

A Word from the Editor:

Another Christmas is almost upon us, so another wonderful opportunity for us to celebrate the birth of Jesus. However, as Paul Glass writes in his Christmas Letter, Christmas should not just be about rushing around in preparation for the festivities but thinking about how to connect with the story. Thanks as ever to Paul for his contribution.

In recent weeks we have been pleased to welcome Anna Carrington to KMC and in this issue Anna has kindly provided a potted history about herself and her family. I hope you enjoy reading about the history of the Christmas Tree and how the sending of Christmas cards



came about. While exchanging cards at Christmas does not get any cheaper, particularly if they have to be posted, they are one way of keeping in touch with others. Another way is sending greetings via this Magazine which is exactly what some KMC members have chosen to do this year, as you will read.

I want to thank the three KMC members who shared their recipes for "Recipe Corner." Rest assured, although we have found some photographs, feel free to experiment without having to worry about comparing your end result with the finished products pictured, as these were made by people you'll never meet! I am indebted to Penny Putman for putting her reservations aside and allowing me to interview her for this issue. When she agreed she had no idea what I had in mind given this is the Christmas issue. Luckily (for me) she was not deterred and entered into the Christmas spirit as you will see. Thank you, Penny.

I think Eileen Lane should be made the official Magazine correspondent. In this issue Eileen has kindly produced reviews of the Neighbourhood Party held at Trinity Methodist Church recently and our very own Christmas Tea that she, along with a number of other older folk, attended on 10th December. By all accounts, a good time was had by all who attended both events. With thanks to Eileen on her sterling work!

Finally, I would like to thank Ruth Pugh for finding the time during her busy schedule when she was working in India, to produce her newsletter that we have been able to publish in the KMC Magazine for a number of years now. I am sure I speak for all of us in wishing her excellent health and happiness in the future, and good luck in whatever may come next for her as she settles back to life in England. It is nearly Christmas so it would not be the same if this issue did not have a wordsearch and a quiz. I hope you find time over the festive period to give them a go. It only leaves me to wish you all a happy and enjoyable Christmas in whatever ways you decide to celebrate it, and that the New Year is a peaceful and safe one for us all.

Robin Spice, Editor

KMC MAGAZINE

Editor: Robin Spice. Layout & design: Allan Wright. Proof Reader: Yvette Wright **NEXT ISSUE: Look out for information about the copy deadline in The Notices.**

Copy to: Robin Spice - editor@knaphillmethodist.co.uk

Message from Paul:



Hello everyone.

I sometimes wonder whether I have to free myself from Christmas in order to see Christmas properly. Let me try and explain what I mean.

I quite like a lot of the things that go along with Christmas. I love roast turkey dinners.....who doesn't like presents? I enjoy walking down High Streets and seeing the twinkle of Christmas lights. I will certainly enjoy sitting down on Christmas Day evening this year and watching Doctor Who!

However...and I think it is quite a big 'however'...I also get the feeling as I read the story again and as I ponder what all of this means - I get the feeling that all the stuff that I enjoy about Christmas also gets in the way of what is really happening.

We all know that Christmas has become a marketing exercise - and I'm not going to say that all of that is wrong - but getting things in perspective is important. If we rush around doing so much beforehand that the day itself becomes a slight anti-climax then somehow we've missed the point.

Last Christmas Day my wife Janet and I went from the morning service at Cranleigh to the University of Surrey where we spent a couple of hours dishing out Christmas lunch to over 500 students and their families who had been unable to go home for the Christmas holiday. There was eating, there were crackers and silly paper hats, there was the campus rabbi dressed up as a reindeer (or was it a moose?) - there were lots of smiles and photos to send home. We got back to our house at about 3pm tired, but with a feeling that we had done something different - something that had enabled us to connect with the story in a new way. We had done our small part in enabling light to come into the world.

Immanuel - God with us. God coming into creation as light and hope and peace. God understanding what it is like to be us. How can we discover that truth anew this Christmas?

Have a wonderful celebration.

Paul Glass



While Shoppers Thronged

While shoppers thronged the streets tonight And snapped up Christmas cheer, A baby boy was quietly born In a stable dark and drear.

"I'm here," he called to passers-by And some went in and stared, But others kept on buying gifts; They hadn't really cared.

As they rushed home to write the cards And decorate the tree, They didn't see him waiting, or His wish to set them free.

The lights are up, the cake's been baked It's party time again.
They're much too busy having fun
To think about his pain.

"We're having goose for lunch this year Of course, it costs much more, But we're not having Auntie Flo, She really is a bore."

The cards show Santa filling sacks Or robins in the snow. But who's the cute babe in the crib? Nobody seems to know.

He is the King, the Lord of Life Who came because we sin. God's gift to us at Christmas time If we'd just let him in.

So, celebrate with all your heart And hands and mind and voice. Enjoy the riches of his grace, And in his love rejoice.



A Hello from Anna Carrington

By the time you read this Anna will have visited KMC twice in recent weeks so hopefully many of you will have met her. Below is some background information that you might not know. With thanks to Anna and we look forward to welcoming her again in the New Year.

Hi, my name is Anna Carrington, and I am a student minister. I study parttime at the Queen's Foundation in Birmingham, which is an ecumenical college. This involves going to Birmingham roughly once a month for residential weekends and weekly teaching sessions on Zoom. I also have the privilege of gaining practical experience in the Wey Valley Circuit alongside my studies.

I have a husband called Paul and an 8-year-old son called Elishama, and we live in Farnham. Elishama is a Hebrew name which means 'my God heard'. As a family, we love listening to music and going to the cinema together.

Prior to my training, we were members at North Camp Methodist Church, which is in the Hants and Surrey Borders Circuit. I didn't grow up going to church but came to faith when I was 26 years old. The first time I stepped into a Methodist Church, I felt instantly at home and have received this wonderful sense of welcome in every Methodist Church I have visited. I look forward to getting to know you all in the weeks and months to come!



Just Enough Light in the Darkness

The value of hopes and dreams can go down as well as up and you may get back less than you invested. Past performance is no guarantee of future performance.

I learned this in December 2016. My year-overdue sabbatical from ministry was starting. How I needed rest, refreshment and recharging, after the previous few years. Mum had died in 2014. The following year, we went down from four staff to just me when colleagues unexpectedly left their appointments early. "Last man standing," I called myself. Someone had to give hope and be a safe person for shattered church members. "Just about standing" would have been more accurate. Later that year came a change in responsibilities: I was bereaved of a lovely small church to take on a more challenging one.

The staff losses were why I had to delay the sabbatical. But they – and the other events- were why I desperately needed one.

I was going to catch up on some theology. Reading good theology feeds me. I was going to take some training courses in my hobby of digital photography. Those were the plans.

So much for plans, though. My father's health took a turn for the worse. He was suffering from Alzheimer's disease. As a family, we were going through the first of two bereavements that condition brings: not the loss of his body in death, but the loss of the personality we loved. Mercifully, he had not become aggressive as some dementia patients do; rather, he had become a naughty teenager again, forever recounting his mischievous antics at grammar school during World War Two.

But Alzheimer's does much more than that. It impaired him from recognising basic bodily signals, from hunger and thirst to balance. The memory loss meant he forgot that he was catheterised. Put these two things together, and he would try to get out of bed to go to the toilet in the night, but would then fall, only to be found by his carer at breakfast time. And that doesn't include the times he decided he wanted to remove the catheter. (I still wince at the thought).

Thus, in the space of one week that December, I was called to medical emergencies six times by his carers. I got to know the ambulance crews well. I took to leaving my mobile phone on at night.

My Christmas Day began at 5.25am. It wasn't the sound of our children waking with excitement, but that of my phone. Dad's voice: "Dave, I've got a problem." Another trip to A&E, before being brought back home to his flat. Christmas lunch was Dad & I eating cheese rolls.

In January, he had a serious fall, and the hospital declared it was no longer safe for him to live at home. Three weeks later, he was admitted to a nursing

home, where this once shy man started chatting up the pretty young women on the staff, under the influence of his dementia.

My sabbatical never recovered. Most of the photography training didn't happen. I couldn't get my brain to obey orders to study theology. Some niggling chronic health issues worsened, and when I did return to ministry, it was not to the old pattern of morning, noon and night, six days a week. A nurse told me that could be deadly for me.

On 1st August 2017, the doorbell rang at 8.50am and there stood a police constable. I thought he must have come to ask something of me as a community leader. No. He had called to tell me that Dad had unexpectedly passed away earlier that morning. The man who had given me a love for cricket, rugby, photography, and Tottenham Hotspur was gone. The man who had been the greatest influence on my life apart from Christ was now with his Lord.

Dad's death was the deepest darkness in a period of ever-darkening grey. Now the grey shaded into black. Life became a long trudge of limping along, just about getting the essentials done.

On to December 2017. Advent. And at last, a spiritual morsel to feed my hunger for meaning. "Arise, shine, for your light has come, the glory of the Lord has risen upon you." "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light." The Advent hope is full of light barging in on the darkness. Angels blaze with light over the shepherds' night-time vigil. A mysterious light performs sat-nav duties for the Magi. John in the beginning of his Gospel writes, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." That was it. The coming of Christ was just enough light in the darkness.

It's like the ending to Mark's Gospel. Mark, having almost certainly written his Gospel for Christians suffering persecution for their faith in Rome under the Emperor Nero, writes a measly eight verses about the Resurrection. Just enough light for their darkness.

That's the Advent hope for me: just enough light in the darkness. Sometimes that's all people need.

Just enough light in the darkness. Not only is it sometimes all that people need. For some, it can be all they can handle. But it's enough.

Reproduced by kind permission of Rev Dave Faulkner





Neighbourhood Party at Trinity Methodist Church

Neighbourhood parties are held at Trinity Methodist Church twice every year for housebound people. So it was that in October Nelly, Eileen, and Jo accompanied by Vicki attended the event together with Raj. Eileen reports as follows:

We were warmly greeted at the door and then showed to a table. The five of us were then welcomed by our assigned table hostess. A sumptuous spread of sandwiches, sausage rolls, nibbles, and homemade cakes along with tea and coffee were served.

Shortly after this the entertainment began. It was presented by the Chinese community who worship at Trinity. There was dancing and instrumental music. One particular instrument was fascinating because it was Chinese. It was like a glockenspiel that had all the strings of a harp on it. The sound reminded me of the Chinese Opera I once went to in Beijing. It had a mournful resonance to it. The children (as pictured) were all gifted musically and with their different instruments thoroughly entertained everyone present.



Towards the end of the afternoon, Nelly & Jo also had the opportunity to make a key ring (see left). All in all, it was a splendid occasion.

Eileen Lane

KSS Update

The Special Coffee Morning held at KMC on 9th September raised money for KSS Air

Ambulance.



We are delighted to give an update on the amount raised - it rose wonderfully to £1,027.15! Well done to Tarina Berry for organising everyone





to reach this fantastic total. A certificate was presented to Tarina recently, and is seen here.

When you all get you shiny new 2024 diary for Christmas, please put in the date for the 3rd KSS Coffee Morning on 7th September 2024. It will be

opened by Jonathan Lord MP. All welcome!





We again had a plethora of speakers this term. We started off playing the DVD recording of John Mynard's version of Ruth, a musical he wrote and directed some years ago, a few of you may remember appearing in it!! A talk on King Charles and his Coronation followed by Rob Rattee, which we all found most interesting. We had a couple of members lead meetings; Marilyn Meller talked about her life as a farmer's wife and Shelia Mynard told us the life story of Gladys Aylward, thank you ladies. We also heard from Ann Tilbury, who writes a column in the Woking News and Mail each week, a very entertaining talk! Finally, we had a lady from the Leprosy Mission bringing us up to date on their continuing work in the poorest countries in the world. By the time you read this, we will also have had a Christmas Celebration with tea and prose from members.

Programme for next term - Spring 2024:

17th January KSS - Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance.

7th February Rev Paul Glass.

21st February Eileen Lane talking about her life. 6th March Anna Carrington – Love Feast.

20th March Allan Wright on the restoration of a BN-2 Islander aircraft. This is a short term as Easter is early next year. We meet in Room 3 at 2.00pm.

For more information, please contact Barbara on 01483 824469

Barbara Humphries barbara@knaphillmethodist.co.uk



Family News

Many congratulations to **Ella Allen** who celebrated her **90th birthday** on 7th October. With the assistance of her daughter, she held a party on a day which like the weather, was absolutely wonderful.

Ella says, "as most of you know I was ninety years old in October, and I would like to thank you all for remembering my birthday. I will not forget it either! My celebrations went on for days and I have still got one or two more presents which I will enjoy in the New Year! I saw relatives I hadn't seen for many years and, of course, I saw many of you too! Thank you so much."









Congratulations are also due to Sally & Mike Allison who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on 3rd December. They were married at KMC in 1983. Lucky for those who were at the church service earlier this month because Sally had been busy baking and brought in two cakes to share with us all to mark the occasion.



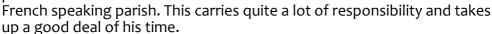
Thanks must go to Shirley Chase, as unbeknown to her, her display of roses which she provided in recognition of her recent birthday, made a great backdrop in the photograph seen here. It just seemed too good an opportunity to miss given the occasion – thanks again Shirley, and hope you had a good birthday.



Finally, we remember **Gill Balls** and family following the passing of **Carl** and his funeral which was held on 30th November. Gill wanted to express this message to us:

"We would like to thank all the members of KMC for the love and support shown to them over the past year or so during the illness and death of Carl and all the support at the funeral. Special thanks also to Paul Glass for taking the service."

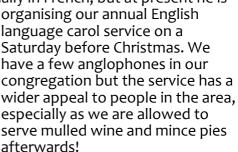
Great to hear from **Rob & Ann Gill**, long time KMC members who now reside in France. Ann writes: "Life here is as busy as ever. Rob holds the post of president of the church council of our Protestant



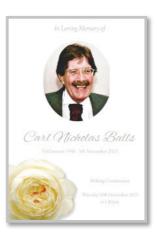
"You may be interested to know that in French, our actual building is called "un temple" and we have seven in our parish, scattered across a large area. Services are held irregularly in the smaller ones.

"Rob continues to take services, normally in French, but at present he is





"Over the past two years we have had a huge renovation project for the painted glass panels in the roof of our church, which had deteriorated and were in a potentially dangerous state. The building would have had to be closed permanently if nothing had been done. It dates from 1906 and is classed as "un monument historique." Fortunately, this enabled us to apply for grants, essential as the total cost was €400,000.



"The project was master minded by an architect, together with a committee of several people, steered by Rob, and involved four main subcontractors. The church was closed during the works and we became a nomadic congregation, because the various places lent to us for worship were not consistently available. Logistically our services became quite challenging to organise. Miraculously, and with the help of many donations, all the money gradually came in, and the work progressed, but with several unexpected problems. These were overcome and we were able to return to the church in May after an absence of more than a year. Everyone was thrilled to see the amazing difference. Light flooded downwards, especially as all the small pieces of glass had not simply been restored but were beautifully clean again. In October an official inauguration was held, and we were honoured by the attendance of various dignitaries.

"We are looking forward to having all our family here in France for Christmas. Jennifer and her two children, lanto, five and Anwen, just two, are still happily living in Scotland, but have had a difficult year health wise, particularly lanto. Siobhan and Tom and their two children, Naomi, six, and Samuel, almost four, are well and are just in the throes of moving out of Didcot and into the nearby village of Sutton Courtenay.

"Rob was able to take a service at Woking Trinity last July and also attend the Local Preachers meeting in person in September. We hope it won't be long before we can see you in Knaphill in 2024."

Flowers in Church

Once again, many thanks to all those who have contributed to the flowers in church, in whatever way, during 2023.

The rota for 2024 will be in the Welcome Area soon. So, if you have a special date, please sign up before someone else beats you to it. Many thanks.

Shirley Chase

Cleaning Worship Area



I am sure we would all like to thank those who cleaned our Worship Area during 2023. Two people once a month for about an hour keeps the Worship Area clean and tidy.

The 2024 rota will be in the Welcome Area soon; please sign up if you can help. Many thanks. Shirley Chase



The History of the Christmas Tree

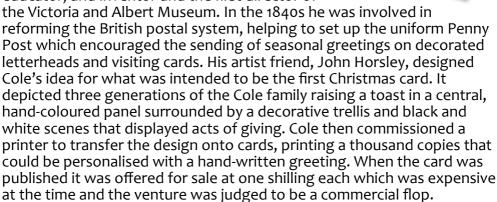




History of the Christmas Card

If you had been at school in England one hundred years ago, you would have been busy preparing your "Christmas piece." Each pupil was given a piece of paper with special heading and borders on which to write Christmas greetings to their family in best copper-plate writing. Christmas cards and the sending of them were completely unknown at that time.

Sir Henry Cole was a prominent civil servant, educator, and inventor and the first director of



However, the 1840s was a period of change with, as mentioned earlier, Prince Albert introducing various German Christmas traditions to Britain including the Christmas tree. So, it was later in the 1840s that artist William Egley produced a second Christmas card. The design was like Horsley's



Merry.

Christolas

in that it showed scenes of festive merriment offset with acts of seasonal charity.

From then on, the idea of sending Christmas cards took off with the Victorians really embracing the idea. They exchanged, displayed, and



collected cards in vast numbers. In the process they established the now familiar images and symbols of Christmas including, winter scenes of robins, holly, evergreens, country churches and snowy landscapes. Plus indoor scenes of seasonal rituals and gift giving: from decorating trees and Christmas dinner, to

Father Christmas, children's games, pantomime characters and Christmas crackers – the latter being another Victorian invention! The reason the robin became popular on cards was because Victorian postmen were called Robin Postmen due to their red-trimmed uniform. And it was the Robin Postmen who delivered the first cards.

In December 1836, before Christmas cards came into being, there was a terrible snowstorm in England and mail coaches with the Christmas mail were held up or caught in snowdrifts. Memories of that dreadful Christmas lingered on, and this may account for the number of cards with scenes of stagecoaches in the snow that appeared on cards for many years right up to the present time.

Today it may be that the sending of Christmas cards is on the wane if only because of the cost of postage. This is a shame because exchanging cards at this time of year is one very good way of staying connected with

at this time of year is one very friends and acquaintances whom very often. However, with the cost of living as it is there can be a need to adopt alternative approaches. On the next page are greetings from KMC family members in lieu of sending cards or the making of a donation instead. I hope you will feel that the sentiment behind the words is just as heart-felt as if they appeared in a personal Christmas card.

Merry Christmas everyone!



KMC.FAMILY CHRISTMAS MESSAGES

"Since my old church closed down 6 or 7 years ago, I have been blessed to attend KMC. I just want to say a big thank you to everyone for making me so welcome. I really enjoy the friendships I have made and being part of this congregation. May I send you ALL a big Happy Christmas wish and every blessing for a peaceful and healthy New Year." God Bless. Vicki Drew.

Eileen Lane sends Christmas Greetings to all at KMC and wishes you a Happy New Year.

Greetings to everyone at KMC this Christmas. Nelly Ford.

Lynda Shore would like to wish you all a Happy Christmas. #

Ena Corrah sends her best wishes to everyone at KMC this Christmas.

Christmas greetings to everyone for Christmas & New Year from Roy & Christine Woodley.

Wishing everyone a merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year from Susan Bennett.

"Joyeux Noël et Bonne Année" to all our friends at Knaphill, from **Rob & Ann Gill** in south-western France. We send our warmest greetings to you all.

"Best wishes to all at KMC for Christmas and 2024! Although you don't see us much, we're busy behind the scenes...." Allan & Yvette Wright.

The KMC Leadership Team would like to thank the Church Family for all their help and support during this past year. We wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas and God's blessings throughout the New Year.

Recipe Corner Christmas Muffins

This recipe has been contributed by **Helen Brice** who says, "I have made these before and they are delicious."

Ingredients

- 300g self-raising flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon mixed spice
- 100g soft light brown sugar
- 175g mincemeat
- 1 egg lightly beaten
- 100g melted butter



- 175ml buttermilk
- 1 tablespoon milk
- 2 teaspoons demerara sugar

Preheat the oven to 200C/400F/Gas mark 6. Grease 10 cups of a 12-muffin tin or line 10 cups with paper muffin cases.

Mix the flour, baking powder, mixed spice, and brown sugar in a large bowl.

In a separate bowl or jug, mix the mincemeat, egg, melted butter, buttermilk and milk. Add the wet ingredients to dry ingredients and mix briefly until just combined.

Spoon the batter into the prepared muffin cups, dividing evenly, then sprinkle the tops with demerara sugar.

Bake in the oven for 18-20 minutes until risen and golden. Cool in the tin for 10 minutes, then turn out onto a wire rack. Serve warm or cold.

Muffin tip

Choose a luxury type of mincemeat for these muffins or add a few chopped glace cherries and nuts to the mixture and substitute brandy for the milk.

Cherry & Almond Cake

This recipe has been contributed by **Sally Allison** who says "this is a luxury cake ideal for special occasions such as Christmas".

Picture: imagine the green icing!

Ingredients

- 8oz/225g butter (not margarine)
- 8oz/225g caster sugar
- 8oz/225g plain flour
- 4oz/110g glace cherries chopped into quarters
- 4oz110g ground almonds



- 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 3 eggs
- extra almonds & cherries to decorate

Grease and line an 8 inch loose bottom cake tin. Turn oven on to 250°F/120°C or 100° for fan oven.

Beat butter and sugar together. Add eggs individually, beating between each addition.

Add chopped cherries and ground almonds to mixture and stir.

Sift flour into mixture and stir gently. Sift in baking powder and stir.

Place mixture in tin and bake for around 3 hours.

Once cooled decorate with glace icing (coloured green) cherries and almonds.

Turkey Stuffing

This recipe has been contributed by **Sue Findlay** who says, "this recipe was handed down from my Mother's Mother and was always made at Christmas. Now my whole family love it so I treble the ingredients and use limes as well as lemons, plus life is made a lot easier now that I can get the chopped parsley in little boxes from the freezer section in the supermarket."

Ingredients

- 1 lemon
- 12 sprigs of fresh parsley
- 1 tsp Thyme
- 8oz/225g breadcrumbs
 (I make my own)



- 2 tbs of shredded suet
- 1 egg beaten
 - salt and pepper

Chop the parsley as finely as possible, mix with the breadcrumbs, thyme and suet. Add the grated rind and the strained juice of the lemon mixed with the beaten egg. Season with a little salt and pepper to taste. Stuff the rear end of the bird with this.



Here are some TV & Radio questions with a gardening theme.

You don't need to be an avid gardener to know the answers, but perhaps a smidgen of interest may help!

Once you have had a go see the answers on page 35.

- 1. Who were the two friends of Little Weed in the children's television show set in a garden, first broadcast in 1952?
- 2. Which garden did Dan Pearson spend "a year at" for a television series?
- 3. What was the original title of the BBC radio show now known as "Gardeners' Question Time"?
- 4. TV gardening show "Ground Force" was hosted by Alan Titchmarsh, Charlie Dimmock and who else?

- What was the surname of Tom & Barbara, the gardeners who tried to be 5. self-sufficient in a popular 1970s British sitcom?
- When "Gardeners' Question Time" panellist Bill Sowerbutts appeared on 6. Desert Island Discs in 1973, what seeds did he request as his luxury item?
 - Tobacco ? Carrot

?

- Wild flowers Runner beans
- What was the name of the gardener in the children's TV show "The Herbs"? 7.
- 8. In 2011, "Gardeners Question Time" made a "guest appearance" on another Radio 4 programme. What was it?
- Name one of the "Curious Gardeners"? 9.
- In 2008 Monty Don went "Around the World in... what"? 10.
- Name one of the two long-running "Gardeners' Question Time" panellists 11. with appropriately garden-related surnames?
- What is the name of the British television series featuring two ladies with 12. herbal names who are gardeners and amateur detectives?
- Which of these locations has hosted "Gardeners' Question Time"? 13.
 - a zoo a prison ?
 - a naturist camp ? a London underground station
- Alan Titchmarsh began his TV career with appearances as the "horticulture 14. expert" on which long-running magazine programme?
- What was the name of Monty Don's golden retriever who inspired a book? 15.
- True or false? The topic that generates the most questions on "Gardeners' 16. Question Time" is how to make good compost?
- Which early presenter of "Gardeners' World" presented the show from his 17. garden "The Magnolias" near Shrewsbury?
- Which house and garden in Cheshire was used as the setting for the BBC's 18. adaptation of "Pride & Prejudice"?
- Who was Laurence Llewellyn-Bowen's co-presenter on "Home Front"? 19.
- Which early "celebrity gardener" appeared on television with both 20. Morecambe and Wise and Benny Hill?



A Soldier is a Gift

This poem strikes a chord given the wars raging in Ukraine and Gaza, in particular, at the moment. While of course this poem focuses on this country's armed services, I would suggest the sentiments expressed apply to all serviceman everywhere. So, perhaps we should remember at this time all the armed conflicts happening in the world and the great sacrifices soldiers make wherever they may be and for whatever cause, rightly or wrongly, they may be fighting for.

As we celebrate Christmas, and we open our gifts, we realise what priceless gifts a soldier gives to our country – gifts of patriotism, service, and deep dedication to our nation.

As we feast on a variety of fine Christmas delicacies, we acknowledge that a soldier personifies a variety of fine qualities: courage, good character, honour, fortitude amidst hardship, persistence in subduing evil, and bravery in the face of danger.

A soldier is a cut above the rest of us, doing jobs we could not or would not do. While we are surrounded by Christmas comforts, we remember soldiers in places we would not want to be, no matter how harsh or difficult.

As we "ooh" and "aah" over the Christmas lights and shiny ornaments

we recognised that a soldier gives us the most cherished gift of all,

the shining light of freedom.

At Christmas, let us wrap our hearts and minds around our treasured soldiers.

May they understand how very much their service means to us.

Let us send the Christmas gifts of love, respect and admiration

to our steadfast, loyal magnificent warriors and their essential civilian support staff.

They themselves are the most precious Christmas gift of all.

Our protectors – our soldiers.

Joanna Fuchs

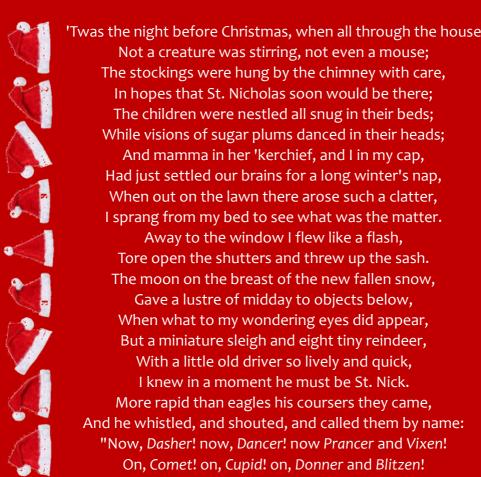
Daily prayers dissolve your cares

I meet God in the morning and go with Him through the day, Then in the stillness of the night before sleep comes I pray That God will just take over All the problems I couldn't solve, And in the peacefulness of sleep My cares will all dissolve. So when I open up my eyes To greet another day, I'll find myself renewed in strength and there will open up a way To meet what seemed impossible for me to solve alone, And once again I'll be assured I am never on my own. For if we try to stand alone, we are weak and we will fall. For God is always greatest When we're helpless, lost and small. And no day is unmeetable if, on rising, our first thought Is to thank God for the blessings That His loving care has brought... For there can be no failures or hopeless, unsaved sinners If we enlist the help of God, who makes all losers winners. So meet Him in the morning and go with Him through the day, And thank Him for His guidance each evening when you pray -And if you follow faithfully this daily way to pray, You will never in your lifetime face another hopeless day.

A Visit from St Nicholas

This poem was written under a cloud of secrecy nearly two centuries ago. It was published anonymously in a New York newspaper in 1823, but it was not until 1837 that a poetry editor revealed that his friend Clement Clarke Moore – a highly esteemed scholar in classical languages – was the mysterious author. Moore had simply written it to entertain his children one Christmas Eve and never intended it to be published. Its popularity grew and grew, with the result that its depiction of the Saint in a sleigh driven by reindeer – with all but Rudolph first named here – is credited with having the most influence on modern images of St Nicholas (or Santa Claus) across the English-speaking world.









To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall! Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!" As leaves that before the wild hurricane fly, When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky; So up to the housetop the coursers they flew With the sleigh full of toys, and St. Nicholas too— And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof The prancing and pawing of each little hoof. As I drew in my head, and was turning around, Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound. He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot, And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot: A bundle of toys he had flung on his back, And he looked like a pedler just opening his pack. His eyes—how they twinkled! his dimples, how merry! His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry! His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow, And the beard on his chin was as white as the snow; The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth, And the smoke, it encircled his head like a wreath; He had a broad face and a little round belly That shook when he laughed, like a bowl full of jelly. He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf, And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself; A wink of his eye and a twist of his head Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread; He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work, And filled all the stockings; then turned with a jerk, And laying his finger aside of his nose, And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose; He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle, And away they all flew like the down of a thistle. But I heard him exclaim, 'ere he drove out of sight-"Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night!" Clement Clarke Moore (Courtesy of Guardian News & Media Ltd)

CHRISTMAS WORDSEARCH

Р	R	Ε	s	Ε	N	Т	S	S	н	W	R	K	Ε	Т	L	N	C	R	В
S	Α	F	Т	D	M	1	N	С	E	Р	I	Е	s	U	G	Е	R	В	J
Е	J	R	Ε	D	Α	Т	S	Н	Q	D	S	G	L	M	M	W	Α	Н	Р
F	Ε	Α	S	D	Ε	C	0	R	Α	Т	I	0	N	S	Ε	Υ	C	R	K
S	Υ	R	Υ	1	0	G	K	1	Q	S	w	R	Т	Υ	Т	Ε	K	o	R
J	L	J	G	M	F	D	Т	S	Т	S	L	R	Т	1	U	Α	Ε	В	0
Е	L	Q	K	D	В	S	R	Т	Ε	C	D	Q	V	R	R	R	R	Ε	S
S	F	S	F	W	1	S	Ε	M	Ε	N	Z	1	S	Х	K	K	S	Т	Н
U	G	K	Т	E	D	G	R	Α	E	R	Т	Н	D	D	Е	Υ	s	Н	Ε
S	Α	W	J	Α	W	Z	Ε	S	S	Α	Υ	D	Q	G	Υ	Α	K	L	Р
Α	Z	Х	Α	Р	R	L	Т	L	N	L	R	J	F	V	Α	Ε	X	Ε	Н
M	Α	R	Υ	M	В	N	0	S	Т	0	C	K	1	N	G	Υ	U	н	Ε
M	Р	1	R	Α	н	R	D	1	G	S	D	M	В	N	K	R	F	Ε	R
Υ	O	D	Т	C	Α	F	В	Т	O	K	Ε	J	O	S	Е	Р	н	M	D
L	Α	S	R	C	E	L	н	G	F	Υ	V	L	Q	1	K	C	1	E	S
F	Α	Т	н	Е	R	C	н	R	I	S	Т	M	Α	S	Т	R	E	E	M

The names of 20 Christmas related items are hidden in the grid above. As you find them and cross them off, list them in the spaces below. Answers are on page 35 (no cheating!)

	11.	
	12.	
3	13	
4	14	
5	15	
6	16	
	17	
8.	18	
9	19.	
10.	20.	

People in Profile -Penny Putman

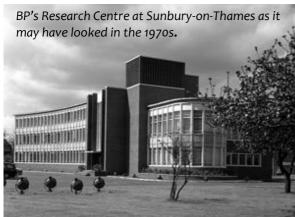
Unbelievably, it is 4 years since we had a Christmas Fairy grace the Christmas or Winter edition of the KMC Magazine. But she is back, in the guise of Penny Putman, again complete with wand to cast her magic spells over us.

KMC member Penny has worshipped at our church since the mid 70s when she attended a mother and toddler group with her children. The Rev Fields often visited the group and as a result of this contact, the children started at Sunday School and Penny began attending church services.

Penny is pleased and very grateful that she was blessed with the brains of her father and the common sense of her mother – a great combination. So, it can be no

surprise to know that Penny passed her 11+ and attended Guildford County School for Girls. This was after attending the local primary school in Claygate, where Penny was born and lived until the age of 21 when she married Simon.

After successfully passing her A Levels Penny decided she did not want to go to university, but instead to start work. Her first job was with BP in Sunbury working as a technical assistant in their laboratory. This must have been an ideal job given Penny's interest and ability in science. At the



same time as working Penny also devoted time to studying for an HNC in Applied Physics. Penny stayed with BP until she was expecting her first baby in 1972, following which she became a full-time mother to both Luke, and Sophie who was born in 1975.

Penny & Simon's relationship began when Penny was studying for her A Levels. They met at a party in late 1964, this being at a time when that was how you met other people – face-to-face! They married in 1968 and lived in a flat in the lovely area that is Richmond Hill, but not for long. They were soon on the move to the house in Knaphill where they still live to this day.

Once the children started at school, Penny felt able to undertake some voluntary work and part-time work. Her first voluntary job was at a school for disabled children. Later, together with her good friend Sheila Hodkinson (another long-time member of KMC), they would serve drinks to visitors at Coldingley Prison until, that is, they were replaced by a drinks machine! Part-time work included working in a pub serving food and drink, working at a school at lunchtimes in the kitchen (only to be later replaced by a dishwasher! – there seems to be a theme going on here...) and at a school laboratory setting up equipment for class experiments.

For nearly 30 years however, Penny worked at St Hugh's school initially as a dinner lady. Later her role expanded to working as a classroom assistant and then to the school office before retiring in 2013. She continued there for another 7 years as a volunteer classroom helper until the pandemic hit in 2020.

Very tragically, Penny & Simon lost their son in a road accident when he was just 15, in a road accident caused by a tyre blowout on a minibus in which he was travelling on a group activity. Penny is very stoic when looking back at this time in her life. She had always wanted a family, so considers herself more than lucky to have both Luke and Sophie in her life.

Coming right up to date, Sophie, a very supportive daughter, is married and has three children of her own, all boys, who are now 16, 14 & 11. Penny considers herself blessed to have such wonderful grandchildren.

These days at KMC, Penny is heavily involved with Clothes 4U since this initiative started several years ago. Penny sometimes reads the lesson in church and also enjoys serving refreshments at varied events.

As to her favourite hymn, like many of us Penny has more than one, but for this article she has chosen, "Make me a channel of your peace". Penny feels that the words of this hymn convey both her attitude to life and how she tries to lead it.

Make me a channel of your peace

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love;
where this is injury, your pardon, Lord;
and where there's doubt, true faith in you:

O Master, grant that I may never seek So much to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved, as to love with all my soul. Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope;
where there is darkness, only light;
and where there's sadness, ever joy:

Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned, in giving unto all that we receive, and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

A Robins' Story



When my parents retired, they bought an old stone cottage in rural Dorset. Mum soon involved herself in village life by joining the local Women's Institute and found herself baking the bread and cakes for the monthly WI market.

After each baking session she would gather up the leftovers and place them on the coal bunker outside the kitchen door, then tap on it to let the robins know a free meal was available.

This routine continued and the robins became very friendly. After one baking session Mum put out the leftovers as usual and gave the bunker a tap, she looked around for the robins, but not a bird was there in sight. She felt uneasy as they were always quick to respond. She tapped again praying that a bird of prey or local cat had not made a meal of them - still nothing. So, with a heavy heart she re-entered the kitchen and was astonished to see the robins indoors! There they were happily pecking away at the crumbs on the work surface, draining board and even the mixing bowl. They couldn't wait for the invitation and had let themselves in through an open kitchen window.

Sadly, my Mum left us too soon, but I understand from folklore that robins are the custodians of the souls of the departed and when one keeps close to you, your loved-one is watching over you. A nice idea anyway.

Each morning at daybreak as I spread the bird seed on the patio table a robin is usually the first to appear and we have a little chat. So perhaps my Mum is not too far away after all.

Christine Woodley

A Personal History of the Meaning of Advent

Advent is the preparation for Christians to welcome the Redeemer. For me, the birth of Christ Jesus is the fulfilment of the promise Yahweh made to his chosen people. Sadly, most of the chosen people were unable to comprehend the prediction due to the power



struggles amongst the learned Jews. One of the earliest forecasts about the Redeemer was by Isaiah in the Old Testament.

My earliest involvement in Christmas celebrations was in the British Garrison in British Malaya when a British officer dressed up as Father Christmas and handed each one of us a present. When I started my English language education in the local civilian school, we had lessons on the Heroes of March - prophets of the Old Testament. Moving to the Christian Missionary School brought me closer to stories in the gospels of the New Testament - Mark, Luke and John and later Matthew, which let me into the story of Jesus Christ as the real person. So, my Advent in the Christian faith started with the Gospels as one of the subjects in my secondary school lessons in Malaya and Singapore. I even took the life and teaching of Christ for my Cambridge University Overseas Syndicate final examination. The lessons/services on Advent as per the Christian liturgy started first at Holy Trinity and then, after five years, at KMC. The annual international Carol service at Christchurch in Woking added the pride and privilege of celebrating Advent internationally. Over 47 years Advent services to me - are the process of reinforcing the Redeemer's promise as real - the fulfilment of Yahweh's promise which we Gentiles welcome and celebrate. Rajendra Chhetri (Rai) Merry Christmas and Happy New Year - 2024.

The KMC Christmas Tea 2023

Once again KMC hosted a Christmas Tea for people from the church and locality on Sunday 10th December. About 45 people attended. The afternoon began with

the singing of well-known carols followed by Rev Paul Glass, our Minister, saying grace. We were immediately served with a delicious tea which included a large variety of sandwiches, (all labelled with little flags so we could identity each type of sandwich), crisps, nibbles, cheese straws, sausage rolls, homemade cheese scones, cakes, and mince pies. There was tea and coffee too.

Everyone pulled their crackers and most dutifully donned the hat! Of course, the jokes each cracker contained were shared and here is an example of one of them, and a short quiz.

Answers are on page 35.

Why are Christmas trees so bad at sewing?





Christmas Word Scramble

All the following are items you will find in a Christmas dinner: uytker eosgo yrvga ulssrebs oupstsr r

nfstguif

Finally, a great big thank you to all who made this party a success including organisers Helen Chamberlain & Liz Funning, and helpers Clare, Helen Brice, Lynda Shore, Pat Delbridge, Penny Putman, Sue Findlay, Susan Bennett, Tarina Berry & Vicki Drew. Also, we must not forget musicians, Ian Kelly and John Morton and singers Linda Todd and Christine Woodley and finally everyone who contributed the food that was served. We even had an excellent quiz to keep our minds alert and a raffle with some lovely prizes. It all helped to ensure that an enjoyable and fun time was had by all. The raffle raised £66 for KMC.

Well done everyone!

News from Ruth Pugh - formerly of Durgapur

Dear Friends at KMC

I arrived back from India on 19th September and time has continued to race away as it did during my last few months in India.

I went along to some programmes with Bishop and other dignitaries at Bankura and Raniganj. I also continued to teach at St Peter's School two mornings a week, helping with their Music Club after school, and doing their Pre-Primary music as well.

Some of the hostel children were working hard to get exams completed before I left. I have been doing the Associated Board of Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM) Performance exams as they are digital and can be done when a student is ready. The alternative to these are the face-to-face exams which are held in October/November, and this year that would have been after I had left. All the students gained merits or distinctions in



their exams except one, but still passed. They all worked very hard, plus time had to be found for them to practice being videoed and then recorded. The other advantage to be examined in this way is they can use backing tracks for the piano parts, and they are available for both the violin and cello from ABRSM.

Priyanka has been helping with classes for the past year, and with outside students that come in for classes. She has now taken over the teaching alongside David who is also helping. The students play each week in the cathedral and for any programmes that need some music. We had two extra programmes in the last few weeks that I was there. They love playing these and it brings their playing on; they just love to perform. We had some international guests arrive, and as part of a Diocesan programme they played and danced for them. 5th September is Teachers Day and they always put on a programme for all their teachers. So, as well as singing, dancing, and reading poetry, they also played a few pieces as a string orchestra.

In June we had the Cathedral AGM and I was able to step down from being the Secretary for the Pastorate. I continued my duties

as a Deacon until I left which included doing the weekly Parish Post and the PowerPoint for the Sunday service. I continued to preach once or twice each month too and did so on my last Sunday there.





Rev. Sandipan, and Rev Saswati from cathedral, all children wardens, and few other members of staff.

Although I am now back in the UK, I am continuing to work for them with books I have not finished writing, helping with advice on the music classes and arranging music for their Christmas programmes. They have always sounded good, particularly as the music for the special numbers has been specifically arranged to the standard of the their playing.

My last 10 days in India were very busy, trying to get done as much as possible with the children, and sorting out over 10 years of accumulated stuff. I was given farewells in 7 different places, the biggest being a farewell service by the Diocese followed by lunch and the Cathedral farewell where I have been since its first service.

I am now planning my first trip back to India. They have asked me to return twice a year for short trips, in February/March and October/November, when the weather is cooler. This year I found the heat very hard and I suffered so many heat rashes and heat exhaustion. So, I am looking forward to returning at the end of January for 6 to 8 weeks. I shall also see where they are with their exams and will help with the final preparation of those and video if needed.

Since I came back Bishop Sameer Khimla and Raja Moses have had a very fruitful trip to the UK for 10 days during which I accompanied them around. It was good to see a few faces I knew at the circuit meeting we attended. Please pray for Priyanka and David as they lead the musicians and for my trips backwards and forwards.

I look forward to finding time to come and see you all but in the meantime wish you a Happy Christmas and a joyful and healthy New Year.

Farewell Service on 9th September 2023

Rev. Deacon Ruth Pugh





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There are no catches or hidden charges and KMC will be really grateful for your donations. Since 2016, we have raised nearly £1000 to date with only 28 people contributing... please join us - more people, more money, simple!



Knaphill Methodist Church, Broadway, Knaphill, Surrey. GU21 2DR The Minister with Pastoral Charge for our church is Rev. Dr. Paul Glass. Paul can be contacted via the Circuit Office on 01483 537655 or by email: revpaulglass@gmail.com

SUNDAY SERVICE: 10am - Morning Worship

(includes facilities for children)

Our services are warm and cordial. We include traditional and contemporary hymns and songs, led by our Worship Group.

The sermons are Bible based and are sometimes themed over several weeks. Holy Communion is generally on the 2nd Sunday of every month. After the service everyone is welcome to join us for refreshments; a time for a chat and to get to know each other.

We have a special Family Area at the back of the church with things for children to do. For further information see the notice boards outside the church or contact: admin@knaphillmethodist.co.uk

This is a Q code - scan it with your Smartphone to go straight to our website



www.knaphillmethodist.co.uk

A NOTE TO CONTRIBUTORS

The KMC Magazine has a wider readership than just within KMC because it is published on the KMC and Circuit websites as we want to be able to share it with the other Churches. However, we recognise some contributors may be uncomfortable with being mentioned, particularly on the internet. I will therefore be happy to omit names and any other personal details in any future issue if requested to do so. Editor (email: editor@knaphillmethodist.co.uk)

Question answer: They always trees drop their needles. Quiz: 1. Turkey 2. Goose 3. Gravy 4. Brussel Sprouts 5. Stuffing

Christmas Tea answers (page 31)

Christmas wordsearch answers (page 22)

1. CHRISTMAS 2. STOCKING 3. CRACKERS 4. CHRISTMAS TREE 5. NATIVITY 6. MARY 7. STABLE 8. WISE MEN

9. CAROLS 10. MINCE PIES 11. PRESENTS 12. FATHER CHRISTMAS 13. DECORATIONS 14. STABR

15. JESUS 16. JOSEPH 17. SHEPHERDS 18. BETHLEHEM 19. TURKEY 20. NEW YEAR

1. Bill & Ben the Flowerpot Men; 2. Home Farm; 3 How does your garden grow; 4 Tommy Walsh; 5 Good; 6. a) Tobacco; 7. Bayleaf; 8. The Archers; 9. Guy Cooper, Gordon Taylor; 10. 80 Gardens; 11. Bob Flowerdew, Pippa Greenwood; 12. Rosemary & Thyme; 13. All of them; 14. Nationwide; 15. Nigel; 16. False: it is how to control slugs; 17. Percy Thrower; 18. Lyme Park; 19. Diarmuid Gavin; 20. Percy Thrower.

Garden TV Quiz answers (page 17)



17th December 10am Morning Worship with Graham Warr

17th December 6pm Carol Service with Paul Glass

24th December 10am Holy Communion with Paul Glass

Christmas Day 10am join Trinity Methodist, Woking

31st December 10.30pm join Trinity Methodist, Woking

7th January 10am Morning Worship with Adam Payne

14th January 10am Morning Worship with Claire Hargraves

21st January 10am Morning Worship with Paul Glass

28th January 10am Morning Worship

4th February

11th February

18th February

25th February

4th February 10am Holy Communion with Allan Taylor

6pm Circuit Service at Trinity Methodist, Woking

10am Morning Worship with Elizabeth Gurd

10am Morning Worship with Pieter Lalleman

10am Morning Worship with Paul Glass



KNAPHILL METHODIST CHURCH HALL

4th Saturday every month (except December)

10am to Noon

WWW.KNAPHILLMETHODIST.CO.UF