

Network Magazine



*Huddersfield Parish Church
and the Methodist Mission*

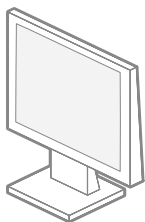


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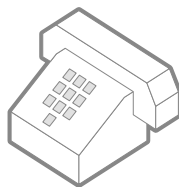
**Nov/Dec
2011**



30p



YOUR CONTACTS



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Registered Charity No 1134839

Byram Street, Huddersfield HD1 1BU

Telephone: 01484 427 964

E-Mail: huddspc@btconnect.com

Website: www.huddersfieldparishchurch.org

The Vicar:

The Rev Canon Simon Moor

Wardens:

Pearl Baldry

Barbara Nightingale

Treasurer:

Anne John

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Peter Chadwick

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Stephen Smith

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Steven Ward

Treasurer:

Granville Stead

Mission Administrator:

Heather Weatherill

Society Stewards:

Roy Squires

Jean Blount

Irene Saul

Registered Charity Numbers:

Huddersfield Methodist Mission: 1129144

Huddersfield Plus Point: 1100950

The Welcome Centre: 1081556

Huddersfield Guild for the Disabled: 223901

THE CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

We discern that God is calling us to be Christ's faithful witnesses, growing in prayer, proclamation and partnership with others.

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MAGAZINE/WEBSITE CONTRIBUTIONS

All contributions to the church magazine and the website are welcome. The preferred method is by email, however any other means will be just as acceptable:

E-mail sp@spchadwick.force9.co.uk or for the website:

graemeandsally@jb1980.freemove.co.uk

PLEASE NOTE: Contributions please before the 15th of the month before to guarantee publishing in the next issue of the magazine.

A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

First of all I wish to thank the Huddersfield Examiner for the superb aerial photograph of the church on our cover page.

Now, we have times when we are scratching around for something to put in the magazine and there are times when we have to ration what we get. This time we have a plethora of material, all for the Nov/Dec issue as it is all related to this period of time, so we have a bumper issue for you, four more pages. You wouldn't believe the extra work that entails.

We have our first letter from Stephen Day, but that didn't stop Simon from giving us a few pages as well. We have another moving article for Remembrance Day, this time written by Vivien Gill. We have two obituaries and another baby to celebrate. And we have all the information on the church's activities during this period.

I am still looking for articles on 'How I came by my Faith'. We have had two so far which were very interesting. Like I said before everyone must have a story to tell so out with it and send it to me.

In the last issue I told you that Sandra and I were considering having solar panels installed on our roof. Well we have gone ahead and done it and we are true sun-worshippers now. In one month we have made £87 which is guaranteed by the government + reduced utility bills, so it is definitely a good investment.



Peter Chadwick,
Magazine Editor

MAGAZINE ADVERTISING

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Or through the parish office:

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REMEMBRANCE

Dear friends,

This is the first pastoral letter that I have written for this newsletter since becoming minister of the Huddersfield Methodist Mission. I am aware of the good relations that have existed between the Mission and the Parish Church over many years and look forward to playing my part in enabling that relationship to continue and develop in the next few years.

November is a month in which remembrance comes to the fore. Remembrance Day provides us with an opportunity to remember those who fought and lived through two world wars. We also remember those living through wars and conflicts throughout the world today. Remembrance Day challenges us about what makes for peace in our world today.

We are challenged by the prophecy of Micah from nearly 3,000 years ago: 'He [God] will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths...they will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war any more' (Micah 4: 2b-3). We are challenged by the words of Jesus: 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God' (Matthew 5:9) and 'Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you' (Matthew 5:44). What does it mean for us to be peacemakers in the choices we make day by day? This question stays with us as we will soon be preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus, the one we know as the Prince of Peace.

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, remain with us always. **Amen.**

God bless, Steve Day

OBITUARY FOR ALLEN F. ILLINGWORTH A PERPETUAL VOLUNTEER

24th January 1946 to 30th August 2011

Allen was a member of Huddersfield Methodist Mission for over 40 years, and treasurer for 15 years. The Mission was his family; he named it as his next of kin in hospital records. He was a perpetual volunteer and received an award as a 'Lifelong Volunteer' from Kirklees Council in 2009. He was always ready to stand in when the Mission caretaker or administrator was ill or on holiday; take room bookings, lay out chairs, open doors and lock up late at night.



He was a representative of the Mission to the Methodist Circuit Meeting and a member of the West Yorkshire Synod. He was a keen supporter of what used to be called Huddersfield Council of Churches, now 'Churches Together.' He had many friends in many Churches and is the only person to have worshipped in every Methodist Church in the West Yorkshire District.

He was always at the forefront of meeting needy folk the Mission strives to serve, talk with them in the Café, listen to their problems. He would receive food donations from charities and individuals for the Welcome Centre and, when necessary, hand out supplies to those in need.

In 2008 he did a 152 mile sponsored walk in aid of his six favourite charities – The Blenheim project, Conistone Hostel, Huddersfield Methodist Mission, Methodist Homes for the Aged, Action for Children and Touchstone. He organised street collections for Action for Children and Christian Aid, going out with a box and collecting himself. His visits to the sick and elderly were always welcome because he was such a good story teller and made such outrageous puns.

As a young man he was one of the best youth leaders in Kirklees and many folk remember him with affection, especially coach loads of young people he took to MAYC weekends in London.

He was a life-long ardent supporter of Huddersfield Town FC.

He was an exceptional man and his fun and friendship are missed by a lot of people.



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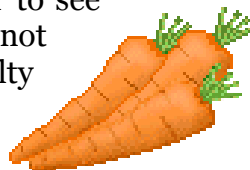
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Vegetarian Plea by John Kaye

This is a letter from Mr John Kaye who has asked for a plea to be published in the magazine on behalf of vegetarianism..

Have you considered vegetarianism? I believe that “thou shalt not kill” applies to animals as well as humans. We wouldn’t dream of killing our pet dogs and cats so don’t other animals deserve our kindness too?

We are very protected from the realities of what happens to the animals we eat. I think we owe it to God’s creatures, if we are not convinced of vegetarianism, to visit an abattoir to see what has to happen so that we may eat meat. Is not the person who hires a contract killer just as guilty as the killer themselves?



John Kaye

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PARISH NEWS AND DIARY

We have recently lost Peggy Whitfield, a well known member of our congregation and the PCC and Allen Illingworth from the Mission, also very well known here (see the obituaries on pages 11 and 7).

The Huddersfield Co-operative Art Class held their Exhibition 2011 at Huddersfield Parish Church from Tuesday 18 October until Monday 31 October. Brilliant!

Stewardship Sunday was postponed until November. See notice sheets.

NOTE: on Sunday the 13th of November the service will be a short one at the earlier time of 9am. This will be followed by the Remembrance Service at 10.45am

BBC Radio Leeds will be recording in our church on Tuesday 6th Dec starting at 6.30pm. They will have a brass band; our choir and members of the congregation are welcome. The edited version will be broadcast on Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

Diary For the next few weeks

See the service sheets and the notice boards for details of venues, dates and times and also who to contact.

Wed 2 Nov	12.35pm Holy Communion All Souls (names read out)
Sun 6 Nov	6.00pm Evensong All Souls (names read out)
Wed 9 Nov	7.30pm PCC meeting
Sat 12 Nov	10.00am-12.00am Coffee morning plus in the church
Sun 13 Nov	9am service followed by Remembrance Service at 10.45am
Tue 17 Nov	Inter-faith school visit
Sun 20 Nov	12noon - 4.00pm Contemporary Music Festival concert in church
Sat 26 Nov	Evening concert by choir member (see notice boards for details)
Sun 27 Nov	Advent Sunday 6.00pm Service of Light
Wed 30 Nov	10.15am to 11.15am Coffee morning at the Keys
Fri 2 -Sun 4 Dec	Huddersfield Festival of Light in St Peter's Garden and St George's Square (see website www.huddersfieldlightfest.co.uk)
Sat 3 Dec	10.00am - 200pm Christmas Charity Fayre. Switch on 10.15am
Tue 6 Dec	6.30pm BBC Leeds recording in church for Christmas Day and Boxing Day services.
Wed 7 Dec	6.30pm Co-op Memorial Service
Thu 8 Dec	10.30am U3A Carol Service
Tue 13 Dec	7.30pm PCC meeting at the Vicarage
Wed 14 Dec	1.00pm Carol Service for the Town
Sat 17 Dec	4.00pm Christingle Service (church) (See page 35)
Sat 24 Dec	3.00pm Crib Service (See page 35) 11.30pm Christmas Eve MIDNIGHT MASS
Sun 25 Dec	8.00am Christmas Day Service 10.00am Christmas Day Service
Wed 28 Dec	NOTE: There will be NO COFFEE MORNING today
Sun 1 Jan	*** Next issue of the Network Magazine ***



Obituary for Miss Margaret Whitfield

Peggy, as she was affectionately known, died on 27 July 2011 aged 87 years. She was a faithful member of St Peter's congregation for over 30 years and a former member of the PCC.

Peggy was born in Lancashire, spending her young life in Blackpool. During the war she was in the ATS doing secretarial work here and in Berlin. She then trained for nursing in Liverpool, moving to Preston, and gained promotion to the post of Nursing Officer at Huddersfield Royal Infirmary. She was a very caring person, bringing her mother to live with her at Salendine Nook, near to her work. In her younger days she enjoyed holidays in Scotland and horse-riding and over the last years looking after her stray cats who, she said, seemed to find her!



HUDDERSFIELD MISSION
SPECIAL SERVICES & DATES
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER/2011

See the notice boards for the dates for your diary for the November/December period and the special Christmas services

TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

This is an article seen in the daily paper written by L.J. Clark, Swindon, Wilts.

The carol the 'Twelve Days of Christmas' was used in the Cromwell-led Puritan era (1649-1660) as a catechism - in code - to express the main aspects of the Christian creed.

The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus Christ.

Two turtle doves: the Old and New Testaments.

Three French hens: the three virtues, Faith, Hope and Charity.

Four calling birds: the four gospels of the evangelists.

Five Gold Rings: the first five books of the Old Testament (the Torah).

Six Geese a laying: the six days of creation.

Seven swans a swimming: the seven sacraments.

Eight maids a milking: the eight beatitudes.

Nine ladies dancing; the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit.

Ten lords a-leaping: the ten commandments.

Eleven pipers piping: the eleven faithful apostles.

Twelve drummers drumming: the twelve points of doctrine in the Creed.

Thanks to Sheila Brierley for this article

AN ODE TO THE PCC

A poem displayed in a quiet corner of Truro Cathedral

Let's praise the hard worked he or she,
the treasurer of the PCC.



Let's praise the cleaner of the aisles,
the nave, the candlesticks and tiles.

Let's praise the organist who tries
to make the choir increase in size,
or, if that simply cannot be,
just to improve the quality.



Let's praise the ringers in the tower,
who come to ring in cold and shower.

But most of all, let's Praise the few
who are seen in their accustomed pew
throughout the year, whate'er the weather,
that they may worship God together.



These, like a fire of glowing coals,
strike warmth into each other's souls.
And although they be but two or three,
they keep the Church for you and me.

John Betjeman

Thanks again to Sheila Brierley for this article

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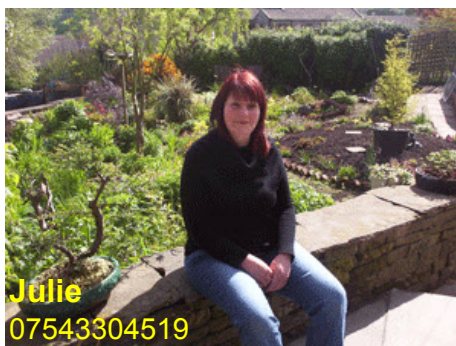
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A Charity about People and Miracles **– West Yorkshire Dog Rescue**

Wait a minute, it's a Dog Rescue isn't it? Well not entirely, and this article gives a case history of how people are equally beneficiaries of our Charitable activities and how God helped me to help a man and two dogs.

Social Services deal with people in need, often in dire circumstances and part of the help package is moving to sheltered accommodation. Unfortunately dogs often cannot go, or people are incapable of continuing to look after them. They contacted us to take a pair of dogs from a severely disabled man. On visiting we were greeted by a collie Tess and an older dog Oscar with their disabled owner who was extremely distraught. For this man, living with his disabilities and social problems is enough to cope with but the love and companionship from the dogs helped him through each day. He was totally overwhelmed with fears for their long term safety and his own distress at losing his best friends. Equally for them, the parting was fraught, they screamed and struggled as I loaded them into the Landrover and drove away, tears in my eyes.

My dilemma was I had no fosters, we do not use kennels, and the planned date had been moved forwards one week at very short notice so no time to organise anything. My house was overloaded with the 10 dogs I am fostering. I was fighting misery, panic and deep tiredness from my constant workload and burden of giving of myself with little offer of help. I took them home into the only dog-free room and did what the English do in crisis, made a cup of tea. It was 11am on a Sunday.

Suddenly a friend I hadn't heard from for years phoned and offered help, I was surprised and delighted, she came right over. We bathed both dogs, micro-chipped them, treated for fleas and worms and took a nice walk over the fields. She offered to foster Tess, I gave a big sigh of relief and made another cup of tea, one less to worry about.

I was considering the miracle of her "just-in-time" call and solution for Tess when the phone went again. A complete stranger responded to publicity and offered to foster!! I was staggered and thought there must be something good in the tea! By mid afternoon she arrived with her family, the back her car

stuffed with dog equipment from her shopping trip. Her generosity was overwhelming, they loved Oscar and took him home.

I couldn't believe the miracle of what had happened that day because we are a tiny Charity, I run the rescue and get so few offers of help. Despite being right on the edge myself I had not said no when the date had changed, I had overloaded myself with 2 extra dogs, and had no idea how I could cope. What are the chances of 2 offers of help on the very day I needed it, of people being free and available to instantly come, and to suit Tess and Oscar? I'll answer that – miniscule.

God was with me, with the disabled man, and with the dogs. There is only one conclusion; he cares for us all equally.

Contact Kathy Trout 07711617148, view www.westyorkshiredogrescue.co.uk

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LET'S NOT FORGET



On the 11th of November we will be remembering those who died serving our country. For the last two years I have published moving articles from individuals in our church to remind us not to forget them. This time the article comes from Vivien Gill about her Uncle Tom.

My uncle, Tom Greenwood, was born in August 1881 at Aspley, second son of Tom Alfred Greenwood, Shuttle Maker of Upper Aspley, and Lavinia Greenwood. He was employed by T. K. Mellor, Stockbroker, in Huddersfield. Although he was popular and had a large circle of friends, he still remained single.

In 1914, on the outbreak of war, he enlisted in the Liverpool Regiment, rising rapidly to the rank of Sergeant. He resisted as long as possible receiving a commission, knowing that death was practically inevitable for a 2nd Lieutenant as he had to lead his men over the trenches into enemy fire. At last in September 1918, less than two months before the armistice, he paid the price and 2nd Lieutenant Tom Greenwood was killed at Ecoust in France. His name is on the Roll of Honour in Liverpool Cathedral. His mother never got over his loss and died shortly afterwards.



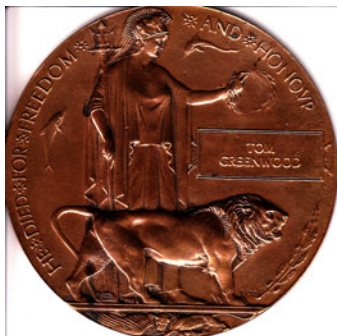
I was his youngest sister's daughter and though I never knew him I was brought up to honour his memory.

Vivien Gill

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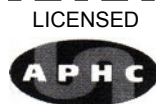


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awarded to Tom by
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IT'S A BOY (ANOTHER)



Willem Timothy Ernest Quarmbby arrived safely, on his due date of the 27th of September, at 11.04 am (ish.... Willem was born 'en caul' for those of those interested in this sort of thing, so actual delivery time was a bit drawn out!), weighing 8 lbs 5 ozs. We are all doing well, despite me being readmitted to Calderdale Royal afterwards, and Ted is loving being a big brother!

Lots of love, Verity, Richard, Ted and Willem.



*Just how many perishin' coins did you put in this
Christmas pudding?*



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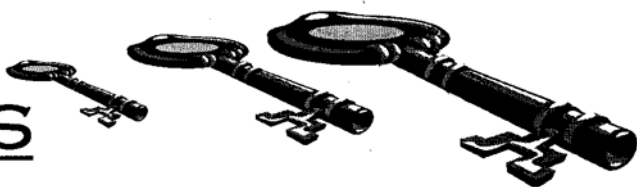
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Ida !

Ida who ?

Ida terrible time getting here !

PUZZLE PAGE

		9	5					
	6	3	8					9
	2		6		7			
	1			5		7		
	9	8				3	4	
		2		3			8	
			4		6		2	
8					9	1	5	
					5	6		

Sudoku

This one is classed as medium to play with over Christmas. Good luck!

Try to fill in the missing numbers.

Use the numbers 1 through 9 to complete the equations.

Each number is only used once.

Each row is a maths equation. Work from left to right.
Each column is a maths equation. Work from top to bottom.

	/		+		/		4
+		+		-		-	
	/		-		+		9
-		x		/		+	
	-		/		+		20
+		+		-		x	
	-		x		-		-73
14		61		-3		116	

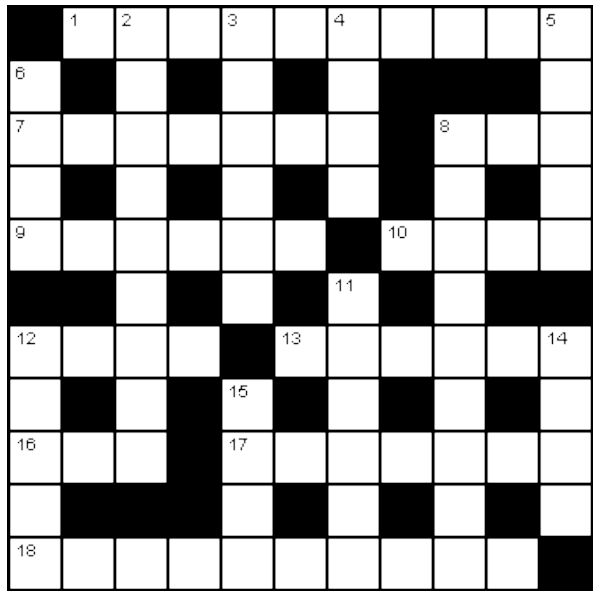
Across

1. Inverse (10)
7. Curt (7)
8. Crib (3)
9. Sentinel (6)
10. Hinge joint (4)
12. Remedy (4)
13. Cask (6)
16. Mythical bird (3)
17. Fishing boat (7)
18. Duty (10)

Down

2. Bizarre (9)
3. Disregard (6)
4. Wealthy (4)
5. Nimble (5)
6. Arithmetical operation (4)
8. Lowest female singing voice (9)
11. Empty (6)
12. Freight (5)
14. Entice (4)
15. Male deer (4)

QUICK CROSSWORD



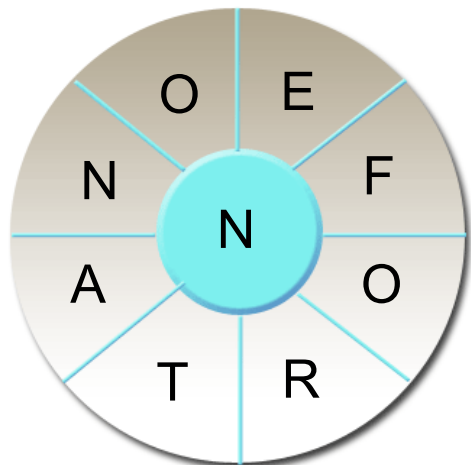
Answers to previous crossword

Across: 1 Worry. 4 Adage. 7 Fig. 8 Reacted. 9 Rook. 10 Author. 13 Wisdom. 14 Omit. 17 Garnish. 19 Tea. 20 Sewed. 21 Farce.

Down: 1 Wafer. 2 Regions 3 Yarn. 4 Abacus. 5 Act. 6 Eider. 11 Hamster. 12 Copied. 13 Wagers. 15 Trace. 16 Chef. 18 Raw.

WORD WHEEL

How many words can you make from the letters in the wheel? Each word must contain the hub letter **A**. Can you find a 9-letter word and at least 20 other words of five letters or more avoiding proper nouns?



NEWS FROM YOUR PCC

Front Steps - If you remember, some of the front steps were taken up to investigate why they were sinking. Well it appears that there is very little foundation underneath. This will all be put right when they commence the work on the north wall project and all that entails in May.

They on-going saga of what to get to commemorate the service which the Livingstones had given to the Parish Church, is still on-going. Because the price of silver is rocketing daily, anything in silver is being ruled out. The latest ideas are a carved wooden salver or an engraved roundel in one of the church windows. Any thoughts out there, let us know.

Replacement of the rear Crypt door has been put on the back burner pending an improvement in our finances.

No further news on the North Wall project, except that fund raising is being planned to start soon. The work is still scheduled to start in May 2012.

Transport Coordinator. We now have a new Transport Coordinator. Hilary Norcliffe has kindly volunteered for this position so if you have any transport problems, speak to Hilary who will no doubt be approaching people with cars, to help people with such difficulties.

Our church is actively involved with the Huddersfield Business & Community Group, where local businesses meet with the police and other interested parties to try to find a solution to the undesirables causing problems in St Peter's gardens and the surrounding area. It is thought that the removal of some of the trees helps by opening up the gardens.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are still desperate for volunteers to help with the day to day running of the church. Would you like to lead prayers or give readings? Would you like to join the Saturday hosting team, or give hymn books out. There are many jobs so if you feel you would like to help even in any small way, then talk to a Warden for more information on our needs and where you may best fit in.

Training will be given.



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A CHRISTMAS PARABLE

There was once a man who didn't believe in God and he didn't like religious holidays like Christmas. His wife did, however, believe, and she brought up their children to have a faith in God and Jesus. One windy, snowy, Christmas Eve, his wife was taking the children to the Church Carol Service. He refused and thought it was all nonsense. "Why would God lower himself to come to earth as a man? That's ridiculous!" He stayed at home.

A while later, the winds got stronger and the snow blew in a blizzard. As he looked out of the window of the house all he saw was blinding snow. Then he heard a loud thump on the window, then another. Something had hit the window. He looked out but could hardly see more than a few feet ahead of him.

He went out to see what could have hit the window. In the field near the house there was a flock of wild geese. They had been flying south for the winter and had got caught in the snowstorm and could not go on. They were lost, stranded on his farm without food or shelter. They just flapped their wings and flew round in low circles blindly and aimlessly. A couple of them had flown right into the window pane. The man felt sorry for the geese and wanted to help them. The barn would be a great place for them, he thought. It would be warm and safe. They could spend the night there until the storm were over.



He walked over to the barn and flung the two large doors open, then watched and waited, hoping that they would notice the barn doors open and go inside. But the geese just didn't realise what this offer of help would mean for them. He tried to get their attention, but that just scared them away. He went into the house and got some bread and made a trail of crumbs to the barn door. They still didn't catch on. He then tried to get behind them and shoo them in but they just scattered in all directions. Nothing he did, or could do, would get them into the safety and warmth of the barn. "Why don't they follow me, he asked?" Can't they see this is the only place where they can survive the storm?" He thought and then realised that they just would not follow a human. "If only I was a goose, then I could save them from this storm."

He had an idea. He went into the barn and got one of his own tame geese that lived around the farm and who were sheltering there, in the heat from the wind and snow. He went behind the flock of geese. He let his own goose free. It flew right through the flock of wild geese and straight into the barn. And one by one the other geese followed it into safety, away from the wind, and the snow. He stood in amazement as he remembered what he had just said, "If only I was a goose, then I could save them." Then he thought about what he had said to his wife, earlier in the evening. "Why would God want to be like us? That's ridiculous!"

Suddenly it all made sense. That is what God had actually done. We were like the geese, blind, lost and perishing. God had his Son become like us, so that he could show us the way and save us. That was the meaning of Christmas. As the winds died down, he understood what Christmas was all about and why Christ had come. His first ever prayer: "Thank you Jesus, for coming in human form, as a baby, to show me the way out of the storm."

November always brings with it a sense of Remembrance. 'Remember Remember, the fifth of November' is soon followed by Remembrance Day, and both are preceded in the church calendar by All Souls Day, when we remember those loved ones who have departed this life. Each looks back - and this provides us with important memories from which we hope that we, and our world, can learn.



Whilst the certainty of death remains with us, and memories of loved ones continue to be precious, the lessons of war and terrorism, in all its forms, are evidently not so well learnt. Now 60+ years after the Second World War, our armed forces are still deployed around the world in defensive and peace-making roles. From our own communities and families, there are those who have been deployed to Afghanistan and other theatres of conflict. There are still others who serve in the wider armed forces, the police and intelligence services; all reminds us of how important remembering is.

Today remembering is both about the past and the present. We remember the helplessness that families feel whilst their loved ones serve in difficult parts of the world, and their pride, and ours, in those who are prepared to serve. We remember families and children separated from spouses and parents for months at a time, whilst life here seeks to be 'normal'. We remember those who serve, and our longing for peace.

It is the time of year when we can publicly recall our own family members. Not that they are forgotten at other times of the year, but this is the season of remembrance when 'remembering' is clearly in focus. Twice in the first week of November names will be read in a public arena. Please pause and recall the

faces of the departed on the Wednesday and Sunday—see elsewhere in this magazine for details.

To pray for peace and comfort, support and patience, will for some be an irrelevance. This does not change the reality of God who, in our moments of anxiety, loneliness, frustration and anger, offers his comfort and peace. Like a deep armchair into which we can sink, God surrounds and hugs us and gives us a place to be safe. In a world which has become so politically correct, we are in danger of forgetting the value of being hugged. This touch, which speaks a thousand words, means so much to so many and is just a small indicator of the love, warmth and peace which the living God seeks to bring to all.

To God we are all precious and remembered, and it is through our prayer that we can hug those who physically we cannot touch, and allow God to hug us as well. Bear this in mind in this season of remembering. We do well to have an eye to those whose loss, even after many years, is still sharp and painful.



In the Christian Cycle, All Souls is the time when we remember those from our community who have died. During the Wednesday 2nd November lunch-time service and then again on the evening of Sunday 6th November at 6.30pm, there will be a simple remembering of loved ones who have passed from this life into God's wider Kingdom.

Anyone who wishes to remember family or friends are invited to join in this service. Any additional names will be taken on the night to add to the list of names which will be compiled in the weeks leading up to the date.

The Sunday service will consist of hymns, readings and prayers dedicated to those we bring to mind on the evening. At a certain point in the service people will be asked to come forward and light a candle to symbolize the memories of those lost to us which are still very important and precious.

I hope you find these services both helpful and moving. If you are unable to be there please pause for a moment on the Wednesday lunch-time and/or Sunday evening and recognise the moment as loved ones are remembered before God in St. Peter's.

It was said of St Francis of Assisi that he told his followers to 'Go and spread the Gospel—and use words if you have to.'

‘And so this is Christmas and what have you done?’ Those are the words of John Lennon that should reflect any Christmas. The question is not what have you said, or eaten, or given, but rather what have you done?

Take our Father God as example. The Old Testament is packed with God promising and cajoling Israel. Trying to guide, through the prophets, and putting faith in Kings and people to live out the law. Yet it is in the doing that humanity begins to get a glimpse of God’s love. Love spoken is all well and good, but it is love in action that really made people realise the significance of God’s presence. It was not Isaiah, Jeremiah or Micah or any one of the prophets that brought God’s love into focus, but as it says in psalm 150— ‘His mighty acts’ are what we praise him for.

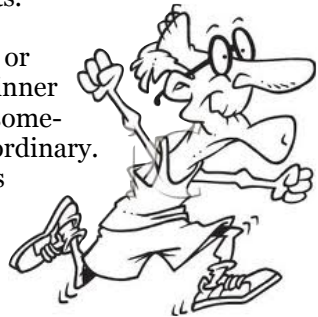
Lets face it Christmas is about action. Christmas is about the birth of Jesus as baby. Not God keeping his distance and issuing commands; but God being so close, as close as holding a baby.

When you have a baby to care for, words mean nothing. No mother or father will say to a new-born feed yourself, clothe yourself or take yourself off to bed. Words mean nothing. It is the action that is supremely important to that baby’s survival.

And God was willing and able to become a baby. Not just say he cared but became that helpless, action needing, baby of Bethlehem.

‘And so this is Christmas and what have you done?’ Remember the question is not what have you said, or eaten, or given, but rather what have you done? May I suggest some of the best gifts or actions are those that give something of time and talent. The ‘doing’ of something at Christmas is the one thing that is likely to be memorable above the meals and presents.

Perhaps that may mean as a family going for a walk or planning an activity that takes you away from the dinner table. If you were thinking of presents, why not do something that gets people to share time away from the ordinary. An action present where you ‘do’ something speaks louder than any amount of words. Go to a concert, visit a church, take part in a service, offer your services to others as a gift. Do, do, do.....!



May our actions this Christmas speak louder than the musak already in the shops for Christmas.

Simon

Two experiences for Children and the Young at Heart



Saturday 17th December
Between 2pm to 4pm

Come and Make a

CHRISTINGLE

Then @ 4 o'clock

CHRISTINGLE
SERVICE

Saturday 24th December
2pm

CRIB SERVICE

A telling of the
Christmas Story

HPC WEEKLY SERVICES

Sunday

8.00am

Holy Communion

10.00am

Parish Eucharist

The choir is in attendance during university term time for this service and there is usually a short organ recital at the end of the service. Coffee and biscuits are available during mix and mingle after the service.

Wednesday

12.35pm

Holy Communion



CHURCH OPENING HOURS

The church is open to the public for private prayer and reflection every Monday to Friday between 10.00am and 4.00pm and on Saturdays between 10.00am and 2.00pm. Everyone is welcome, regardless of religious beliefs, even if it is just to admire our beautiful building.

Be aware though that there are CCTV cameras in operation within the church throughout the day and night.

MISSION SERVICES

Daily:

Prayer Chapel is open for your own use

Sundays:

10.30am - Morning Worship

Mondays:

12.30pm to 1.00pm - Guided prayer in the Chapel

Monthly:

Bible study groups in homes.