to date information.

WWW.KNAPHILLMETHODIST.CO.UK