

December
2011



January
2012

Newsletter



Bush Hill Park United Reformed Church
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www.bhpurc.org.uk

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The Bush Hill Park URC Newsletter is published monthly on the last Sunday of the month. Please note that the views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily the views of the whole fellowship or representative of church policy.

*Have you seen the news on the Church Internet site? Check it out at **www.bhpurc.org.uk/news.htm***

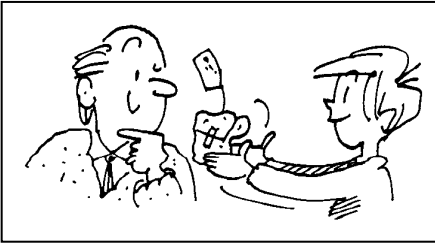
Next Newsletter

The next edition of the newsletter will be published on Sunday 29th January. All material for inclusion should be placed in the folder in the church lounge (or e-mailed to **newsletter@bhpurc.org.uk**) by **Sunday 15th January.**

Please note that late contributions may be held over.

Editor: **Lisa Hamblin, 130 Clive Road, Enfield EN1 1RF**

What can I give him?



The reminder has come for the newsletter and there is just less than 6 weeks to Christmas. Driving through the town, I noticed the lights going up and the shop windows being decorated. What I have not noticed is the toy adverts on the tele. I was chatting with a friend at

work about some of the things we used to get up to at Christmas. Hiding various presents so that the boys wouldn't find them. Even worse hiding stuff so that Viv wouldn't find it. The boys building 'booby traps' to catch Father Christmas.

Family is at the heart of Christmas. A young couple engaged to be married, expecting a baby. It would not even raise an eyebrow today. It probably would not have been that unusual in Palestine. The important part of the marriage was the betrothal. This was a legally binding commitment. The actual wedding was more of a family celebration. With wedding plans beginning to buzz around our house, made me wonder what Mary and Joseph had done about their wedding. In the 1st century, the gift to the bride would likely have been a coin. Today it is usually a ring. In the 1st century, the intention to wed could have been expressed verbally in the presence of the witnesses. Today it's on facebook as soon as the ring has gone on the finger.

There was no such thing as a honeymoon back then, but the ceremony would have been followed by a week of feasting, in which the entire community participated. Not such a bad way to start your married life! Just a bit expensive for the parents.

So I wonder what that first Christmas celebration must have been like for Mary and Joseph and their new family. I have often heard it said that Christmas is for children. If that's the case, I have not grown up yet. Christmas can be a great family celebration just like any wedding or birthday or any other family gathering. It just depends what is at the heart of our celebration. Is it just the food, drink and the gifts, or is it the sharing together to celebrate something that is different and yet special each and every year?

For many people this year there will not be expensive gifts to share. But is that really important? The last line of that verse that I started with, 'yet what can I give him? Give him my heart'.

Thank you to everyone for your support and hard work over this past year. Wishing you all a

happy and blessed Christmas and a peaceful New Year.



ma



What goes red
white red white
red white?

Santa rolling
down a hill.

"Nice idea, Amelia, but I don't think the Angel of the Lord texting the shepherds would have the same dramatic effect."

Smile Lines

The name of God....

A little boy died and arrived at the gate of heaven. There he met an angel. "Before you come in, can you tell me God's name?" said the angel. "Oh, that's easy," the little boy replied, "His name is Harold." "What make you think his name is Harold?" the angel asked incredulously. The little boy explained: "Because at Christmas we sing 'Hark while Harold's angels sing...' and also, when we pray, we say: 'Our Father in Heaven, Harold be Thy Name...'

Prompting

The boy forgot his lines in the Christmas Sunday School drama presentation. His mother, sitting in the front row tried to prompt him, gesturing and forming the words silently with her lips, but it didn't help. Her son's memory was blank. Finally she leaned forward and whispered the cue, "I am the angel Gabriell!" The child beamed with acknowledgment and in a loud, clear voice so that everyone in the congregation could hear said, "My Mommy is the angel Gabriell!"

Turkey says

What does a turkey say? "Gobble, gobble, gobble," right? Not always!

A jewelry-lovin' turkey? - "Bauble bauble bauble"

A dyslexic turkey? - "Boggle boggle boggle"

A turkey in the shoe repair shop? - "Cobble cobble cobble"

A turkey with a sore leg? - "Hobble hobble hobble."

A football turkey? - "Huddle, huddle, huddle"

A dieting turkey? - "Nibble, nibble nibble."

A turkey who argues a lot? - "Squabble squabble squabble."

What does Dr. Seuss' turkey say? - "Tweedle beetle paddle battle puddle wobble hobble gobble."

Then there was the dizzy Turkey who just went: "Wobble wobble wobble!"

Here is the News

Building Fund update

As of 31st October £63,483 has been received in the fund (target £70,000). Thank you to everyone who has contributed so far - we still need another £6,500 to repay our loan if you can help please donate online via our website or at the Church direct.

We will soon need to be raising funds to repair our hall roof and floor so we still really need your help.

Martin Hamblin



The highlight of Christmas at the vicarage was always 'name the hymn tune' played on comb and paper.

Next newsletter deadline Sunday 15th January



Bush Hill Park United Reformed Church

Junction of Main and Third Avenues

www.bhpurc.org.uk

**Join our Christmas Celebrations including:
Sunday 18th**

16:00 - Family Carol Service

Christmas Eve

23:30 - Communion at Christmas

Christmas Day

10:30 - Christmas Celebration



Diary

December & January

See also Prayer pages, back cover for regular activities

The diary is also online at www.bhpurc.org.uk/calendar

December		
Sun 4th	10:30am	Communion with Chris Hall
Sun 11th	10:30am 5:30pm	Parade with Rev Martin Legg Second Sunday Supper
Sun 18th	10:30am 4:00pm	Morning Worship with Rev Martin Legg Family Carol Service with Rev Martin Legg
Sat 24th	11:30pm	Communion at Christmas with Rev Martin Legg
Sun 25th	10:30am	Christmas Day Christmas Celebration with Rev Martin Legg
January		
Sun 1st	10:30am	Communion with Rev Martin Legg
Sun 8th	10:30am 5:30pm	Parade with the Boys' Brigade Second Sunday Supper
Sun 15th	10:30am	Morning Worship with John Stynes
Sun 22nd	10:30am 12:15pm	Morning Worship with The Leprosy Mission and Rev Martin Legg Messy Church
Sun 29th	10:30am	Morning Worship with Jill Nugent

PRAYER PLAN

DECEMBER 2011

God made him who had no sin to be sin for
us, so that in him we might become the
righteousness of God.
2 Corinthians 5:21

Thursday 1st

For those still affected by the
earthquake in Turkey

Friday 2nd

Remember Aasia Bibi one
year after death sentence for
blasphemy

Saturday 3rd

Sunday's worship leader and
the service tomorrow

Sunday 4th

Thanks for our health

Monday 5th

Ken, Wanda, Otto, Daniel &
James Wolfe

Tuesday 6th

Peace in our communities

Wednesday 7th

James Street

Thursday 8th

For the current financial
situation

Friday 9th

Preparation for the 2012
Olympics and Paralympics

Saturday 10th

Sunday's worship leader and
the service tomorrow

Sunday 11th

Be joyful in hope and faithful
in prayer giving thanks to
God for his blessings

Monday 12th

Tracey Williams

Tuesday 13th

For peace in our world

Wednesday 14th

John Street

Thursday 15th

For those who mourn

Friday 16th

For justice

Saturday 17th

Sunday's worship leader and
the service tomorrow

Sunday 18th

Give thanks for God sending
his Son to save us

Monday 19th

Doreen Bamberger

Tuesday 20th

For those worried about debt

Wednesday 21st

Kingsbury Place

Thursday 22nd

For refugees

Friday 23rd

The lonely and housebound

Saturday 24th

Sunday's worship leader and
the service tomorrow

Sunday 25th

Thanks for babies born
recently

Monday 26th

Terry Blowfield

Tuesday 27th

For those living with debt

Wednesday 28th

Ladbroke Road

Thursday 29th

For the leaders of nations

Friday 30th

For mercy

Saturday 31st

Sunday's worship leader and
the service tomorrow



PRAYER PLAN

JANUARY 2012

Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us
shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let
us come before him with thanksgiving and
extol him with music and song
Psalm 95:1-2

Sunday 1st

Thanks for holidays and
seeing new people and
places

Monday 2nd

Howard, Jane, Harriet &
Thomas

Tuesday 3rd

For our church and its future
work in our community

Wednesday 4th

Landseer Road

Thursday 5th

Decisions made in
parliament

Friday 6th

For those working towards
freedom in the Middle East

Saturday 7th

Sunday's Worship Leader
and the service tomorrow

Sunday 8th

Thanks for the money which
has been raised so far for
our building programme

Monday 9th

Andrew Caddies

Tuesday 10th

For the Street Pastors in
Enfield

Wednesday 11th

Lathkill Close

Thursday 12th

For those looking for work or
who face redundancy

Friday 13th

For those affected by Cancer

Saturday 14th

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

Sunday 15th

Thanks for the work of our Brigades

Monday 16th

Barbara Camp

Tuesday 17th

For Christians in sport boldly living out their faith in their clubs and teams.

Wednesday 18th

Lincoln Crescent

Thursday 19th

For those with financial difficulties that they will find good advice

Friday 20th

For the work of Mission Aviation Fellowship

Saturday 21st

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

Sunday 22nd

Thanks for organisations providing education and entertainment for those who are retired

Monday 23rd

Yvonne Coe

Tuesday 24th

For the ongoing work with our youth and our uniformed organisations

Wednesday 25th

Lincoln Road

Thursday 26th

For peace in various places in the world where there is conflict

Friday 27th

For strength for persecuted Christians

Saturday 28th

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

Sunday 29th

Thanks for Friends and Friendship

Monday 30th

Kath Cole

Tuesday 31st

For the life of our church



The story of the Christingle

The word 'Christingle' actually means 'Christ Light', and celebrates the light of Jesus coming into the world. Stories of how the Christingle began look back to the Moravian Church, which is found in the Czech Republic. The Moravians have held Christingle services for more than 200 years, and according to them, this is how the first Christingle might have been made:

Many years ago the children in a village were asked to bring a Christmas gift to put beside the crib in the church. One family was very poor, and had no money for gifts, but the three children were still determined to take something. The only nice thing they had was an orange, so they decided to give the Christ-child that. But then they discovered the top was going green, so the eldest cut it out, and put a candle in the hole. To add some colour, one of the girls took a red ribbon from her hair and tied it around the middle of the orange. It was hard to make the ribbon stay still, so they fastened it in place with toothpicks. The toothpicks looked a bit bare, so the youngest child added some raisons to them.

The children took their decorated orange lantern to the church for the Christmas Mass. The other children sneered at their meagre gift, but the priest seized upon it with joy. He held it up as an example of the true understanding of the meaning of Christmas, for the following reasons: the orange is round, like the world; the candle gives us light in the dark, like the love of God; the red ribbon goes round the 'world', as a symbol of Christ's blood, given for everyone; the four sticks point in all directions, and symbolise that God is over all: North, South, East and West; and the fruit and nuts remind us of God's blessings.

The Children's Society first introduced the Christingle Service to The Church of England in 1968, and it has since become a popular event in the church calendar. This candlelit celebration is an ideal way to share the key messages of the Christian faith, while helping to raise vital funds to help vulnerable children across the country. Visit: www.childrenssociety.org.uk.

Save money and raise funds for Bush Hill Park URC when you shop online

Bush Hill Park URC are pleased to announce their new online shopping estore in time for the Christmas shopping period - www.spendandraise.com/bhpurc in order to raise funds.

Anyone can shop and find lots of great offers from 1,000 retailers such as Marks and Spencer, John Lewis, Sainsburys, Debenhams, Hamleys and Sky and so you're donating money to Bush Hill Park URC in the form of a cashback from the retailers as you shop online.

To date, we've raised £661 for our Church.

"This initiative offers us all the opportunity to generate funds to support the running of our church. There's a wide range of products available and they include a lot of well-known retailers and providers of services. Raising funds is becoming more important for the church and we will be investigating ways in which we can increase traffic and spend in the run up to Christmas."

Spend and Raise created the shopping site and they are considered the most generous online shopping experience as it raises £10,000s of funds for 1,000s of great causes every month.

Our other estore www.easyfundraising.com/bhpurc also remains available so if you can't find your favourite store please try the other store.

Martin Hamblin



Girls Brigade News

The Girls "Cake Sale" raised £92.00 towards the £120.00 that they wanted for their chosen charities. They are working on ideas to raise the balance at the moment.

We had a good turnout for the Remembrance Day parade, with more girls taking part than last year, though to be fair the weather was a lot better

Camp planning is progressing. We are booking flights from Gatwick to La Rochelle, flying on the Monday 30th July and back on Tuesday the 7th August. The plane leaves at 17.55 which is perhaps a better time than 6.15 which was the time for the Luton Flight. (A better time and cheaper at the moment!)

It would help us to keep the cost down if we could find a way of getting to Gatwick cheaply. If you have any ideas please let us know.

Lynda Cook



...don't cry darling! The man with the white beard and pointed hat who might be resigning is the Archbishop of Canterbury - NOT Father Christmas!

Boys Brigade News

Last month, we once again ventured to Thorpe Park for their 'Fright Nights' event. This is when the park is open late (till it is very dark) and there are all sorts of weird goings on.

I had some very poor excuses from the other staff this year about why they could not come. Mainly because they could not handle the extreme rides that we go on. 19 boys and girls came on the trip which was great. This year the weather was good. Not a single droplet of rain all day. That did not stop us all from getting very wet though on all the water rides.

Also during half term we took all the lads to Top Golf. This is basically a driving range, except you score points for where your ball lands. We all seem to get very competitive at top golf and try to beat Chris!

At the end of half term we also took the lads for a game of bowling at Finchley bowl. There were some surprising strikes and very interesting methods of bowling!

Our first year boys have been very busy every Monday night. They have been on a night walk through the wood, learning basic map work and they have done some cooking. They have also started a small musical project. It seems the group are very musical. Mr Payne is heading up this project and is hoping to put together a small musical ensemble. If all goes well we hope to show you it soon.

We have a new group of Bronze D of E lads starting out on the award. We are just planning what they will do for each of the

sections. The 2 boys who gained their silver award will start work on their gold after Christmas. They are also working on putting on a quiz night to help raise some money to fund their gold expedition. Please look out for adverts about this after Christmas.

Coming up in the next few weeks we will be entering the battalion bowling competition and also taking part in the indoor 5-a-side competition.

As the evenings get colder and shorter we must be approaching the time of year when we take to the streets for our traditional nights carolling. This year will we be out with our trusty professional band (err, well I think Derek might be playing so I will rephrase that) - out with our band, covering the streets of Bush Hill Park. The boys will be knocking on doors and collecting donations which all go to help subsidise summer activities and camp and keep the mini bus on the road.

If you hear our band, please come out and say hello. It's such a nice time of year to hear those carols being played. After each night of collecting there will be hot dogs and hot chocolate waiting for us.

And that will end the year of 2011 and start 2012, where we will be straight into the cross country competition and the PR games, not to mention the swimming gala. From then on it will be nonstop till Camp! Wow. (That's only 6 more newsletter articles to write until my favourite time of year)

In the meantime, from all the boys and staff, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Andrew Caddies

Wordsearch

December again! The nights are long and cold, and the days short and dull. But Christmas lights are everywhere, and throughout the month anticipation grows: Christmas is coming! December is never dull: there are Christmas cards to write, Christmas presents to be bought and wrapped, Christmas trees to drag home and decorate, Christmas parties to attend, Christmas puddings and cakes to make, Christmas concerts and carols to enjoy. All to celebrate the coming of the most precious gift of all: Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Messiah, God's present to us.

December	Cold	Cards	Presents	Mistletoe
Trees	Concerts	Carols	Pudding	Cake
Messiah	Manger	Magi	Angels	Shepherds
Birth	Busy	Joyful	Celebrate	Gift
Bethlehem	Son			



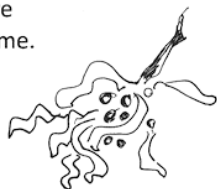
Bible Sketchbook

Precious Symbols



Find out more at church
this Christmas!

Christmas tree
Symbol of Jesus,
Dying on that
Glorious Cross.
So celebrate with
Bright lights, tinsel
And living colour.
A crown of holly,
Sharp thorns,
Victory wreath,
Berries blood-red.
Presents from
His death
And life.
Gifted in mistletoe
Forgiving love
For you, for me.



William Mather ©

Christmas Poem

Some people think that
Christmas time is
gifts and grub and booze
but the best bit is
that Jesus came —
Gods son in human shoes
(From the Youth Group,
St Peter's, Littleover, Derby)

BHP DAY BY DAY URC

Sunday 10:30am Worship with groups for children and young people (Communion 1st Sunday in the month)
12:15pm Messy Church (4th Sunday in the month)
5:30pm Second Sunday Supper (2nd Sunday in the month)

Monday 7:30pm Boys' Brigade (Company Section)
8:00pm Book Club (2nd Monday in the month)

Wednesday 6:15pm Girls' Brigade

Friday 9:15am Prayers in the Quiet Room
10:15am Baby & Toddler Group
6:00pm Boys' Brigade (Anchor Boys)
7.15pm Junior Section)

