

Message from the Editor

Helen Cooper

I'm afraid I have to begin this magazine with an apology. This year I am have been, and remain, very much run off my feet. Knowing this would be the case I issued warnings that Triangle articles in this edition would be published unedited from the form they were sent in i.e. grammar, spelling, and punctuation, and I'm afraid to say that I am remaining true to my word. So, to all you English language pedants out there I can only apologise, but if something does irk you then please take it up with the person whose article it is, and not me!!!

In addition, in the absence of a minster there is no 'Message from the Manse'. Nothing has been volunteered for these past two editions but if anyone feels that they would like to write the opening to the magazine then please feel free to contact me.

With best wishes for the coming Christmas season.



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Springdale Vestry News

Sheila Evans, Senior Steward



As 2012 draws to a close we can reflect on the roller coaster range of fortunes that Springdalers have experienced these last few weeks. We have lost two of our long standing members Betty Sennet and Madge Scrivens (who struggled to church just two weeks prior to her death) and Ruth Tong who sadly died whilst in hospital. Their funerals were well supported by our congregation and our heartfelt condolences have been given to their families.

Some of us attended the funeral and celebration service for Ken Hawkins on 13th November who had been Minister here 1973-83.

On a happier note we enjoyed the arrival of Elin Weighton, daughter of Caroline and Magnus and the marriage of Emma Partridge and Tom Varty on 6th October. The Church was packed, the sun shone and Rev. Linda Pearce was delighted with her first 'marriage service.'

The celebrations continued, our Harvest Festival was held on 30th September. Many thanks to all who helped in anyway. Wives held a party to celebrate 50 years of 'being' and it was a delight to welcome back some previous members.

The Church Anniversary (59th) was held on 14th October with a service of Holy Communion very ably led by Rev. Ivor Sperring.

We said 'goodbye' to Colin Turton who has done sterling service for fourteen years as our Treasurer and 'hello' to Nicola Jones who has taken over from him. Our thanks and good wishes to them both.

Finally a huge vote of thanks to members of the congregation who have helped with our services, we are hoping to hear about a possible appointment in February.

May I wish you all a healthy and happy festive season. God bless you all.

Wombourne Vestry News

Jane Meddings, Senior Steward



On the first Sunday in September we welcomed the Rev Lawrence Wallace to Wombourne. He has agreed to have ministerial oversight of our church during the next 12 months and we are grateful to him for offering us this time, especially as he holds down a busy job as Hospital Chaplain. At that service we were also joined by members of Sedgley and Wombourne Inner Wheel and Rotary clubs and in the evening we hosted the Circuit Service, which was a celebration of local preaching. Presentations were made to Alan Walker, who celebrated 40 years of local preaching and to Alex Blackmore, who has achieved an incredible 60 years as a local preacher. It was a privilege for us to be able to host this special service.

Our Ladies Day service was at the end of September and then we celebrated Harvest at the beginning of October. Unfortunately, due to unforeseen commitments at his chaplaincy, Lawrence was unable to lead our service but David Lavender gave permission for it to become a reader service and – as always – people were kind enough to contribute to the service by helping with the readings and prayers. It has become something of a tradition to hold a “bring and share” lunch following our harvest and this year was no exception. It is always good to spend time in food and fellowship. The church was filled with a grand display of produce which Brenda and Phil kindly took to the Good Shepherd that evening and we know they will have put it to immediate use. It is quite incredible to read about just how many people their ministry reaches out to – in the month of August alone they handed out almost 6,500 food parcels and this is just a part of what they do to help those in need in our city. Our toy service in December will also support this charity.

We held our All Saintside Memorial service on the morning of 28th October and it was good to welcome families of church members who had passed away during the year. The congregation wrote names of those they wanted to remember on cards and hung them on the large cross at the front of the church, and these remained a focal point throughout the service. On Remembrance Sunday we were joined by members of the uniformed organisations who presented their colours and joined us for coffee and squash after the service and we sang a lovely new hymn

which offered modern words to a traditional tune.

I have just come away from our church bazaar and as always thanks have to go to all those who help in both the preparations and on the day but especially to Gill who masterminds the whole operation. It is always a morning to catch up with friends and acquaintances and I know the people of Wombourne will have been generous as they supported our annual fund raiser.

And so we look forward to Advent – by the time you read this, Christmas will be nearly upon us. Let us not be so busy with the decorating, shopping, baking, present buying and wrapping that we forgot those who will not be looking forward to the festival, nor let us overlook the real reason why we celebrate - let's approach Christmas with an expectant hush not a last minute rush!!

Blessings to you all.

Springdale Pastoral News

Jane Rawlings, Pastoral Secretary



Hi all, who can believe it another year is shortly coming to an end and Christmas is only around the corner.

We have had a sad few months with the deaths of three of our members Betty Sennitt, Madge Scriven and Ruth Tong. All three ladies have been actively involved in the church over the years until health meant they could not with us on a regular basis. At this sad time we think especially of their families and friends who will find the coming months and years difficult. May we all be comforted in the knowledge that they are all with their Lord and are probably having a nice cup of tea and a chat together.

On the 9th September we welcomed Owen Sherrington with his family and friends to his baptism. May he continue to grow in the knowledge that God is with him every step of the way.

The baby boom continues with the safe arrival of Elin Lily Weighton on 24th September a daughter for Caroline and Magnus. Also a beautiful granddaughter for Penny and Dennis and Lisa and David. Audrey Mountain has also become a great grandmother for the first time with the birth of Autumn Mae on 14th November, which of course makes me a great aunt for the first time also (how old does that make me feel!).

On a beautiful day on 6th October people packed into the church for the wedding of Emma Partridge and Tom Varty. A glorious day was had by everyone. Congratulations, may you both continue to grow in your love of one another and enjoy a long and exciting life together. God bless you both.

During the last few months I have been hearing about a number of couples celebrating special anniversaries. So that I don't miss anyone out or get the number of years wrong, I will just pass on our congratulations to anyone who has celebrated a special day recently. May you all have many more years together.

Well this is the last triangle for this year so may I take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

God Bless

Community Hymn Singing at Wombourne

Denis Beaumont

Wombourne Methodist Church is launching a coffee morning, followed by community hymn singing on the first Thursday of the month, commencing on Thursday 7th February. Coffee will be available from 10.00am to 11.00am, then community hymn singing will take place in the church from 11.00am to 12.00 noon. Come along and choose your favourite hymns, meet friends and have a good time of fellowship.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Brenda Shuttleworth

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!

The opening words of one of our best-loved Christmas hymns which we will all sing at least once during the Christmas season, I have no doubt. We love the hymn, I suppose, because it expresses so well the wonder we feel about the incarnation, God made man.

But was it really so silent? People had travelled from far and wide to register in their home district so the town was full to bursting; houses offering shelter to relatives and the inns packed. As relatives and friends gathered, we may expect that the town was alive with conversation. And alongside this was the ever present watchful eye of the Roman army.

Today as then Bethlehem lives under occupation. It is a sobering thought that this Christmas Mary and Joseph would not be able to travel to Bethlehem unless they had managed to obtain a permit. As Arab-Israeli citizens of Nazareth in the Galilee, it would be unlikely that they would be granted permission to travel into the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

Shepherds would not be keeping watch on the hillside – the area of Beit Sahour, traditionally held to be the site of the shepherds fields, is now overlooked by an Israeli settlement which encroaches over the hillside. The citizens of Beit Sahour live with the constant threat of settler violence and house demolitions.

Magi travelling from the East would find the separation barrier [a 20 m high wall around Bethlehem] an obstacle. Goodness knows how their camels would get through the turnstiles!

As we prepare for the coming of the Prince of Peace into our world at Christmas, let us spend time to pray in solidarity with the living stones; Palestinians and Israelis who work tirelessly to build peace with justice in the Holy Land, particularly in the municipality of Bethlehem.

I think of Nader and his team at the YMCA in Beit Sahour who plant olive trees in vandalised orchards and who offer rehabilitation programmes to child prisoners who have been held illegally in Israeli jails. I think of Rania and her team at the Sumud Story House, partners with Pax Christi, who work with women from the villages around Bethlehem, building confidence and teaching practical skills. I think of Zoughbi Zoughbi and his team at Wi'am, the conflict resolution centre which sits beneath the shadow of the wall and where children work on programmes that give them respite from the tensions of living under occupation. I think of all those men who queue patiently in the darkness waiting for the Gilo checkpoint to open so that they can go to work in Jerusalem.

O Little town of Bethlehem - we pray for your peace.

Fair Trade Update

Brenda Shuttleworth

On 30th November the Mayor of Wolverhampton was presented with a certificate which had been awarded to the City Fair Trade Partnership by the Fair Trade Foundation. Dr. Barbara Gwinnett received the award on behalf of the Partnership at the Fairtrade Supporters Conference in London in October. The award recognised the achievements of the Partnership in outreach and networking.

The Partnership recently submitted evidence to renew our Fair Trade City status with the Fair Trade Foundation. We were particularly commended for the fair trade fashion show which is an ongoing feature in our Just Fayre - particular congratulations and thanks are due to Elaine Jones from Cranmer for the energy she gives to this aspect of the fayre.

The churches have always been a very important part of fair trade in Wolverhampton and as the city seeks to expand its work in fair trade to reach its development goals, our commitment is vital.

Thanks are due to all of you who support the fair trade movement both in our churches and in the wider community.

Browsing on the Web

Jackie Neilson

Well- can you believe it, me doing that. Looking for a poem for Poetry Group, the task set was find a poem or poet from Southern Africa. Well, no name sprung to mind for me to delve in my poetry anthologies- Plan A not productive. So, try Plan B- the web. I googled Table Mountain poems and up came Walking in Crickhowell. Don't go there, too long to explain, suffice to say I found a suitable poem. I didn't lose too much time "playing" with the computer to find it but that's the trouble ten minutes can soon lose you an hour of your time, or longer. However, this deviation enabled me to come across this little quote (Crickhowell again') Perhaps parents or grandparents should pin this up for children (and teenagers) to see, and take note themselves.

"So please, oh please, we beg, we pray,
Go throw your TV set away
And in its place you can install
A lovely bookshelf on the wall"

R.Dahl. Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.

The moral of this tale.

We need technology- we can't close the stable door, but we can choose to use all these tools wisely and not let them run our lives. Let's chill - and listen to the silence, read a book, talk to people, or heaven forbid write a letter (handwriting, of course).

Jackie Neilson. 20.11.12.

P.S. This wont become a habit, I get a bit cross having to wait and fiddle, . As Shirley
Conran (Superwoman fame) once said "Life's too short to stuff a mushroom. "
Enjoy life.

'Food for the Journey' Weekend

Lesley Cook

“Sharing the Good News - Communicating the Gospel in Word and Action” was the title of the weekend that we spent at Swanwick in September. We being Liz Green, Lucy, Helen, and Lesley Cook from Springdale. We were joined by Methodists and Anglicans from all around the Midlands. It was so interesting to meet so many different Christian folk round the dinner table and we thank the Committee for providing us with yet another opportunity for lay people to learn together ecumenically.

The weekend was led by Kathy Galloway, Graham Maule and Joanne Love from the Iona Community based in Glasgow. Kathy, former leader of the Iona Community and now head of Christian Aid, Scotland, gave two key-note speeches about communicating the Gospel the Iona way – with a great emphasis on justice and peace. Graham Maule – you will have seen his name in our hymn books – and Joanne led two workshops on Worship and there were also two opportunities to sing Iona songs, often in four-part harmony, worship morning and evening and other small group sessions. Did we have time to eat?! Yes – the meals were splendid and very filling and the bedrooms most comfortable.

There is so much I could tell you about – all relevant to the life and worship of our own churches – but I will just choose a few highlights.

I enjoyed a session led by Graham on “Worship as Best Experience” – what would you have said was your best experience of worship? Why? Our responses were many and varied but most of us thought it was when music, sound, drama, participation, openness to the Holy Spirit and surprise all come together. Graham gave us five elements which should all be part of worship.

Sound. (One voice, many, instruments, drums, hammering of nails)

Silence. (With help as to what to do in that silence)

Symbol. (communion, candles, cross, stones)

Colour.

Movement.

The most dispensable, and often least memorable, is “words”. What do you think?

At the end of this session we performed an interesting and, for some, quite scary exercise. But it was certainly memorable! We heard the story of Jesus healing a paralysed man at the Pool of Bethzatha (John 5: 1-18) In groups of four we were given the roles of Jesus, the healed man, a Pharisee, and a man not healed that day and we were then asked to have various conversations. Can you imagine what they had to say to each other? We certainly felt we had really understood that particular bible passage.

Kathy’s final lecture moved us all greatly. She used the story of Jacob and Esau to reflect on the struggles of the rich and the poor in the world today. She encouraged us, as Christians, to live an alternative way – to look at the difference between our needs and our wants, with a warning that advertising can make our wants into needs. We should bring up our children not to idolize money and the latest gadgets, but to try to take small actions which can bring about change to the inequality of our country and of our world.

Look out for the next “Food for the Journey” session in 2014. It will only be a day session, but they are always worthwhile.

SAD

Bernard Davis

Are you a SAD person? I am not asking if you are disconsolate, unhappy or miserable; but do you suffer from Seasonal Affective Disorder? I do and I am so glad that Advent occurs in December when we have our shortest hours of daylight.

Advent and the Christmas season help me to get through the darkest period of winter. I don’t do any gardening but I have time to reflect on the real meaning of this time.

The season of Christmas is not about being frantic: how many cards must I write, how can I save on postage by hand delivery, how many presents must I buy? It is about spiritual values.

I like the beginning of Advent. We start on the first Sunday (2nd of December this year) and light the first candle which reminds us that we are the people of God. Jesus said that we must be in the world but not of it. If we are in the world we can be his hands, his heart, his ears, his eyes and can look to see where we can help. We must, however, live by his values and standards and not live by the corrupt standards of this world.

When the candle is lit I am reminded that Jesus is the light of the world. His teaching brings light into a world darkened by evil. There are many people who are like sheep without a shepherd. They wander about aimlessly and cannot enjoy life. I could cite many instances of disaffected youth and older members of society. One recent case comes into my mind. A young lady aged sixteen got so drunk that she got off the train at the wrong station. She then leaned against the train in her drunken state and the guard gave the signal for the train to move off, He thought she had stepped away from the train. Unfortunately she fell to her death. How sad for her family!

Each Advent Sunday a candle is lit and the emphasis changes. The second candle is lit for the prophets and there are many wonderful references to Jesus especially in Isaiah. The third candle is for John the b

Baptist who was to prepare the way for Jesus. On the fourth Sunday we remember Mary who readily agreed to become the mother of Jesus with the words “ I am the Lord’s servant. May it be to me as you have said” She had complete trust in God and in Gabriel’s message.

I hope you all enjoy the beautiful Advent hymns and Christmas carols, our Advent candle liturgy and our special services and have time to reflect on God’s love in sending Jesus to be the Way, the Truth and the Life.

Yours in Christ.

Congratulations to Norman and Sheila Priest, who are celebrating there Golden Wedding Anniversary on the 1st of December.

From Laura Priest

Neighbourhood Policing

Nicola Jones

The Local Neighbourhood Police have offered some advice about helping to keep to ourselves safe at this time of year and deterring others from breaking in.

Check your back gardens. Ask yourself, 'How would I do it?' Majority of burglars enter via the rear of the property. How would they get into the back garden? Do you have broken fence panels? Gate unlocked? Do you back onto natural escape routes like canals / walkways / paddocks / railway lines. Is my shed locked? Burglars will use your garden tools to prise open doors and windows. Invest in prickly bushes / hedges at vulnerable access points. 'As good as razor wire' a burglar once told me after he had scaled a fence in his summer shorts.

Now check your windows and doors. Are they secure? If secure are they weak? Window locks are good, but don't leave the key in them.

Where's the bin? Lets not give the criminal a leg up through the window. If they get in they want to be quick.

Don't leave valuables / cash in sight. Make them difficult to find. Where do you hide your wallet/handbag . Lets not be obvious. Imagine - That treasured ring, watch, brooch, earrings, and necklace in the possession of someone who will sell it for a Tenner! House insurance does not cover sentiment.

We are fast approaching Christmas – Our burglars know that our houses are going to be filled to the rafters with presents wrapped ready under the tree for the neighbourhood police sergeant. Please do all you can to protect them.

THINK LIKE THE CRIMINAL!

Village Hall Extension

Official Opening 27th April

Please note that the village hall will be closed until the opening. It will be closed again after being opened, but will be open temporarily on the 24th for a rehearsal of the opening, after which it will be closed until the Opening. It will remain closed for a while after the opening, after which opening times and closing times will be as normal.

This article was found in a Parish Magazine by John Philpott.

Stained Glass Windows

People are like stained glass windows,
Shining when the sun is out.
But when dark,
Their true beauty only shows
If there is a light within.

Displayed at St. Peter's Mission, Minehead, Somerset.

Jackie Neilson.

Irish Friendship Week

May there always be work for your hands to do,
May your purse hold a coin or two,
May the sun always shine on your window pane,
May a rainbow be certain to follow each rain,
May the hand of a friend always be near you,
May God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you.

Anon. Found in a book. Jackie N.

Bus Pass

They gave to me a bus pass
and said "Go where you like,
we know the days have come and gone
when you could ride your bike.

"Your carbon footprint's shrinking
when you leave the car at home.
So come with us, get on a bus
And let us help you roam."

But I've been here for ages,
And a bus I haven't seen,
I'm feeling cold and turning blue
Instead of going green!

I had an urge to wander
And to venture far and wide,
I'd packed myself a lunch
That I could peck at on the ride.

Now I'm not one to get upset,
Nor one to make a fuss,
But it's no use to have a pass
If you don't have a bus!

I'll wait a little longer,
After all, I've come this far.
But if it doesn't come by twelve,
I'm off to fetch the car.

Pam Davies

Pauline Hotchkiss came across this in The People's Friend Annual



CARDS FOR GOOD CAUSES

... caring at Christmas with Charity Cards

It's All In The Cards

It's been a funny sort of year, as my Mother was fond of saying. Thankfully, the predicted (by some) Dickensian winter failed to materialise. An unexpectedly warm and sunny March raised our hopes of a glorious summer. And then we shivered and dripped our way through one of the wettest summers on record. Only a successful and inspiring Olympic celebration raised the national spirits – and now here we are – winter again! Not surprisingly that, writing in late September, I've heard so many people say *'I really don't want to think about Christmas this year!'*

So, with economic gloom still wrapped around the country, how will we celebrate Christmas 2012? Will it be a more muted celebration, reflecting the difficult times in which we are living? Will we see a general drawing back from the commercialisation of the season, the frenzied getting and spending, the hassle and extravagance? And, if many do opt for a simpler Christmas this year; wouldn't that be rather a good thing? *After all, the message of Christmas is Love, Joy and Peace – commodities that really aren't available to buy in shops!*

My guess is that, when the time comes, boats **will** be pushed out, but maybe not so far as in former years. My own 'must haves' will include:

'The Tree' with my favourite decorations – essential

Mince pies – in moderation

Chocolate – obviously

Lots of Christmas carols – but at home, not in the shops

And, of course, sending many Christmas cards with the annual exchange of news with friends near and far.

*I love keeping in touch in this way, and regular readers will know that by Christmas cards I mean **CHARITY CHRISTMAS CARDS**, because they do so much good and give such value for money. And, as always, the biggest and best selection of **Charity Christmas Cards** in Wolverhampton is to be found at the*

CARDS FOR GOOD CAUSES

**Multi Charity Christmas Card Shop
In St Peter's House Coffee Shop
Exchange Street (just off Queen Square)**

**Open from 29 October to 13 December
Monday to Friday 10.00am to 3.00pm
Saturday 10am to 1pm**

You will find a huge range of cards from more than 25 local and national charities and a happy band of volunteers to help you make your choice. There's a wide selection of Christmas goods too – Advent Calendars, wrapping paper, small gifts and stocking fillers. Something for everyone and all very reasonably priced too.

Why not make choosing your cards an occasion? Bring your friends and, having made your purchases, treat yourself to coffee and one of the St Peter's House delicious scones.

'Buy once, give twice' is a CARDS FOR GOOD CAUSES motto. By buying charity cards not only will you be sending season's greetings to friends and family but you'll also be contributing to the much needed funds of your favourite good causes. CARDS FOR GOOD CAUSES guarantees to return at least 75p out of every £1 to the charities whose cards it sells.* In these straitened times, when every penny counts, that's real value for money and the charities you support in this way will be very, very grateful.

We look forward to seeing you this Christmas season. You can buy online too! Visit www.cardsforgoodcauses.co.uk

M. E. Smith

**CARDS FOR GOOD CAUSES (CFGC) pays the participating charities (or their trading subsidiaries) at least 75p in every pound from their card sales, less the VAT payable on the amount retained by CFGC. The retained amount covers CFGC's costs of running the temporary charity Christmas card shops. In addition to these costs, the participants have to pay for the production and distribution of their cards.'*

200 Years of Methodist Heritage at Gospel Ash

Tom Butler

The first records of Gospel Ash are recorded on the Dudley Circuit Plan for the year 1827. At that time meetings were held in a small Farm House the home of Mr John Southall. It must be assumed that meetings had been taking place for some time before that, therefore there has been Methodism in Gospel Ash for about 200 years.

The first chapel was built in 1830 on land given by Mr Southall, who also hauled the bricks. The cost of this building was £80. The chapel had five pews seating four people, the other seats were plain benches and it is said the building could accommodate 70 people. This must have been a real crush, so you had to get there early to get a good seat. There was no organ, no heating and no lamps, lighting only by candles. When oil lamps were provided in the 1860s with evening services packed to the door, the lamps would not work properly due to poor ventilation! (No health and safety in those days). A need for bigger and more spacious accommodation became apparent. Due to the generosity of local Land Owners the present building was opened in 1884, having cost £500 to build. At first the present building had oil lamps and a combustion stove which was placed just to the right of the doors as you enter the church. This must have been a good incentive to arrive early during the winter to get a good seat, however there were seat rents!

In those days the organ (a Harmonium) was placed under the pulpit before being moved to the side of the building where the present organ now resides. The combustion stove was replaced and central heating installed, fuelled by a coke furnace. Unfortunately one cold winter in the late 1940s the boiler froze and burst. The Sunday services were then continued in

what is now the Community Room for some considerable time until an electric heating system was installed. The community room was heated by a coal fire, so if you sat at the front you were cooked but if you sat at the back you were frozen, however an electric heater at the rear helped to keep the cold at bay. Of course, some of this was before my time and these details are from records and old photographs.

Roy Walton our Senior Steward has been attending Gospel Ash from a baby. Roy's Grandfather, Mr Gibson was one of the founding fathers of the present building and he was followed by his children who also played the organ up until their deaths, so Roy is the third generation who attended. We give thanks for Roy's family who gave so much leadership to the chapel over the years.

But what of the life of the church? There was a thriving Sunday school with anniversaries on a raised platform. Christmas parties for the Sunday school children and an annual coach outing to the seaside each year. Later the members went out for a meal on a summer evening and attended house fellowships.

Fund raising was also high on the agenda during the 60s and 70s and concerts and jumble sales aided the funds to change some of the outdated equipment. The ministry of the church still continue and looking back has been instrumental in the lives of so many people, some who have used their Christian experience in the countries they emigrated to and others becoming ministers in other denominations.

I only started to attend Gospel Ash as a child when my family moved to Bobbington in 1945. The first Sunday after moving we all walked from Bobbington to Gospel Ash, as petrol was still rationed.

During the ensuing years many events have taken place either to raise money or to improve our mission in the community. To this end 10 years ago a decision was made to bring the premises into the 21st century. A great effort took place and the rear premises were enlarged and modernised, with much financial help from Land Fill Trusts and the premises are now widely used by the local community and the Wolverhampton Circuit and surrounding Circuits for quiet days and meetings.

While the membership is small we have still tried to maintain a sense of mission such as the once monthly coffee mornings and Harvest Festival at the Vineyard and last year the “Come to the Manger” event at the Old Barn, with our friends from the parish church at Bobbington. This event will continue this Christmas and in all of this we have been ably supported by friends from the Springdale and Wombourne churches as well as those farther afield. Over the years the members have repaired roofs, taken down wobbly chimneys, replaced drains, repaired and replaced water pipes all good fun. Gospel Ash is a special place and has an aura that can be felt, as those who have worshiped there can testify. As one person put it the very walls of this chapel are soaked with the prayers of the faithful.

However, at this sad time of having to close the premises, I have been greatly privileged to have worked with, talked to and worshiped with some incredible Christian people at Gospel Ash. These people I would refer to as true Saints as they demonstrated to all, their Christian faith in their daily lives to all who met them. It is through them that my life and faith has been developed, deepened, strengthened and enriched and they will always remain in my memories. While it is sad to see the closure of this beautiful Chapel we must give thanks for all the lives that have been touched and changed by the people who have passed through its doors.

‘Tis Jesus the first and the last,
Whose spirit will guide us safe home;
We’ll praise him for all that is PAST
And TRUST Him for all that’s to COME.

I am wishing for you...

Bishop Remington

I am wishing for you this day a happy Christmas. I would send you those gifts which are beyond price, outlast time, and bridge all space. I wish you all laughter and pure joy, a merry heart and a clear conscience, and love which thinks no evil, is not easily provoked, and seeks not its own; the fragrance of flowers, the sweet associations of holly and mistletoe and fir, the memory of deep woods, of peaceful hills, and of the mantling snow, which guards the sleep of all God's creatures. I wish that the spirit of Christmastide may draw you into companionship with him who giveth all. Come, let us adore him.

Announcing the Birth of Jesus

An angel then told Joseph,
Through dream, "Be not afraid!
Take Mary now and love her,
She is God's faithful maid."

"And through the Holy Spirit
She will conceive a child,
Emmanuel, God with us,
So it is prophesied."

"He will be known as Jesus,
An ancient, sacred name,
For He will save forever
The world from sin and shame."



Matt. 1 v18-25.

Gospel in Rhyme.
D. Elwyn Davies.

J.N.

People are often...

Kent M Keith

“People are often unreasonable and self-centred. Forgive them anyway. If you are kind, people may accuse you of ulterior motives. Be kind anyway. If you are honest, people may cheat you. Be honest anyway. If you find happiness, people may be jealous. Be happy anyway. The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow. Do good anyway. Give the world the best you have and it may never be enough. Give your best anyway. For you see, in the end, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway.”

Christmas Thoughts to Finish...

Every year we celebrate the holy season of Advent, O God. Every year we pray those beautiful prayers of longing and waiting, and sing those lovely songs of hope and promise. *Karl Rahner*

The supernatural birth of Christ, his miracles, his resurrection and ascension, remain eternal truths, whatever doubts may be cast on their reality as historical facts. *David F Strauss*

Christmas, children is not a date. It is a state of mind. *Mary Ellen Chase*

The earth has grown old with its burden of care, but at Christmas it always is young, the heart of the jewel burns lustrous and fair, and its soul full of music breaks the air, when the song of angels is sung. *Phillips Brooks*

There are lots of Grinches out there that would like nothing better than to take any references to religion out of the holiday season. *Ernest Istook*

Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas. *Calvin Coolidge*

If you haven't got any charity in your heart you have the worst kind of trouble. *Bob Hope*

Happy, happy Christmas, that can win us back to the delusions of our childhood days, recall to the old man the pleasures of his youth, and transport the traveller back to his own fireside and quiet home! *Charles Dickens*

When we were children we were grateful to those who filled our stockings at Christmas time. Why are we not grateful to God for filling our stockings with legs? *Gilbert K Chesterton*

Christmas, my child, is love in action. Every time we love, every time we give, it's Christmas. *Dale Evans*

He who has not Christmas in his heart will never find it under a tree. *Roy Smith*

Expectancy is the atmosphere for miracles. *Edwin Louis Cole*

To perceive Christmas through its wrappings becomes more difficult with every year. *E B White*

The real evidence for Jesus and Christianity is in how Jesus and the Christianity based on him manifest themselves in the lives of practicing Christians. *Lionel Blue*

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Please hand in your articles directly, or via your stewards, to **Helen Cooper**. Alternatively, follow the link on the Springdale website in the "contacts" section (www.springdalechurch.org.uk) or just email to triangle@springdalechurch.org.uk