



Zetland Park Methodist Church Newsletter December 2018

Worship

- 2nd December 10:45 am Revd. Trevor Haigh
Advent 1 6:00 pm Revd. Arthur Harbottle: Mission in Britain
- 9th December 10:45 am Steven Bee
Advent 2 6:00 pm *Worship at Marske*
- 16th December 10:45 am Revd. Arthur Harbottle: Communion
Advent 3 6:00 pm Revd. Arthur Harbottle: Carol Service *at Newcomen*
- 23rd December 10:45 am June Feather: Nativity
Advent 4 6:00 pm Revd. Betty Bell: Carol Service
- 24th December 10:30 am Carols in the Café *at Marske*
Christmas Eve 11:15 pm Revd. Arthur Harbottle: Communion *at Newcomen*
- 25th December 9:30 am Revd. Trevor Haigh *at Marske*
Christmas Day 11:00 am Revd. Arthur Harbottle
- 30th December 10:45 am Revd. Alan Coates *at Marske*
- 6th January 10:45 am Jenny Haigh
Epiphany 6:00 pm Revd. John Henry

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Though Christmas is usually seen as the season for giving and receiving gifts, for sharing food and fun with our families and friends - and let me say there is nothing wrong with any of these - I suspect all of them miss the mark of that which is the central core of the 'reason for the season'. I think the essence of Christmas is really in what God **did** for us - no, **not** what he gave us! To give a gift is simply to hand over of the ownership of something to another person - even if lots of effort is spent in trying to choose the 'right' gift so as to convey the right message! God did not give us Jesus - rather he sent him so as to **do** something for us. There is a popular saying that people may forget your name, they may forget what you said, but the will **never** forget how you made them feel. And how true this is and a reminder that it is what we do for people that matters most!

When the child Jesus, whose birth we celebrate at Christmas, was born in the back of a small town in Judea 2000 or so years ago, God **did** many things, not least to reach out to us and tell us how he feels about us. The child was born in a borrowed stable as there was no one willing to find a young mother-to-be a more appropriate place to give birth, which reminds us that God does not force himself onto anyone; we have to be willing to accept him, to make room for him. The child was born to ordinary working parents, which reminds us that God does not distinguish between class or status; no one is too lowly for God to love them! The birth of the child was not announced so that all **would** hear, but rather signs were given so that all **could** hear ... and respond, but only if they wished to!

In sending Jesus, what God **did** for us was to come to us, to live among us so that we might get to know him and see his love and care and concern for us.

If then, as I believe, this is the message of Christmas, it is a message which will live long after the turkey and mince pies have been eaten, long after family and friends have returned home and long after the decorations have been put away for another year; it is the timeless message - Emmanuel - God with us! Now how does that make you feel?

So as we move into and through the Christmas season I invite you to join in any of our activities and services and listen to the story again and discern

for yourself just what God **did** for you and how that makes you **feel**. It should be a reason for joy, peace and hope, and maybe to raise within you the response of love toward God and those around you. And maybe you might even feel inspired to take up the Bible Society's Advent challenge to do 24 deeds of kindness during Advent so others too can feel they are blessed!

I wish you a blessed time this Holy season - happy Christmas.

Arthur

World Mission

Donations for the year 2017-2018 were -

World boxes	£223.53
Easter Offering	£109.50
J.M.A.	£105.60
Total	£438.63

Many thanks to all who contributed

Jackie Rae

FRIDAY @ TEN

The next prayer meetings will be at
10am on:

December	14 th
January	25 th
February	22 nd

Come and join us and enjoy a cuppa!



Visit us at www.zetlandparkmethodist.co.uk

www.clevelandanddanbymethodists.co.uk/churches/zetland-park-methodists

Date	Lectionary Readings		Welcomers
2 nd December	Luke 21:25-36	Jeremiah 33:14-16 Psalm 25:1-10 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13	Maureen Close Sylvia Nellist
9 th December	Luke 3:1-6	Malachi 3:1-4 Luke 1:68-79 Philippians 1:3-11	Marion Johnson Thelma Barnes
16 th December	Luke 3:7-18	Zephaniah 3:14-20 Isaiah 12:2-6 Philippians 4:4-7	Bill and Lynn King
23 rd December	Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)	Micah 5:2-5a Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 80:1-7 Hebrews 10:5-10	Mavis Betts Jenny O'Connor
30 th December	Luke 2:41-52	1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 Psalm 148 Colossians 3:12-17	<i>At Marske</i>

Bible Society Open the Book

“Favourite Carols around the Piano”

Saturday afternoon December 15th at 3pm

***Come and sing your favourite carols and
enjoy a cup of tea and mince pies***

**Please suggest and vote for your favourite
and donate 50p for each**

Next Newsletter

Please let Paul have items for the next newsletter by Sunday 30th December. Email : newsletter.editor@zetlandparkmethodist.co.uk

Newsletter by email

If you would like to receive the newsletter by email please let the editor know.