



the NEW
Messenger

DECEMBER 2018
& JANUARY 2019

It is Christmas every time
you let God love others
through you...
yes, it is Christmas every time
you smile at your brother
and offer him your hand.

Mother Teresa of Calcutta



Third
Avenue

CHURCH & COMMUNITY

GILLINGHAM METHODISTS | *Part of the North Kent Circuit*

Sunday Preaching plan for Gillingham & Hartlip

DECEMBER 2018

THIRD AVENUE | MORNING | 10.30AM

HARTLIP | EVENING | 6.30PM

02 DEC REV ROBIN SELMES

**REV ROBIN SELMES
HOLY COMMUNION**

**09 DEC JUNIOR CAROL SERVICE
LED BY THE SUNDAY SQUAD**

**CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT
REV ROBIN SELMES**

**16 DEC REV ROBIN SELMES
HOLY COMMUNION**

**CELEBRATION OF CAROLS | 10.30AM
CHOOSE YOUR FAVOURITE**

THIRD AVENUE CANDLELIGHT CAROL SERVICE | 6.30PM

23 DEC JOHN STUNELL

ELENA MAKOVA

**30 DEC MANDY HARRIS
TAIZE SERVICE**

JUDITH GERMAN

JANUARY 2019

**06 JAN REV ROBIN SELMES
COVENANT SERVICE | HC**

LOCAL ARRANGEMENT

13 JAN DEREK GALLAGHER

**REV ROBIN SELMES
COVENANT SERVICE | HC**

20 JAN REV ROBIN SELMES

IAN WATTON

27 JAN REV ROBIN SELMES

REV TONY GRAFF

Hello & welcome to the latest edition of the New Messenger...

By the time you read this magazine 20 Christmas trees will be adorning our church. Please take a look at the labels on each of the trees and read about the many groups who use our church and community hall throughout the year. How amazing that they can all come together to share with us in this special way. A great start to advent.

As we get ready for Christmas with our shopping and decorating and celebrating it is good to remember the 'reason for the season'. This is simply but powerfully described in the beautiful Christmas song called 'Adore' by Chris Tomlin (pg 25). We will be singing this song at the beginning of our advent services, please come along and join us in our preparations.

*Peace on earth, here with us,
joy awakening, at your feet we fall*

There are many events and services coming up for you to share including our Candlelight Carol Service on 16th December (pg 12). Everyone is welcome.

It is heartbreaking to hear of hardships and sorrow, especially when all around has sparkling lights, tinsel and jolly music. However, I have found it heart warming and encouraging to read of how many people are working hard to help others, throughout the year and at Christmas and during the cold months of the new year. There are ways we can all help too; 'Sox in a Box', Medway Foodbank, Christmas stockings for the hospital, Churches together in Medway night shelter for the homeless or further afield; your prayers are urgently needed for Cameroon (pg 21).

**The editorial team wish you all a very Happy Christmas and peaceful new year.
Thank you all for your support and contributions.**

Helen and the editorial team

You can contact us anytime by email: messenger@gillinghammethodists.uk
by post: New Messenger | Third Avenue Church & Community
Gillingham | ME7 2LU or come and chat to any of the team.
Deadline to receive articles for the **FEB | MAR edition will be 20 Jan 2019.**

A message from our Minister Rev Robin Selmes...

Have we really forgotten the meaning of Christmas?

Let me share with you a very profound story that was recently passed to me entitled *Mary's Dream*:

I had a dream, Joseph. I don't understand it, not really, but I think it was about a birthday celebration for our Son. I think that is what it was all about. The people had been preparing for it for about six weeks. They had decorated the house and bought new clothes. They'd gone shopping many times and bought elaborate gifts. It was peculiar, though, because the presents weren't for our Son. They wrapped them in beautiful paper and tied them with lovely bows and stacked them under a tree. Yes, a tree Joseph, right in their house. They'd decorated the tree also. The branches were full of glowing balls and sparkling ornaments. There was a figure on the top of the tree. It looked like an angel might look. Oh, it was beautiful. Everyone was laughing and happy. They were all excited about the gifts. They gave the gifts to each other, Joseph, not to our Son. I don't think they even knew Him. They never mentioned His name. Doesn't it seem odd for people to go to all that trouble to celebrate someone's birthday if they don't know Him. I had the strangest feeling that if our Son had gone to this celebration He would have been intruding. Everything was so beautiful; Joseph, and everyone so full of cheer, but it made me want to cry. How sad for Jesus – not to be wanted at His own birthday celebration. I'm glad it was only a dream. How terrible, Joseph, if it had been real.



Advent as we all know, is the time of waiting and preparing for the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus on Christmas Day. In our modern day, preparations this includes putting up decorations (inside and out) and trimming the Christmas tree - first with lights, ornaments and finally placing an angel or star on the top. It is also a time when we make special contact with old friends and acquaintances, through Christmas cards and letters. I have to say that I'm not a great fan of Christmas newsletters, I mean I love receiving cards and hearing about how Fred is getting on but I would rather receive a few personal lines than a newsletter disguised as a personal letter telling me how many times the cat has been taken to the vet or how they are leading such an interesting life compared to your own. But it is good to be remembered by, and to remember old friends. Sounds like I am a total Scrooge!

Yet, these greetings do provide a wonderful opportunity to share our faith, especially with non-Christians and neighbours. We do not need to be over bearing, but we do grab this opportunity to remind everyone of the reason for the season. This is because I think the heart of Christmas and its real meaning where God called for peace and justice has been forgotten. Sadly, for some, I believe Mary's dream has come true. I think Jesus would be an intrusion into some people's lives on that special day. Yet the meaning is still there for those who seek it.

Christmas is about celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ, it is a time for families and friends to gather and time for hope and peace. It is about God's gift of good news with the angels' message of peace, goodwill and justice in today's world where there is so much conflict, poverty and disaster. This Christmas we need to pray that God's peace will break through, a peace that passes our understanding but changes attitudes and behaviour.

Again, the work of Nightshelter and the foodbank highlights the fact that so many of us live in comfort whilst others struggle to keep their head above the poverty line. So

thank you so much to those that support the work of these charities and projects. Please continue to support and pray for these projects, pray that our work enables people to escape poverty and build better futures for themselves.

This after all is the real meaning of Christmas, peace and hope. So, this year when you send your invitations out please make sure Jesus is on the list, after all it is his birthday that we are celebrating!!

Merry Christmas to one and all

Robin, Mandy & family

A message from our Youth Pastor...

This messenger I thought I would share with you prayers written by members of our Spirit Squad Sunday morning group.

Prayer 1

God you are the creator of the world without which we would not be alive. I thank you for helping everyone in any way possible.
Lord help me to be good at my studies
I trust that you are helping the people that need help. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen

Prayer 2

God you are almighty and you are our father
I thank you for giving us family. Lord help me to be successful in very hard challenges
I trust you are loving and caring. I pray in your name. Amen, thanks be to God

Prayer 3

God you are amazing.
I am thankful for my life.



Lord help me have a good future.
I trust that you are always with me.
In Jesus' name, Amen

Prayer 4

God you are very important to me and you are loving and kind in every way. I thank you for loving me so much. Lord help me to be kind to my neighbour and respect everything and everyone. I trust that you are a holy God, good at everything. We thank you for all the animals, life, happiness and love you bring us,
Amen

Helen

Sat 1 Dec **Christmas Tree Festival**
10.30am~2pm *Free Admission*

Sun 9 Dec **Junior Carol Service**
10.30am *All age service led by the Sunday Squad*

Sun 16 Dec **Candlelight Carol Service**
6.30pm *Parking available in the School opposite*

Wed 19 Dec **Blue Christmas**
7.30pm *A service for those who are missing loved ones, suffering emotionally or experiencing any kind of loss this Christmas*

Mon 24 Dec
4pm **Christingle Service**
11.30pm **Midnight Communion**

Tue 25 Dec **Christmas Morning Celebration**
10.30am

We offer you, your family & friends a very warm welcome to any of our special events & services taking place at Third Avenue this Christmas

WHERE TO FIND US



The Call of God

*In early November, our young people led a fantastic service at Third Avenue, with the theme The Call of God. **David Johnson** gave us the message, so if you were unable to be there, we have shared it here...*

What is your why?
Why did you get out of bed?
Why did you eat what you ate
Why did you wear what you wore?
Why did you come here?

The big why, we're certainly not here just to gossip about the week. We are here to connect, life is about people, Christianity is about sharing how gods love will improve people's lives.

Love
Time
Death

These three things connect every human on Earth. Every thing that we cover. Every person we meet. Every relationship we build. And everything that we are Now love ,this comes solely from God.

God created us to love 1 John 4:7-10 says "Love the world All the people." Every single person No matter how much we struggle in loving them. Too often we put things and people in boxes as if it were our place. We are a civilisation that has learnt not to love all and instead puts boundaries in the way. That first boundary was in front of God, when fig leaves were worn to hide us from shame (I am not saying you should be naked physically) but stop putting walls in the way of gods love. God uses your love to show the world who he is. So why do we put barriers up. I'll ask this have you ever heard anyone ever say I found

God through the hate of his people or is it for the love they share.
Now, Time. How many people in this room have ever prayed for patience ? Now how many of you have then had your patience tried?

There's a little saying my Nan once shared with me: if you're praying for patience God will make you learn it by trying your patience. Time it's a gift from God to us to learn to live and to love to experience the free will God has given us and to come to learn and have faith in God.

Now I along with many people waste my time on many things and I came to realise that the time we have here matters what we do with it. Proverbs 27:1 says do you not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring. So if your waiting for God to call you don't wait doing nothing go out in to the world and build friendships and fellowship with others. God may call you now but he may call you at 100 years old, remember gods time is not always our time.

There's then death, the limit to human experience as we have limited time on earth. Most off us here have felt loss of family and friends and through that loss we are building our character. A year ago and one week not to this day but to this Sunday my Nan passed away I was isolated alone 1153 miles away from my family but God was with me keeping me going, if not physically, than by using the people I was with. In the passage we see how Jesus is moved and it shows him bringing Lazarus back. I see this as a movement in side of each of us when we face lost, God moves in us to help us Carry on. To show us what was said is true this will not end in death for by the lost of our family we gain spirit. Although at the time we mourn it may not seem like it but everything they shared stays with us and we share it to other who than share it on and it goes on like dominoes forever. However how does this fit in to gods call and our excuses not to answer them. Bare with me let me give you a

few examples of people who's excuse are probably far greater than ours:

Noah was a drunk
Abraham was too old
Isaac was a day dreamer
Jacob was a liar
Joseph was abused
Moses had a stutter
Gideon was afraid
Jeremy and Timothy were too young
Elijah was suicidal
Job lost everything
Peter had denied Christ
Martha worried about everything
Zacchaeus was too small
Lazarus was dead

All of whom were used by God. Maybe not when they wanted to be and some gave an excuse as to not doing gods call but all of them ended up doing what they had been called for. All of these issues and God called them all like he is calling you.

Maybe not to lead a country or a church but a task that could be as small as having a cup of tea with one person once a week to leading the next generation in teaching and leading. So why do we talk about love in this aspect of responding to gods call?

Jesus gave us a new commandment love one another and it must have been important because it's mentioned over 13 times in the New Testament. 13 times that's either a broken record or a calling to all nations. Sharing the love can change a life some people only need a smile or hug a how are you or even a cup of tea to know that someone is there who loves them and finally time. Although we do have a life time on earth we spend an eternity in heaven with God so why wait to answer his calling of sharing the message of love and grace to all people. So that they come to love and know gods calling for them. Let me finish by asking you only last question when It comes to love.

What is your why?

You came into my life on a Christmas morning
You opened up my eyes to your love

I chose to follow you,
I chose to believe The Word
I know that you are here,
I feel you in my heart

Jesus Christ, The Messiah, the holy one
Son of God, Saviour of man
Jesus Christ, The Messiah, the holy one
The day you came, You saved my life

I come to you, I live in hope and faith
Trusting in your name, to you I pray

Jesus Christ, with love I honour you
Our Shepherd King, our saving Grace

Jesus Christ, The Messiah, the holy one
Son of God, Saviour of man
Jesus Christ, The Messiah, the holy one
The day you came, You saved the World

Anne Boulwood



sleeping on the streets

The Medway Winter Night Shelter

This is a project run by Medway churches and the Strood Community Project to help homeless people with a connection to Medway, during the coldest and most difficult time of the

Medway Churches Night Shelter opens on 2 January 2019

Homelessness in the UK

Street homelessness is the most visible, but also the most difficult, aspect of the housing crisis to solve. Sadly, people on the street are also the least likely to elicit sympathy from the public and politicians, despite being most in need.

In 2011, Crisis found that the median life expectancy of homeless men was 47 and of women 43; rough sleepers were also nine times more likely to commit suicide than the general population. It's been estimated that in Autumn 2016 there were 4134 people sleeping rough each night throughout England, an increase of 16% on the 2015 figures, leaving people vulnerable to the ruinous effects of street homelessness on mental and physical health and life expectancy. While the charities tasked with tackling homelessness struggle with diminishing funding as councils have their budgets strangled, the effects of this withdrawal of the state is visible on our streets. Clearly the winter month are the most vulnerable time to be

year. Set up in October 2015, we will be opening our doors for our fourth season on 2nd of January 2019 until the 30th March, with a twelve-bed shelter supported by over 170 volunteers. Ideally there will be 14 churches throughout Medway offering their facilities for one specific night per week for a six-week period.

We at Third Avenue

We will be hosting the shelter on a Saturday night from 5th January until 9th February. Each Saturday evening throughout the project the volunteers will arrive at the venue from 6pm with the guests arriving from 8pm. Each guest will be offered an evening meal which has been freshly cooked on site from a coordinated nutritious weekly menu. In the mornings volunteers arrive at about 7am to prepare breakfast of cereal/ toast/ hot drinks prior to the guests leaving by 8 am.

If you would like to make a donation to support the night shelter this year the shelter organisers are requesting that the venues provide a box of leisure activities, eg board games that are not language specific, 2 or 3 packs of cards, art materials for drawing and painting.

Speak to **Tony Crowcroft** for more information.



Pam Olsen

1935~2018

Pam was born in Canada house in Gillingham on the 20th of October 1935, a daughter for her parents Gladys and Roger Wilson. She had two sisters Dora and Janet and one brother Robert. She attended Richmond Road School for the whole of her education. It was also the school that all her grandchildren went to. When it came to leaving school she became a sewing machinist. After a while, Pam left her job and went to work in London for the Methodist youth department. She left there after a while and went back to use her skills in needlework, where she became a lace whipper, which meant she was dealing with the very finest and intricate work possible. Pam became friendly with a talented carpenter and Joiner called Eddy Olsen and that friendship to blossom. (When Pam had first seen Eddy at Byron Road youth club and said "Don't think much of that loud mouth!" But the rest is history.)

And so it was on the 28th of March 1958 at Byron Road Methodist Church Pam and Eddy were married. On Pam's own birthday in 1960, Karen was born and then two sons followed, Richard and Philip. The family was completed with five grandchildren: Sam, David, Peter, Stevie and Jaye.

Pam really enjoyed our family holidays to New Romney Holiday Camp, especially riding on the trains at the RH&DR with all the family. She spent many holidays at the Methodist Guild centres, having fun and fellowship throughout the country and especially on lots of trips to Scotland. One occasion they had planned a four week trip: a week to get there, stopping at her at various places; two weeks spent there with Eddy's sister Brenda, and a week to get home. But then a few more days were added on when Pam said "can't we just stop a few more days at another Guild Holiday Centre on the way home?".

The last few years she has enjoyed holidays at the Burlington in Eastbourne near the pier. Last year she enjoyed a week on Mundesley in Norfolk with Karen and Andy remembering her first holiday there at the age of 18.

When Eddy retired, there is some debate about who suggested it, but it was decided it would be good for Richard and Emma to take them both to Canada. So it was, they had a wonderful two weeks travelling around Canada eating lots and seeing many great sites. In later years Pam would get back from a holiday and say "I'm never going on holiday again" but within a few weeks it would be "when are we going again".

Pam enjoyed cooking. After being volunteered by Karen to cook at a youth weekend in Dover she was then asked (or told!) that if she could cook for that weekend, she could cook at the St Peter's Luncheon Club! She spent many years doing just that and the family enjoyed lots of the leftovers! Pam also always loved sewing and made many wedding dresses for friends and family. One of the last things she ever made before losing her sight, was Sam's christening gown.

Pam had always had problems with her eyes and for the last 30 years her sight deteriorated until she became blind. When this happened one of the things that became very important was her radio, which she listened to fervently. Saturday afternoons and some Tuesday evening

were especially important to her since that was when Gillingham played and Pam was an ardent supporter of the Gills. When talking to her about the Gills she could always tell you everything about the match! And of course her favourite radio serial program was The Archers. The family knew, never to ring between seven and quarter past!

The Methodist Church has always been very important to Pam, having attended Jubilee youth club. Many happy hours spent at Byron Road church and youth activities, Pam was again always behind the Tuck shop, along with Chris Calbala and Kath Allen, having a good chat as well as serving the kids. She was involved many MAYC weekends and various activities.

When Byron Road closed she moved with the family to St Peter's where she was involved in many activities, such as helping out at church holiday club's, providing that the much needed tea and coffee for the leader and drinks and biscuits for the children. When St Peter's closed and GMC was formed, Pam was still involved in the Wesley Guild. Worship was important to Pam as she was a faithful Christian disciple who, in spite of her disability, displayed an honesty and gentleness of spirit.

Ultimately it became necessary for Pam to go into residential care following several bouts of time in hospital. She went into a home in Luton but then had to be moved after very heavy rain caused flooding in her room! She then moved to Amherst Residential Home in Chatham and sadly on the 25th of July, aged 82, she passed away.

Mum always love her trips to the seaside so it seemed only fitting that for her thanksgiving

service, the beach was still there from the Summer Special Services. Robin and Brian led a lovely service. Mum was so ready to go, but she knew where she was going and she slipped away so peacefully. It is hard to lose someone and we will always miss her, but if there's a good way to die, then I think this was it, with all the family around her.

Everybody has been so kind. The carers in the homes where mum that stayed were so good, spending time with her when we couldn't be there. John Weir funeral directors were so helpful and caring. Mum had a elephant called Emily and she went everywhere with her. and we wanted Emily to sit on top of mum's coffin. They sat her there, holding some of the flowers, it was such a little thing but it meant so much to us.

It has been a hard couple of years for us with Sam being so ill and mum getting so confused. But he great news is that Sam has the all clear and is doing really well, she slowly getting back to work.

I want to thank you all so much as a church for all the support, love and prayers, you are all amazing. Thank you, **Karen x**



Baking with Sophie...

Christmas Brownies



Ingredients:

200g butter	50g cocoa powder
175g caster sugar	250g dark chocolate
175g light brown sugar	250g white chocolate
4 eggs	100g pecan nuts
100g plain flour	100g glace cherries

Method:

Preheat the oven to 180°C.
Grease an 8-12 in baking tin and line it with baking paper.

Melt the butter in a pan over medium heat. Take the pan off the heat and add the sugars and stir until combined. Whisk the eggs in a large bowl and slowly stir in the butter and sugar mixture.

Sieve in the flour and cocoa powder and fold in until thoroughly combined. Leave the mixture to cool for 10 minutes so the chocolate chunks won't melt when added.

Chop up the dark and white chocolate into large chunks and add to the brownie batter. Halve the pecans and add to the mixture.

Pour the brownie batter into the baking tin and scatter the glace cherries on top. Bake the brownies for 25-30 minutes.

When the brownies have been baked, and are still gooey in the centre, they are done! Leave the brownies to cool in the tin for 30 minutes, then cut them into squares. Sprinkle some icing sugar on top and add some Christmas decorations to serve.





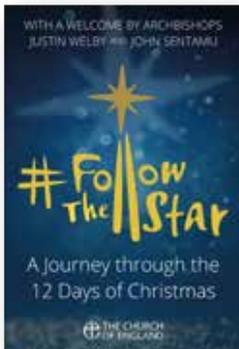
Candlelight Carol Service

Sunday 16 December
6.30pm



*Car park available in
the Robert Napier School opposite*

Book & Film reviews... *from Parish Pump*

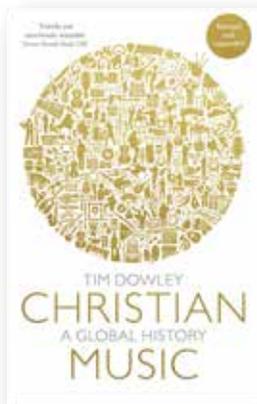


Follow the Star | by various authors | CHP | £1.50

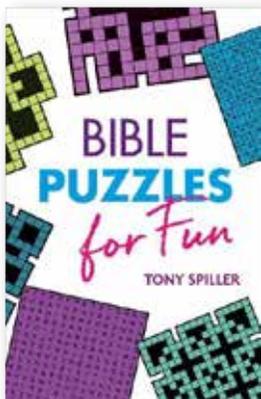
Follow the Star is a pocket-sized booklet inviting you to travel in the footsteps of the Wise Men this Christmas to meet Jesus. It contains 14 daily reflections, one for each day from Christmas Eve throughout the 12 days of Christmas, ending with the Epiphany on 6th January.

Christian Music - a global history (revised and expanded) Tim Dowley | SPCK | £14.99

Hillsong's celebrity-filled services have recently brought attention to the denomination's contemporary style of worship, with Christian thought and practice having a resurgence in Hip Hop and Grime, with rappers such as Stormzy and Chance the Rapper drawing upon gospel roots. But what is the musical legacy that led us here? Tim Dowley traces the story of Christian music from its earliest Jewish origins, through the Renaissance, Reformation and up to the present day, discussing various liturgical traditions as well as non-liturgical sacred music. He covers the fascinating story of hymns, sacred songs, Christian expressions in modern jazz, folk, rock and pop. This comprehensive book ranges widely, with specialist chapters on Christian music worldwide, and covers such varied topics

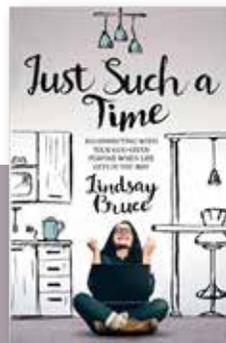


as Christmas carols, the music of Handel and Bach, spirituals and the blues, medieval polyphony, Hildegard of Bingen and contemporary Christian music.



Bible Puzzles for Fun | Tony Spiller | BRF | £8.99

This collection would make a good stocking-filler. It is packed full of biblical brain-teasers – clever crosswords, tantalising anagrams, word searches, mazes and magic squares. The puzzles have been compiled to show how people worked, lived and died in the Middle East over 2,000 years ago. All the clues are linked directly to a verse in the Bible. Tony Spiller spent most of his career teaching technical drawing, maths and religious studies at a secondary school in Manchester. To encourage pupils to read the Bible, he started inventing puzzles to teach them to look up the reference. He sadly died shortly after completing this book.



Food for the soul book club

Our next book will be **'Just such a time - reconnecting with your God given purpose when life gets in the way'** by Lindsay Bruce. Next meet up on 22nd January at 7.30pm. Speak to Helen Garland or Jenny Silver for more info.



MOVIE MOMENTS

Nick and Carol Collard from EthosMedia.org share thought-provoking reflections on the latest films.

Everything I need?

Disney's *The Nutcracker and the Four Realms* is a visual and auditory feast that will both delight the senses and stimulate the brain as it explores the essential human question: 'What is everything I need?'

Building on Tchaikovsky's famous ballet score and Hoffmann's lesser known story *The Nutcracker and the Mouse King* this delightful film draws us into the mind of Clara, played brilliantly by the teenage actress Mackenzie Foy. Deeply upset by the recent death of her mother, Clara has retreated to an attic, where she uses her precocious skills in science and engineering to build a fabulous contraption for catching mice. Demonstrating this to her younger brother she recounts Newton's Third Law of Motion - that every action has an equal and opposite reaction.

The wider social and cultural application of this principle gradually becomes evident as Clara then journeys into a fantasy world where the inhabitants of four realms (flowers, snowflakes, sweets and amusements) are at war. Clara has entered these realms in search of the key to a locked egg-shaped box that was left to her by her recently deceased mother, who said 'everything you need is inside'. But what is everything I need? What formula will be unlocked by this key? Gradually she discovers that the solution is not simplistic and one-dimensional, indeed there is much to learn even in the process of the quest itself.



This evocative film offers great opportunities for a stimulating shared experience. As well as marvelling together at the beautiful sets, costumes and dance it provides an excellent post-viewing opportunity to discuss what might be 'everything I need', and what we also can learn from our own quest for answers to life's big questions.



Released on November 2nd

**ETHOS
MEDIA.org**

EthosMedia.org provides free resources to help people explore spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues through the latest feature films.

'He gave us eyes to see them' a Catalan artist's nativity in Barcelona

Godⁱⁿ the Arts

For 2018, the Rev Michael Burgess is exploring symbols of the Christian faith as found in works of art.

In January we began this course exploring signs and symbols with the Cross: a sign of death, but also a sign of victory. We end the year with a sign that proclaims birth and new life: the crib of Christmas. In December cribs will be set up in churches, homes, villages and town centres. It is a

tradition that goes back to the nativity scene in a cave outside Greccio in Italy on Christmas Eve, 1223. St Francis of Assisi invited all the people to a service there to remind them of a truth they had either forgotten or neglected: that Love came down at Christmas. We are told that as they looked inside the cave and saw the crib with the ox and ass, St Francis prayed and took up the infant Christ in his arms. Christ was 'the peaceful, tender and loving brother,' a vulnerable baby needing affection and care.

The simplicity and the beauty of that nativity scene is portrayed in this 12th century painting by an anonymous Catalan artist in a museum in Barcelona. Cribs were often very elaborate and ornate creations, bejewelled and decorated with



episodes from our Lord's life. Here the scene is ordinary with few details. The haloes around the heads of Mary and the Christ-Child may look a little odd, but the artist and St Francis are at one in proclaiming a sign of life and love in this birth.

Each Christmas we are called to kneel before the crib with the animals and the shepherds. A 13th century Franciscan invites us to 'Gaze on the face of the babe with devotion...and delight in Him.' May we see the light of God's love in the new-born babe as we look into the crib, and may we delight to offer our hearts and lives in His service.

Hartlip

Methodist Church & Retreat Centre



In October we celebrated Retreat Sunday when we remember the groups who have used the Retreat Centre during the past year. We were blessed by having Mandy Harris lead us in an afternoon session as well as in worship in the evening. The theme was "*Crowned with love and compassion.*"

There were a variety of activities available or time to simply be in God's presence. Some deep thinking and beautiful experiences happened on this day. Thank you so much Mandy.

So many individuals and groups use the Centre during the year and are blessed by beautiful, quiet surroundings to relax to study or to meet in a safe environment. Thank you to all those who help to make the building available particularly Heather and Derek Gallagher. This quiet haven helps so many over the course of each year.

The last two Sundays have brought two services very different from the norm: On 11th of November the Methodist congregation were invited to join with the parish church for worship in the church and the Act of Remembrance. It was a privilege to be part of the worship led jointly by Anglican and

Methodist clergy. The church service was reverent and was also well attended.

The atmosphere as we moved out to the War Memorial was one of respect. We were joined by a few more people as we gathered outside. As we remembered those who had given their lives, during the two minutes silence, and as the names were read out there was a fellow feeling of the debt we owed to those we remembered. Again we were led jointly by Robin Selves and George Hume.



There were further activities later with both churches again opening their doors in welcome.

On the 18th November we said our official farewells to Reverend Ken George who has been a prison Chaplain at Kelley Prison for 20 years but started his ordained ministry in the Medway Circuit. He retires at the end of the year by "spending his 21st Christmas Day in prison". He will be moving closer to family in the Darlington area.

As well as the Methodist tributes a former colleague, now Governor at Wormwood Scrubs paid tribute to Ken's devotion and the ways in which he went above and beyond the call of duty. We will miss both Ken (or Malcolm as he was christened) and Jill.

Hartlip

Methodist Church
& Retreat Centre

Carols *by* candlelight

Sunday 9th December *at* 6.30pm
Mince Pies and Coffee served after the service

Help our patients smile this Christmas

Please sprinkle some festive spirit by filling stockings for our Christmas Day adult patients.

PLEASE DO NOT WRAP THE GIFTS

NHS

Medway

NHS Foundation Trust



Please fill your stocking with **NEW** items, such as the following:

- ✓ combs and hairbrushes
- ✓ travel-size toiletries
- ✓ hand mirrors
- ✓ wrapped sweets
- ✓ socks (male or female)
- ✓ playing cards
- ✓ small books
- ✓ notebooks
- ✓ colouring books
- ✓ puzzle books
- ✓ pens and pencils.

Please bring your stocking back to Third Avenue by Sun 16 December

Thank you!

How to survive Christmas!

Remember the reason for the season. It's Jesus' birthday, not yours!

Plan ahead. How much can you realistically afford? Don't just head for the shops with your credit card.

Don't do the last-minute buying frenzy. Shop early, when you can think clearly.

Christmas is an expensive time of year for everyone. With some close friends and adults in the family you may be able to make a 'no presents' pact.

Try shopping with cash only - that way you can't spend more than your budget.

Don't let children talk you into buying expensive items you can't afford.

Don't go overdrawn without telling your bank in advance. The penalties are high!

Don't go mad in the January sales, and avoid the temptation of the numerous 'buy now pay later' offers.

Help other people whenever you can. After all, it is the season of goodwill!

Be tolerant of visiting relatives. They want to enjoy Christmas as much as you do, honestly. They don't mean to be quite that annoying.

Be grateful for your presents. Even when they are hideous. Somebody, somewhere, will like them in the New Year.

Forget all of your worries for one day of the year. Whatever they are, just relax and enjoy celebrating the birth of Christ!

Finally, if you do run into debt problems, don't ignore them. Get advice as early as possible. Contact Christians Against Poverty or your nearest Citizens Advice Bureau for free, confidential, independent advice.

**CHRISTMAS
APPEAL**



**HELP BY DONATING AN ITEM OR TWO FROM
OUR SHOPPING LIST TO ENSURE WE CAN
PROVIDE FOOD TO PEOPLE IN CRISIS**

Shopping List - Christmas 2018

Please ensure that **Christmas specific items are well in date and with us by the first week in December** so we can get them to our clients in time - thank you.

- Milk - long-life/UHT
- Coffee - small jars only
- Instant mash
- Sugar - 500 grms packs only
- Shampoo
- Washing powder - small packs only

Christmas Items - long dated:

- Tinned ham
- Christmas pudding
- Fruit/Christmas cake
- Mince pies - long dated only
- Sweets/chocolates e.g. variety tin or a selection pack
- Biscuits e.g. small selection pack
- Savoury snacks, nuts or nibbles
- Stuffing mixture, Christmas sauces

Due to space constraints and for hygiene reasons, any donated toys need to be small, new and boxed, but not wrapped. No second-hand, large or soft toys - thank you.

We DO NOT currently need more:

soup, baked beans, pasta, pasta sauce, rice, baby food, teabags, feminine hygiene/sanitary products.

**Thank you for joining us to help stop
UK hunger!**

Medway Foodbank

info@medway.foodbank.org.uk

01634 757057

Registered Charity No: 1166505





On Sunday 11 November, at Third Avenue's Remembrance Service, Heather read part of a poignant letter from Derek's Uncle Jack, to his loving wife Lizzie.

It was a beautiful and moving part of the service, and we felt we would like to share the whole letter with you. Private Jack Mudd was 31 in 1917, and married to Elizabeth or 'Lizzie' as she was known. Jack was killed at the Battle of Passchendaele.

This letter was written just four days before he died, pouring out his feelings about the present and his hopes for the future

My darling Lizzie

At last I have the opportunity of writing to you a real letter. In the first place dearest I trust you and the children are quite well. I guess you have been worried with the air raids. You know dear it's hard to be out here fighting and yet your wife and children can't be safe. Still dearest don't worry, you have a 20,000 to 1 chance and God will watch over you as he has been with me ever since I have been out here. I have tried dearest to be as good as I can since I have been in France. I never close my eyes without praying for myself you and the children. He has answered them up till now and I hope and trust it will please him to look after us until the end.

We are expecting to go up again in two or three days, so dearest pray hard for me and asked Marie for God will not refuse her

prayers, she doesn't know the wickedness of this world. Dear Lizzie its nearly 6 months now since I saw you, how I long for you and the children, God bless you all. I love you more than ever. I long to take you in my arms again, what a lot of love we have missed but please God it will make it all the sweeter when I see you. I often take your photo out of my pocket and look at your dear face and think of the times we have had together, some lovely days eh love, and when



I think again of some of the worry I have caused you it makes me only the more eager to get home to you to atone for all the worry and anxious moments you have had to put up with. You always stuck by me in all things dear God bless you for it. And my dear little children, I think of them, bless them also. I hope dear you will always trust in me for I am always faithful your face is always before me and I couldn't deny you and as for you dearest I know you are faithful no matter what happened you would always be true and keep your word.

Out here dear we're all pals, what one hasn't got the other has, we try to share each other's troubles, get each other out of danger. You wouldn't believe the humanity between men out here. Poor little Shorty, one of the fellows that came out with me, he used to tell me all about his young lady, his Hilda, that was his young ladies name, about his home he had already brought and when he got home he would get married and come over to see me

and introduce her to you. He used to make me laugh with his talk, how he loved his Hilda but unfortunately he will never see her again poor fellow, he would give me half of everything he had. I often think of him yet poor fellow I don't think he even has a grave but lies somewhere in the open. Still dear I don't want to make you sad but it just shows you how we seem to stick together in trouble. It's a lovely thing is friendship out here.

Please God it won't be long before this war is over, we're pushing old Fritz back, I don't think he will stand the British boys much longer and then we will try and keep a nice home. I will know the value of one now. Good night love God bless you and my children and may He soon send me back to those I love is the wish of Your Faithful Husband

xxxxxxxxxx Jack



'Uncle Jack' beamed onto the walls of the Cloth Hall, Ypres on the centenary of the Battle of Passchendaele July last year.

Jack was reported missing on 26 October 1917. His name is recorded on the Memorial to the Missing at Tyne Cot Cemetery along with about 33, 000 others



Prayers needed for Cameroon

Your prayers are urgently needed for a peaceful resolution to the situation in Cameroon.

Why - what's happening in Cameroon? In order to explain the present situation it may be helpful to firstly understand the past. Initially colonised by Germany, the country was split between Britain and France after the First World War. French run Cameroon became independent in 1960 and, following a referendum, British Cameroon joined to form one Cameroon a short time later (with northern Cameroon opting to join Nigeria). Cameroon today is made up of ten Provinces, two in the west of the country which are Anglophone and eight Francophone, although the entire country is officially bilingual. The two English speaking provinces still operate under British legal and educational systems.

The English speaking provinces have long felt marginalised and have complained that their infrastructure is not seeing the same investment as the French speaking provinces. The roads, electricity supply and job opportunities for English speaking Cameroonians is very different to the French Cameroonians. There has been an undercurrent of unhappiness about this for many years but Cameroon has remained

peaceful and people just got on with their lives.

That changed just over two years ago when the government posted French speaking lawyers and teachers to the English regions, despite them not speaking English or understanding the English systems. English Cameroonians saw this as an attempt to make the entire country French and to suppress English speaking people and culture. So the teachers and lawyers went on strike. Schools closed. Peaceful protests began.

The government response was to send soldiers to shoot those protesting and many people were killed. This heavy handed response has since resulted in violent escalation.

English speaking Cameroonians are now pressing for their own state, called Ambazonia (after Amba Bay). The secessionists movement have formed a liberation force of their own, fighting for an independent state. Thousands of people have been killed, both government and Ambazonian fighters. Entire villages have been destroyed by fighters setting fire to houses. Nearly half a million English speaking Cameroonians have fled their villages and are living in the forests or in other parts of the country. Children in the English parts of the country are now in their third year with no school. Those schools that have tried

to open have found students kidnapped and teachers harmed. In effect, the country is in a civil war with atrocities committed on both sides.

Yet the outside world is largely oblivious. Unless you intentionally search the news websites, you will find nothing on the front pages. Stories are getting out and the BBC are reporting some issues but the response by leaders has been apathetic.

What can you do? First, be informed. Search out what is happening. Look at news sites that are covering it. The BBC and the Guardian have some articles. Find out as much as you can. Then pray.

Google 'Cameroon News' to read or listen to the latest reports. And then pray. We need the Lord to intervene in a miraculous way, to end the cycle of violence.

Pray for leadership, for humility, for shalom, for those refugees, those who have lost everything. Pray for the children with no education, that the Lord will keep them safe. Pray for God's intervention as humanly this is an impossible situation. Pray for individuals that you know and their families. Pray that the country can one day be peaceful again and that the Lord will be glorified in this.



Blue Christmas

Wednesday 19 December
7.30pm

A service for those who are missing loved ones, suffering emotionally or experiencing any kind of loss this Christmas

14th Gillingham



WE DISCOVER, WE GROW

Girlguiding



We filled shoeboxes for Blythswood Care



The Brownies helped the Royal British Legion this November by assembling over 300 poppies



Our harvest bunting on the theme of sharing

Poppies, poppies, poppies!



It all started back in May when Tina, a member of our Craft Group suggested that we could knit a 150 poppies for the Royal Engineers Museum. Then came a request from Derek Gallagher for a 100 Poppies to be sent to St George's Memorial Church in Ypres.

We then decided to make a 100 poppies for Third Avenue for remembrance Sunday. So what started off as just a few suddenly become well a bit more than that, over 350 hundred poppies. This was the moment when the knitting needles and crochet hooks were frantically got out. We even got some of the younger members during the Summer of Fun Lunches to make felt poppies.

As well as this Brenda, a member of the craft

group made a wreath which became part of Mark's wonderful display too.

As remembrance Sunday approached we were then asked to fix about 130 pins to the poppies which were to be given out during the remembrance service, and along with this we even managed to attach a few Poppies to the railings outside church.

Thank you to everyone who contributed a Poppy or two and I promise not to ask for any more for a while.

Mandy Selmes | Craft Club



Third Avenue



St George's, Ypres



Adore *by Chris Tomlin*

from the album **Adore | Christmas Songs of Worship**

You stepped down from heaven
Humbly you came
God of all creation
Here with us
In a starlet manger
Emmanuel
Light of the world
Here to save

Wise men bring their treasures
Shepherds bow low
Angel voices sing
Of peace on earth
What have I to offer
To heaven's King
I'll bring my life,
My love, my all

Adore
Come let us adore
Oh come let us adore him
The Lord, worship Christ, the Lord
Let all that is within us
Adore

Adore
Come let us adore
Oh come let us adore him
The Lord, worship Christ, the Lord
Let all that is within us
Adore

Angels sing, praises ring to the newborn King
Peace on earth, here with us, joy awakening
At your feet we fall

Adore
Come let us adore
Oh come let us adore him
The Lord, worship Christ, the Lord
Let all that is within us
Adore

Drama Group News...



By the time you read this article, the Junior Section's panto **Aladdin** will be done & dusted. For those of you were able to come & see it, I'm sure you would have had an enjoyable evening - judging by the rehearsal I watched, it should have been good.

The Seniors are now in full rehearsal for their February half term panto **Robin Hood** by Vicky Orman. Our directors Derek Elmore & Marian Marshall are pleased with how it's all going but are somewhat concerned about the first few rows of patrons who may get a 'King Harold' due to our Robin Hood being a little wayward with his shooting skills!! However we are now well into singing & movement which has inspired some of our members to consider 'Strictly' next year ! Although this panto is a little different, it still has all the usual panto characters ie. Dame, Two Stooges, Fairy & Principle Girl/Boy.

To remind you the dates are **Friday 15th, Saturday 16th, Saturday 23rd February all at**

7.30pm & a Matinee on Saturday 23rd at 3pm. Tickets are priced at **£7 Adults & £5 Children** (16 & under) and will be available after Xmas from Keith Jackson (01634 852712) or Sally Murphy (01634 855343) or from our website. Please see the poster on the back of this magazine for more details.

We hope to see many of our Church friends, so do come and join us for plenty of family fun and laughter. We know we can rely on your support.

Merry Christmas from the members of the drama group.

Keith Jackson | www.stpaulsdramagroup.co.uk

How Silent Night first began - 200 years ago

One of the most popular Christmas carols, Silent Night, was performed for the first time 200 years ago this month, on 24th December 1818, at midnight mass at a parish church in Oberndorf, near Salzburg, Austria.

The carol was originally a poem, written in six verses by priest Joseph Mohr two years earlier. Because the church organ was broken, he thought it would be nice to turn the poem into a simple carol that could be played by a guitar, and so he asked church organist Franz Xaver Gruber if he could write a suitable tune. Gruber did so in a matter of hours.

That night Mohr and Gruber sang the new composition, with Mohr playing guitar.

Karl Mauracher, an organ builder working at the Oberndorf church, took the carol home with him to the Zillertal, about 100 miles away, where it was taken up and popularised by two travelling families of folk singers, the Strassers and the Rainers.

They eventually sang it in New York, where in 1859 Episcopal priest John Freeman Young wrote and published the rather free English translation that is most frequently sung today, using only three verses and changing the rhythm slightly. The carol has been translated into about 140 languages.



Third Avenue

CHURCH & COMMUNITY
100 THIRD AVENUE | GILLINGHAM | ME7 2LU

Christingle Service

Christmas Eve
4pm



Our local preachers value your prayers as they preach in different Churches around the Circuit...

02 DEC MANDY HARRIS
IAN WATTON
KAREN WILLING
BRIAN DAVIES
DEREK GALLAGHER

16 DEC KAREN WILLING

23 DEC BRIAN DAVIES

30 DEC TRISH ROBB
KAREN WILLING

06 JAN MANDY HARRIS
COLIN WALDOCK
BRIAN DAVIES

20 JAN KAREN WILLING
JUDITH GERMAN
BRIAN DAVIES

27 JAN TRISH ROBB

SWANSCOMBE
ECCLES
STOKE
STROOD
HOPE STREET

ST LUKE'S

SITTINGBOURNE

GRAVESEND
ECCLES

BURHAM
ECCLES
ST LUKE'S

STROOD
ST LUKE'S
HOPE STREET

DENE HOLM

But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. This is why it says: "When he ascended on high, he took many captives and gave gifts to his people." So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Ephesians 4:7-8, 11-16



Lola News...

Hello to everyone, hope all of you are well and keeping warm now winter has arrived. Recently Trudy and I visited **Pembroke House** where we were given a very warm welcome. We met Laura who organised for us to meet several residents in the comfy lounge. It was a very pleasant afternoon. Trudy sat talking all about me, while I enjoyed lots of attention to the fur. We stayed for a cup of tea and listened to many amazing stories from living through the war years and other lifetime experiences. Pembroke House is a lovely place to live and the residents are so relaxed and in good spirits. Trudy and me hope you have a peaceful, healthy, happy Christmas.

Woofwoof.... love Lola x





Worship & Prayer

Recently a question was posed that asked the reason why we have set times for prayers in our services. There is a reason, but it is not just the prayers that are set to a format, the whole service is planned out in a structured way.

When we come to church on Sundays, we come to worship, to praise, to sing, to pray and to listen to Gods word.

Before most of us arrive on a Sunday morning we may have been rushing around, getting ready in a hurry, organizing the kids, fighting through traffic, running for the bus or even struggling with idea of going to church. When we arrive, there are coffees and teas to drink and friends to catch up with, stories to share. But, the main reason we are there is to worship, which has to start at some point. The songs and the call to worship are put there for this purpose, to encourage us into a worshipful state of mind. A time to end conversations, finish our drinks and to enter into the reason why we have come to church - to give thanks and praise to God, listen to his word and to turn our hearts to him in prayer.

Services are usually started with a hymn or two, followed by a Call to Worship. The hymns we sing are full of praise to God and when we

sing them we are joining in that praise, not just as individuals, but as a congregation. Straight away, we all begin to turn our thoughts to worship. To worship as one body. The call to worship then helps us to focus even more. After this there may be another song of praise, which will be followed by the prayers of Adoration, Thanksgiving and Confession.

These prayers are placed at this point for a reason. We have gathered and have started to turn our minds to God. Now is the time to prepare further. To praise and thank God. We are led in prayer as we turn our hearts to God and thank him for getting us through another week. We thank him for all that he has done and all that he is to do. We pour out our gratitude to our creator, our Saviour and for the Holy Spirit, our companion and guide. Prayers of adoration and thanksgiving express how much faith we are putting in God. We are acknowledging everything that He is to us and offering our heartfelt appreciation to him for this.

Once we have come to this point of acknowledgment, we then come to a time of confession. A time to lay all our faults at Gods feet. A time to come in repentance and accept the gift of His grace and mercy.

Now, having acknowledged Gods greatness and accepted his forgiveness and grace, we can continue to worship and receive Gods word, with cleansed and open hearts. We have prepared ourselves not only to worship, but to listen. To open our ears to what is being brought to us through the Message.

After the Message, there will be a time of reflection, maybe a prayer or another hymn, which helps to further our thoughts on what we have heard.

Our God is a God of love, a God of grace. He has commanded us to love Him, but also to love each other and to love our neighbours, to be gracious to others, whether they believe in Him or not. We, as disciples, become servants. Just as Jesus served others through all He did, we have the chance to come in service too. To help others through giving of our time and money - money given as tithes to the church or as donations to various causes. We also give by sharing our concerns with God for this world and all those in it. This is where the prayers of Intercession come in.

Intercessory prayers are usually placed after the Message, when we have received Gods word and encouragement and have had our hearts opened to all that He is. We are at a point when our focus is turning to not just God, but to others. Our hearts are at one with God and his spirit is stirring within us. God wants us to pray and this is backed up by many versus of scripture. Some of these are words taken from 1 John 5:14-15 which read as follows:

“This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.”

When we pray for others, we are asking God for his help and he hears us! We pray in confidence, knowing that he is listening and that there will be an answer to our prayers.

We put our trust in God and He also puts his trust in us to pray unceasingly, not just for His followers, but for all the peoples of the earth.

After the intercessions have concluded, it is usually then time for the Lord's Prayer. The church congregation have joined in the prayers for others and now it is a time to join again as one and recite the prayer that has been handed down from Jesus and his original disciples, to all the generations of believers. A prayer that acknowledges God as sovereign, our need for him to provide for us, to forgive us, to follow his ways, to protect us from evil and for our desire for him to rule over us forever.

We then come to the final part of our service. We have opened ourselves up to God. Praised His name, been cleansed of our sins, received his word, come in service to others and now come to a time when we ask God to bless us and keep us over the coming week. This is also a time when we share Gods blessing with each other too, by the sharing of The Grace.

We can now move forward into the coming week having been uplifted and encouraged to carry on as the disciples God calls us to be.

But, we all know that we live in a world that can challenge us. Can challenge our faith and try to knock our spirits and our hopefulness. So, what do we do? We come again the following Sunday and once again acknowledge God for all he has done and will do and sing his praises and confess our sins and be washed clean again and listen to his word again and turn our eyes to others in service and.....well you know the rest!

Anne Boulwood



the **BIG** ? Questions

Our monthly
DISCUSSION GROUP

A place of open discussion & exploration
on the questions of **Life and Faith**
the first Tuesday of every month

Advent Season:

Why don't we just call it Christmas?

TUES 4 DEC

No meeting in January

Living out your faith

TUES 5 FEB

*Repentance... A permanent
change in direction*

TUES 5 MAR



All are welcome

Fun and Games...

Word Search

The nearly four weeks leading up to Christmas is Advent. It means 'coming'. It refers to Jesus' first coming as a baby, but it also looks forward to a day when Jesus is expected to return in triumph at his 'second coming' to establish perfect justice and a new order of peace. Originally Christians marked Advent as a time when they refrained from excessive eating and drinking. Then Christmas Day reintroduced them to the joys of feasting. Christmas celebrations lasted for twelve days, with gifts exchanged as a climax at Epiphany (6 January). Today, however, Advent is more likely to be associated with accelerating festivity, with the days following Christmas something of an anti-climax until 'twelfth night', on which decorations are removed. Many Christians worldwide are trying to revive the spirit of Advent by setting aside time to pray and address global poverty.

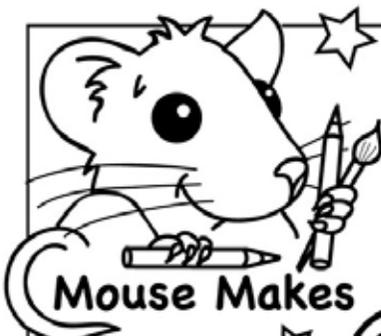
four
weeks
advent
coming
Jesus
gifts
revive

first
baby
return
triumph
second
epiphany

establish
perfect
justice
new
order
twelfth

peace
eating
drinking
celebrations
days
decorations





When Mary gave birth to Jesus she wrapped him in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger. There were shepherds in a field nearby looking after their sheep. An angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them and they were terrified. The angel said, *"Do not be afraid! Listen carefully, I bring you good news! Today your Saviour has been born, He is Christ the Lord."*

Mouse Makes

HAPPY
CHRISTMAS!

Read the Christmas
story in Luke 1:1 - 2:21

Then an army of angels appeared praising God. When the angels left the shepherds hurried to Bethlehem, found Joseph and Mary and saw the baby lying in a manger.



Sudoku

Easy...

Intermediate...

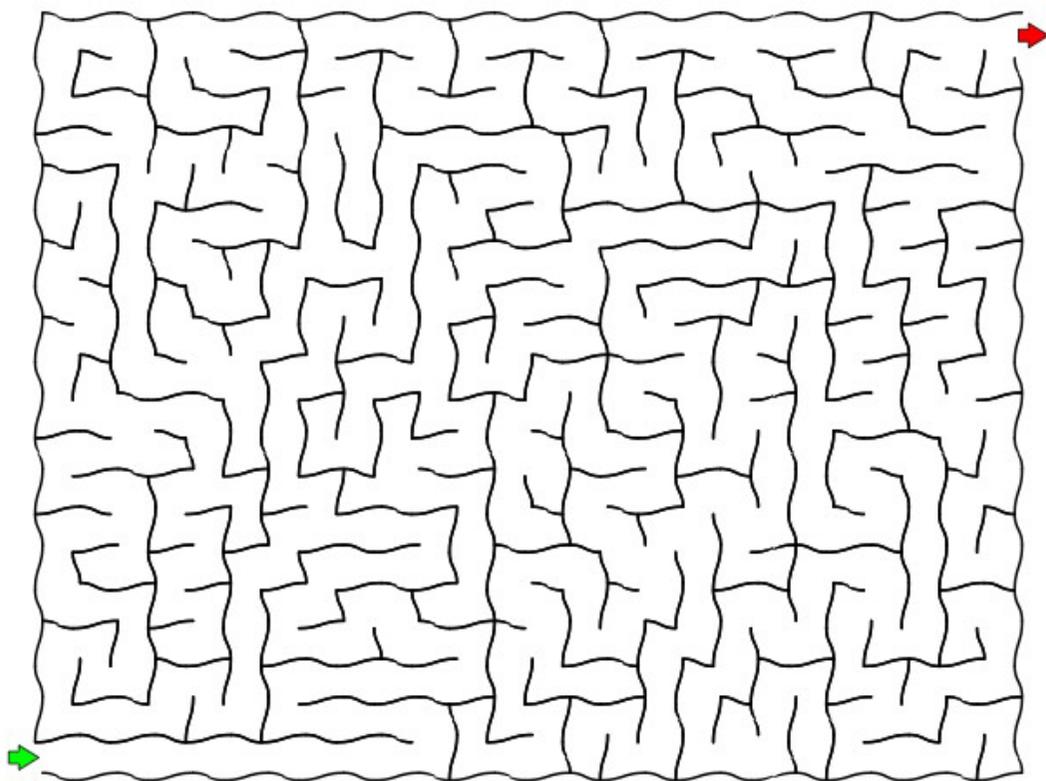
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8				1	2	7		5
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			4		9	8	5	
		2				9		
	5	3	1		7			
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2		7	8	4				9
		8			1	5		

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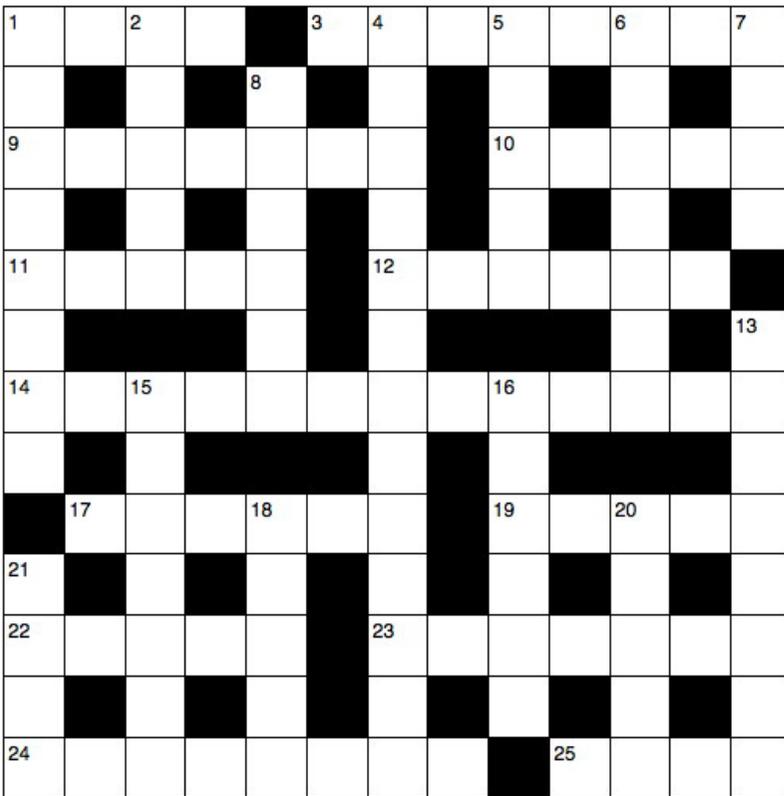
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6								
	1				6		2	
	9		5				4	
								8
8			7			6		4
4					2		1	7

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Maze...



Crossword



Across

- 1 'How long will you — your face from me?' (Psalm 13:1) (4)
- 3 'Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the — he bore' (Hebrews 13:13) (8)
- 9 Shady sin (anag.) (Romans 8:15) (7)
- 10 Solemn pledges (Matthew 5:33) (5)
- 11 Italian term for full orchestra (5)
- 12 'For he who avenges blood remembers; he does not — the cry of the afflicted' (Psalm 9:12) (6)
- 14 Prescience (1 Peter 1:2) (13)
- 17 Where a Hindu holy man lives (6)
- 19 'If he found any... who belonged to the Way, whether — — women, he might take them as prisoners' (Acts 9:3) (3,2)
- 22 Fragrance (2 Corinthians 2:15) (5)
- 23 Vine hen (anag.) (Jonah 1:2) (7)
- 24 Precious stone decorating the twelfth foundation of the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:20) (8)
- 25 'Will you keep to the old path that evil men have — ?' (Job 22:15) (4)

Down

- 1 'Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with — — ' (Numbers 20:11) (3,5)
- 2 'You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, " — — murder"' (Matthew 5:21) (2,3)
- 4 One of Paul's many hardships endured as a servant of God (2 Corinthians 6:5) (13)
- 5 'We ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, — inwardly' (Romans 8:23) (5)
- 6 Changed (Daniel 6:8) (7)
- 7 'My yoke is — and my burden is light' (Matthew 11:30) (4)
- 8 Recoil (Revelation 12:11) (6)
- 13 'O Lord, you have — me and you know me' (Psalm 139:1) (8)
- 15 ' — to me the joy of your salvation' (Psalm 51:12) (7)
- 16 Express sorrow (Isaiah 16:7) (6)
- 18 'Then he said to Thomas, " — out your hand and put it into my side"' (John 20:27) (5)
- 20 'God has said, " — will I leave you; — will I forsake you"' (Hebrews 13:5) (5)
- 21 Son of Onam and brother of Shammai (1 Chronicles 2:28) (4)

With Christmas in mind....

What do you call a cat in the desert?

Sandy Claws.

What goes oh oh oh?

Santa walking backwards.

What did the dog get for Christmas?

A mobile bone.

Who delivers presents to sharks at Christmas?

Santa Jaws.

What did Adam say in the Garden of Eden on December 24? *It's Christmas, Eve.*

Why do turkeys never go hungry at Christmas?

They're always stuffed.

Which Christmas carol is most popular with new parents? *Silent Night!*

Where do mistletoe go to become famous?

Holly-wood

Why is turkey so popular at Christmas?

Because the weather is a lot warmer over there.

Why do Mummies like Christmas so much?

Because of all the wrapping!

What is the best Christmas present in the world? *A broken drum - you just can't beat it!*

What's impossible to overtake at Christmas? -

The three wide men!

How do snowmen get around?

On their icicles.

What does Santa call reindeer that don't work?

Dinner.

I sent my girlfriend a huge pile of snow. I rang her up and asked, 'Did you get my drift?'

If you like the appalling jokes in Christmas crackers, you'll like these....



What's the smell of bad eggs? *Egginct*

What's the expression on an auctioneer's face?

For bidding

Why is it dangerous to have a nap in a railway carriage? *Because the train runs over sleepers*

When is longhand quicker than shorthand?

When it's on a clock.

What do you get if you cross a jeep with a dog?

A land rover

What happens when a horse gets to the bottom of his nose-bag?

It's the last straw

What's the best place for water-skiing?

A lake with a slope

If an Indian woman is a squaw, what's an Indian baby?

A squawker

What do you do with an angry candle?

When it flares up, put it out

When does a sailor take up least room in his ship? *When he sleeps on his 'watch'.*

What is it that works when it plays and plays when it works? *A fountain.*

Puzzle solutions...

Word Search...



Crossword...



Sudoku Easy...

3	7	9	6	5	4	2	1	8
8	4	6	3	1	2	7	9	5
1	2	5	7	9	8	4	3	6
7	6	1	4	2	9	8	5	3
4	8	2	5	6	3	9	7	1
9	5	3	1	8	7	6	2	4
5	1	4	9	7	6	3	8	2
2	3	7	8	4	5	1	6	9
6	9	8	2	3	1	5	4	7

Intermediate...

1	5	7	3	2	4	8	6	9
2	3	4	9	6	8	1	7	5
6	8	9	1	5	7	4	3	2
5	1	8	4	7	6	9	2	3
7	4	6	2	3	9	5	8	1
3	9	2	5	8	1	7	4	6
9	7	1	6	4	3	2	5	8
8	2	3	7	1	5	6	9	4
4	6	5	8	9	2	3	1	7

There is no charge for this magazine, but if you are able, a contribution of at least **60p** would help towards the cost of production and enable us to distribute to the wider community

Many thanks



Rev Robin Selmes

GILLINGHAM METHODISTS | *Part of the North Kent Circuit*
Church Office | 100 Third Avenue | Gillingham | Kent | ME7 2LU
01634 575139 | church@gillinghammethodists.uk
www.gillinghammethodists.uk



St Paul's Drama Group

Proudly presents



ROBIN HOOD

A Pantomime by Vicky Orman

Third Avenue Community Hall
100 Third Avenue, Gillingham

Friday 15th / Saturday 16th February at 7:30pm

Saturday 23rd February 3.00 pm and 7:30pm

Adults £7.00 Children (16 & under) £5.00

Box Office and Information 01634 852712

www.stpaulsdramagroup.co.uk