

# Witney Congregational Church

Issue 14

December 2010  
& January 2011

## R CROSS A D S

*Witney Congregational Church is a crossroads where we:  
meet God in worship  
meet one another in friendship  
meet our community and world with the love of Jesus*



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# WHAT'S ON GUIDE

Witney Congregational Church offer a whole range of activities through which we seek to Worship, Work and Witness to the Lord Jesus Christ in this community today.

Further information can be obtained from the Church Administrator, Minister, Church Secretary or the leaders of the particular activities who are listed at the back of this magazine.

## WORSHIP

Daily Worship	9.30 am	Mon-Fri	Short time of Prayer and Reading
Noah's Ark Service	1.30 pm	Tuesday	For under 5's parents and carers
Saturday Praise	11.00 am	1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month	
Sunday Services	10.30 am		
	6.00 pm		There is a crèche facility at both services

Communion is normally held twice during the month at the first Sunday evening and third Sunday morning services

## PRAYER

The Church is open each morning for Prayer; also in the Garden Room on Sunday morning and evening prior to, and after, Worship - All welcome

## STUDY & FELLOWSHIP

Friday 10.00 am Church

## YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Sunday	10.30 am	Crèche, Noah's Ark & The K.I.C.K. on Sundays
Monday	10.00 am	Noah's Ark - Infant Group for babies and pre-school children
Friday	6.00pm	www. - 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month
	7.00 pm	Y4J - 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

Tuesday	Monthly	Deacon's Meeting
	Bi-Monthly	Church Meeting
Thursday	10.00 am	Rest & Chat (Coffee/Tea available)
Saturday	10.30 am	Coffee Morning

## SUNDAY LINK

Weekly bulletin for all Christians providing stimulating thought along with news and notices concerning our Church

## WITNEY ECUMENICAL YOUTH TRUST (BASE 33)

4 Welch Way (Entrance - High Street) ☎ 01993 200682 (Office)

## St ANDREW'S BOOKSHOP

☎ 01993 709429

Opening Hours: Monday - Saturday 09.00 am - 5.00 pm



28<sup>th</sup> November saw the beginning of Advent, but as far as the shops are concerned does this really matter, as they already have their goods on offer? Is there ever going to be an end to this now well-established commercialism?

I expect most of us are trying to plan this festive period. For some the decision has to be made as to whom we are going to spend Christmas with this year. And, as has become accepted as normal, we are all subjected to the increased commercial hype putting pressure on us to decide what ultimately we ought to buy. Amongst all this activity, and commercial hype, let us focus on Advent and the birth of Christ.

### The Christian Frustration

“Let's put Christ back in Christmas”

and

“Jesus is the Reason for the Season”

are just some of the slogans Christians have come up with over the years to combat the secularization and commercialization of Christianity's biggest holiday.

So, turning now to the contents, here is just a glimpse of some of the articles that have been submitted; There is the continuation of the series on exploration of the books of the OT;

Pip continues the history of WCC; Beryl gives us a reflection; and there is (surprisingly) an article on Christmas, to name but a few.

As always, many thanks to those who have contributed to this edition, but would also encourage anyone to consider submitting articles for the next edition by either:

- CD\Memory Stick
- E-mail: [terrypowlesland@uwclub.net](mailto:terrypowlesland@uwclub.net)  
[jacquipowlesland@uwclub.net](mailto:jacquipowlesland@uwclub.net)
- Just plainly written on paper, which can be typed up.

**ESSENTIAL NOTE:** All contributions should be submitted **NO LATER THAN the WEDNESDAY** of the week in which the magazine will be published.

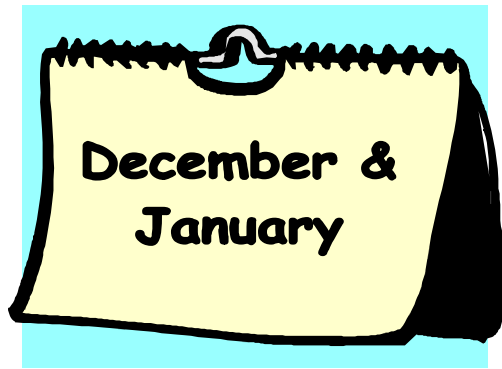
The next edition is due on 30 Jan 2011

Your Editor



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**Daily Prayer Time:**  
Mon-Fri 9.30 am

**Services**  
10.30 am & 6.00pm and will normally be led by Rev Jason Boyd unless advised below

**Dec**

- 4<sup>th</sup> No Saturday Praise
- 5<sup>th</sup> am Morning Worship Communion  
pm 6.30 Witney Inter-Church Singers (WICS)
- 12<sup>th</sup> am All-Age Worship  
pm Carols & Reflection
- 19<sup>th</sup> am Morning Worship  
pm Christingle Service
- 21<sup>st</sup> pm 6.00 Noah's Ark Christmas Service
- 24<sup>th</sup> pm 11.15 Midnight Service at High St Methodist
- 25<sup>th</sup> am Christmas Day Service
- 26<sup>th</sup> am Morning Worship and joined by High St Methodist

**Jan**

- 1<sup>st</sup> No Saturday Praise
- 2<sup>nd</sup> am Morning Worship  
pm Joint Service at Congregational Church Communion Covenant Service
- 9<sup>th</sup> am Morning Worship  
pm Joint Service at High St Methodist Church
- 16<sup>th</sup> am Communion  
pm Joint Service at Congregational Church
- 23<sup>rd</sup> am Anniversary Service  
pm CTiW United Service at Congregational Church
- 30<sup>th</sup> am Morning Worship  
pm Madley Park Residential Home

**Feb**

- 5<sup>th</sup> 11.00am Saturday Praise
- 6<sup>th</sup> am Morning Worship  
pm Joint Service at Congregational Church Communion

The following events are given for your particular attention:

**Dec**

- 9<sup>th</sup> Fellowship Group 2.30pm 6 Swinbrook Court  
C Aid concert - Patience
- 11<sup>th</sup> Prayer Chain meeting 9.15am  
CTiW Christmas Carols 11.00am - 1.00pm Marriotts Walk  
Christmas Crafts 2.00 - 4.00pm  
Street Pastors Commissioning Service 8.30pm High St Methodist
- 16<sup>th</sup> Rest & Chat Christmas Special

- 17<sup>th</sup> Y4J & www. joint meeting 6.00pm  
 19<sup>th</sup> 'Word Cafe' PhD research 12noon  
**Jan 2011**  
 4<sup>th</sup> Deacons meeting  
 8<sup>th</sup> Prayer Chain meeting 9.15am  
 13<sup>th</sup> Fellowship Group 2.30pm 9 Pensclose  
 17<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> CTiW Prayers for Christian Unity Week  
 19<sup>th</sup> Base 33 AGM  
 23<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Service & Family Lunch  
 25<sup>th</sup> Church meeting

Kennington and District United Church Choirs  
 present

**PATIENCE**

or Bunthorne's Bride

by W.S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan



A Concert Version in Costume  
 at  
 Witney Congregational Church

on Thursday, 9th December, 2010  
 at 7.30 p.m.

Collection for Christian Aid. Please give as generously as you can  
 when the collecting plates come round in the interval. Thank you.

**We are moving**



Irene & John wish you all a joyful  
 Christmas and a peaceful New Year

Our new address from 11 Dec is:

41 George Avenue  
 Skegness  
 PE25 3SD

07708 611 045

## 2011 Dates: www. and Y4J

- **Jan** - 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>
- **Feb** - 11<sup>th</sup> (School break 21<sup>st</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup>)
- **March** - 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>
- **April** - 1<sup>st</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> - Joint A Royal Wedding (School break/Easter 11<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> followed by Minister Conference to 29<sup>th</sup>)
- **May** - 13<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> (School break 30<sup>th</sup> May - 6<sup>th</sup> June)
- **June** - 10<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> - Talent Show evening
- **July** - 1<sup>st</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> - Joint BBQ/Camping (School ends 22<sup>nd</sup>)

The following article, written by Will Harman, has been submitted by Ken Lee and was extracted from a now ceased publication 'Christian World' some 40 - 60 years ago, and is entitled:

### Christmas Truth

If there were no shepherds, no angel and no star;

If the manger were a myth, a legend fetched too far;

I'd still go up to Bethlehem, no matter what its name;

And see a greater wonder than one enshrined in fame

Maybe the Lord of Glory, best known as Son of Man,

In line with His own story, in humbler ways began.

Perhaps in Nazareth one day, while sang the saw and plane

The first sweet cry of Jesus rang out to conquer pain

I'm not so sure of angels, myrrh, frankincense and gold;

But God in the man Jesus in history I behold.

And sure of this, I will return with pilgrims 'neath the star

And join in shepherd-worship and angel-song from afar



Words to find: abraham, angels, ascending, awoke, beersheeba, bethel, city, eat, food, god, house, Jacob, lord, lying, night, oil, sin, stones, sun, wear

The following article has been submitted by Jean Howell, and is entitled:

### Sunday (Diners) Lunches

This is a personal appreciation of the wonderful meals provided by the dedicated team of Jacqui, Val & Terry for those pensioners and/or singles who would not cook a Sunday Roast for one, and at a minimal cost too!

Now, our privileged group will be part of a much wider group where we can share fellowship with all the church and the catering can be shared by others too.

I am sure that all the diners will join me in sincere thanks for all that the catering group does for us

## Minister's Letter

*During Advent, I offer you these personal reflections as you make your preparations for the coming of Christ.*

### **Reading:** Exodus 12:1-13

I'm standing at a table. I have my shoes on with my coat and gloves. The suitcase is packed and standing ready by the door. I am hungry. We all eat together. We are hungry for food – hungry for freedom – hungry to be on the road. But when? We have to wait – to keep on the alert for the word to go.

As we eat the lamb I hear the screams of the first born sons of the Egyptians ringing out in the night. The horror of their slaughter sends shudders down my spine. We are safe because of the blood of the lamb. The meat we eat has been drained of blood and smeared on the door posts and lintel. The blood wards off death.

I am on the road now. With every step I leave behind the hard work – bricks made without straw – the crack of whips scarring my back. I am on the road to freedom.

The Red Sea rises up in front of us as the dust from Pharaoh's army swells up behind us. My heart sinks. All this readiness for freedom has come to nothing but disappointment. We stand there, heads up. Moses prays. The fiery pillar and dense cloud are our only protection from the enemy. We pray to God that he would help us through this crisis and lead us into the Land of Promise.

### **Reading:** 1 Samuel 1

I am Hannah. This little baby I've longed for, wept for, pined

for...this little baby I hold in my arms. Not having him was my shame. I was not a woman. I was a laughing stock. They tut-tutted at my barrenness. "She must have done something very bad to be so cursed by God." I broke my heart. The tears ran down my face. I wept like a fool. I staggered in my desolation. Why, oh why was God withholding this precious gift of life from my womb? Had I done something to deserve this? Why was I cursed?

Eli promised that God would answer my prayer. I look down at this little boy I'm cradling. He suckles. I never dreamt I could be as happy as I am today. I see him growing up before my eyes. There is something special between us. I feel a connection with him that I've never known with any other human being. He totally depends on me.

Look who's laughing now?! I sing a song of joy. God has come to my rescue. He's silenced those who mocked me. He has brought life to my barren womb.

The time has come. The most precious gift I've ever been given is now a gift to my Lord. I cannot describe how hard it is to give Samuel to the Lord. How can I trust that the Lord will look after him in the hands of old man Eli? "My heart exults in the Lord...I find my strength in my God." I say goodbye. I give back to God the gift he has given me.

*May you have a Happy Christmas and a blessed 2011*

Shalom  
Jason



## News around the world

The following information has been taken from CWM Website dated 3<sup>rd</sup> December, so is up to date at the editing of this month's magazine

### Madagascar: A test of faith



Rev Lala Rasendrasahina explains how churches in Madagascar are dealing with political turmoil.

There have been many challenges for us in Madagascar. From the beginning of the political crisis in early 2009, the churches were involved in mediating between the parties.

When I say churches I mean the Christian Council of Churches in Madagascar. It is made up of the Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar (FJKM) the Anglican, the Roman Catholic and the Lutheran church.

The mediations failed after a couple of months, ending with the coup d'état in March. At that time the chair of the Council of Churches in Madagascar, the Archbishop of the Roman Catholic Church, declared that the church had done all it could do. Since then there has been no unified church voice in the life of the nation. Although there is this kind of stepping back of the church at the level of the Christian Council, each member church has played a role in its work of facing and addressing this issue.

### A time of trial

The national mood now is anger. People are not despairing at all, they are angry. Malagasy people know that they don't have the force to face the government, so they stay indifferent. They don't know what to do. Still people have hope that morning will come. They are waiting for the right moment.

It is nearly two years bearing this kind of situation, and as a Christian, as a pastor, I can say that it really has been a trial for our faith and for our nation.

Madagascar is like a country without any rule of law at all. We have become lawless. There is a rise in violence, in crime, corruption. Crime is increasing and there is so much corruption. And sad to say, there are many Christians - people in the church - involved in this kind of thing.

These circumstances reveal a lot about people. It is now easy to find out who are the real people of God, who is living their faith. You can feel it, when you see how the people behave, how they live their faith.

Our environment is being destroyed by business people who work with some foreign countries. They illicitly exploit and destroy the forests. For instance precious rosewood forests are just being cut down. There are no consequences for the wrongdoers - and they are Christians.

Perhaps it is God's will for us to go through a time of trial, testing the church - like burning the impurities from gold.

### Church commission

The Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar (FJKM) is still active in society - it has a commission on the life

of the nation. Have pastors, lay people in that commission. Its main task is to gather information of the life of people, economy on the political situation and then to make a kind of statement that can be endorsed by the whole church - national executive committee. And also this commission has the task of educating the people at the grassroots level.

It speaks on civil issues, and on morality. The commission tells the congregations what is happening, to stay together, to resist being shaken by other powers that may divide the church. Churches are helping to uphold the moral value within the country. That is one of the main tasks of the FJKM commission on the life of the nation - to visit congregations and to educate the people on the proper way to respond to this situation.

### **Referendum**

There will be a referendum on the new constitution in November. The majority of the population is opposed to it. They call it treachery. This list of voters is not transparent, and they feel they cannot trust the present government to organise a referendum.

A referendum on the constitution is not a solution for Madagascar now. Civil society groups are campaigning to say that if the constitution is to be discussed, it must be done fairly, not with unilateral preparation.

Civil society groups want the church to support their project. They think that church has still an important role in society and in the minds of the people.

Many say that without the church there can be no solution. Even

people who are not Christians themselves are expecting something from the church.

God has not forgotten us. Even the current government is fighting within itself. I believe that is a sign that soon there will be an ending to the turmoil. God is still at work to get rid of people who are not doing his will.

### **Pray for us**

I can say that the current government is not doing God's will at all. They hate the church. Even though they say they are with us, they hate the church. They even use a few pastors to disturb the life of the FJKM. Thanks to God the majority of the pastors are wise enough to not be divided by a few people, even though they are from within the church.

Now is the time for us to be patient. Faith is about patience, though it is painful. We must also pray that people will not fall into retaliation - to not fight injustice with injustice.

And I would like brothers and sisters around the world to pray for real democracy in Madagascar, so the country can begin developing again. People who want to support us could pray that we understand God's path, reign and will, and also that we have courage and hope.

People here are asking, How long O Lord?

*Rev Lala Rasendrasahina is the President of the Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar*

### **CWM: Welcomes Aung San Suu Kyi release**

The Council for World Mission (CWM) has welcomed the release of Myanmar's

pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi after seven years of house arrest.

CWM general secretary Rev Dr van der Water said he hoped the move marked the beginning of a new future for the country, particularly for the people of the Presbyterian Church of Myanmar - a CWM member church. "We believe the decision by the military generals is long overdue and, we hope, will mark the beginning of a genuine move toward political freedom and democracy for the people of Myanmar and the country as a whole," Dr van der Water said.

"We look forward to the ban on the National League for Democracy being overturned, and the imposition of all sanctions lifted immediately to allow much needed food, services and products to reach the people of Myanmar.

"We call for transparency, honesty and justice in all future negotiations over the coming months, and will continue to pray for the men, women and children of Myanmar and its long-term development as a democratic, prosperous and peaceful country."

Aung San Suu Kyi was freed on Saturday after Myanmar's military junta on Friday signed an order authorising her release. She has been detained for 15 of the past 21 years.

In July 2009, a court sentenced Ms Suu Kyi to 18 months for breaking the conditions of her house arrest by allowing an American citizen to stay in her house after he swam across a lake uninvited.

Ms Suu Kyi, 65, is the daughter of Burma's independence hero, General Aung San.

## **Myanmar**

Myanmar's first general election in two decades has been dismissed by western leaders as unfree and unfair. EU government chiefs criticised the ballot process after Myanmar leaders refused to free political prisoner Aung Suu Kyi to take part in Sunday's poll.

Early official results show successes for parties linked to the military. The main opposition party - the National League for Democracy (NLD) headed by Aung San Suu Kyi - boycotted the vote.

US president Barack Obama said the election process had not met "internationally accepted standards", the BBC reported. He joined Australian leaders in calling for the immediate release of Aung San Suu Kyi and other political prisoners that were unable to take part in the voting.

In a statement released by US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Defence Secretary Robert Gates after talks with Australian government chiefs, the US and Australia urged Myanmar government leaders to ensure that post-election institutions were "transparent, accountable and responsive to their citizens' aspirations".

"Australia and the United States underlined their deep regret that the authorities failed to hold free, fair and genuinely inclusive elections," the statement said.

Myanmar's voters last cast their ballots in 1990, when they overwhelmingly backed the National League for Democracy (NLD). But the ruling generals never allowed the NLD to take power and they detained Ms Suu Kyi.

A new constitution was enacted in 2008 in order to create a "discipline-flourishing democracy" but critics have labelled the constitution a sham.

BBC reports state that many voters taking part in this weekend's poll were not able to vote in private while opposition groups say many state employees were pressured to vote in advance for the main pro-military party. Reports from Yangon suggest overall turnout for the poll was low.

### **Korea: CWM voices solidarity with PCK**

CWM has assured its member church the Presbyterian Church of Korea (PCK) of ongoing support and prayers following violent military clashes between North and South Korea.

CWM general secretary Rev Dr Des van der Water said CWM and its member churches joined world leaders and the church community in condemning the North Korean military violence towards South Korea and would keep the country in their prayers.

"It is with deep concern that we have taken note of the developments in the South Korean Island of Yeonpyeong, in which people have been tragically killed and injured," he said in a letter to PCK general secretary Rev Seong Cho.

"CWM and its member churches share the sentiments expressed by international leaders, the global ecumenical fraternity and the world church community in deploring the unprovoked aggression and attacks, and calling upon North Korean military to cease from any further attacks upon the people of the South."

He added: "We regret this loss of life, injuries, and terror experienced

by people on the Island and join our voice with all who are praying that this latest incident does not escalate into major conflict and war in the region.

"Please be assured of our solidarity with the Presbyterian Church of Korea, the ecumenical community in your country and all peace-loving citizens of Korea. We pray for peace and especially for God's comfort to accompany the relatives and friends of those who have been killed and those people who have been injured and traumatised by the attacks."

CWM's message echoes the sentiments of Christians within Korea who have joined together in prayers for a peaceful end to the current hostilities. Christians worldwide have expressed their solidarity with persecuted believers in North Korea in a special day of prayer. Organised by charity Release International, the day of worship, prayer and testimony aimed to highlight the plight of Christians in the reclusive communist country.

BBC reports say two South Korean marines were killed and many were injured when dozens of artillery shells fired by North Korean military hit Yeonpyeong Island in South Korea - most of them striking a military base. The clash follows eight months of high tension over the sinking of a South Korean warship, the Cheonan. It comes as North Korea begins transferring power from ailing leader Kim Jong-il to his son, Kim Jong-un - a process that some analysts believe is behind North Korea's recent actions.

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has labelled the recent conflict one of the "gravest incidents" since the end of the Korean War.



The following article has been extracted from Parish Pump, and is entitled:

## Christmas

### Why does Christmas Day begin at midnight with Holy Communion?

The hour was first chosen at Rome in the fifth century to symbolise the idea that Christ was born at midnight – a mystical idea in no way hindered by historical evidence! No one knows the hour of his birth.

Certainly in recent times, Holy Communion at midnight on Christmas morning has proved popular with modern families. One British writer pointed out its “domestic convenience” in 1947: “for where there are children and no servants, husband and wife may be unable to communicate at any other time.” (So things don't change, then!)

### Where did Christmas trees come from?

There are two early stories that mention fir trees. The first involves St Boniface, who went to Germany in the 8<sup>th</sup> century as a missionary and found people sacrificing a child to their god under an oak tree. Boniface was appalled, and rescued the child. He then chopped down the oak tree and found a tiny fir tree growing nearby. He gave this to the people and said: “This is a symbol of life. Whenever you look at this tree, remember the Christ-child who is the one who will give you life, because he gave his life for you.”

The second early fir tree story involves Martin Luther in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. It is said that one year he

decided to drag a fir tree into his home and to decorate it with candles. He used it as a visual aid, telling people that the candles symbolised Jesus as the light of the world, and the evergreen tree symbolised the eternal life that Jesus gives to us. Many of the people who followed Luther were struck by the idea, and took up the custom.

### Where did Christmas stockings come from?

No one is really sure, but a story is told of St Nicholas, a bishop who lived in the 4<sup>th</sup> century, who may have started the custom by accident. St Nicholas was of a wealthy family, and of a generous heart. As Christmas approached one year, he wanted to help a poor family whom he knew, but he did not want them to know it was him. So he climbed up on their roof on Christmas Eve and dropped some coins down the chimney.

The next morning the coins, to the great surprise of the family, were found in the stockings of the ladies, who had hung them to dry by the fire the night before. Every year after that they put their stockings out, in the hope that some more money would fall into them. They told the story of this amazing appearance to their friends and neighbours, and the custom caught on





## PRAYER LETTER

No 144

### The Waiting

### The unexpected

### The provider

The Roman Decree came at the wrong time for Joseph and Mary but not for God, who had been waiting for the right time to send his son into this world at the place it was prophesied by Micah seven centuries earlier.

An expectant mother would normally know where her baby would be born (in her home village or town). The journey that Mary and Joseph made would have been arduous for a heavily pregnant lady. Mary must have wondered 'where on earth' she would give birth. They were homeless when Mary's time came but shelter was provided; albeit a one star space in a cave/animal stable. God had provided shelter through the compassion of the Inn keeper and his wife.

Do we show compassion to the homeless in this country? Do we turn our backs, ignore them or try to help in some way? How can we be active in helping those who are homeless or about to be homeless?

After the birth Joseph found a better temporary home in Bethlehem for his young family and presumably Joseph worked to feed and clothe his family. Then months later the unexpected happened. Not only did they have wealthy non Jewish Magi visit them, the Magi also worshipped the child and presented him with very expensive gifts. These gifts as well as being symbolic would come in very useful. After the visit of the Magi, the Lord appeared to Joseph again in a dream telling him to take the child and his mother and flee to Egypt to escape Herod's killing reign of terror. He told him to wait in Egypt until it was safe to return. So Mary Joseph and Jesus were now refugees fleeing in fear for their lives.

How often do we hear of families around the world fleeing to foreign countries to escape persecution and death? Too often. Are we concerned for them? What can we do to help them in our safe environment? Keep up to date on World news so our prayers are relevant. Find out what Governments and Aid Agencies are doing to combat the problem. All families want a safe place to live whichever country they are in.

God provided safe haven in Egypt for Mary, Joseph and Jesus where we assume Joseph found work. They waited patiently in Egypt until Herod had died. An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him to take the child and his mother to the land of Israel where it was now safe as those who were trying to kill the child were dead. What a relief for Mary and Joseph. Another journey but hope and joy to be returning to their homeland.

Whatever situation we find ourselves in, God is there with us. Unexpected things happen, we wait, many times impatiently but God is there in the darkness and the light providing for us.

As we prepare, wait and celebrate God's greatest gift of Jesus to the World, let us show in our actions and concerns that Jesus is 'The Light of the World' bringing Hope and Peace to all mankind.

May this Christmas bring you hope, joy and peace  
Every Blessing Beryl

*Please note that for up-to-date prayer requests contact Beryl Cartwright (703717)*

The following has been extracted from Parish Pump, and is entitled:

## A Christmas Carol

**Silent Night** is one of the world's most popular Christmas carols. Every year it is sung in many different languages across the world evoking the spirit of Christmas. Popularly it is said that the carol was composed in one night, to be accompanied by a guitar, because the mice had eaten the organ bellows! But what is the real history of this carol?

The carol '*Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht*' was first heard in St. Nicholas Church in Oberndorf on Christmas Eve 1818. The congregation at Midnight Mass listened as the assistant pastor, Father Joseph Mohr, and choir director, Franz Gruber, sang to the accompaniment of Father Mohr's guitar. The priest had composed the words two years earlier in 1816 as a six verse poem.

Since then this Christmas carol has achieved world wide appeal and has been translated into over 40 languages including English. It has been sung on a variety of occasions and in some unexpected places. On Christmas Day 1918, during the First World War, German and Allied armies faced one another in France. The song was sung simultaneously in French, English and German by the troops during a [Christmas truce](#), as it was one of the few carols that soldiers on both sides of the front line knew.

So what is the reason for the enduring popularity of this carol? The simple words and tune communicate the heart of the Christmas message. The eternal God has made himself known, by

entering time and space, in the person of Jesus Christ. The baby in the manger is not just fully divine, but he is born as a real human being. Jesus comes as a Saviour to rescue us from the mess of our lives, so that we might share the life which Jesus has with his Father. Now there is something worth singing about!!

**Silent night**

Words: translated from the German of Josef Mohr (1792-1848)      FRANZ GRUBER (1787-1867)  
arranged by John Rutter

Andante legato (♩ = 84)

The musical score is arranged for piano and voice. It begins with a piano introduction in F major, 4/4 time, marked 'Andante legato' with a tempo of 84 quarter notes per minute. The piano part features a gentle, flowing melody in the right hand and a supporting bass line in the left hand. The vocal parts enter at measure 4, with the lyrics: '1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, All is calm, all is bright'. The piano accompaniment continues with a steady, rhythmic pattern. The vocal parts continue with the lyrics: 'Round you Vir - gin mo - ther and child, Ho - ly in - fant, so'. The score includes a copyright notice at the bottom: 'Copyright © 2002 Collegium Music Publications, P.O. Box 173, Whiteladies, Cambridge CB2 4QE, United Kingdom. International Copyright Secured. All rights reserved. Copying or reproducing this publication in whole or in part violates the Federal Copyright Law. Exclusively licensed in the USA to Hinshaw Music, Inc., P.O. Box 470, Chapel Hill, NC 27514-0470, USA. Sole selling agent.'

The following article has been submitted by Pip Cartwright, and is the continuation in the series entitled:

## **History of Witney Congregational Church 1974-1977**

At the beginning of 1974 the Church had found a new home at Staple Hall, but many things had to be done. The house had to be rewired, decorating was essential, carpets and lino had to be laid before we could move from St Mary's Close. The whole Church did their part, adults and children.

By March 1974 the Church had moved to Staple Hall. On entry from Bridge Street the Chapel lay to the left, a small vestry to the right and beyond, the Kitchen and Sunday School Room. From the hall were stairs leading up to two flats, one on each floor. Much work had to be done there, but more of that later.

We left St Mary's Close with much gratitude to Rev. C. Gordon for letting us worship there until we were ready to move into Staple Hall. We had our new Chapel, but no Minister.

We were fortunate to have the Rev. Raymond Moody and his father, Mr A. Moody, worshipping with us. Rev. R. Moody had previously been the Congregational Church Minister at Banbury before he moved with his family to Burford, where he taught at Burford School. Mr Arthur Moody and his 'teddy' was a great favourite with the children. One of our Deacons, Miss Angela Pedlar, was a Theology graduate

and taught R.E. at Henry Box School. Thus with local lay-preachers and our Church members, we were able to fill the pulpit.

From our move in 1974 to the Annual Church Meeting in 1977, the Church Officers remained the same, being elected 'en bloc' each year. Mr Robert (Bob) Richardson remained our Church Secretary. He was a farmer living at Coursehill Farm near Ducklington. He and his wife, Eileen, guided us through all these changes with patience and wisdom. The Church enjoyed the hospitality at their farm especially for the barbecues and summer socials. The children loved the space; the rides on their daughter, Brenda's pony and on his tractor and trailer. The Church Treasurer was Mr Gerald Hayes whose wise handling of our finances was important. Mr Philip Turner continued his important responsibility over the Junior Church. From under 5's to young adults we had four classes to cater for over 30 youngsters in our Sunday School. There were seven Deacons, Miss Angela Pedlar, Mrs M. Honey, Mrs Linda Wheeler (Minute Secretary), Mr Philip Cartwright, Mr Philip Turner, Mr David Pearson and Mr Peter Sellman. You will, no doubt, recognise that three of the Deacons still worship regularly at our Church. Miss Angela Pedlar became the Rev. Angela Robinson who, after ministering at Grassington and Wivenhoe (Essex) is still working and ministering out in Bangladesh.

As regards calling a new Minister, after consultation with Rev. Burton (Cheltenham) in May 1974 the Church Meeting met the Rev. W. Webb and Mrs Webb of Exeter. The Rev. Webb took a

service in June. The June Church Meeting discussed the pastorate and the Rev. W. Webb. 27 Church Members were present but, although several members spoke favourably of Rev. Webb, the vote was not unanimous and the Rev. Webb was informed of the decision not to proceed further.

In January 1975 the Junior Church visited the local Pantomime followed by a tea party at the Church, a tradition which was continued until recently. In March we were honoured by hosting the Cotswold Congregational Federation Spring Assembly. During the year two elderly members died. Ted Collis and Marjorie Lea both were active members of the Church. The Lea family had been associated with the Witney Church for over 100 years. Marjorie, who was a teacher at Ducklington School, became a member in 1930 and served the Church as a Deacon, Sunday School Teacher and choir member.

In June a student from Bicester studying theology in Wales preached at our Church. The significance of which will be revealed later (1978). About this time the Church accepted the offer of a student from the Uniting Church of Australia who was coming to study for his Masters Degree in Theology at Mansfield College, Oxford. His course spanned two years and he, and his family, needed accommodation. At this point we needed a part-time Minister and we had an empty flat. This was an answer to prayer.

In August the Church started to re-furnish and decorate the first floor flat in preparation for the arrival of Mr Graham Twelftree, Barbara, his wife

and Catherine, their little daughter. They arrived on September 16<sup>th</sup> 1975 being met by Mr Peter Sellman and Mrs Daphne Turner (Peter's sister) at Heathrow Airport. Graham's first service was on September 28<sup>th</sup> which happened to be Harvest. The Harvest Supper (a traditional meal of sausage and mash, apple pie and custard) was an opportunity for the Twelftrees' to meet everybody.

The Christmas Carol Service on the evening of December 21<sup>st</sup> was highlighted by a Nativity Play involving 26 of the Junior Church and Christmas Day was extra special because Bert and Elsie Keates celebrated their Golden Wedding.

December 10<sup>th</sup> 1975 was a most decisive day in the life of the Church, because it was the day of the Planning Appeal made by the Church against the decision of West Oxfordshire District Council to refuse permission to change the use of the front ground floor room at Staple Hall as a meeting place for worship.

The Church's case was submitted by our Solicitor, Mr Ian Welch, and Mr Gerald Hayes was called as a witness for the Church and cross-examined by the Council and the Inspector. The hearing lasted 3½ hours and, although the Council recognised the action taken by the Church to avoid any traffic hazard on the busiest corner and roundabout in Witney by arranging parking in a car park along Newland, their main concern evolved around any possible extension of use of the premises.

The result was announced in January 1976 and, unfortunately, the Inspector

found in favour of the Council's case, which meant that Staple Hall could not be a permanent home for our Church. This was a sad blow as we had settled well in Staple Hall and particularly as it is believed that the early Independent Church had worshipped there for a while in the 1680's.

The search was on for better premises. On April 20<sup>th</sup> 1976 there was a combined Deacons and Church Meeting to discuss the possible purchase of a Chapel situated in Woodstock Road alongside the access road into Wood Green School. Although the building had been built specifically as a place of worship, unfortunately there was no extra room that could be used for Junior Church. The Church Treasurer, Mr Gerald Hayes, explained the Church's financial position and gave the view that, if we were to grow, we needed a bigger building with good parking space. It was finally decided to postpone any decision until the May Church Meeting. In fact the Church decided against it.

Despite his studies Graham Twelftree, ably assisted by the Junior Church Teachers (Mr P Turner, Mrs K Collis, Mrs Beryl Cartwright, Miss Angela Pedlar) organised a number of activities to involve our young people and their friends. During August there was a successful Summer Holiday Club which involved films, a barbecue (at Bob Richardson's farm), table tennis, football and listening to records. It culminated in September by the visit of Scripture Union Children's Officer, Mr Stephen English who, after taking the Sunday Service and a picnic lunch, organised various children's activities.

For the Twelftrees September 1<sup>st</sup> 1976 will always be a memorable day as Barbara Twelftree presented the family with a baby boy who was named Paul.

In October, following the success of the Holiday Club, Graham and Barbara Twelftree began a Youth Club for youngsters over eleven. He made it clear that his main reasons were not to entertain or keep the children in the Church fellowship, but to encourage the young people to get to know Jesus and have fun doing it. The work with the Junior Church continued apace. In December 1976 Junior Church provided the tableau under the Buttercross for the Lions Carol Service. I believe Mr George Howell, a member of our Church (Jean Howell's husband) was the President of the Witney Lions Club. They also performed a Nativity Play in Holy Trinity Church. Some of the older ones visited the homes of elder members and sang carols for them. This was much appreciated.

1977 was to be a very momentous year. With the eventual departure of Rev. Twelftree, the Church put their minds to what sort of Minister the Church at Witney wanted.

Graham Twelftree suggested that the New Testament indicated that a Minister should:

- 1) Be full of the Holy Spirit, bearing the fruits of the spirit
- 2) Preach 'The Word' and be Jesus centred
- 3) Be a Man of Prayer, having an open and intimate relationship with the Lord
- 4) He must 'love' his people.

Graham advised that we should not expect a 'perfect saint', but a man of spirit, who will lead the Church to Jesus.

At the January 1977 Church Meeting the future of the pastorate was discussed and in the March Church Meeting, the Church met with the Rev. Eric Burton (Cheltenham) who was in charge of Pastoral Care. Several suggestions were considered.

It was a busy time especially for Graham who was studying intently for his 'Masters' exams, which he took and passed. I was privileged to attend his Degree Ceremony held in the Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford.

It was about this time that a property 'Field House' came up for sale on the corner of Welch Way and the High Street. 31-33, High Street was a Christian Scientist Reading Room with living accommodation attached. The property had a large room at the back, an extensive garden and a car park of its own. Despite an attempt to 'gazump' the deal, the Christian Scientists kept to their promise saying they wanted the property to remain as a Christian place of worship. So we approached another chapter of our wandering and looked forward to moving to Field House.

On July 30<sup>th</sup> 1977 the Church said farewell to Graham, Barbara, Catherine and Paul at a Garden Social and Buffet Tea. Almost the whole of the Church was able to attend including friends from other Churches. I, on behalf of the Church, thanked Graham for his Ministry and presented him with a Book Token and a card signed by all the

Church Members. July 31<sup>st</sup> was Rev. Twelftree's last service in our Church. Having passed his Masters Degree, he and his family moved on to Nottingham where he eventually successfully gained his Doctorate in Theology. Subsequently he became a Lecturer in New Testament Studies at All Souls Church, London. Later, returning to Adelaide, he started a Vineyard Church and he is now Distinguished Professor of New Testament at Regents University in Virginia, USA.



The following article, written by Elizabeth Craven, an 18<sup>th</sup> century writer & socialite, has been submitted by Jean Howell, and is entitled:

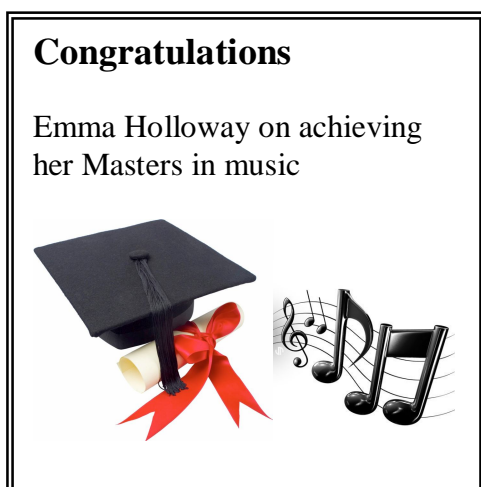
### **I thank thee God that I have lived**

*I discovered this beautiful verse on the Order of Service of a dear friend. I think that the thoughts will strike a chord with many of us*

I thank thee God that I have lived  
In this great world and known its many joys:  
The songs of birds, the strongest sweet scent of hay  
And cooling breezes in the secret dusk;  
The flaming sunsets at the close of day  
Hills and the lovely heather-coloured moors;  
Music at night, and the moonlight on the sea  
The beat of waves upon the rocky shore

And wild white spray, flung high in  
ecstasy;  
The faithful eyes of dogs, and the  
treasured books  
The love of kin and fellowship of friends  
And all that makes life dear and  
beautiful

I thank Thee too that there has come  
to me  
A little sorrow and sometimes defeat,  
A little heartache and the loneliness  
That comes with parting and the words  
'good-bye';  
Dawn breaking after weary hours of  
pain  
When I discovered that night's gloom  
must yield  
And morning light break through to me  
again.  
Because of these and other blessings  
poured  
Unasked upon my wondering head,  
Because I know that there is yet to  
come  
An even richer and more glorious life,  
And most of all, because Thine only Son  
Once sacrificed life's loveliness for me  
I thank Thee God that I have lived



The following article, extracted from  
Oxford Association for the Blind, but  
based on information received from  
Oxfordshire County Council, has been  
submitted by Rev Ken Lee, and is  
entitled:

## **Rotating (tactile) cones at traffic light controlled crossings**

Many pedestrians are unaware of  
Tactile Cones, and this information is  
offered to target those, more widely,  
who are likely to use them.

Where two or more controlled  
pedestrian crossings are close to each  
other, audible beepers in support of  
the 'green man' which indicates when it  
is safe to cross the road, is unable to be  
used.

Almost all traffic-controlled  
crossings in Oxfordshire where a  
bleeper cannot be used have a tactile  
cone fitted. These are about the size  
and shape of a thimble and located on  
the underside of push button boxes.

Once the button has been  
pressed to call the pedestrian phase,  
just slide your hand across the  
underside of the push button box where  
you will find the cone and hold it lightly.  
When the traffic has been shown a red  
light, and the steady green man is  
showing, the cone will rotate gently for  
the same period that a bleeper would  
have operated.

It is recognised that beepers  
and tactile cones are desirable at all  
controlled crossings to ensure that as  
many people as possible can use them.

It is of course, important to  
remember that cars may still be on the  
crossing if there are queues

The following article, extracted from 'Just One Year' Prayer and Worship through the Christian Year & edited by Timothy Radcliffe, has been submitted by Beryl Cartwright, and is entitled:

## Reflections

*Glory to God in highest heaven and on earth peace among those he favours (Luke 2:14)*

Some of our people ask how we can celebrate Christmas with:

- All the closures and checkpoints
- All the injustice and oppression
- All the violations of human rights
- The presence of a wall that separates family and friends, and a multitude of hardships that the occupation imposes to make people's lives miserable

How can we speak of love, peace and joy when most of our people, and millions of others around the world, do not experience liberty and peace?

The questions are legitimate. Yet Christmas and New Year must be the time of renewal, of hope and anticipation, of determination and zeal to work for a better world where people can experience these essential qualities of life. Therefore, wherever empire exists and the powers that be are in control through domination, there is a greater responsibility for all of us to take a stand against all that dehumanises people and to work for their liberation

The Christmas story is a story of a liberating God who comes to join an oppressed people in the work of liberation. God's message through the angels is a message of defiance. In spite of the presence of empire, human

arrogance and oppression, God is announcing peace and goodwill. This is God's agenda. Glory belongs to God and not to emperor nor to the powers. Once that is genuinely acknowledged, peace is not far away

It is in the midst of the Roman occupation that the Incarnation took place;

- It is in spite of the occupation that Mary and Joseph found joy and love in the birth of Jesus
- It is in spite of the occupation and in the midst of economic hardships that the shepherds came to visit a family of modest means and discovered great joy and peace
- It is in spite of the occupation that the Magi came to offer their gifts to the child

We celebrate in the midst of the occupation and in spite of it. Through our celebration;

- We defy the occupation
- We defy the injustice
- We defy the oppression
- We defy the powers
- They do not possess the last word;
- They can build high walls, but they cannot take away our hope
- They can put us in jail, but they cannot take away our joy
- They can prevent us from visiting family, but they cannot take away our love
- They can stop us at checkpoints and impose all kinds of restrictions, but they cannot take away our pursuit of freedom and liberation
- They can prevent us from going to Bethlehem, but they cannot prevent the spirit of Bethlehem from reaching us
- They can treat us as non-humans, but they cannot crush our spirit nor

can they take away our God-given human worth and dignity

- They can act with hate and disgust, but, by the grace of God, we can always refuse to stoop to the level of hate and maintain our love of God and neighbour that includes them
- Therefore Christmas makes us defiant;
- We defy the evildoers because we believe in the goodness which they are capable of doing
  - We defy hate because we believe in the power of love and forgiveness
  - We defy despair because we believe in life and hope
  - We defy violence and terror, both state and individual, because we believe in the power of peace and non-violence
  - We defy war and the occupation of other people's lands because we believe in the power of peaceful methods based on international laws and legitimacy
  - We defy and challenge those who humiliate and degrade others because we believe in the dignity of every human being

The incarnation took place when God took on our humanity, when the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. This happened in Palestine under Roman occupation. Then, as now, and in spite of all the hardships, we celebrate Christ's birth, Emmanuel, God with us, giving us hope, joy, peace and love

We are defiant. We are full of hope. We will continue to work for peace through justice



The following article has been extracted from Parish Pump, and is entitled:

## **Egyptian Christians threatened with a "bloodbath" by Islamists**

Fears for the safety of Egyptian Christians are growing after a series of false allegations, violent threats and mass demonstrations against the Church in Egypt. Muslim anger was ignited this autumn when entirely unfounded accusations were made on Al-Jazeera TV that Egyptian Christians were aligned with Israel and stockpiling weapons in preparation for waging war against Muslims.

Tensions were also fuelled by baseless rumours circulated by Islamist leaders that Christians were kidnapping and torturing women who had converted to Islam. At least ten mass demonstrations involving thousands of Muslims have since taken place against Christians, with the previously unknown group "Front of Islamic Egypt" promising them a "bloodbath".

Dr Patrick Sookhdeo, International Director of Barnabas Fund, said: "I am greatly concerned about events in Egypt. We must pray that the hostility towards the Church does not descend into outright violence against Christians - as we have seen before." Egypt has the largest Christian population of any Muslim nation in the Arab world, estimated at six to ten million. They regularly face discrimination, human rights violations and sectarian hostility

The following two poems, written by Rev Brian Prior, have been submitted by Jean Howell

Rev Brian Prior, now in his mid 90's, was our minister at Wincanton Congregational church in the 1950's. He is now living in Weymouth with his devoted wife, Sylvia, and is retired and registered blind. However, he writes a Christmas verse every year and his wife incorporates it their personal cards which she designs, and can be seen below:



## NOEL

A decorated tree stands where  
eager hands their gifts prepare;  
Christmas greetings still declare  
peace and love are ours to share.

Shepherds, watching long ago,  
unprepared, they could not know  
of the gift God would bestow  
which that night's events would show.

Myriad colours flood the sky,  
angel voices sound on high;  
from a stable, in reply  
Mary sings her lullaby.

Kings from eastern cultures old,  
trusting what a star foretold,  
in that stable, gifts unfold,  
Frankincense and myrrh and gold.

Not through psychic power or sign  
can we find this child sublime,  
more simple far is God's design  
faith embraces the divine.

Rev. Brian G Prior



May this Christmastide bestow  
In our minds all we should know:  
May our daily thoughts transcend  
Our choice of gifts, or what we spend.  
Hanging chains and tinsel bright  
Our fir tree, all festooned with light.  
Postmen who struggle with the mails  
The endless cards, this task entails.  
Carollers, in hearty voice,  
Urging us all to rejoice.  
May all these be a path which brings  
Us to a Babe - the King of Kings.

Rev. B.G.Prior 2008



The following has been extracted from Church News Service, and is entitled:

## All in the month of January

**500 years ago 1511:** King Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon's first child was born. Baby Henry survived for only two months.

**350 years ago 1661:** Oliver Cromwell, former Lord Protector of England, was formally executed (more than two years after his death!)

**150 years ago 1861:** first shots were exchanged between the Union and Confederate forces in the American Civil War.

**125 years ago 1886:** first practical car to be powered by an internal combustion engine was patented by Karl Benz.

**100 years ago 1911:** first Monte Carlo rally was held.

**90 years ago 1921:** first regularly scheduled religious radio broadcast – KDKA – began out of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA.

**90 years ago 1921:** Chequers Court in Buckinghamshire was given to England by Lord and Lady Lee of Fareham. It has been the country residence of the serving Prime Minister.

**75 years ago 1936:** Rudyard Kipling, British writer ('The Jungle Book', 'Kim') and poet died.

**75 years ago 1936:** King George V died, succeeded by Edward VIII.

**70 years ago 1941:** Sir Robert Baden-Powell, British army officer and founder of the Scouts and Guides movements, died.

**65 years ago 1946:** William Joyce, 'Lord Haw-Haw', British fascist politician who broadcast Nazi propaganda from Germany during WW2 was executed.

**60 years ago 1951:** North Korean and Chinese forces captured Seoul, the South Korean capital.

**60 years ago 1951:** United Nations headquarters in New York City was officially opened.

**50 years ago 1961:** John F Kennedy was inaugurated as the 35<sup>th</sup> President of the United States.

**40 years ago 1971:** barrier collapsed at the Ibrox Park football stadium in Glasgow, killing 66 fans.

**40 years ago 1971:** Idi Amin deposed the President of Uganda, Milton Obote, and declared himself President

**30 years ago 1981:** Peter Sutcliffe ('The Yorkshire Ripper') was charged with the murders of 13 women.

**30 years ago 1981:** 52 American hostages were released from the US embassy in Tehran, Iran, after being held for 444 days by followers of Ayatollah Khomeini.

**25 years ago 1986:** space shuttle Challenger exploded shortly after lift-off from Cape Canaveral, killing 7 astronauts.

**20 years ago 1991:** Gulf War's Operation Desert Storm was underway.

**15 years ago 1996:** first American peacekeeping troops arrived in Northern Bosnia following the end of the Bosnian War. This was the USA's first military involvement in Europe since WW11.

**10 years ago 2001:** Wikipedia, the online, collaborative encyclopaedia, was officially launched.

**10 years ago 2001:** Scottish court convicted Abdelbaset Ali al-Megrahi from Libya of carrying out the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland.

The following article is a continuation in a series by Rev Paul Hardingham, and is entitled:

## **What's the Big Idea?**

### **An Introduction to the Books of the Old Testament: 1 & 2 Samuel**

1 & 2 Samuel was originally a single work, which was divided by the Septuagint (the Greek translation of the OT). The narrative is dominated by four main characters: Hannah, Samuel, Saul and David. Chronologically the stories are clustered around 1000 BC, the mid-point between Abraham's call and the birth of Jesus.

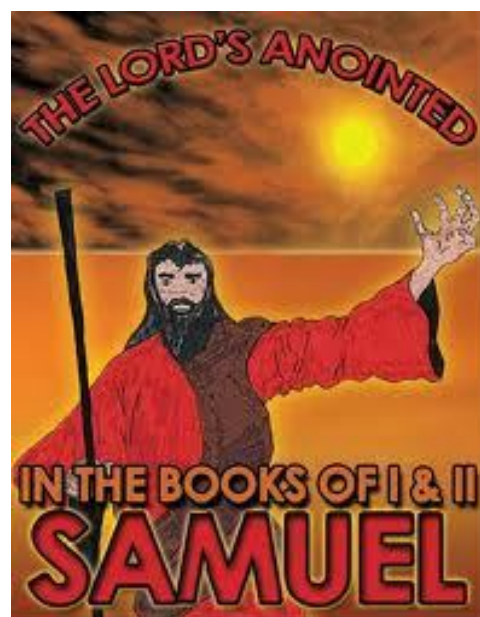
The books are named after Samuel, whom God used to establish the monarchy in Israel. His prophetic role enabled the transition from the rule of the judges to the rule of Saul and David. Although Samuel was commanded by God to give the people a king, their request is also seen as a rejection of God's rule over Israel (8:7). The people wanted to be like the other nations with a figurehead king. However, in order to acknowledge God as their ultimate Sovereign, the king had to be subject to God's law and the word of the prophet. Although Samuel anointed Saul, he soon showed unwillingness to submit to these requirements, leading to his rejection as king (15:23). Therefore, God chose David as Saul's successor, and 1 Samuel depicts David's years of waiting, as he refused to claim the throne without God's direction.

2 Samuel depicts David's rule, in which the nation prospers and its enemies are defeated. David's desire to build a permanent Temple for the Ark of the

Covenant was rejected. However, the prophet Nathan told David that God would build him a dynasty that would last forever. The promise of one who will perfectly fulfil the role of king is fulfilled in Jesus himself. The second half of the book depicts the darker side of David's reign, describing his weaknesses and failures, including his adultery with Bathsheba and the rebellion of his son Absalom.

Nevertheless David remained a man after God's own heart; as God said to Samuel: *'The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.'* (1 Samuel 16:7). Clearly the characters in this book are not shining examples of faith! However, as Eugene Peterson has pointed out:

*'They do not show us how we should live but how in fact we do live, authenticating the reality of our daily experience as the stuff that God uses to work his purposes of salvation in us and in the world.'*



# ROTAS

## WELCOMING TEAM

<b>Dec</b>	05	Iris Lindsay & Sharon Watson
	12	Pat & Ben Smith
	19	Val Obriain & Joan Currie
	26	Jacqui Powlesland
<b>Jan</b>	02	Nanna Blackman & Susan Wass
	09	Pip & Beryl Cartwright
	16	Jill & Robert McBride
	23	Sharon Watson & Theo Howells
<b>Feb</b>	30	Iris Lindsay & Val Obriain
	06	Pat & Ben Smith



## COMMUNION

<b>Dec</b>	05 am	Jacqui Powlesland & Judi Holloway
		Sharon Watson & Elaine Gudem Preparation Susan Wass
	19 am	Nanna Blackman & Jacqui Powlesland
		Sharon Watson & Judi Holloway Preparation Rita Hayes
<b>Jan</b>	02 pm	Nanna Blackman & Jacqui Powlesland
		Preparation Iris Lindsay
	16 am	Chris Esapa & Elaine Gudem
		Judi Holloway & Jacqui Powlesland Preparation Beryl Cartwright
<b>Feb</b>	06 pm	Jacqui Powlesland & Nanna Blackman Preparation Iris Lindsay



## FLOWERS

<b>Dec</b>	05	Joan Currie
	12	Christmas Tree
	19	Christmas Tree
	26	Christmas arrangement
<b>Jan</b>	02	Christmas Tree
	09	Beryl Cartwright
	16	Judi Holloway
	23	Val Obriain
<b>Feb</b>	30	Rita Hayes
	06	Jill McBride



## COFFEE

<b>Dec</b>	05	Jill & Robert McBride
	12	Susan Wass & Irene St Clair
	19	Peter Gamston & Gwen Mee
	26	Marjorie Lee, Iris Lindsay & Judith Bungey



# ROTAS

<b>Jan</b>	02	Linda McCormac & Sharon Watson
	09	Jill & Robert McBride
	16	Susan Wass & Irene St Clair
	23	Peter Gamston & Gwen Mee
	30	Marjorie Lee, Iris Lindsay & Judith Bungey
<b>Feb</b>	06	Linda McCormac & Sharon Watson



## REST & CHAT

<b>Dec</b>	09	Pat Smith
	16	Iris Lindsay & Joan Currie
	23	Jill & Robert McBride
	30	No Rest & Chat
<b>Jan</b>	06	Marjorie Lee
	13	Pat Smith
	20	Iris Lindsay & Joan Currie
<b>Feb</b>	27	Jill & Robert McBride Clair
	03	Jean Stanley, Marina Bowerman & Irene St



Every effort has been made on the rota list to meet individual circumstances. However, please change with someone else if the dates are not convenient for you - Thank



**Christmas Crafts**  
**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December**  
**2.00pm - 4.00pm**

<b>Dec</b>	04	Charlotte Hayes
	06	Sue Birdseye
	09	Audrey Elliot
	12	David Pearson
<b>Jan</b>	02	Benjamin Esapa
		Joseph Esapa
		Margaret Esapa
		Gwen Mee
	04	Tori St Clair
	06	Aimee Durrant
	07	Brian Bennett
	10	Cheryl Birdseye
	12	Iris Lindsay
	18	Kay Nicoll



**£1.00 towards cost of materials**  
**Witney Congregational Church**



*Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and*

