



CMC Covid-19 Newsletter No. 8

Christmas 2020

Hello friend,

A very Happy Christmas and New Year to you and welcome to the Seasonal edition of our COVID-19 Newsletter! Who would have thought we would be living in these challenging times for so long, it certainly has been a long and unsettling year, and this is certainly an atypical Christmas. But it is what it is, and we hope that you can all have as restive and enjoyable festive time as possible. There does seem to be other extremely good cheer coming soon, through the distribution of the Covid vaccines and we offer our great thanks and prayers to all those involved in the design and implementation of this vaccination programme, meaning that we can look to resume our “normal” sharing of Worship.

We hope that you will have received, or will be receiving very soon, your Christmas candle from CMC and that it brings some brightness, both spiritually and luminously to you. Sadly, there won't be a Carol Concert led by Carol and the choir this year. In trying to fill this gap can we suggest we all share in watching the BBC “Carols from Kings” on Christmas Eve, which like CMC, will have no congregation; this can then be followed by enjoying a cup of tea and mince pie(s), just like in CMC.

As we've said in the previous newsletters, if you are a pastoral visitor and can't keep up with, or have concerns about, those in your group, or don't have a pastoral visitor available, or in fact think that we may be able to help in some way, please do get in touch with The Stewards or the Minister.

With love and wishing you a happy Christmas and healthy New Year,

The Stewards

Dear Cyncoed Methodist Family,

My family and I bring you advent, Christmas, and New Year greetings. 2020 has been and will go down in many diaries as a strange year. It has been full of struggles and contentions with ourselves, our health, our emotions, and our social life, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, it has also been a year of learning, readjusting, and strategizing. As we reflect on how we have come this far, we may want to go beyond our own efforts, important though that is, to agree with Charles Wesley that if we are yet alive and see each other's face, then our glory and praise are given to Jesus for his redeeming grace. For out of all the troubles, mighty conflicts, fightings and fears that we have encountered in 2020, the Lord has brought us through by his love. Praise the Lord.

The Christmas story is a story full of struggles. Mary struggles with the prophecy and its fulfilment of her becoming pregnant before her marriage to Joseph is consummated. Joseph struggles with the prophecy and fulfilment of his wife-to-be, becoming pregnant prior to their wedding. Both Mary and Joseph struggle with all that surround the conception, birth, and upbringing of baby Jesus. The inn-keeper struggles to find a room for Mary and Joseph, the wisemen struggle to find baby Jesus. Yet, at the end of it all, you and I are here today, preparing to celebrate that joyful event.

It is in the same spirit that I invite all of us to see the struggles of 2020 as a possible Christmas tomorrow. We have worked together as a church, through this struggle, to support one another. Difficult decisions regarding worship, pastoral support and use of the church building have been taken, amid the fear and faith that have become mixed up in this struggle. Let us continue working together, in spirit and in deed. With the power of God with us, we will look back one day and celebrate the goodness of God in the land of the living. Enjoy Christmas, however 'not-the-same' as it will be and may the season bring the best out of you for family, for neighbours, for the church and for God's kingdom.

Rev. Kofi Amissah

CHRISTMASSACRED

Where do you draw the line?

Gloria P.

ISAIAH 9

‘There will be no more gloom for those who were in distress — for a light has dawned.’

‘For unto us a child is given, and the government will be on His shoulders’

A WAY OF HOPE,

Christmas is fast approaching and this year in particular folks are putting up their decorations earlier than usual. I’ve heard people comment that 2020 has been such a dismal and dark year and they wanted to bring some light back into their homes. Even I have put my tree up which normally is not done until a week before Christmas!

The prophets believed that God would raise up a deliverer to re-establish Jewish national independence and prosperity. They were **WRONG** in the details but were **RIGHT** in their certainty. The deliverer **DID** come! But not as a political military leader but something greater, He brought spiritual freedom for all mankind. When God sent Jesus, he sent him in such a way that none of us need be frightened. Jesus came to be one of us. He was very ordinary yet special. So many these days are indifferent to the coming of Jesus and what His life and death means.

This Christmas how will you prepare and how will you react to Jesus’ birth? Will you say like the Innkeeper of old ‘No Room’ or will you be able to accept Him as God’s Son, the Saviour of the world. Our Hope and Light for the future. He is the One that gives us Light.

When the Christmas tree is taken down and the decorations removed there is an empty space. But God’s love as shown in Jesus Christ goes on for ever and ever. In Jesus , God has written ‘I love you’ and He challenges us to accept that love.

Anne Isherwood.



Holy Night

A Baby in a Manger, God's son on earth so dear

A starry night when Angels came to tell us not to fear.

The shepherd folk were guided and followed Bethlehem's star,

In time the wise men would go too, but had to travel far.

Mary and Joseph showed the way when summoned to their task

They did not stall or go astray there was no need to ask.

Let us be just as faithful then in answer to God's call

Remembering his special son brought hope and peace to all.

Found by Jenny and Sue; wrote by Anon.



Winter update from allotment

As promised a photo of Lottie the allotment cat, who is waiting every morning rain or shine for her breakfast, although feral she now joins me in the greenhouse where it is slightly warmer and definitely drier.

Only really visit to check on her and our Broad Beans which are growing over the winter (and popping up already), also the sprouts which we have started to harvest and are delicious.

Sue and Jenny

LIGHT OF THE WORLD

As a bright candle in a shadowed room
Casts away darkness and dispels the gloom,
As the sun rises and it's quickening ray
Illuminates and warms the break of day;

So the pure beauty of the Saviour's birth
Sheds it's clear radiance on a waiting earth,
The shining glory of that heavenly night
Brought to the world new joy and hope and light

Chris and Parry



Congratulations to Eira and Ken Davies for their
Diamond wedding Anniversary on Christmas Eve! 😊

Christmas with and without Margaret, 25th December 2019 / 2020



Since Margaret and I got married 58 years ago, this will be the first Christmas for us to be apart. My dear wife has settled well at Willowbrook House nursing home, and is healthy, happy and very well cared-for.

Before the pandemic, we saw each other every day for over two years and daily spent a happy two hours including outdoor visits together. All that came to a juddering halt last March and both of us found it emotionally overwhelming. Margaret could not understand the sudden parting, or the logic of separation or the need to protect each other and others. Dementia is a cruel condition at the best of times, but the loss of contact, the hugs, the kisses and holding hands, it is a double blow. I thank the Lord for the wonderful love and care of the staff at the Home who, despite the obstacle of masks, visors and gloves, make huge efforts to show their affection and to compensate for the absence of family and friends.

My memorable Christmas is therefore, the last one.

Margaret attended Christmas morning service at Cyncoed with me and our daughter Rachel where she met many old friends and denied herself of scoffing all the biscuits. We spent the rest of the day at Rachel's home and, following a sumptuous lunch, settled to play games and share memories and photos of Christmases past. The highlight for me was sitting close to my beloved and providing a comfortable shoulder for her to rest her head on and drop off to sleep. The downside was waking up and having to part as my daughter signalled time for her to return to the Home.

We as a family will miss her terribly this Christmas but hope and pray for better times in 2021

Ivor J

SINGLES LUNCHESES

The times when several of you met after morning worship to share stories as they ate roast dinner (most times) were fun and a bit special in many ways. Why is it that sitting round a table with an expectation of food brings out the telling of many stories? Just imagine the chit-chat - Pam's humour for which she so often apologised delighted us all, alongside Edna's questioning of what we would eat. One week having discovered we would have curry she said, 'I don't like curry' but as she ate it declared, 'I like this but it's not curry!' There were stories, stories, stories. At 'going home time,' how long did we spend searching for lost purses, bags, keys etc? but that was all part of the fun. Actually, I still have one bag with pink roses! Alongside that Ivor's wisdom and humour fitted all together. I think the largest number at one time was 17 seated round the table – possible because of Ivor's carpentry skills so it's a big Thank you for a wonderful table extension!

To those of you who came to share our Sunday lunches, thank you for coming. Without you it wouldn't have happened. Most of all to each and every one, thank you for the love we've shared and will continue to share once more as we celebrate God's coming to earth as a tiny baby ... Jesus.

Gloria

Curry (based on a recipe from Tanzania)

FIRST assemble the ingredients. Sharwood's is by far the best and needs lots, at least one large jar! Prepare chicken, onion, ginger, apples, lemon, stock etc.

Either use whole chicken or breasts from butcher and cut chicken into quite small pieces. Peel, core and chop two large Bramley apples, and one very large onion. Put a little olive oil into a saucepan and add chicken well coated and tossed in plain flour and seasoned with fresh pepper and salt (flour provides thickening). Cook gently together with chicken till soft adding a little sugar, adding a little extra olive oil if necessary. Whilst the chicken starts cooking stir frequently to ensure it doesn't stick to the bottom of the pan. Add a little stock and turn down heat if sticking. Add a little more stock as necessary.

Add garlic clove and 16 cloves, 1-2in peeled ginger (or ready ground), 3 tsp curry powder (or to taste), juice of half a lemon, large jar Sharwood's Mango chutney, approximately one pint chicken stock (or 2/3 Oxo veggie stock cubes and water). 1 block coconut (buy in supermarket; two in a packet), small tin tomato puree. Stir well as you add all to chicken.

At no time allow to boil. Keep watch!

Basically, just assemble and prepare the ingredients, keep watch, keep tasting!

This dish is best cooked the day before but that makes it more important to watch that it doesn't overheat. Serve with boiled rice. If reheated for a second day ensure it heats gently.

Also prepare small bowls of chopped pineapple, chopped tomatoes, curled cucumber, salted peanuts, sultanas. These may be sprinkled on the top after the food is dished up.

Enjoy!

A Legend from Saxon Times

One Christmas Eve the people of the village were already celebrating Christmas with feasting and singing.

The Saxon priest, Eddy was preparing to hold a midnight service in the church. He set out with his lantern and entered the dark building. Lighting the altar candles, he could just make out the rough stone walls and the uneven earth floor where the people would stand to listen while he preached to them God's good news of Christmas.

Just before midnight he rang the bell and waited for the people to arrive, he could hear them singing and shouting outside in the darkness, but no one came inside.

Eddy wondered what to do, then the door creaked open, 'at last' thought the priest and turned to greet his congregation.

In the half-light he could make out a strange form, something with a large head, four legs and two long ears! In front of him stood a donkey, its head bowed low, soon a young bullock followed the donkey and stood beside it in front of the altar.

'Well, at least they will listen to me' thought Eddy and began the service. He found his thoughts were not about the people still feasting and singing outside, but of a lonely stable where Jesus was born, with animals such as these for company, and as he preached to them in the candlelight, telling them the story of the first Christmas, neither animal moved at all.

Jenny S



Hi to Amelie, Dylan, Izzy, Morgan, Noah, Olivia and Sacha

We hope you are all well and keeping safe. I expect you are getting very busy with lots of preparations for Christmas. It must be very different in school this year with no concert for your mum and dad to attend and what about parties; are you still able to have a Christmas party in school this year?

We've loved seeing all the photos of what you have been doing. What a lot of exciting things you have been up to.

We hope you had a lovely birthday Amelie. You'll have to let us know how you celebrated and if you managed to do anything with your friends. I hope you had a beautiful birthday cake though. How are things with you Noah? A couple of years ago, I remember you had had a great interest in all the Christmas lights. I've seen plenty of lovely displays this year and I wondered if you were still interested in them or whether you have a new fascination now?

Hope you are both well, Morgan and Dylan. What are your plans for Christmas this year? I know you normally see your grandparents over Christmas but it might not be so easy to do this year with "bubbles" and the like. Even if you can't be with them in person, I'm sure you'll still join up with them online and I expect you'll end up playing some games with them as you did before.

Thank you, Izzy and Sacha, for sharing some photographs. I like the one of you in your school uniform. That seems like ages ago now and I couldn't help noticing how tall you both are. Sacha, you seem to be as nearly as tall as Izzy! You both certainly seemed to have had a busy time over the summer too.

It was lovely to hear your news too, Olivia. I can see from your photos that you have been busy doing lots of gluing and making things. I heard as well that you have grown up and are now wearing big girl's pants! No more nappies for you then. What an achievement! We'll be looking forward to you joining us when we all get back together again

Now we would normally be very busy in church too at this time of year so I've been thinking of some things that you might like to do at home to remember the story of Christmas.

What about looking on line for some art representing the nativity and seeing if you can create your own painting in a similar style of one you like. You might even like to put it in a frame! Here are some ideas for you to look at:

<https://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/stories/the-nativity>

or

<https://www.pinterest.co.uk/carolaenterpris/nativity-art/>

For those of you who like to use technology, have you tried the Kahoot App? You can create your own quizzes to send to other people. How about making up a Christmas quiz and trying it out with your family. You could send a link to your friends too and other family members who don't live with you.

<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/kahoot-play-create-quizzes/id1131203560>

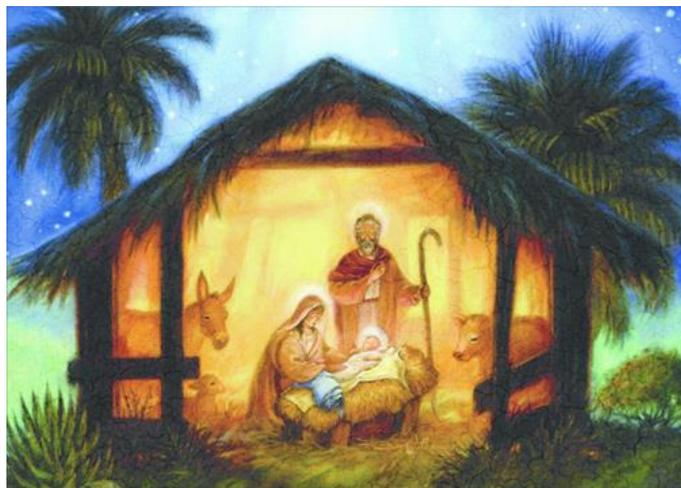
if you prefer good old cutting, colouring and sticking, why not take a look around your house for a box and some other recycling materials and create your own nativity scene with stand up figures in a stable.

<file:///C:/Users/MLeighfield/Downloads/Nativity-Scene-Crafts-for-Sunday-School-at-Christmas.pdf>

Happy creating!

Let's hope we can see each other soon but until we do, have a very "Happy Christmas", take care, stay safe and keep washing those hands!

Lots of love Kath, Angela and Marion xxx





We had our very first **Messy Church zoom meeting** in **October** which was a great success. We all agreed that it was so lovely to see one another on screen and share together in a somewhat different form of Messy Church.

Our theme was - **Autumn changes and things we are thankful for.**

The children created their collages beforehand ready to show and talk about in the meeting. They talked and thought about things they were thankful for and shared them in the meeting.





Our **November Messy Church** **zoom meeting** was once again well attended and enjoyed.

Our theme was - **Remembrance and Peace**

The children made their very own poppies and doves in readiness to show during the meeting. Amelie and Izzy and Sacha read poems about poppies and why we wear them. We held our own '2 Minute silence' while holding our poppies and watching a reflective and calming video clip. The children, each, shared two ideas of how they could make the world a better place at home and at school.



The Chelsea bun that travelled to the First World War trenches and back

(A remarkable and interesting account about Zoe's Grandad and Tom's Great Grandad which was shared with us)



The bun came to Leominster Museum some time before I joined the volunteer team, but I do know that it was donated by the woman who sent it in the first place, Lily Poston, the sister of local soldier Alec Hodges.

Alec had volunteered for the Machine Gun Corps when Lily bought this Chelsea bun from Mrs Pewtress's bakery in Leominster in 1916 and sent it off to him. During the First World War the post was so good you could send things to soldiers in the trenches in France and Flanders and know that they would get there in a couple of days.

But Alec had been badly wounded just before it arrived, and he was moved around from one field hospital to another and then shipped back to Britain where he spent a very long time in St Thomas' Hospital in London.

The bun apparently followed him round and was eventually sent back marked "return to sender". Lily was so touched by the fact that it had come back to her that she kept it at

home for most of the rest of her life and eventually gave it to the museum some years ago, before she died.

He spent a long time in St Thomas', which in terms of First World War casualties was known as Number 5 London General Hospital, and he was eventually invalided out of the army and came back to Leominster, married and had four children, two of whom still live in the town.

He then ran a grocer's shop for some years and then for the rest of his life he was a cobbler. There are many older people in Leominster today who still remember Alec mending their shoes, but like many men who experienced what he did, he didn't talk much about his time in the war.

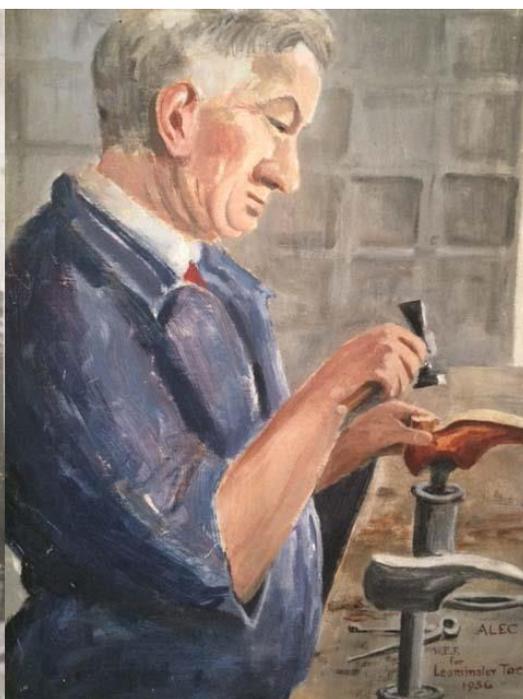
We have a photograph of the grocer's shop, a picture of him as a cobbler and also a First World War portrait in his hospital blues, which was an official Army uniform of trousers and jacket in a kind of light blue flannel with white lapels worn by casualties when recuperating.

We also have one of the embroideries he did - the regimental badge of the Machine Gun Corps - when he was in St Thomas'. The establishment of workshops in many British military hospitals during the war was one of the foundation stones of the development of occupational therapy as a formal discipline in the 20th century.

Alec also produced an embroidery of a broken artillery piece against a setting sun, which is lovely.

But I think the Chelsea bun is a beautiful example of how something seemingly trivial can carry so much history and so much emotional baggage with it. It is an amazing object

because of the story behind it, even though it really isn't very much to look at, at all.



Messy Church Lockdown Gallery update



We enjoy reading!



Some of our art and craft work for our Brownie badge



Getting into the Christmas spirit - Ho, Ho, Ho!!



Wishing all our families and the wider church family a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

Anne Tucker

A Christmas quiz for all the family:

1. What is the name of the period leading up to Christmas?
2. How many Wise Men brought gifts to Jesus?
3. How does Good King Wenceslas like his pizzas?
4. What was the name of John the Baptist's Mother?
5. Who brings presents to the children in The Netherlands on the 5th & 6th December?
6. How many letters are in the angelic alphabet?
7. In what town was Jesus born?
8. How many presents were given in total in the 12 days of Christmas?
9. In what decade was the first Christmas card sent?
10. How many of Rudolph's eight companions' names start with the letter "D"?
11. In what country did Christmas trees originate from?
12. What's the second line of "I'm dreaming of a white Christmas"?
13. What was Joseph's job?
14. Who started the custom of Wassailing?
15. Who were the first people to visit the baby Jesus?
16. What's lucky to find in your Christmas pudding?
17. What Angel visited Mary?
18. Where did the baby Jesus sleep?

(Answers on page 28)



Christmas wishes to and from the CMC congregation

LOVE'S OWN SEASON

*We send our greetings only once a year,
Yet we hold one another very dear,
And this small card we send conveys so much ---
It spans the miles between.....keeps us in touch.*

*Though time and Covid may changes bring,
Our friendships are a lasting thing
And Christmas, love's own season, is, we know,
The very time to tell each other so.*

A very Happy Christmas and healthier 2021 to you all

With love, Chris and Parry



Happy Christmas to all the Church Family with love from
Carol and John Plumridge xx

Keep singing when and where you are allowed!

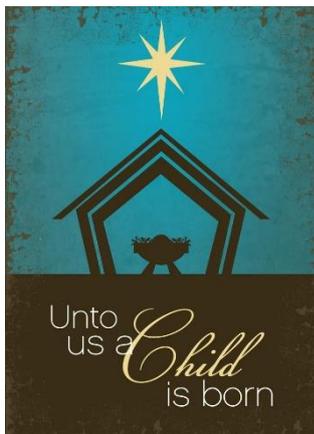


Though we may not have many things to do together physically as a church at this Christmas, we join you and your family/friends, to celebrate Christ and to share the love of God with all. We pray that God through his healing power and through us, will bring the terror of COVID-19 to an end. Have a Merry Christmas, a happy New Year, and prosperous years ahead. From Kofi, Justina, Adom, Nhyira, Sompa and Dzinpa (Aba).



Wishing everyone at Cyncoed Methodist Church a very happy Christmas and healthy New Year.

With love from John T and family x



Margaret and I wish all our dear friends at Cyncoed Methodist Church a happy and joyous Christmas and a better and healthier new year.

Ivor and Margaret
xxxxx



To all Cyncoed Methodist church family and friends.

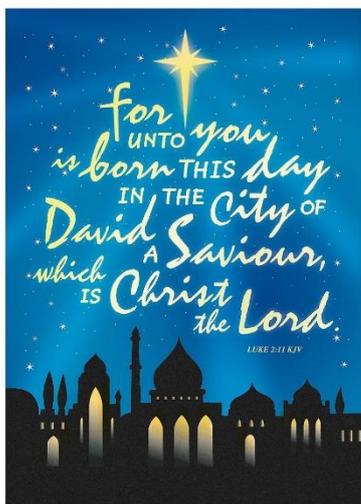
Praying that you will know the peace and joy of Christmas in this time of uncertainty and looking forward to being able to meet together again in worship.

With God's love and blessings,
Helen (Osborne)



Wishing you a blessed and Happy Christmas. I pray that in 2021 we all will be able to worship together in church.

Anne Isherwood.



Merry Christmas to all from Peter, Ann and Family.

The Christmas card factory:



Happy Christmas to everyone at
Cyncoed Methodist Church
from Fiona, Mike, Olivia (and
Poppy the dog!) XXXX

Christmas Charities.



Christmas is of course essentially about celebrating “Our God contracted to a span, incomprehensively made man”. One of the many ways we celebrate Christmas is by supporting charities. In Church we have traditionally supported Action for Children and Methodist Homes, both part of our Methodist family. For many of us Christmas is quite a self-indulgent time of year and it is good to remember people who are less fortunate than ourselves, and this year has been particularly hard for charities. You can support these funds through their individual websites. If you would prefer to pass the money through me then I would be happy to pass it on.

Please make cheques payable to Action for Children, Methodist Homes (National) or Morel Court Amenity Fund (MHA Penarth – local).

John Plumridge

An Alternative Christmas Cake

225 grams butter	110 grams glace pineapple
225 grams castor sugar	Orange and lemon rind finely grated
175 grams plain flour	110 grams ground mixed nuts
110 grams S.R flour	3 tablespoons sherry
1 teaspoon cinnamon	<i>To decorate</i>
4 eggs (medium)	Royal icing
225 grams sultanas	Or
110 grams apricots	1 tablespoon clear honey
110 grams glace cherries	Selection of mixed glace fruits

Method

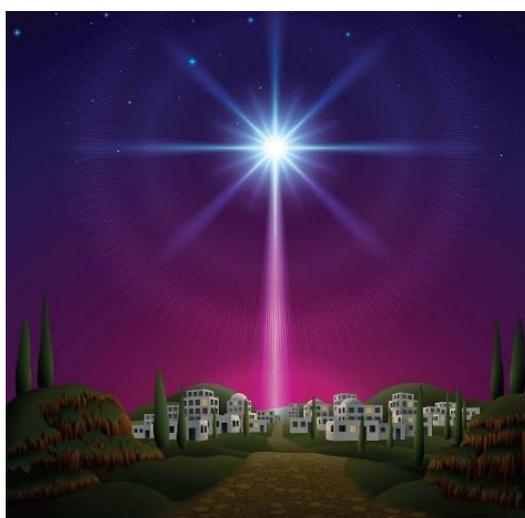
Mix the butter and sugar until they are almost white. Add one beaten egg at a time into the butter and sugar. Fold the flour and spice into the mixture with a metal spoon. Then add the fruits, the nuts, the grated orange peel and the sherry. Line an eight-inch tin with greaseproof paper and pour the mixture in. Cook at Gas mark 3 (325 degrees F, 170 degrees C) for 2 – 2 and a half hours. After the first hour turn the temperature down to Gas mark 2 (300 F, 150 C).

For a gluten free cake, substitute with Doves Farm Gluten Free S.R and plain flour.

For the clear topping, warm the honey until it is runny and gently pour over the cake. Place the fruit over the top.

For the royal icing, allow the cake to cool overnight and decorate the following day.

Helen Smith



A True Christmas

By Paul Zimmerman Jr.

A special time to remember when
Why we've gathered together again
The meaning far beyond the lights
And toys and gifts and cancelled flights

Not just a day there is no work
Or mushy cards that have their quirks
The time of year the whole world sees
The Son of God not Christmas trees

Oh the hours we did spend
And how much cash now in the end?
It seems we try so hard to please
Everyone but Christ it seems!

Madly dashing here and there
As if this earthly world should care
Longing for the things we own
Instead of seeking Heaven's Throne

Can we for once now just be still
And look at what is truly real?
Let us take time to reflect
The gift of Jesus, don't forget.

I would like to thank everyone who sponsored me when I took part in the 'virtual' Race for Life a couple of months ago, with your help and that of my family and friends I raised £580. Donations are vitally important but especially this year as, because of the virus, fund raising events have been limited or cancelled.

Thank you again, Alison H.

Boxes of Delight



It's not been an easy year in which to do Christmas shoe boxes but Glenna and Dave want to say a big thank you to everyone who has helped in any way at all with Operation Christmas Child. This year we worked in conjunction with our friends at Park End Presbyterian. Dave and Alison were able to deliver over 30 boxes and over £120 in donations. On top of that, we know that a good number of people in both churches have created a box online. It will be the New Year before we know what numbers were collected nationally but Highfields Church who act as a collection point for this area were thrilled to receive what we'd gathered. A little ray of light in a dark year.

Thank you so much.

The Shepherds and the Angel

Luke 2, v 8-20

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!"

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Shepherds afterwards

The night after they were back where it began,
Checking the walls of the fold,
Counting the sheep – twice – just in case,
And huddling together against the night.

There was no light to awaken them,
No voice to direct them,
No music to lift their spirits.

But they did what they had always done:
Made safe those sheep entrusted to their care;
Kept warm as best they could in the icy depth of winter;
Looked out for each other and each danger.
When it was their turn to watch
It seemed as if nothing was altered.
But, when they slept, their universe was transformed.
They saw again the figure in the heart of brightness;
They heard the choir with the song they could not forget;
They met again the child they had been sent to see.

So they learned to live with two certainties.
A hillside never changes
But, though they'd not suspected it before,
We can ... we do

Dave Kitchen

It's been a very strange year for everyone and usually we feel that our Christmas starts with our annual Carols by Candlelight evening. This would have been our 13th but there is always next year. So because we may not be able to do so in person, we wanted to write to say a big thank you for your continued support for **MAD4Kids** throughout the year. Fund raising events stopped with lock-down but supporters have continued to help us in so many other ways:

- through monthly donations to our support fund,
- generous individual donations,
- bringing us feeding jars full to the brim with 'small' change,
- getting involved with on-line race nights and Marvellous Menu booklets and
- carrying big bags to our front door full of children's shoes, pre-school toys and books as well as ...
- providing a regular supply of empty boxes to send everything off to Zambia.

It is a collective effort and we are so grateful because we know what a difference it makes to some very poor and vulnerable children living 5000 miles away but also in many ways a whole world away from the lives we are fortunate enough to live.

The attached newsletter helps to keep supporters up to date with news and we endeavour to add to the news blog on our website www.mad4kids.org.uk with regular short updates.

So we just wanted to say a huge thank you for your support and to wish you well over Christmas and beyond. The 'MAD4Kids choir' who usually lead the singing at our Carols evening, have generously paid for and recorded a video which you can watch using the following link - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OX-mmT8aQo&feature=share> to help ignite the festive spark that Carols by Candlelight creates for us. Our thanks to Bethan Frieze and all concerned and we hope you enjoy it.

We also thought that instead of falling asleep after the Queen's speech this year you might like to try the Christmas Family Quiz that the trustees have put together. Again, you can use the following link to access the powerpoint quiz - <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1Phv6m900cYdGSJoUIFYRfTRPikNvCncXldMs2UvMHig/edit?usp=sharing> and we've attached the answers and hope you have fun (it should take about 45 minutes). One tip from us – insist that the referee's decision is final, otherwise old family arguments could creep in!

With our sincere thanks and best wishes,

Sharon, Gareth, Rob, Ceri, Jodie and Alex

MAD4Kids

Quiz answers:

1. Advent
2. More than one, the Bible doesn't say how many!
3. Deep pan, crisp and even!
4. Elizabeth
5. St. Nicholas
6. 25 – there's no "L"
7. Bethlehem
8. 364
9. 1840's (1843 by Sir Henry Cole)
10. Three – Dasher, Dancer and Donner
11. Latvia
12. "Just like the ones I used to know"
13. Carpenter
14. The Anglo Saxons – it means "good health"
15. Shepherds
16. A six pence
17. Gabriel
18. In a manger

We hope you've enjoyed reading our newsletter – see you in 2021!

