

Merry Christmas



KNAPHILL METHODIST CHURCH
MAGAZINE



Christmas 2020

A Word from the Editor:



In this column in the Winter Magazine 2019 I wrote “Is it just me or does Christmas come around more quickly as every year passes?” Well, another year has passed and what a year it has been! Challenging, sobering, upsetting, difficult. Just four adjectives to describe what has occurred this year and I am sure you can add your own to this list. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Leadership Team for all the hard work that was needed to open the Church safely for us prior to the second lockdown. Very regretfully, it is unlikely that the Church will be able to open in December – see Dave’s COVID Message for more information.

As ever many of you have provided contributions to this Magazine for which I am very grateful. I can’t do it alone and as I have said before this is our Magazine for the benefit of all at KMC. In this issue my particular thanks must go to Marilyn Meller for sharing details and photos of her Diamond Wedding Anniversary; Vicki Drew for her wonderfully evocative descriptions of her round the world cruise, to Ella Allen for her very interesting article on her work as a nurse and midwife and to Nellie Ford whom you will read is a knitter extraordinaire!

When I planned to produce this issue, although I thought there may be a chance the Church would not open in December, I did not really expect that to be the case. This was because I was trying to be positive and that is something that is not always easy to do at the best of times, let alone when the country is in the midst of a pandemic. However, this is how we now find ourselves so I am more than pleased that this Magazine will be one way we can all connect with each other at this special time of the year. Of course.

I could not do it without the great support of Allan Wright whom I hope you will agree has produced another attractive, must read Magazine once again.

May I take this opportunity to wish all readers of this Magazine a very happy Christmas and I look forward to the day when we can all be back together again as one KMC family sometime in the New Year. Until then stay safe and God bless.

Robin Spice, Editor.



KMC MAGAZINE

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Message from Dave:



Dear Friends,

I am writing this in the middle of the November lockdown, when we don't know what rules we shall be living under at Christmas. On the day I am writing this, the Government has said it is too early to be setting out those rules, even though there has been media speculation that families may be allowed to mix for five days.

People are longing for connection, for time together, for the assurance of a simple touch. We celebrate at Christmas the Good News that Jesus is Emmanuel, 'God with us'. We need more than a spiritual presence. Someone once said, 'I need God with skin and bones on him,' and that of course is what Christmas provides.

Yet today, we don't have that. The risen Jesus ascended to heaven. God's presence with us today is by his Holy Spirit. The way the Spirit brings the presence of God to people is different from the way the incarnate Jesus did on earth. The Holy Spirit enables us to recognise God's presence in still, personal times of prayer; in acts of worship; he even surprises us in the world.

Nevertheless, without in any way demeaning what the Holy Spirit brings to us of divine presence wherever we go, we are flesh and blood and we still long for the physical sign of presence, too. That is to be human. I invite you to remember Genesis chapter 2, where God has made the man, but he then says, 'It is not good for the man to be alone.' We are made to need both God's presence and human presence. The pandemic has made the latter difficult.

We can pray for God's presence, and we can act to bring human presence. Perhaps you would have invited someone to spend Christmas with you, or maybe you would have been the person who was invited. So perhaps now is the time to be thinking about how we might be in touch with those people, whether it's face to face or not.

And who are the people we come across who are generally short on human contact? Is there a person whom we could make a special effort to contact?

Whatever limits we find ourselves under this Christmas, let's do something as Christians to reflect our belief that Emmanuel, God is with us by his Spirit.

One other thing: sadly, it hasn't been possible to plan our usual special services for this season. But by the time you read this, I shall have begun a series in my weekly videos for Advent and the lead-up to Christmas. Using

material from an organisation called Engage Worship, each week from the Last Sunday Before Advent through to the Fourth Sunday of Advent has a particular theme. There are professionally produced graphics and images for the prayers, and even some new hymns and carols set to familiar tunes.

The weekly themes are:

22nd November (Last Sunday Before Advent):	Waiting For A King
29th November (First Sunday In Advent):	Holy Suspense
6th December (Second Sunday In Advent):	Active Patience
13th December (Third Sunday In Advent):	Hope-Filled Expectation
20th December (Fourth Sunday In Advent):	Awe-Struck Anticipation

And despite the titles don't worry, the usual suspects such as John the Baptist and the Virgin Mary will be making their customary appearances! I do hope you will join me as we still celebrate the gift of Christ. A simple way to get to all my videos is by using this link:

<https://bit.ly/DFYTChannel>

Your friend in Christ,



Dave Faulkner

minister@knaphillmethodist.co.uk

NOT THE CHRISTMAS BAZAAR!



As we have not been able to hold the Christmas Bazaar this year, and therefore will miss an important fundraising opportunity, I thought I would make a request.

As many of us spend money to have items to sell - making cakes or jam, buying plants or raffle prizes, buying knitting wool or raffle tickets - I wondered if we could give a donation to church funds in lieu of that spend.

We may not be able to meet on the church premises, but the running costs are ever present. Any donation will be gratefully received. Cash or cheques can be passed to Lynda Shore.

Liz Funning

COVID Message from Dave:

Dear Friends,

As you know, the current 'lockdown' ended at midnight on Tuesday 2nd December, and now the whole of Surrey is placed in Tier 2, not Tier 1 that we in Woking Borough were in before.

While it is legal to re-open for public worship in all three Tiers, the restrictions are greater in Tiers 2 and 3. In Tier 2, you will only be allowed to interact inside the premises with other members of your household or bubble. This will cause serious practical problems in arranging and conducting worship.

Not only that, before the second lockdown came in, our Methodist District (in the light of experience in the London District) asked all churches to consider not simply whether it was legal to be open in Tier 2, but whether it was wise. It is the judgment of the church Leadership Team, acting with delegated authority from the Church Council, that sadly it is not wise for us to reopen for public worship until the situation changes.

We realise this comes as quite a blow. We know that several of you were expecting the resumption of gathered worship, and being unable to meet together for worship at Advent and Christmas, in addition to Easter, is particularly hard. Nevertheless, out of love for one another and for our neighbours, we need to do this as part of fighting the evils of the Coronavirus. In the light of this highly disappointing news, please be reassured that I am committed to continue providing regular weekly worship materials in video and text forms. I can also promise you that the Leadership Team will keep the matter under regular review. If a lessening of our restrictions is proposed, you can be sure we shall want to reconsider at the earliest practical opportunity.

In the meantime, I want to share with you the words found on an image of the nativity that has been circulating on the Internet [see below]. I hope they bring some consolation towards the end of a year that will be unforgettable for all the wrong reasons.

With love and prayers,



Dave Faulkner



Christmas 2020 Messages

Helen Chamberlain writes: *this has been such a strange year and I have missed having contact with all my family and friends, something I will never take for granted again. I really enjoy sending Christmas cards and this is going to be difficult this year, so I would like to take this opportunity to wish all my Church family a blessed Christmas time, hopefully with family and friends. Moreover, I wish you all a healthy 2021.*

The Innkeeper of Bethlehem

“There’s no room at the inn,” he told them.

“We’re full up, I am sorry to say. Inn’s crammed with people. Can’t help it. I’m having to turn folk away.”

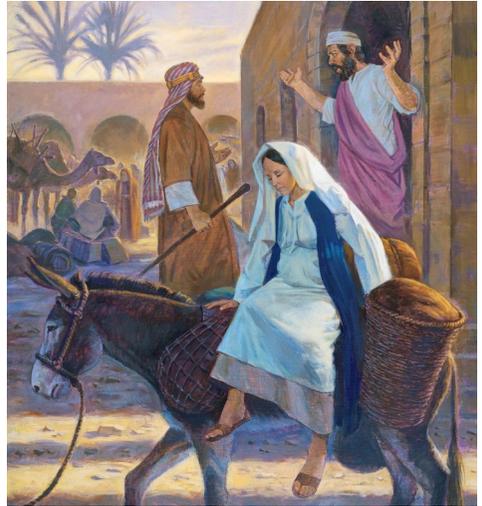
But there was something about the young woman and the innkeeper shouted out,

“Wait. I suppose you could sleep in the stable, there’s nothing else left, and it’s late.”

He showed them both round to the stable

and settled them down for the night, then he left, glancing up at the heavens where a star shone unnaturally bright, gilding his face with the splendour that no one on earth ever saw as he entered the inn, slightly dazzled, quietly closing the door.

Marian Swinger (submitted by Helen Chamberlain)



Eileen Lane would like to wish everyone a very happy and blessed Christmas. She would also like to share the following, the first of which you could say was topical for more than one reason!

- ☆ No Nativity this year because the 3 wise men face a travel ban.
- ☆ The Shepherds have been furloughed.
- ☆ The Inn Keeper has shut under tier 3 regulations and had a slump in bookings.
- ☆ Santa won't be working as he would break the rules of 6 with Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Donner and Blitzen.
- ☆ As for Rudolph with that red nose, he should be isolating and taking a test.

The First Christmas

A star was His night-light
His quilt was the sky,
And soft sang his mother
In case he should cry;
And all the brown cattle
Came close to His bed
To see the wee Baby
Asleep in their shed.
His carols were praises
Of love and goodwill
That rose in the midnight
So clear and so still
To herald the earliest
Christmas we know,
When Jesus was little
A long time ago.



Elizabeth Fleming

And finally, an anagram:

*Easily survives, travel north to the castle
becomes*

Stay alert, control the virus, save lives.

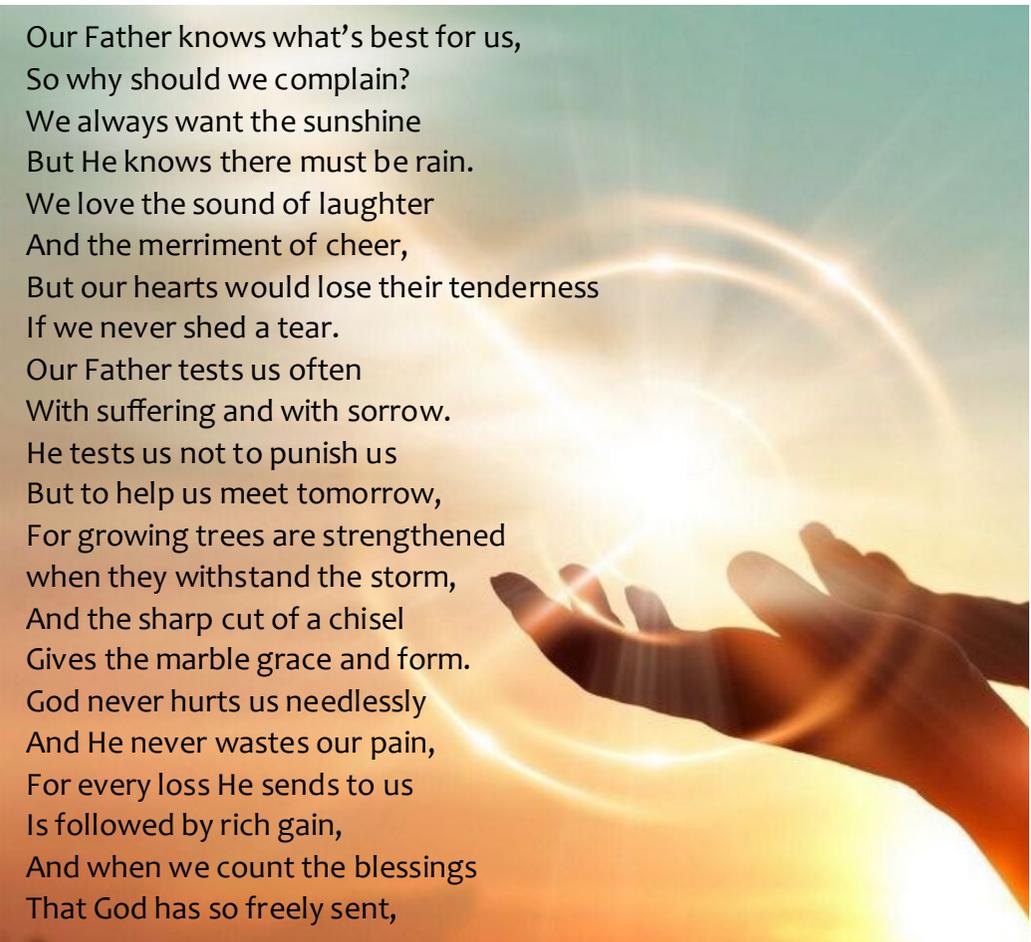
An amusing poem shared by **Desna Berry** that very much reflects lockdown as experienced during November.

I won't arise and go now, and go to Innisfree
I'll sanitise the doorknob and make a cup of tea.
I won't go down to the seas again; I won't go out at all,
I'll wander lonely as a cloud from the kitchen to the hall.
There's a green-eyed yellow monster to the north of Katmandhu
But I won't be seeing him just yet and nor, I think, will you.
While the dawn comes up like thunder on the road to Mandalay
I'll make my bit of supper and eat it off a tray.
I shall not speed my bonnie boat across the sea to Skye

Nor take the rolling English road from Birmingham to Rye.
About the woodland just right now, I am not free to go
To see the 'Keep Out' posters or the cherry hung with snow.
And no, I won't be travelling much within the walks of gold
Or get to Milford Haven. All that's been put on hold.
"Give me your hands" I shan't request, albeit we are friends
Nor come within a mile of you until this virus ends.

Colin Warmington

It is easy to moan about one's lot and focus on our glass being half empty instead of half full. The following poems acknowledge both sides and show why we should remain positive when our lives are not, and cannot, always be rosy even though we do have God in our lives, as you will read.



Our Father knows what's best for us,
So why should we complain?
We always want the sunshine
But He knows there must be rain.
We love the sound of laughter
And the merriment of cheer,
But our hearts would lose their tenderness
If we never shed a tear.
Our Father tests us often
With suffering and with sorrow.
He tests us not to punish us
But to help us meet tomorrow,
For growing trees are strengthened
when they withstand the storm,
And the sharp cut of a chisel
Gives the marble grace and form.
God never hurts us needlessly
And He never wastes our pain,
For every loss He sends to us
Is followed by rich gain,
And when we count the blessings
That God has so freely sent,

We will find no cause for murmuring
And no time to lament.
For our Father loves His children
And to Him all things are plain,
He never sends us pleasure
When the soul's deep need is pain.
So, whenever we are troubled and
when everything goes wrong,
It is just God working in us
To make our spirits strong.

Helen Steiner Rice



Be glad that your life has been full and complete,
Be glad that you've tasted the bitter and sweet.
Be glad that you're walking in sunshine and rain,
Be glad that you've felt both pleasure and pain.
Be glad that you've had such a full, happy life,
Be glad for your joy as well as your strife.
Be glad that you've walked with courage each day,
Be glad you've had strength each step of the way.
Be glad for the comfort that you've found in prayer,
Be glad for God's blessing, His love and His care.

Helen Steiner Rice



Christmas Greetings from **Sylvia Dowding**:

In the difficult times we are living under at the moment, I have not felt comfortable about coming to Church. I have, however, missed the company of all my close congregational friends. I have in no way forgotten you all and hope none of you have suffered from Covid-19. Brian and I wish you all best wishes for Christmas and a better, safer New Year.

Christmas in Heaven

I've had my first Christmas in Heaven
A Glorious, wonderful day.
I stood with the saints of the ages,
who found Christ the Truth and the Way.
I sang with the Heavenly Choir:
Just think: I who longed so to sing!
And oh, what celestial music
we brought to our Saviour and King!
We sang the glad songs of redemption,
How Jesus to Bethlehem came,
And how they called His name Jesus,
That all might be saved through His name.
We sang once again with the angels,
The song that they sang that blest morn,
When shepherds first heard the glad story
That Jesus, the Saviour, was born.
Oh, how I wish you had been there:
No Christmas on earth could compare
With all the rapture and glory
We witnessed in Heaven so fair.
You know how I always loved Christmas;
It seemed such a wonderful day,
With all of my loved ones around me
The children so happy and gay.
Yes, now I can see why I loved it:
And oh, what a joy it will be
When you and my loved ones are with me:
To share in the glories I see.
So dear ones on earth, here's my greeting:
Look up till the day dawn appears,
And oh, what a Christmas awaits us,
Beyond all our parting and tears.

Dr. Albert Simpson Reitz



Christmas in the time of COVID

Are they safe, are they well?

These thoughts go round our heads "pell mell"

Most older people staying in

The things we've missed, it seems a sin.

We "meet" on Zoom or on the phone

When will this nightmare end, we moan?

But wait.....a vaccine's coming fast

Will it work, will it last?



But Christmas is just weeks away

Will Santa get through on his sleigh?

But let's not worry what he'll bring

Let's try to hear the Angels sing.

Our poor sad world is waiting too

This child was born for me, for you

To bring us comfort from above

And fill our waiting world with love.

Gill Ball

Gill and her husband Carl wish all at KMC a peaceful and safe Christmas.



Greetings from **Penny Putman**

Firstly, I must say how good it was to see friends at KMC when the church was able to open for services. It was obviously hard work for a small core of people, but I am sure it was much appreciated by all who were able to attend. Thank you. Hello to those who were not able to be there.

Secondly, sorry nothing to do with Christmas, but something that happened during lockdown 2. My birthday was at the end of October. I received a Bake Box from Haighs Bakery in Leeds, a present from my daughter and son-in-law (who live in Wiltshire not Yorkshire!) The box contained all the ingredients necessary to bake 7 included recipes together with foil bakeware and other sundry items. The variety was amazing - biscuits, cakes, buns, sponge puddings and even focaccia! A perfect gift for lockdown. Simon



was a very willing participant when it came to eating the results! Praise to Haighs and other small businesses for finding ways to continue during Covid-19 and bringing joy to others at the same time.

Finally, hopefully services will be able to resume before Christmas but I take this opportunity to wish the whole church family a Happy Christmas whatever form it may take at the end of this strange year and send best wishes to all for 2021.



More Christmas Greetings:

Jo Mooney would like to wish everyone a happy Christmas and asks for your thoughts and prayers as she undergoes a cataract operation this month. (On behalf of all at KMC we wish Jo all the best and to have a great Christmas and peaceful and safe New Year.)

Christine & Roy Woodley send their best wishes to all at KMC and hope everybody has a good Christmas and a happy and better 2021.

Allan, Yvette & Juliette Wright wish you all a Happy Christmas and a COVID free 2021. Hope to see you all soon.

Rob and Ann Gill send greetings for Christmas and 2021 from across the Channel to all our friends at Knaphill.

Helen Brice would like to wish everyone in the church family, a happy and healthy Christmas and a peaceful New Year. She also wants to take this opportunity to relate what happened when she was in Spain recently.

In October, myself, Malcolm and Martin went to Spain for a fortnight's holiday. As our flight home was later in the afternoon, we walked to the supermarket, to buy some rolls and meat for lunch. We then went to a nearby café and the owner came out to serve us. We said "buenos dias", (which means "good day"), and placed our order. When the owner served our drinks, Malcolm asked him what his name was, the reply came back, Domingo. This word translated into English means Sunday! Well it gave us a bit of a giggle. Don't think any parents in England would call their sons Sunday. Although you never know!

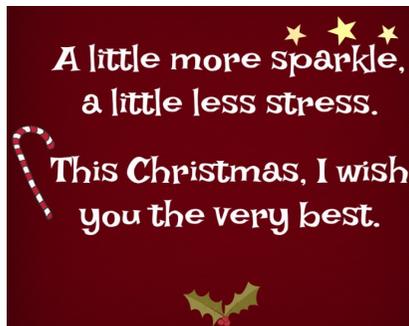
A message from two busy bees!

Hello folks, **Sheila and John Mynard** here.

What did we do all year? Well, our first project was the garden. Knowing that we were not going to go all the way to Wales any more, we decided to make a reminder at home.

We fell in love with a slate waterfall and set it up. Then we very slowly built a rockery, quartz stones, rocks, and even a sheep! Ferns, foxgloves, etc. and we were again back in our beloved North Wales!!

[News of Sheila & John's second project in the next issue!]



The following was received from **Shirley Chase** and certainly is something to make us think and savour!

The Effect of Friends

Why do I have a variety of friends who are all so different in character?

How is it possible that I can get along with them all?

I think that each one helps to bring out a "different" part of me.

With one of them I am polite.

With another I joke.

With another I can be a bit naughty.

I can sit down and talk about serious matters with one,

Be on the same wavelength with another.

With another I laugh a lot.

I listen to one friend's problems.

Then I listen to another one's advice for me.

My friends are like pieces of a jigsaw puzzle.

When completed, they form a treasure box.

A treasure of friends! They are my friends who understand me better than I understand myself.

They're friends who support me through good days and bad.

Real age doctors tell us that friends are good for our health.

Dr. Oz calls them Vitamin F (for Friends) and counts the benefits of friends as essential to our wellbeing.

Research shows that people in strong social circles have less risk of depression and terminal strokes.

If you enjoy Vitamin F constantly you can be up to 30 years younger than your real age.

The warmth of friendship stops stress and even in your most intense moments, it decreases the chance of a cardiac arrest or stroke by 50%.

I'm so happy that I have a stock of Vitamin F (Friendships)!

In summary, we should value our friends and keep in touch with them.

We should try to see the funny side of things and laugh together and pray for each other in the tough moments.

Some of my friends are friends on-line.

I know I am part of their lives because their names appear on my computer screen every day and I feel blessed that they care as much for me as I care for them.

Thank you for being one of my Vitamin Fs !!!





RECOGNISING JESUS

Melvin Newland

A favourite Christmas story is the one about the old shoe cobbler who dreamed one Christmas Eve that Jesus would come to visit him the next day. The dream was so real that he was convinced it would come true.

So, the next morning he got up and went out and cut green boughs and decorated the little cobbler shop and got all ready for Jesus to come and visit. He was so sure that Jesus was going to come that he just sat down and waited for Him.

The hours passed and Jesus didn't come. But an old man came. He came inside for a moment to get warm out of the winter cold. As the cobbler talked with him, he noticed the holes in the old man's shoes, so he reached up on the shelf and got him a new pair of shoes. He made sure they fitted and that his socks were dry and then sent him on his way.

Still the old shoe cobbler waited. But Jesus didn't come. An old woman came. A woman who hadn't had a decent meal in two days. They sat for a while, and then he prepared some food for her to eat. He gave her a nourishing meal and sent her on her way.

Then he sat down again to wait for Jesus. But Jesus still didn't come.

Then he heard a little boy crying outside in front of his shop. He went out and talked with the boy and discovered that the boy had been separated from his parents and didn't know how to get home. So, the cobbler put on his coat, took the boy by the hand, and led him home.

When he came back to his little shop it was almost dark and the streets were emptied of people. And then in a moment of despair he lifted his voice to heaven and said, "Oh Lord Jesus, why didn't you come?"

And then in a moment of silence he seemed to hear a voice saying, "Oh shoe cobbler, lift up your heart, I kept my word. Three times I knocked at your friendly door. Three times my shadow fell across your floor. I was the man with the bruised feet. I was the woman you gave a meal to. I was the boy on the homeless street.

Jesus had come. The old cobbler just didn't realise it.

Ho! Ho! Ho!



THE BLIND PILOTS



Two men dressed in pilots' uniforms walk up the aisle of the plane. Both are wearing dark glasses, one is using a guide dog, and the other is tapping his way along the aisle with a cane.

Nervous laughter spreads through the cabin, but the men enter the cockpit, the door closes, and the engines start up. The passengers begin glancing nervously

around, searching for some sign that this is just a little practical joke. None is forthcoming.

The plane moves faster and faster down the runway and the people sitting in the window seats realise they're heading straight for the water at the edge of the airport. As it begins to look as though the plane will plough into the water, panicked screams fill the cabin.

Just at that moment, the plane lifts smoothly into the air. The passengers relax and laugh a little sheepishly, and soon all retreat into their magazines, secure in the knowledge that the plane is in good hands. . . .

In the cockpit, one of the blind pilots turns to the other and says: "You know, Bob, one of these days, they're going to scream too late and we're all going to die."

DID YOU KNOW:

- ☺ a bicycle can't stand on its own because it is two-tired.
- ☺ she had a boyfriend with a wooden leg but broke it off.
- ☺ a chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.
- ☺ if you show me a piano falling down a mineshaft, I'll show you A-flat minor.
- ☺ marathon runners with bad footwear suffer the agony of defeat.
- ☺ the man who fell into an upholstery factory is now fully recovered.
- ☺ you can feel stuck with your debt if you can't budge it.
- ☺ a lot of money is tainted. It taint yours and it taint mine.



WEIGHTY SIGNATURE

Signing the register at a wedding, the best man had difficulty in making his ballpoint pen to work.

"Put your weight on it," said the vicar.

He duly signed: John Smith, (10st 4lbs)



BRIGHT HOUR

At a meeting of the Women's Bright Hour an elderly member told everyone to boycott the new launderette after she had seen a notice above the machines. It read, "When the light goes out please remove all clothes."



BE QUIET

A Sunday School teacher asked the children,

"Why is it necessary to be quiet in church?"

A little girl replied, "Because people are sleeping."

DRAWING GOD

Father came home from work to find his small son busily drawing. "What picture are you drawing?" he asked.

"God," said the little fellow while his father looked on smiling.

"You can't draw God," he said, "No one knows what God looks like."

"They will soon," came the reply, "I've nearly finished."



THE MINISTER'S MICROPHONE



The minister had come to dedicate a new sophisticated public address system. Being unsure as to whether the microphone had been switched on or not, he tapped it gently with seemingly no result. So, leaning very close to the microphone, he said in a loud whisper, which echoed around the church, "There is something wrong with this microphone."

The well trained and responsive congregation, well established in all the latest responses. replied: "And also with you."

100TH BIRTHDAY

A young minister was visiting an elderly man on his 99th birthday to interview him about his long life. The interview over, the minister said, "I hope to see you again on your 100th birthday."

The old gentleman carefully looked him over



and said: "I can't see any reason why you shouldn't, young man, you look healthy enough to me."

TICKET CHECK

A former Bishop of Exeter was rather absent-minded. One day he went by train to take a confirmation service in a neighbouring town. When the ticket collector asked to see his ticket, he couldn't find it. The kindly ticket collector said, "Don't worry, My Lord, I know who you are." The bishop replied, "But I do worry because without the ticket I don't know where I'm going."



CATCHING THE TRAIN

An elderly clergyman just managed to get the train as it was leaving his local station. He jumped in and sat down next to a young woman. When he had recovered his breath, he realised that he was sitting on her newspaper. He gave it to her. She thanked him but kept looking at him somewhat anxiously. At the next station she prepared to get out and said, "Please sir, may I have my fish too?"



CHRISTMAS MORNING



Every Christmas morning, when my kids were little, I read them the nativity story out of the big family bible. When my son was old enough to talk, he asked me what a stable was. I thought for a moment about how to explain it to him in terms he could understand, then told him, "It's something like your sister's room, but without a stereo."

FALSE TEETH

The minister just had all his remaining teeth pulled out and new dentures were being made.

The first Sunday afterwards he only preached for 10 minutes. The second Sunday, he preached for only 20 minutes. But, on the third Sunday he preached for one hour 25 minutes.

When asked about this by some of the congregation, he responded this way, "The first Sunday, my gums were so sore it hurt to talk. The second Sunday, my dentures were hurting a lot. The third Sunday, I accidentally grabbed my wife's dentures, and I could not stop talking!"



Church Bulletin Board

The following appeared in church bulletins
or were announced at church services.

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'



Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.



Don't let worry kill you off- let the Church help.



Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again', giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.



For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.



The Rector will preach his farewell message, after which the choir will sing: 'Break Forth Into Joy.'



Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on 24th October in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.



Potluck Supper Sunday at 5pm - prayer and medication to follow.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.



At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What is Hell?" Come early and listen to the choir practice.



The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.



This evening at 7pm there will be hymn singing in the park across from the church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.



The Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet on Thursday at 7pm. Please use the back door.



The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new tithing campaign slogan last Sunday: 'I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours.'



This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the Altar.

A Christmas List - Poem



The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light:
In the crying of a baby.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light:
In the signature of a star.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light:
In the surround sound from the sky.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light:
In the stories of the first followers.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light:
In the history of two thousand years.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light:
In the tales from the pubs and pulpits.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light:
In the prophets on the street corners.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light:
In the carols, hymns and songs.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light:
In the videos, films and stories on our screens.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light:
In the pain and the trouble of these days.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light:
In the gloom and the uncertainty of these nights.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light:
Beyond the glitter and the tinsel of this hallowed, stressful time.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

Dave Robinson



Grand Round the World Cruise... in a nutshell



At last the 6th January 2020 had arrived, I am ready to set off from Tilbury Docks on my adventure. A Grand Round the World Cruise, taking in 25 countries and 39 ports. Once my two friends and I had settled in to our cabin, home for the next 4 months, we had a wander around the ship to suss out where everything was, enjoyed a lovely meal, then a good night's sleep was had by all.

It was dreary weather on the first trip to Rotterdam but interesting nonetheless. After tasting lavender and pesto cheese in a store and looking in the Delft outlets, I walked the cobbled streets to the Town Hall Square past the Heart of Holland sculpture, which is quite impressive. We left the many bicycles and canal bridges to return to our ship, Columbus.

I had heard that the Bay of Biscay could sometimes be choppy, but it didn't prepare us all for the force 12 storm that beset us the next day. It was actually quite thrilling, and the high seas were amazing. The Captain told us not to worry as all would be fine, but he decided it would be worse near Ponta Delgada in the Azores, which was our next port of call, so he re-routed to Madeira. This was fine as I had not been to either. The sea settled and I had a lovely time in hilly Funchal, Madeira. Stunning views and a bit of wine tasting. The Santa Maria replica, the ship Christopher Columbus sailed the oceans on, was docked in Funchal.





We were all now in the swing of life on board and found the gym and sauna, games room - where I learnt how to play Mah Jong - the swimming pools, jacuzzi, coffee shops, shops and bars. I also noted from our Explorer daily itinerary that there was a Christian Fellowship Group each morning at 9am so decided to attend. I made some good friends there. Also, my cabin mates and I joined a quiz group during the relaxing days at sea and over the 4 months we all made some more good friends through this. The Palladium was the place to go to see the various interesting lectures during the day and the entertainment every evening, which was always fantastic.

By this time the clocks had been put back 6 hours altogether. The next port was Willemstad, Curacao, which is in the Caribbean. I did some 'curacao tasting' which was good enough to encourage me into purchasing a pack of 5 miniatures. To get to the town I went over the Queen Emma Bridge which opens every hour - whether there is anyone crossing it or not! I learnt that there is no home-schooling in this country and that Chi dolls and statues are symbolic to the country to denote a friend to turn to.....



I loved Cartagena in Columbia. Amazing scenery and it was extremely hot and humid. There was such a contrast between the shanty, quaint houses and the tall blocks and sky rises. On our coach excursion I saw rich and poor areas within a few minutes of each other. In St Teresa Square I alighted a horse and carriage for a lovely ride through cobbled streets with beautiful window boxes, bunting and colourfully clothed people sitting around.

When driving around Colon, Panama City, I spotted a derelict castle by the roadside only to see behind it, in the distance, were new high rise white buildings. Another contrast in a city. Had a lovely coast to coast drive and stopped at a market area with a huge PANAMA sign, so just had to have my picture taken there.



It is now 24th January and we were all up early to experience the amazing navigation through the Panama Canal. There were 3 locks, each taking just over an hour to go through and the ship is pulled through by 'mules', which are little trains connected by huge ropes to the ship. There is barely an inch to spare each side of the ship as we go through. It took all day to sail between the locks and out onto the Pacific Ocean. On 29th January we crossed the equator.

Off to the south sea French Polynesian Islands now. I loved Nuku Hiva. It was very hot, and the people were very humble. Toured around the Island in a land rover with amazing views and sights of very poor dwellings. There are stunning bays and lots of artisan markets.

On next to Papette, Tahiti. I arrived in the evening for a walk about but spent the next day on an excursion to the West Coast. The waterfall at Maraa Grotto was my favourite but we also visited a surfer's paradise beach, which was lovely, and an open-air temple where Ma'ohi Gods were worshipped.

Bora Bora was lovely too. We were welcomed by colourfully clad musicians and singers. I enjoyed the glass bottom boat trip, the swim in a quiet lagoon and the trip on Le Truck around the Island. This included a visit to world renowned 'Bloody Mary's' restaurant and a 'pareo' (sarong) manufacturer. They showed us how to colour and print a pareo as well as ways to wear them. It was fun.

As the clocks continue to go back, we then crossed the International Date Line. We were advised that after 23.59 on 10th February the date will be 12th February. We lost 11th completely! We were also advised that there was speculation regarding a China crisis, which we now know as COVID-19. It seems there is a virus from China that



could spread around the world. On 12th February, the King of Tonga advised the Captain that he is not allowing the ship to dock for fear of the coronavirus health issue. So, we did not get to visit the port of Nuku'alofa which is the capital of Tonga. Never mind, at least we know we are all safe and healthy on board. So far, anyway.

We then had 2 days in Suva, Fiji instead of 1, which was a lovely place with such friendly, genuine people. Day 1 was extremely hot as I walked around Suva with my friends. There was a fantastic flower market, they seem to celebrate Valentine's Day! They have many different colour buses, each denoting who goes on what e.g. school children, centre bus. I saw at least 3 different school uniforms as well as many businessmen wearing a 'Sulu' which is basically a wrap over skirt. Tourism is especially important to the people, hence the many pearls and produce markets. Fiji is one of the richest countries on the continent of Oceania. Day 2 we had a little rain, but it didn't impair our excursion to Cola-i-Suva Forest Park Trek and waterfall. Fantastic sounds of birds and crystal-clear pools set in a serene and peaceful surrounding amidst a spectacular rainforest with trails and waterfalls, in which I had a swim.....



We then had a few days relaxing at sea before arriving in hot, sunny Tauranga, New Zealand. Mountains, blue skies and then a coach trip with photo stops which were so beautiful I can't describe it. Then I was taken on a cultural journey into the heritage of the Maoris and early New Zealand settlers at the local Ngati Ranginui Maori Marae. A fascinating tour with storytelling and dancing (I joined in with pompoms), nose greeting and a Meeting Place Lecture. Later a visit to the local town near the ship. All so very clean and tidy.



Next stop Auckland. Lovely excursion to see Auckland City sights. Absolutely amazing panoramic views of the city and Waitemata Harbour. Then on to Auckland War Museum which was so interesting.

Although windy with rain at times, I absolutely loved Wellington, our next stop. We went to the Museum of NZ, Te Papa Tongarewa on the waterfront. Stories of voyaging, conflict and survival told through a powerful mix of cultural treasures and oral histories. The Gallipoli exhibition was fantastic and moving. We went on a 100 year old funicular cable car up to 390ft with great views at the top. We then walked back to a shuttle bus past the famous Beehive building, back to the ship.

Then we sailed on to Australia. Sydney first. I got up really early to see the amazing Opera House which was lit up in the dark as we



sailed by to White Bay Cruise Terminal to dock. Then a fantastic day with so much to see on my trip to the Blue Mountains. There was a visit to



Scenic World which incorporated a horizontal cable car ride with glass floor. We could see the world-famous rock formation ‘The Three Sisters’. Amazing views across the Blue Mountains to the sound of galeas... .Despite the fires in Sydney (Scenic World had only just reopened) we were still able to see panoramas in the distance of Jamieson Valley, Mount Solitary and Burrabong Valley.

Then I went on the steepest cable car, Skyway, in the world – I was at the front so that was an experience - followed by a walk along a trail to find a lovely waterfall. A scrummy lunch at Carringtons Hotel was a treat as well.

Now off to Great Barrier Reef part of Australia, Airlie Beach. It was hot, hot, hot. It is so idyllic here with fantastic sights, views, vegetation. A visit to Proserpine Historical Museum was quite interesting with general Australian artefacts and souvenirs and studies of transport, home life and work life. I then had a beach walk but could only dip my feet as there was a jelly fish alert! One of my cabin mates, Jay, was the only one to be brave enough to take the light aircraft excursion over the Great Barrier Reef. It was the only quickest way to see it for the time we had in this port.

Next stop, Yorkey's Knob. It was calm and warm. My excursion took me to Kuranda Village via Skyrail. It towered over the rainforest vegetation, it was a longer ride and was amazing. I saw a fantastic waterfall on the first stop to walk around the rainforest. You then alight the skyrail again for the next stop and a walk around. Alight again then the last stop was to Kuranda Village filled with typical local markets with koala & wallaby and butterfly sanctuaries, didgeridoos, clothes and cafes. What a simply fascinating day.....

Our last port in Australia was Darwin. This was added in at the last moment as there are now many ports in countries on our itinerary that we cannot visit due to the



coronavirus situation. So pleased as Darwin is really nice. We went to a Territory Wildlife

Park. Yes, we stroked some kangaroos.....and wallabies. This was the highlight of the park as well as the Aquarium. After returning to the ship for a while, I then went for a lovely walk around the harbour and into the surrounding area with shops and coffee bars. It was great.

Another destination we were not expecting to visit was Indonesia. Again, due to the fact that we cannot now visit Papua New Guinea, China, Japan, South Korea, or Malaysia to date.

First Bali – this was such an interesting place to drive through. Hundreds of mopeds, yes, I mean hundreds. I

saw a whole family piled on one moped at one point. Mostly they are students. My favourite 'temple' to visit was Tanah Lot. It was impressive black lava towers sitting on a rocky outcrop offshore, surrounded by water and crashing white surf. A visit to a Batak outlet was very interesting indeed. It is a Balinese tradition of printing by hand on cloth. They had a shop outside of the factory where they sold many beautiful dresses, cushions, hats. The distinctive artistry and technique were amazing! A great day out.



Lombok, ah lovely Lombok. We had 2 days here. The ship's passengers were treated to a red carpet and a group of young musicians dressed in yellow. It was so nice and the weather was beautiful. I just loved the trip by taxi, 6 of us in all, for a look at local life. I saw coolies in the paddy fields, an area where monkeys played happily by the roadside. I loved the pop-up stalls selling Indonesian food and drinks and coconuts. There were traditionally made food bags, fruits – mangosteens etc. There was a roadside 'sugar cane' truck where they squeeze the cane to make a drink. It was disgusting. There are many statues and follies around the roads. We all went to Senggigi Beach. It was idyllic, boasting 6 miles of white-sand beach, shops, cafes, luxury hotels and open air markets. 3 of us went for a swim, including myself. It was warm and so exhilarating... Our last port of call was Semarang in Indonesia. It was so very, very hot I would have been happy to just stay aboard and swim in the pool but did venture out and took a trip through the city just to sightsee. Another interesting city but sadly our last as it has now been announced that we cannot go to Jakarta nor any other port as they are all CLOSED due to COVID-19 taking over the world.

On 14th March, the Captain advised us that they will be curtailing the remainder of the cruise. So now we would be sailing home from Indonesia and not stopping at the rest of the countries, Thailand, Vietnam, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Israel, Jordan, Egypt and Gibraltar. The food and entertainment did not stop though.

We also had highlights on the way home, stopping at Sri Lanka for fuel and produce and sailing past Singapore. We also witnessed the transfer of passengers from our ship to another and vice versa, to ensure all got to their appropriate homes safely. We also dropped off 2 passengers in Malta and 3 passengers at Gibraltar. I especially enjoyed going through the Suez Canal. It was amazing and took most of the day. We all just sat back and took in the sights whilst drinking tea and feasting from the buffet. I will remember my great adventure forever. We were incredibly lucky because whilst you were all in Lockdown number 1, all of us on board Columbus were mingling and socialising as well as being healthy, right to the end of the trip. Thanks be to God... ..



Thanks for your interest everyone.

Vicki Drew.

BARBARA EVA BERRY

(Née Cheeseman) 11.3.26 – 3.8.76

Mum was born on the 11th March 1926 at 80, Horsell Moor, Horsell, Woking, Surrey (it is now Moors Nook Retirement Homes – formerly White Knight Laundry). Mum had a twin sister, Bella and two brothers, Brian and Henry Richard (Dick).

When the girls were a few months old, the family moved to a house in St. Johns Lye - it was a 2 up, 2 down. When the boys were born, they moved to Sunnyside Terrace in Bagshot Road, Knaphill (now Sunnyside flats).

When mum left school, she worked at Blackdown Army Barracks as a Tailoress until 1945 when she got a job as a bus conductress for the Aldershot & District Bus Company; she was there until 1956 when she got married. After their marriage Mum and Dad remained at the house for two years before moving to 132 High Street.

While we were in school Mum worked in school canteens, but as we got older she had a job at Crater Controls, Lower Guildford Road – she also cleaned the Church.

Mum was in the Royal British Legion as an Escort to the Standard Bearer and also a Standard Bearer where she carried the flag at many Remembrance Services. Mum & I went up to the Royal Albert Hall on numerous occasions for the Annual Service.

Mum also collected for the Earl Haig Poppy Appeal in Knaphill, Bisley and West End and the whole family went out collecting for the Royal British Airforce.

Mum was also a member of the Women's Social Hour at the Church. Mum passed away in Woking Victoria Hospital on 3rd August 1976, aged 50.

Tarina Berry

(seen right with grandson Jack)



The Life & Times of Nurse Ella Allen



I left school at the age of 17 and realised in the last term what I would like to do for a career. I went to a grammar school just outside Portsmouth and we had a lecture about choosing a career. I went along hoping I would get some ideas and, in actual fact it had a profound effect on my life because from that time onwards in one way or another, I have worked for the NHS. My parents were amazed that I wanted to train as a nurse – they thought I ought to do a typing course at Pitman's College! Looking back on it now, if I had, it would have made using a computer now much easier.

My training at the Royal Hospital, Portsmouth started by going into the Preliminary School for the first three months and then going on to the wards for a stay on each of about three months. My first ward was with children and I loved it. Then came all the other wards plus the theatre and outpatients. We had many lectures and tests and after three years we had our finals which included written and practical exams. I was fortunate to pass and became an SRN (State Registered Nurse). In those days we did not have much social life because of the long irregular hours but we did have fun producing pantomimes now and again and we had Christmas Day on the wards. No staff had time off on that day and each year we decorated our wards, had a Christmas tree, and looked after the patients and tried to give them a good time. We took part in carol singing and went around each ward on Christmas Eve with our lanterns and wearing our red and navy capes.

While I was training, the Queen Alexandra

Royal Hospital, Portsmouth



(QA) hospital five miles away, started to become part of the Royal Hospital and eventually became the main hospital in the area. The Royal was then closed and demolished. Today the QA is very large and very acute and serves an extremely big area along each side of the south coast.

I worked on a male medical ward as a staff nurse for nearly two years and then decided to do my midwifery training at St James's Hospital in Balham, London.

This started my love of London with all its wonderful culture and way of life. On my day off I always went up to the West End to visit places of interest and to get to know it better.



I had to sit more exams and after six months, being present and then helping to deliver babies, I was sent to Paddington General Hospital in the Harrow Road. There I worked on a maternity ward and a premature baby unit. Whilst on this ward, Princess Alexandra came to see us and we were all so excited about this! Because she came onto the premature ward all the babies had to wear nappies which we made from white handkerchiefs. Three months went by quickly and I was moved into the Hackney area living in a District Nurses' home with my tutor

midwife. I spent three months there and had to deliver ten babies completely on my own which I managed to do before I took my final exams. My first baby on the district I delivered without much trouble, but I was sad to discover he had a hair lip and I almost thought it was my fault, which was obviously ridiculous! In those days they had just started to repair hair lips when children were about four or five years old.

Another patient my tutor midwife and I had to go to, was a woman we had not seen before but she had started labour. She was about 40 years old and had two much younger sisters who had no idea she was pregnant. They kept saying to each other "we can't believe she's pregnant, if it was one of us, we could understand it!"

I was sent by my midwife at 2am to see another woman in the Bethnal Green area. So, I dressed quickly, got on my bike, and found the correct road. However, there were no houses lit up, so I was rather puzzled. Still, with the aid of my torch I found the number of the house and went up some steps to the front door. I knocked and it was opened by a gentleman with a hat and beard. He said to me, "thank goodness you have arrived, are you a Christian?" I said yes and he said, "thank goodness, you can turn the lights on then!" They were Jews and it was their Sabbath. I was shown where the



woman was who didn't speak any English but just kept reading a book. I had to examine her but needed to sterilize some instruments by boiling them first. I asked for a saucepan and they could only give me an egg pan, because otherwise I would have contaminated the others. However, this lady was only in the early stages of labour. I rang my midwife at 6am and she was horrified to think that she had sent me there on my own (we were covering the area for another midwife at the time).

Another of my babies was delivered in a prefab near the London Docks. The mother, Molly Higgins, was expecting her fifth baby and I was desperate to get this delivery and when the call came in the middle of the night I quickly put on my uniform, over my night dress and jumped on my bike and got to the house in time to deliver the child. One day when the baby was about a week old, I was with Molly when she suddenly looked out of the window and spotted someone coming up to the front door. "Quick, get down onto the floor". I did this and after the visitor had left because we did not answer the door, I asked for the reason why we had to behave like that. Molly said, "that was my health visitor, and she wants us to move into better accommodation. I don't want that because my husband works in the dockyards and I can keep an eye on what he is up to from here!"

By now I was coming to the end of my year as a pupil midwife. I took my final exams and was fortunate to get my State Certified Midwife Certificate. Following a couple of months helping on the district I went



back to the QA hospital as a staff nurse; followed by a post as a Night Sister for a couple of years. I then became a Ward Sister on a female surgical ward. After all this interesting work I moved to Woking in 1961.

Part-time nursing at the Victoria Hospital in Woking was the order of the day until Graham my son was born followed by Geraldine.

When Michael, my husband left us the children were eleven and thirteen. I was not then able to return to nursing as the hours in those days were completely unsuitable, so I started working in Bisley and then Bisley & West End doctors' surgeries. In the end I was running the surgery and worked there altogether for 21 years until I retired.

I have had a lot of friendship and fellowship with staff at West End and, of course, at our Knaphill Methodist Church.

Thank you all. God bless.

Ella Allen



Let's knit

Nelly Ford and her daughter Jo James have won a prize for a blanket in a recent issue of "Let's Knit" magazine.

Dear Friends,

I hope you like my blanket which started off as a cushion cover but then I got carried away. My niece sent me a bag of wool, as she knew I loved knitting. I was born in Wantage, a rural town in Oxfordshire. I am one of 9 and we had a very privileged life. My father was in the Army for about 25 years. My mother taught us all to knit, boys as well and I have been knitting ever since. When I left school at 16, I completed a Nanny course in Dr Barnardo's. The church has been part of our lives and still is. Later I moved to St George's Hill in Weybridge but that's another story.

Nelly Ford

Makes of the MONTH



"My 82 year old mum, Nelly Ford, really enjoys your magazine and it has kept her busy and sane during lockdown. She started knitting the colour pop cushion from your April 2020 edition, she went further and it ended up a super colourful blanket!" **Jo James**

This looks wonderful, Nelly has done an amazing job and the colours look great



LK reader Jo (and Nelly) has won two balls of 4ply yarn from Chilla Valley Alpaca and 3mm needles.





Tom & Marilyn's Diamond Wedding Celebration!

Thank you all for your cards and good wishes for our special day in August. Having changed our plans for a family meal at Merrist Wood where Tom & I first met, we were able to celebrate for a whole week!

In our hubs of six, and lovely sunny weather, we were able to meet up with family and friends for tea, coffee and cake on our front lawn.

We were also able to book a midday meal at the "Cricketers" in Horsell with our two daughters and their partners on the actual day.

The card from the Queen came a fortnight later. In the meantime, the homemade card produced, by my daughter Jackie and her husband Andrew, said it all!

So now we look forward to celebrating Christmas in some way or another and we wish you a joyous time and look forward to the New Year when we can meet again in happier circumstances. With our love to you all.

Marilyn & Tom Meller



News from Ruth Pugh in Dragapur

Ruth is working in India for the Diocese of Durgapur, under the Church of North India (CNI) part of the Methodist Church. Her main role is to teach children music, specifically to play string instruments. She also trains them to be Cathedral musicians enabling them to play for all the services at the Cathedral. Ruth also coaches them to take The Associated Board of the Royal School of Music (ABRSM) and Trinity College London (TCL) exams. The ultimate aim is so they can get jobs as teachers teaching Western Music or playing professionally in orchestras. Ruth also works as a music teacher at a school in Perulia and at another school to help with music in pre-primary classes.



Dear friends at KMC

It has been a very strange year with Coronavirus changing our lives. I've had no children here for 9 months now and the hostel is very quiet. But I thank God for all that he has done, and all my needs are met. As we come to celebrate Christmas, we remember



he is Emmanuel - God with us. He has been with us throughout this time and will continue to be with us, praise God.

It has been busy. In September we had Teachers Day and the children danced, sang, and did poems in an online programme for us. In November, the teachers performed for the children online to celebrate Children's' Day. We have regular meetings on Zoom with our hostel children and the majority can do their classes online. We're hoping after Christmas we will be able to bring some back into the hostel.



Since I became Deacon, I also have more responsibilities in the cathedral. Arranging readers, PowerPoint, and Parish post (notice sheet) and helping in setting up the Lord's table and washing all the cups afterwards, as we now use individual cups not a chalice.

On Sunday 29th November, we celebrated 50 years of CNI (Church of North India), the unification of 6 churches including the Methodist church. As the celebration for Bishops and Diocesan Secretaries was cancelled in Delhi, due to a rise in Covid-19 after Diwali celebrations, the Bishop was with us in the cathedral. His daughters who have been learning with me for 5 months now were also part of the musicians.

On Tuesday 1st December we had another celebration - a Diocese Day of Prayer, and the 1st Anniversary of Bishop Sameer Isaac Khimla's installation. We were also still celebrating 50 years of CNI with representatives across the Diocese, but still a smaller group of people than usual.

I still have a few musicians who can get here to play, and we also filmed a couple of items for our Christmas programme which will be available online.

I am keeping well and thankful to God for my good health this year.

I wish you all a safe but wonderful Christmas as we celebrate Jesus' birthday, and a healthy and peaceful New Year.

Yours in Christ,

Ruth



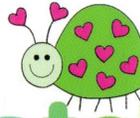
Dreamcatchers is open as usual.


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KNAPHILL METHODIST CHURCH



Knaphill Methodist Church, Broadway, Knaphill, Surrey.

GU21 2DR Minister: Rev Dave Faulkner 01483 472524

minister@knaphillmethodist.co.uk

www.knaphillmethodist.co.uk

Church Mobile 07756 711236

SUNDAY SERVICES

This is a Q code -
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our website



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 lots of things for children to do.

6.30pm - Monthly Evening Holy Communion

This is usually the 4th Sunday of the month, and is a small intimate service of Communion with about 15 or so people, some from other churches in the village. You are welcome to join us.

If you would like to worship on a Sunday evening when we do not have a service, our local Anglican church, Holy Trinity, Chobham Road, has a service at 6.30pm on the 1st Sunday of the month.

For further information see the notice boards outside the church or contact: admin@knaphillmethodist.co.uk

ALL SERVICES ARE CURRENTLY SUSPENDED (SEE BACK PAGE)

Services @ KMC

Due to the continuing COVID-19 restrictions we have again suspended all church worship services. Alternative methods of worship are available on our web site.

Other external activities such as coffee mornings, Clothes4U and other meetings continue to be closed until the COVID-19 restrictions are permanently lifted.

We'll be back to normal as soon as we can!

Contacts:

Minister - Rev Dave Faulkner

minister@knaphillmethodist.co.uk

Administrator: admin@knaphillmethodist.co.uk

Clothes4U: clothes@knaphillmethodist.co.uk

*Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year*



**'The first Christmas was pretty simple.
It's okay if yours is too.'**

WWW.KNAPHILLMETHODIST.CO.UK