

**December 2016  
and January 2017**



**Bush Hill Park United Reformed Church**  
25 Main Avenue, Enfield EN1 1DJ  
[www.bhpurc.org.uk](http://www.bhpurc.org.uk)

## Who to contact

### Minister

|                   |               |                        |
|-------------------|---------------|------------------------|
| Henriette Wentink | 020 8366 1284 | minister@bhpurc.org.uk |
|-------------------|---------------|------------------------|

### Serving Elders

|                        |               |                                |
|------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|
| Andrew Caddies         | 020 8363 0844 | andrew.caddies@bhpurc.org.uk   |
| Martin Hamblin         | 020 8363 0974 | martin.hamblin@bhpurc.org.uk   |
| Diann Nicolaides       | 020 8292 1094 | diann.nicolaides@bhpurc.org.uk |
| Sylvia Page            | 020 8366 7481 | sylvia.page@bhpurc.org.uk      |
| John Vyse              | 020 8367 0362 | john.vyse@bhpurc.org.uk        |
| Robin Ward (Secretary) | 07962 207 256 | secretary@bhpurc.org.uk        |

### Youth activities

|               |                  |
|---------------|------------------|
| Boys Brigade  | bb@bhpurc.org.uk |
| Girls Brigade | gb@bhpurc.org.uk |
| TWS           | tw@bhpurc.org.uk |

### Other activities

|                 |                          |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Baby & Toddlers | toddlers@bhpurc.org.uk   |
| Book Club       | bookclub@bhpurc.org.uk   |
| House Group     | housegroup@bhpurc.org.uk |

|                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Weekly news sheet    | link@bhpurc.org.uk   |
| Hall & Room bookings | office@bhpurc.org.uk |

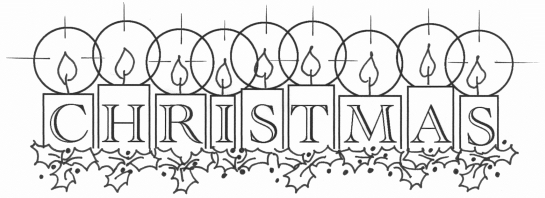


*The Bush Hill Park URC Newsletter is published monthly on the last Sunday of the month. Please note that the views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily the views of the whole fellowship or representative of church policy.*

## Next Newsletter

The next edition of the newsletter will be published on Sunday 29th January. All material for inclusion should be emailed to **newsletter@bhpurc.org.uk** by **Sunday 15th January**.

## Christmas controversy



A year or so ago, one of my Facebook 'friends' started following the Banting method; a diet (or life style) that is also known as 'the real meal revolution'. It promotes a controversial way of eating foods with a high fat content. At the same time all food high in carbohydrate is banned.

My 'friend' is so convinced about the benefits of this life style that he writes about it on social media whenever he can. With articles and pictures he advertises the real meal revolution as the best thing since sliced bread (even though he himself of course no longer eats bread). In his quest for others to find their way back to a healthy life, he has become an unashamed, self-proclaimed 'food evangelist'.

Quite frankly, he has convinced me. He now looks much better and healthier and seems to lead a fitter and happier life.

As I was reading some of his comments I was struck by the metaphor his story provides for our Christian living. Three things stood out to me:

1) Making bold claims. Most 'food evangelists' stand convincingly by their claim that this particular diet is the sure way out of our obesity predicament. It is a matter of life or death and therefore worth telling friend and foe. Yet when eternal salvation is at stake, Christians often seem to shy away from bold statements. When it comes to the predicament of sin, many feel it 'inappropriate' or 'radical' or perhaps even 'unloving' to claim that Jesus Christ is the only sure way back to God and to life.

2) Looks do matter. My friend convinced me by his healthier and happier looks. As Christians, do we persuade people by the joy they see in us; by how healthy our (spiritual and moral)

lives look? Does what we write and say and do show to others that Jesus is indeed the greatest gift of all times to the world? Do people want to find out more about what and who forms this life style in us?

3) The controversial nature of the matter. The Banting life style is highly divisive. It has turned the established world of nutritionists upside down. Who in their right mind would advise anyone to slather everything they eat in fat?

Its controversial nature can be compared with the Christian message. Of a God who turned expectations upside down. Who did not want to be far-off and aloof but loved so much that he just had to find a way to save us. For of ourselves we would not have returned to him. Therefore God gave the best he had - all he had; himself in God the Son.

“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us,” says John (1:14). The Word, that spoke galaxies into existence, became human like us man and women. He knew of hunger and

thirst and tiredness. Of laughter and sorrow, pain and death. Never before and never since has such a thing happened; He emptied himself of glory, to die on a cross. (Phil. 2:6-11) Who has ever heard of it? Of a God who gave himself to save his creation?

Ours is a controversial message. A gospel against the odds. But it is a message of salvation and life. May you boldly speak it and live it, this Christmas and into the new year. Joy to the world!

Wishing you all a blessed Christmas,

*Henriette*



## Smile Lines

### Christmas carols as mis-heard by children

Deck the Halls with Buddy Holly  
We three kings of porridge and tar  
On the first day of Christmas my tulip gave to me  
Later on we'll perspire, as we dream by the fire.  
He's makin a list, chicken and rice.  
Noel, Noel, Barney's the king of Israel.  
With the jelly toast proclaim  
Olive, the other reindeer  
Frosty the Snowman is a ferret elf, I say  
Sleep in heavenly peas  
In the meadow we can build a snowman, Then pretend that he is  
sparse and brown  
You'll go down in listerine ...  
Oh, what fun it is to ride with one horse, soap and hay  
O come, froggy faithful.

### Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus

The teacher asked her Sunday School class to draw pictures of their favourite Bible story. She was puzzled by Kate's picture, which showed four people on an airplane. She asked her which story it was meant to represent. "The Flight to Egypt," was her reply.

Pointing at each figure, the teacher ventured: "That must be Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus. But who's the fourth person?"

"Oh," explained Kate happily, "that's Pontius - the pilot!"

# Here is the News

## **Baby & Toddlers**

A word of thanks to Sylvia, Jill and Alison. They run the Baby & Toddlers every Friday and Wednesday mornings which has given a cheque for £500 to go towards the refurbishment of the Hall. Thanks girls!

Ivy Neate

## **The Leprosy Mission**

Would those who have Leprosy Mission collection boxes please let me or Judith have them during January.

I have a few spare boxes if anyone would like one to help the many people who still suffer the terrible disabilities which leprosy causes when the disease has advanced too much. If caught early it can be easily cured with drugs. Leprosy is still thought to bring shame on families and communities and the sufferers can be thrown out of their homes and left to live on the streets.

To find out more of what they do, and some of the people The Leprosy Mission has helped, please read the latest magazine, New Day, copies of which are in the lounge.

Christine Hughes

## **Christian Aid: Light the way**

This Christmas, Christian Aid want to bring light into the darkness for people who have been forced from their homes. Your gift will make a huge difference for those seeking refuge and safety. Christian Aid also have a special invitation for you to pray with them every day throughout Advent via WhatsApp. Send your full name and the message PRAY to 07730 209486 to join our WhatsApp prayer community.

## **JustOne with J.John at the Emirates Stadium**

We have Partnered with the JustOne team and as part of this have committed to raise £1,000 towards the costs of the event which takes place on Saturday 8th July 2017 at the Emirates Stadium in London. If you can help please make your donation online at [give.net/justonebhpc](http://give.net/justonebhpc) or in an envelope marked "JustOne" in the Sunday offertory. Further details about the JustOne Event can be found at [justone.co.uk](http://justone.co.uk)

# Give more than a gift this Christmas

Shop online and raise  
donations for free!

#MoreThanAGift



**Find out more and register:**

[www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/bhnpurc/](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/bhnpurc/)

## On the Feast of Stephen

Everyone knows that it was on the feast of Stephen that 'Good King Wenceslas looked on', writes David Winter. After all, it's in a Christmas carol - but why? There's nothing about Christmas in it: a splendid young page who rustled up some flesh, wine and logs, an old man out in the snow ('deep and crisp and even') and a kindly monarch. But Christmas? The clue is in 'the feast of Stephen', which falls on 26th December, or 'Boxing Day'.

The Stephen whose feast day falls on the day after Christmas was the first Christian martyr. (You can read his story in the book of Acts). He was a member of the church in Jerusalem in its very early days, and found himself involved with six others in administering the allocation of food to those in need. The apostles, who were the leaders of the church, felt that it wasn't appropriate for them to abandon preaching and 'serve tables', so they selected these seven to do the job for them. Stephen, however, quickly revealed hidden gifts as an eloquent spokesman for the Christian cause.

The Temple authorities, who had already had trouble with the apostles, were soon alerted to this new and hitherto unknown evangelist. They decided to make an example of him, thus firing a warning shot, as it were, across the bows of the apostles themselves. So they arrested Stephen and accused him of speaking against the two central elements of their religion - the 'holy place' (the Temple) and 'the customs Moses handed down to us' (the Law). It's always dangerous to criticise a monument or a custom!

Given the right to defend himself, Stephen instead launched into an eloquent and at times biting account of Jewish history, culminating in the accusation that they had committed the worst possible sin by killing the Messiah. Inflamed by his words, his hearers abandoned any pretence of legal impartiality, rushing towards him and dragging him out of the city to a place where they began to stone him to death. Stephen, the rank and file Christian, died under a hail of rocks for claiming that Mary's Son was the promised Messiah.

That, I suspect, is the reason why the first martyr is honoured on the day after we celebrate the birth of the Saviour. It's a bit like the myrrh in the gifts of the Wise Men - a reminder, as we celebrate, that the bitter shadow of a cross is never far away from this story.



CARDS FOR GOOD CAUSES

# MULTI CHARITY CHRISTMAS CARD SHOP

Cards for Good Causes Limited (CGCL) pays the participating charities for their trading subsidiaries at least 70p in every pound from their card sales, less the VAT payable on the amount retained by CGCL. The retained amount covers CGCL's costs of running the temporary charity Christmas card shops. In addition to these costs, the participants have to pay for the production and distribution of their cards.

CARDS  
SOLD FOR  
AT LEAST  
**25**  
CHARITIES

## **Palmers Green United Reformed Church**

**Fox Lane, Palmers Green, N13 4AL**

**On corner of Burford Gardens**

**Parking and Refreshments available**

**29 October – 10 December 2016**

**Monday – Saturday 10.00am – 4.00pm**



For details of shops nationwide T: 01264 361 555  
or shop on-line at [www.cardsforcharity.co.uk](http://www.cardsforcharity.co.uk)



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## **Christmas: Why the world was ready for Christmas**

Ever wonder why Jesus was born when He was? The Bible tells us that “when the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son...” The Jewish people had been waiting for their Messiah for centuries. Why did God send Him precisely when He did?

Many biblical scholars believe that the ‘time had fully come’ for Jesus because of the politics of the time. The Roman Empire’s sheer size and dominance had achieved something unique in world history: the opportunity for travel from Bethlehem to Berwick on Tweed without ever crossing into ‘enemy territory’ or needing a ‘passport’. For the first time ever, it was possible for ‘common’ people to travel wide and far, and quickly spread news and ideas. And all you needed were two languages - Greek to the east of Rome, and Latin to the west and north. You could set sail from Joppa (Tel Aviv) and head for any port on the Med. And the Roman roads ran straight and true throughout the empire.

So the Roman Empire achieved something it never intended: it helped spread news of Christianity far and wide for 400 years. After that, the Empire crumbled, and the borders shut down. Not until the 19th century would people again roam so freely. The time for Jesus to be born, and for news of Him to be able to travel, had indeed ‘fully come’

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## **Next newsletter deadline Sunday 15th January**

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# Diary

## December 2016 & January 2017

See also Prayer pages and back cover for regular activities

The diary is also online at [www.bhpurc.org.uk/calendar](http://www.bhpurc.org.uk/calendar)

|                 |                |  |
|-----------------|----------------|--|
| <b>December</b> |                |  |
| Sun 4th         | 10:00<br>10:30 | Prayers in the church<br>Advent Communion with Revd Henriette Wentink          |
| Sun 11th        | 10:30<br>18:00 | Advent Parade led by the Boys Brigade<br>Advent Reflection with Martin Hamblin |
| Sun 18th        | 10:30<br>16:00 | Advent Worship with Evodian Fonyonga<br>Family Carol Service                   |
| Sat 24th        | 23:30          | Communion at Christmas led by Revd Martin Legg                                 |
| Sun 25th        | 10:30          | <b>Christmas Day</b><br>Worship with Revd Henriette Wentink                    |
| <b>January</b>  |                |  |
| Sun 1st         | 10:00<br>10:30 | Prayers in the church<br>Communion with Martin Hamblin                         |
| Sun 8th         | 10:30          | Parade with Laura Marlow   |
| Sun 15th        | 10:30          | Worship with Revd Henriette Wentink  |
| Sun 22nd        | 10:30          | Worship with Revd Martin Legg  |
| Sat 28th        | 18:45          | Quiz Night at Christ Church see p19  |
| Sun 29th        | 10:30          | United Pastorate Worship at BHP with Revd Henriette Wentink                    |

## DECEMBER 2016

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given  
and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor,  
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6

### **Thursday 1st**

Baby & Toddlers

### **Friday 2nd**

Karam, our sponsored child in  
Bethlehem

### **Saturday 3rd**

Sunday's Worship Leader and  
the service tomorrow

### **Sunday 4th**

Thanks for all the benefits we  
enjoy living in England

### **Monday 5th**

Andrew Caddies

### **Tuesday 6th**

For doctors and nurses

### **Wednesday 7th**

Hadrians Ride

### **Thursday 8th**

House group

### **Friday 9th**

The homeless on the streets of  
London as the weather gets  
colder

### **Saturday 10th**

Sunday's Worship Leader and  
the service tomorrow

### **Sunday 11th**

Thanks for the small things  
people do to help us

### **Monday 12th**

Barbara Camp

### **Tuesday 13th**

For the men & women of the  
Fire Brigade

**Wednesday 14th**

Halstead Road

**Thursday 15th**

Boys Brigade

**Friday 16th**

Elijah, our sponsored child in  
Zambia

**Saturday 17th**

Sunday's Worship Leader and  
the service tomorrow

**Sunday 18th**

Give thanks for our homes & the  
shelter we have

**Monday 19th**

Yvonne Coe

**Tuesday 20th**

For policemen & women

**Wednesday 21st**

Hazelwood Road

**Thursday 22nd**

Girls Brigade

**Friday 23rd**

Those who still don't know Jesus  
personally

**Saturday 24th**

Sunday's Worship Leader and  
the service tomorrow

**Sunday 25th**

Give thanks for Jesus

**Monday 26th**

Kath Cole

**Tuesday 27th**

For paramedics

**Wednesday 28th**

James Street

**Thursday 29th**

Kings Club

**Friday 30th**

JustOne J.John event at Emirates  
Stadium

**Saturday 31st**

Sunday's Worship Leader and  
the service tomorrow



# Prayer Diary

## JANUARY 2017

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.  
His love endures forever.  
Give thanks to the God of heaven.  
His love endures forever.

Psalms 136:1,26

### **Sunday 1st**

Thanks for those who love us  
and share our lives

### **Monday 2nd**

Lynda & John Cook

### **Tuesday 3rd**

Leadership & Congregation of  
Bush Hill Park United Reformed  
Church

### **Wednesday 4th**

John Street

### **Thursday 5th**

For our Foreign Secretary

### **Friday 6th**

Those in pain, suffering without  
a diagnosis or cure

### **Saturday 7th**

Sunday's Worship Leader and  
the service tomorrow

### **Sunday 8th**

Thanks for the preachers who  
come to our church each Sun-  
day

### **Monday 9th**

Phyl Cox

### **Tuesday 10th**

Leadership & Congregation of  
St Marks Parish Church

### **Wednesday 11th**

Kingsbury Place

### **Thursday 12th**

For our Prime Minister

**Friday 13th**

Karam, our sponsored child in Bethlehem

**Saturday 14th**

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

**Sunday 15th**

Thanks for clean water, gas and electricity and sanitation for our homes

**Monday 16th**

Derek, Janet & James Cutts

**Tuesday 17th**

Leadership & Congregation of Christ Church United Reformed Church

**Wednesday 18th**

Ladbroke Road

**Thursday 19th**

For the Chief Whip

**Friday 20th**

Elijah, our sponsored child in Zambia

**Saturday 21st**

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

**Sunday 22nd**

Give thanks for the hard won freedoms we enjoy in the UK

**Monday 23rd**

Jill Garrett

**Tuesday 24th**

Leadership & Congregation of Bush Hill Park Methodist Church

**Wednesday 25th**

Landseer Road

**Thursday 26th**

For the speaker of the House of Commons

**Friday 27th**

JustOne J.John event at Emirates Stadium

**Saturday 28th**

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

**Sunday 29th**

Thanks for the small things people do to help us

**Monday 30th**

Arthur & Ivy Neate

**Tuesday 31st**

Leadership & Congregation of Lancaster Road United Reformed Church



# *Christmas Services*

*Sunday 18th*

**10:30 - Advent Service**

**16:00 - Family Carol Service**

*Christmas Eve*

**23:30 - Communion at Christmas**

*Christmas Day*

**10:30 - Christmas Celebration**



**Collections at these services will go to All People All  
Places - Winter night shelters for homeless in Enfield**



# **The Challenges of Christmas**

Christmas is a great time of year, but it's not without its challenges! One household had 250,000 Christmas lights, but could not boil a kettle for fear of blowing the system!

## **The challenge of over-indulging**

We all remember the episode of the Vicar of Dibley, where she had to consume four Christmas dinners! Christmas is a time when we usually eat and drink far too much, the average person gaining 6 pounds in weight. But Christmas is not simply about gaining weight, but losing what weighs us down. 'Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you.' (1 Peter 5:7). Whatever your concerns or worries this Christmas, bring them to God.

## **The challenge of overspending**

In the rush to buy Christmas cards, a woman bought a pack of 50 identical cards. Without reading the verse, she hastily signed and sent them off, but for one. A few days later she read the message: 'This card is just to say a little gift is on the way.' Christmas is not about getting into debt, but God getting us out of debt. He spent exactly what was needed on the first Christmas night: 'You are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins.' (Matthew 1:21).

## **The challenge of over too quickly**

Christmas doesn't last very long, yet the effect of the first Christmas is long-lasting. 'For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.' (John 3:16). Jesus has come to bring us life in all its fullness, both for now and all eternity.

How do we face the challenges of Christmas? 'Yet what I can, I give Him - give my heart'.

Rev'd Paul Hardingham

# Rotas

|                 | Door welcome | Reader   | Tea & Coffee | Flowers | Sound room |
|-----------------|--------------|----------|--------------|---------|------------|
| <b>December</b> |              |          |              |         |            |
| 4th             | Alison       | Anne     | Mavis & Jill | Jill    | Robin H    |
| 11th            | Evelyn       | Brigades | Ivy & Jane   | Tony    |            |
| 18th            | Kath         | Sue      | Valerie      | Alison  |            |
| 25th            | Alison       | Lisa     |              |         |            |
| <b>January</b>  |              |          |              |         |            |
| 1st             | Evelyn       | Sylvia   | Yvonne       |         |            |
| 8th             | Kath         | Brigades | Ivy & Jane   | Sylvia  | Tony       |
| 15th            | Alison       | Judith   | Valerie      | Jill    |            |
| 22nd            | Evelyn       | Bill     | Sylvia       | Evelyn  | Robin H    |
| 29th            | Kath         | Robin H  | Mavis & Jill | Alison  |            |

If you can fill in the gaps above please put your name in the sheet on the wall in the lounge.

If you would like to do any of the above but feel you'd need a little guidance first please talk to Lisa, she'll make sure you find the right person. The sound room is easier than you think - go on, volunteer!



**THE BOYS'  
BRIGADE**

> the adventure begins here



**3RD ENFIELD**

# Quiz Night

**Saturday 28th January 2017**

**6:30pm for a 7pm start**

**In the hall at Christ Church URC**

**(Chase Side, Enfield, EN2 6NJ)**

**£10 per person - tables of up to 8 people**

**Price includes the quiz itself**

**and a fish and chip supper**

**(please bring your own drinks)**

**There will also be a raffle during the evening**

**Tickets and further info available**

**from Tom Boorman**

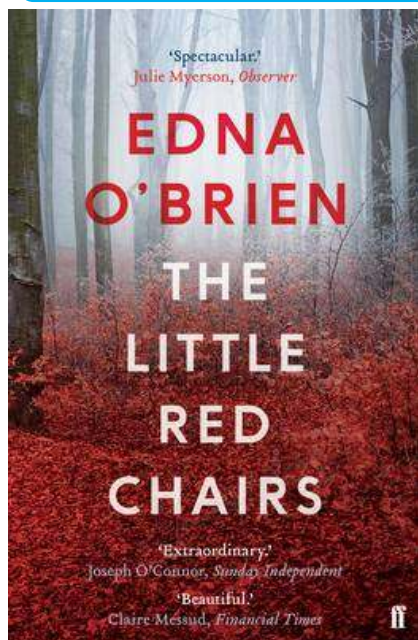
**Phone: 07903 605 545**

**Email: [info@3rdenfieldbb.co.uk](mailto:info@3rdenfieldbb.co.uk)**

**All money raised will go towards supporting the work of the 3rd Enfield BB**

**Thank you for your support!**

## Book Club



### The Little Red Shoes

Edna O'Brien

We did meet but nobody had finished the book, the furthest read being about 28%. You could say it was not for us. It was such a slow start and appeared to be heading towards atrocities in the Balkan wars with this 'Healer' who arrived in Ireland being a fake, a perpetrator of these horrors. Enough was enough!

We chatted about other books we had read were reading and enjoyed, were enjoying:

**Runaway** by Peter May (such good story writer)

**Killer on the Fens** by Joy Ellis – another new author

**The Muse** by Jessie Burton – who wrote *The Miniaturist* we so enjoyed.

Perhaps we do have somewhat macabre tastes; maybe escapism is good for us!

Next month's Book Club is on Monday 5th December when we will have tackled 'The Tenant of Wildfell Hall' by Anne Bronte; a bit of classic reading required and it is not too long!

Sylvia Page



# Prayer

## Where would we be...?

Where would we be if Mary had said “No!”?

I give thanks for the courage of Mary -  
a young woman willing to put herself on the line,  
to risk her own security, her own future,  
for the sake of your will.

Where would we be if Joseph had refused?

I give thanks for the humanity of Joseph -  
a man of faith and deep conviction,  
willing to hear your voice  
above accepted norms and religious doctrine.

I give thanks for people of faith in every age -

Men and women

raised up to hear your voice and live your word,  
that your will may be done  
and others may come to know something of you.

I give thanks for people in every place

who choose a path of faith in action,

Saying “Your will, God, and not my own!”

and so change the world in big ways and small.

Thank you, God, for men and women of steadfast faith.

May my faith prove steadfast too.

Karen Campbell

From the URC prayer handbook 2016 for 18th December looking at Romans 1:1-7 and Matthew 1:18-25.

Ed: If you have a prayer you would like put in the newsletter instead (or indeed as well as...) do email it to [newsletter@bhpurc.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@bhpurc.org.uk). If you want it in a particular month make sure you meet the deadline for that month, usually the second Sunday of the month. Thanks.

## Boys' Brigade News

After a scare which lead to us thinking we had left the cheese behind, even though we had it the whole time, we got on the Mini-Bus and headed to Watford train station. We navigated our way to the platforms, getting on the right trains and when an incident stalled our train we rushed to the other side of the tracks to get another train so that we arrived on time. When we got to Aberystwyth we were met by some people from Expedition Wales and we were then driven to the camp site where we met Nancy, our assessor. We had a bag check to make sure we had all the necessary equipment and then we set up camp and cooked Chicken Pesto pasta.

The next morning we set off for our first day of walking at 8:30 and headed down to a stream which we crossed reaching all of our check-points and passing/viewing some beautiful scenery. We made our way up many steep hills; walked through a forest and continued down a long hill through a field, passed over a dam and to our first wild camp. We set up camp and as I put the cheese down ready to add to the pasta the farmers farm dog picked it up and ran off with a lump of cheese in it's mouth. From this point on Nnamdi now had the responsibility to make sure the dog didn't take anymore cheese and help cooking as well, whilst Tom and Daniel Bacon set up the tents opposite the sheep pen. We ate tomato and cheese pasta before heading off to bed. We woke up the next morning refreshed and ready to set off.

Before heading off for our second day walking we all enjoyed a bowl of porridge and some waffles with syrup. We left the field and the ruins that were in the surrounding hills and walked until we reached a ford. There were two ways across, either just go for it and plough through the ford or... gingerly step careful over an old decaying, neglected wooden bridge which was falling to pieces. After making the difficult decision and eventually all getting across we carried on up and down a hill reaching a half deforested forest. We trudged through a boggy hill up to the top where, tired, we stop for our lunch break, enjoying the view. After a short break we carried on walking into the mist before heading off to our second campsite to enjoy restaurant quality, Carbonara pasta cooked by our very own gourmet chef. We settled down for sleep that night as the rain crashed down onto our tents.

We woke up the next morning slightly demoralized by the weather. After more porridge and waffles and a few headaches from the snoring of the night before, we were met by our assessor. She explained to us that because of the weather conditions it was very hard to see the footpath we needed to take and with the thick mist she walked the first few minutes with us to ensure we didn't end up getting lost in poor visibility. Luckily the fog cleared and we picked up both speed and morale. This was helped by a dog. As we were walking past a house along the footpath we were joined by a dog. Just the boost we needed to get us up our steepest climb. We were on our way up when we saw the dog was still with us and we heard a calling in the distance. Refusing to leave us we had to return the dog to its owner and then continue back up the hill.

Visibility got worse. We slowed down drastically making sure we were all together, insight of each other and going in the right direction. We made it down the side of a forest which was our sign—the end was insight. We had nearly made it. We carried on walking along the side of a road back to our final checkpoint. We had made it.

The question on the tip of all of our tongues now was had we passed? Gladly the answer to that question was yes and with flying colours. After being debriefed we were dropped off at Aberystwyth train station where we enjoyed Domino's pizza and a train journey home. We got back to Watford station on time and sang songs all the way back to Bush Hill Park.

Overall our team work, co-ordination and communication were excellent and we are thrilled that all our hard work has paid off. To complete our Silver we will be hosting a presentation on the Sunday 11th December. We will be giving a short talk with pictures about our experience and everyone is welcome to stay.

Joseph Nicolaides



## Girls' Brigade News

Well what a term this has been so far!

Since September the Explorers have been investigating Autumn and Winter for their first two badges. For our Autumn badge, we looked at what order the seasons come in and how we can tell it is Autumn. We also looked at how people celebrate bonfire night and made some firework pictures which will be on display in the hall shortly, please do go and have a look. For our Winter badge, we are looking at why we give gifts at Christmas as well as finding out how we can tell it is Winter time.

The Juniors have been learning some country dancing (the staff had a great time watching the rehearsals!) and finding out about people with disabilities. This included painting using their mouths and feet! What clever girls we have here. The Seniors have been doing a First Aid badge.

In October, we entered a Harvest competition that was run within the District. There were three categories, colouring for the Explorers, making scarecrow puppets for the Juniors and seed pictures for the Seniors and Brigaders. All our girls did very well coming 1st and 3rd in the Colouring, 2nd and 3rd in the Scarecrow and 1st in the Seed Picture categories. A big thank you to Chris and Lynda for organising it and to Vicky for coming in to judge. Please look out for these on display very soon so you can see for yourself how well they did.

In November, we took part in the Remembrance parades both here and in the Town. The girls who came all looked very smart and those who joined us in the afternoon had both never been before and did an excellent job representing our company.

Coming up in the new year, we are looking forward to a trip to Paradise Wildlife Park with the District for all age groups. More information will be coming out about this shortly so watch this space.

And finally, the 1st Enfield Girls' Brigade was started in 1917 which means our company will be 100 years old in February and we would like to mark this with a fun day and worship service in



March. More information will come out about this shortly. If anyone who used to be in the company has any old photos of themselves (or others) we would be grateful if you could bring them in so that we can do a display in the church to celebrate. We have also had a request from some of the girls to look at some old uniforms so again if anyone has any stashed away anywhere that they would be willing to lend us it would be great to display these and maybe even try them on! Also, if anyone is still in touch with former members, it would be great to get in touch with them and ask for any photos they may have too.

Please let me know if you can help in any way or have a suggestion about how we can celebrate this incredible milestone in the Company's history.

We are breaking up on 14th December and returning on 11th January. All of our sections now start at 18:15 and finish at 19:45.

We wish you all a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Charlotte McBride



"Of all the cheek! Rides up on his sleigh in his flashy red suit, pushes to the front of the queue to the stable shouting 'Ho! Ho! Ho!'... who DOES he think he is?!"

## Wordsearch

Father Christmas is based on St Nicholas, who was born in the third century in the Greek village of Patara, on what is today the southern coast of Turkey. His family were both devout and wealthy, and when his parents died in an epidemic, Nicholas decided to help people. He gave to the needy, the sick, the suffering, and was made Bishop of Myra while still a young man. As a bishop, he was in prison with other bishops under the emperor Diocletian's fierce persecution of Christians.

One story of his generosity explains why we hang Christmas stockings over our mantelpieces today. There was a poor family with three daughters who needed dowries if they were to marry, and not be sold into slavery. Nicholas heard of their plight, and tossed three bags of gold into their home through an open window – thus saving the girls from a life of misery. The bags of gold landed in stockings or shoes left before the fire to dry. Hence the custom of children hanging out stockings – in the hope of attracting presents of their own from St Nicholas - on Christmas Eve. That is why three gold balls, sometimes represented as oranges, are one of the symbols of St Nicholas.

father  
christmas  
nicholas  
born  
third  
century  
greek  
village  
devout  
wealthy  
needy  
sick  
suffering  
prison  
emperor  
poor  
family  
three  
daughters  
stockings  
money  
stockings

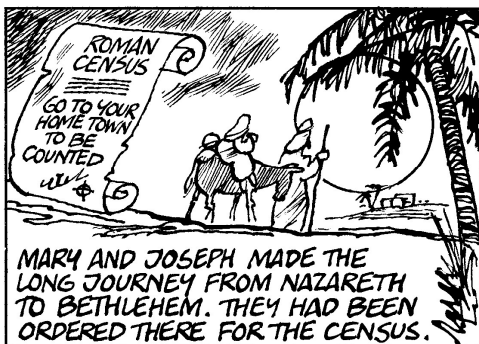
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# A Very Special Baby

JESUS WAS BORN ABOUT 2,000 YEARS AGO IN THE SMALL TOWN OF BETHLEHEM, NEAR JERUSALEM.



AN ANGEL HAD TOLD MARY SHE WOULD HAVE A VERY SPECIAL BABY.



BUT THE TOWN WAS FULL.



...WHICH IS WHERE JESUS WAS BORN.



SHEPHERDS IN FIELDS NEARBY RACED TO SEE THE BABY.



AN ANGEL HAD TOLD THEM WHERE JESUS HAD BEEN BORN.

WISE MEN CAME FROM THE EAST. THEY TOO WANTED TO SEE JESUS. THEY HAD BEEN GUIDED BY A STAR.



BUT MARY, JOSEPH AND BABY JESUS SOON HAD TO ESCAPE TO EGYPT...



# Weekly Activities

|                  |         |  |
|------------------|---------|--|
| <b>Monday</b>    | 6.15pm  | Boys' Brigade Junior Section   |
|                  | 7.30pm  | Boys' Brigade (Company Section)  |
|                  | 8.00pm  | Book Club (1st or 2nd Monday)  |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | 8.00pm  | Housegroup (2nd & 4th Tuesday)   |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | 9.30am  | Baby & Toddler Group   |
|                  | 6.15pm  | Girls' Brigade   |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | 7.30pm  | Boys' Brigade Company Section circuit training (when advised)            |
| <b>Friday</b>    | 9.15am  | Prayers in the Hall, open from 9 for a chat first                        |
|                  | 9.30am  | Baby & Toddler Group   |
|                  | 6.00pm  | Boys' Brigade Anchor Boys  |
|                  | 7.30pm  | TwS@bhpurc   |
| <b>Saturday</b>  | 8.30am  | Prayer Breakfast (2nd Saturday)  |
| <b>Sunday</b>    | 10.00am | Prayers (1st Sunday)   |
|                  | 10.30am | Worship with groups for children and young people (Communion 1st Sunday) |
|                  | 6.00pm  | Sunday Evening Reflection (2nd Sunday)                                   |

