

The Messenger

**December 2016 and
January 2017**



CHRISTMAS IS THE CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS, THE SAVIOUR OF MANKIND

This magazine comes with the best wishes of
Princes Risborough Methodist Church

Princes Risborough Methodist Church

Wycombe Road, Princes Risborough,
Buckinghamshire.

Minister : Rev. Keith Edwards

Tel : 01296 423363

Superintendent Minister : Rev. Helen Kirk

Tel:01296 488963

Steward contact : Will Richmond Tel: 01844 342448

Circuit Website: www.aylesburyvale.org.uk

Magazine Editor : Mrs. Barbara Oates

Tel:01844 344264 e-mail:barbara.oates123@btinternet.com

Sub Editor : Peter Willett e-mail pandbw@waitrose.com

***Material for February Messenger to the editor by Thursday, 12th
January at the latest please.***

***This Church is proud to be a member of 'Churches Together
in Risborough associated with the Baptist Church, Elim
Pentecostal Church, St. Dunstan's Church, St. Mary's Parish
Church and St. Teresa's Roman Catholic Church.***

From the Manse

Dear Friends,

Nobel prize winner George Bernard Shaw once said, "The single biggest problem with communication is the illusion that it has taken place."

Communication, especially in a church context, has always been seen as an issue, but one that we rarely know what to do about. Nowadays we have e-mails, texts, mobile phones, twitter, facebook, bebo, whatsapp, web pages; we have noticeboards, digital projection, and yes, good old fashioned conversation – yet still communication is a problem.

Austrian Management Education guru Peter Drucker makes the claim that 60 percent of all management problems result from faulty communication. Could that be said of the church?

In all our communications it is worth a little extra time to make sure that our messages are clear. When it comes to communication we should encourage questions, explain the same topic from another angle. So that nothing is misunderstood.

This is not restricted to the business world, but often in church. Somebody heard something that never was said – or said something that was heard all wrong. Friendships were undermined. Ministries were crippled. Churches have split.

James 1:19 says "Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry."

Communication - true communication is key to our relationships.

But take heart, even God experienced communication difficulties with humans. He tried sending prophets, he tried miracles and signs and still we didn't understand. So in the end God had to come himself. As we approach Christmas, we begin our preparations to celebrate God incarnate, God among us - Jesus Christ. When Jesus came to earth there was no illusion that communication had taken place – with Jesus communication from God has actually taken place.

I pray that this Christmas will be a time when you communicate well the message of the hymn "Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love divine" and that your communication of God's love for you to those around you is understood and is true communication that actually has taken place.

Grace and peace to you this Christmas,

Keith.

Junior Church &
Crèche - We meet on 4th
and 11th December. The 18th is
our Carol Service at 3pm. In
January our dates are the 8th, 15th
and 22nd. - *Fran McMullan.*



The Later Group usually meet
monthly at 6pm in our church
but not in December. They meet
again on 15th January to visit
Aylesbury Bowling Alley. Fran
has details of cost and timing.

They welcome 11-17 year olds
and enjoy various activities.
There is a 'God Slot' led by the
local churches and Ryan
Romano, St. Mary's Church
youth worker joins them.

If you have an idea for activities
please speak to Fran McMullan
on 274853. You don't need to
attend but ideas are welcome.

Smile ... The vicar's son
was something of an egg-
head. A visitor to the
vicarage saw him in the kitchen
and asked how he was and what
he was doing. He replied, "*I am
working on aqua-thermal treatment
of ceramics, aluminium, and steel
under a constrained environment*".
The visitor was impressed 'til
the father explained that he was
washing dishes with hot water
under his mother's supervision.

Happy birthday
to **Sadie Smith-Oates**
who will be 7 years old on 3rd
December

Congratulations and best wishes
for a Happy Birthday to Chris
Palmer who celebrates a special
Birthday on 18th December!

Lighthouse 2017

Yes, we know it's not yet
Christmas but the Lighthouse
Team is already beaver away
planning next year's Lighthouse
Week!

Fran lists below items which
need to be collected. Donations
brought to church may be stored
safely for next summer.

- Old tights/pop socks
- Socks (*for puppets*)
- Large plastic yoghurt
pots (*to share out paints*)
- Wallpaper (*to cover tables
so it doesn't matter about
the pattern*)
- Buttons
- Used birthday or special
occasion cards
- Small plastic plant pots
(*to be for 2018 but good to
collect if anyone has
spares*).

Thanks in anticipation.
- *Fran.*

Christmas!

18th December at 3pm – Carol Service followed by mince pies and seasonal refreshments.

24th December at 8pm – Our Christmas Eve Communion Service.

25th December at 9.30am – Our Christmas Morning Service led by our Minister, Rev. Keith Edwards. Let's celebrate the birth of Jesus together at this short family service. As this is Sunday, the usual weekly envelope contributions will go to Church funds, but any cash will be sent to 'Action for Children' as explained in the following article.

All We Can

There is a 'Christmas Countdown' poster on the Charity Board, with news of recent projects, and an 'Extraordinary Gifts' catalogue if you would like to make a gift of bees, goats or chicks to make more people independent in the very poorest parts of the world while solving your own Christmas present problems!

Church Christmas Card

'Action for Children'

There will be a Christmas card made by the Junior Church which will be available in the porch for all to sign during December. This card is for us to send our greetings to each other instead of sending individual cards to others at church, and as we save on buying cards we usually make a donation which goes to Action for Children. The finished card is then reproduced and sent to church friends who have moved away, so please sign if you can.

The collection on Christmas Day will also go to Action for Children, although as it is a Sunday those who use the envelope system will have an envelope for that day. The Forum agreed that the envelopes should go to church funds as usual, but gifts of money not in an envelope will be sent to this Charity, helping them to reach out to the most disadvantaged children in the UK.

One of their current campaigns is called 'Fair by Five'. As we know most children have reached a good level of development by the age of five, able to make friends, explore

their world safely and are ready to learn. But up to one in three children, especially in deprived areas, have not reached this level and they could be getting a better start in life. It would be good for them, their families, communities and for the country's future success.

Action for Children is campaigning for vision, leadership and government action to tackle this and make it a national priority by 2020, meanwhile working through all the effective programmes and support it already provides.

- Judith Gerrard.

Teenagers' lament!

I sleep too much, parents complain.

I don't get enough sleep, parents complain.

I eat too much, parents complain.

I don't eat enough, parents complain.

I'm always in my room, parents complain.

I'm always out, parents complain.

I just can't win!

Who or What are we celebrating!

On a Sunday in mid November each year in Toronto hundreds of thousands of people brave the cold and line the streets to witness the biggest public spectacle of the year: the magnificent and triumphant entry into the city of Father Christmas!

One year in Toronto I witnessed the spectacle and as I stood there freezing I realised that now Father Christmas had really become a modern cult figure, a kind of god or idol.

"We only do it for the children" said the young father next to me with his little daughter on his shoulders. Of course! The children were obviously enjoying the glitter and tinsel, the fanfare and the final float bearing Father Christmas in his sledge pulled by artificial reindeer. That wasn't my problem. Let the children enjoy themselves, by all means. What worried me was that Father Christmas seemed to have eclipsed Jesus Christ altogether and I asked myself why.

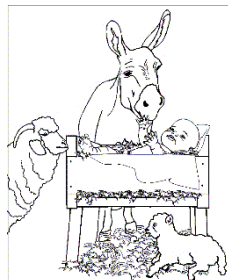
Santa Claus is the Dutch name for Saint Nicholas, the patron saint of children. He is reputed to have been the Bishop of Myra in Asia Minor some 1500 years

ago. Hence the red outfit. And, according to the legend, he gave gifts to children. His feast is on 6th December and it is on this day that children in parts of Holland and Germany are given little presents.

The change came in New Amsterdam, the earlier name for New York. Dutch Christians there introduced Santa Claus together with the custom of giving gifts to children. They transferred the whole idea from 6th December to Christmas Day. It was a box office hit, the start of the commercialisation of Christmas. Selling presents for children and then later for adults too was a great commercial success story. Father Christmas was clearly better for business than the baby Jesus in a stable.

Years ago I was drawn into a campaign called '*Put Christ back into Christmas*'. As far as I know it met with very little success. Is that because putting Christ back into Christmas is not a money spinner? Father Christmas is now part of Anglo-Saxon culture around the world. In fact almost everything associated with Christmas is derived from Northern Europe. Makes you think doesn't it? (*Bryanston Methodist Church, Johannesburg*)

It's just not fair!



Hee, Haw! Hee, Haw!
Doesn't anybody care?
There's a baby in my dinner and
It's just not fair!

Jesus in the manger, lying in the
hay
Far too young to realise he's
getting in the way!
I don't blame the baby, not his
fault at all
But his parents should respect a
donkey's feeding stall.

After all that journey with my
heavy load
Did I ever once complain about
the dreadful road?
I can cope with backache and
these swollen feet
All I ask is some respect and one
square meal to eat.

'Be prepared' I told them 'better
book ahead'
Joseph said 'don't be an ass'
and took a chance instead
Now they've pinched my
bedroom
People are so rude!
I can cope with that, but not a
baby in my food!

Reverse Advent Calendar ...

I thought that I would share an extract from the Park URC article that prompted me to issue my challenge on Sunday Morning before the service began.

"We also thought at house group about different ways we could prepare [during advent], especially bearing in mind that Isaiah says the Prince of Peace is going to rule over a kingdom of justice and righteousness. One way might be to do a reverse Advent calendar.

You know with an Advent calendar each day you received the joy of opening a window each day to see what is behind - maybe a picture, maybe also a Bible verse and, if you are lucky, a chocolate? How about if, each day, instead of receiving you gave something? After all Christmas is all about the greatest gift of all! and how about if that giving tied in with the Prince of Peace, and a kingdom of justice and righteousness? Perfect!"

So this Advent I am going to have a large box in my hallway (that I cannot ignore) and each day put something in it for the foodbank. Maybe some days I'll put in something basic, eg sugar,

cereals, tea, but maybe some days I'll put in some treats like chocolates, fancy biscuits, "posh" tins of soup. I wonder if this is something you would be able to do? Just think how much we could collect if every familydid a reverse Advent calendar! I do hope you will join me!"

I thought this was a simple but effective idea timed to have an impact when perhaps people need foodbanks the most and certainly when those that are excluded feel it the most. My challenge on Sunday was to think about and act on the idea if it appealed to you, either on your own, as a group or as a family. I also suggested that the prayer life of individuals and the church could be enriched if we also said a prayer for others when we put each item into our box.

During coffee after the Service it was suggested that :

a) if we included small items such as socks or toiletries in addition to food, we could send items to both Whitechapel Mission and the local foodbank

b) rather than wait to the end of Advent we could bring in our offerings weekly and thereby encourage others to bring in items ad hoc but also give us the opportunity to see what difference the church is making.

(This might need a bit of ferrying about to keep the goods out of the way but still allow people to see the growing offering. People who want to see their 24 items collected in one place can always decide to bring them in at the end of Advent.)

I like both ideas. Let's try and see whether people run with it and see how much of a difference PRMC can make.

- *Neville Trout.*

Link to Hope Shoebox Appeal

A very big 'Thank you' to our Church family, The Secret Garden Pre-School parents and many other family and friends for their support and the fantastic amount contributed in any way by providing boxes, goods and money towards the items to fill these boxes together with the transportation costs.

Twenty very full shoeboxes were packed and sent on their way to families in Eastern Europe to give them the extra special gifts for Christmas. Your support for this worthwhile project is appreciated. - *Pam Scott.*

Christian Aid

The next Christian Aid lunches will be 1st

December 2016 and **5th January 2017** in the Baptist Upper Hall 12 noon 'til 1.30pm. Please note that the price is going to increase by £1.00 to £6.00 in January, however it's still fantastic value providing a good meal, fellowship and also helps a worthy cause. All are welcome, but if you haven't been before do let me know you are coming.

Christmas Appeal - In December you will probably receive a Christmas Appeal envelope in the Messenger directed at helping refugees. Our church has a long and valued history of support for this charity and so please return your envelope at the Carol Service or on any Sunday in December up to and including Christmas Day. Many thanks in advance. - *Margaret Stevens.*

One Can Trust -

Our collection box in the back room goes to the Foodbank headquarters in High Wycombe, before distribution to those in need. List of suggested food items is pinned to the box. This is our chosen charity for next year. - *Marilyn Dore.*

Self Denial -

Our Covenant Service in January is traditionally the time when we think about 'Self Denial' and how we can contribute to further the work of The Methodist Church Fund for World Mission to assist our Mission Partners working overseas.

Envelopes are available for any contribution you are able to make and it would be appreciated if you are able to complete the Gift Aid Declaration. Please would you return these envelopes to me or via the collection plate during January. Thank you, your continued support is very much appreciated. - Pam Scott.

Covenant Service -

This Service will be led by Rev. Keith Edwards on Sunday, 1st January. Please note that the annual Covenant Service will in future be held in September and so in 2017 we will have two. One in January and another in September.

Mmm ... It is better to walk to church with your family than to wait for six strong men to carry you there

R.O.P.E.

**Relief for Oppressed People
Everywhere** www.roke.org.uk

Please pass used postage stamps (*with a border of 1/4 "*) to Judith Gerrard for this charity which is one of our Church's designated charities for the current year.

Fairtrade Stall

The stall in November raised £49, thank you.

In December and January the stalls will not be available on the usual first Sunday of the month as I shall be away. In December it will be after the service on 11th and in January the stall will be on 15th please support if you can.
- Judith Gerrard.

(Note : Judith faithfully sets this stall up each month. Is there anyone willing to help, particularly when Judith is away on regular 'Grandmother duties'?)



www.easyfundraising.co.uk

Look it up. Why aren't more people using this site? It's no trouble. Try it.

'Every Little Helps

SALT

Sharing & Learning Together

This group will meet on 1st December and the 12th and 26th of January at 7.30 for Bible Study and fellowship.

We normally meet at the home of Maureen Judd and new members are welcome - contact Maureen, Victoria Haydon or Joe Needham for more information.

Smile

Tom was a patient in a pulmonary hospital in the USA. While pushing his walking support down the hall and doing his breathing exercises, he passed by the therapist ward where the following dialogue took place.

Therapist : *(in a domineering voice)*

"Tom, are you breathing?"

Tom : "Are you St. Peter?"

Therapist : "Of course not."

Tom : "Then, I'm breathing."

Whitechapel Mission

On the 13th November John Drake addressed the congregation to report that he had again attended the Whitechapel Mission Anniversary Service. The information he gave was most distressing and reminded us of the urgent needs of the Mission.

The printed Report is in the porch for anyone to read but basically we were told that only five years ago Harvest donations of a simple item like baked beans were sufficient to last until the following Harvest period. This year by early November they had no supplies left as demand for breakfasts had doubled.

We are grateful to John for this information, sad though it be. Evidently the Mission would prefer monthly donations of, say, £5 rather than a one off donation of £60, simply to keep their cash flow balanced.

We are still collecting clothes and toiletries for Whitechapel which are stored at Church in preparation for the next collection or delivery. Please see the following article when Noreen and Vic are fundraising for Whitechapel.

Afternoon Tea at the Ritz! *(well, not quite, but just as good....)*

Noreen and Vic Baker
Invite **You** To
Afternoon Tea

On Saturday 28th January 2017
at 72 Westmead
Princes Risborough, HP27 9HS
From 2-30 pm – 5-00 pm
Please come and enjoy
a time of Fellowship.

Games for the young at heart
Bring & Buy Stall:

All proceeds to The Whitechapel
Mission in support of its work
with homeless people.
Please support this event

Snowball *~ Shel Silverstein*

*I made myself a snowball,
As perfect as could be,
I thought I'd keep it as a pet,
And let it sleep with me.*

*I made it some pyjamas,
And a pillow for its head,
Then last night it ran away,
But first - it wet the bed!*

Church Treasurer

Joe Needham has stepped down as Church Treasurer and constitutionally we must appoint a replacement. Many people I have spoken to have been concerned about aspects of the role so we have looked at how the role can be shared and what is specific to the treasurer. The functions of the treasurer are below:-

- **Record** & Bank other monies received - e.g. Missions, Fundraising, Miscellaneous Charity donations.
- **Provide** banking service for Tuesday Fellowship.
- **Raise** cheques and pay invoices. *(2 signatures required on payments)*
- **From** monthly bank statement enter all direct receipts and payments.
- **Sign** into CFB Account and note down interest receipts and Payment to Circuit.
- **Receive** Annual statement T.M.C.P. for Trust Account.
- **Prepare** reports to Church Forum.
- **Attend** Circuit Meeting *(Twice per annum)*
- **Attend** Circuit Finance and Property Meeting. *(once per annum)*

- **Circuit** Treasurers Meeting. (*once per annum*)

We would seek circuit assistance with the following functions:

- **Prepare** Annual Accounts. (*Financial Year is September 1st to August 31st*)
- **Prepare** Methodist Church Standard Form of Accounts.
- **Accounts** Information to Independent Examiner.
- **Prepare** Reserves Policy Schedule.
- **Accounts** and Reserves Policy to Circuit Treasurer.

If you feel you might be able to take on the role of treasurer, please let me know. Our grateful thanks go to Joe for his help in explaining the role so well and also for his long service as our treasurer.

– Keith Edwards.

Mmm ... The people who tend to make a difference are not the ones with the most credentials, the most money, or the most awards; they are simply the ones who care the most.

Lord have mercy ...

On all hurried and tired
Christmas shoppers

Lord have mercy

On all who have no money to
shop with

Lord have mercy

On all who have no-one to shop
for

Lord have mercy

On all who have a houseful of
family and friends

Christ have mercy

On all who have an empty place
at the table this year

Christ have mercy

On all who sit alone

Christ have mercy

On all who spend Christmas in
hospital

Lord have mercy

On all who are ill at home

Lord have mercy

On all doctors, nurses, and carers

Lord have mercy.

Soup Lunches

Stone Methodist Church will be serving a wide variety of homemade soups on Saturdays 10th and 17th December from 12 noon until 1.30pm in aid of "Action for Children". I can recommend this event which attracts members from other circuit churches. Why not try it for yourself and see?

–Margaret Stevens.

Logic ... x 2

1) On Christmas Eve as we were putting out mince pies for Santa I accidentally dropped one.

'No problem' I said, picking it up and placing it back on the plate.

'You can't do that' argued my 6 year old.

'Don't worry, Santa will never know.' He shot me a look –

'So he knows if I've been bad or good, but he doesn't know the mince pie fell on the floor?'

2) Probably the same six-year old to his two-year-old sister.

'Let's play Christmas.'

'I'll be Santa Claus. You can be a present and I'll give you away!'

How did he do it?

A Church Steward went to the Police Station and asked to see the burglar who had crept into church during Morning Service and stolen a charity box. *'You'll have to wait 'til he appears in Court'* the officer said.

'No, you don't understand, the Steward replied, 'I don't want to accuse him, I simply wanted to know how he did it without the Minister noticing he'd left. I've been trying to think of a way for years.'

Princes Risborough Music Society -

The Christmas Concert is on 20th December at St. Mary's Church.

Aylesbury Choral Society -

The next concert is on Saturday 3rd December at 7.30pm in St Mary's Church Aylesbury.

Quiz Evening with Fish & Chips

To support the Karibuni Children

Saturday, 28th January in the Fairford Leys Community Centre, Aylesbury at 7pm. Tickets cost £10 and include Fish and Chips - bring your own drink and nibbles. Please contact Joe Needham for tickets or further information.

Best Diet Advice Ever!

- People are so worried about what they eat between Christmas and the New Year, but really they should be worried about what they eat between the New Year and Christmas.

Princes Centre

Our new bus is due soon and our old bus, having passed its MOT, is to be sold. We have taken delivery of a smaller car, generously funded by the King Cullimore Trust and a number of smaller donors, the maintenance costs of which are sponsored by Risboro' Garage. These vehicles, with their distinctive logo, will be a regular sight in the town transporting clients.

We are looking forward to the Christmas festivities and a Christmas show on December 16th. This is open to the public and starts at 1.30pm.

The recent Quiz & Bingo evening was well supported and raised over £400 towards the refurbishment costs. Another Quiz evening is on Friday 27th January.

A fund-raising collection will be held at Tesco store on Friday 9th December when the Jingers Choir will serenade shoppers.

We have received a generous donation from the Risborough and District Community Association and another donation from one of our patrons together with some very generous donations from individuals in our community. We would especially like to

thank Cathy who regularly attends three days a week to help in the kitchen, and an anonymous gentleman who looks after the gardens. We have a total of 22 volunteers not including 9 trustees who work on behalf of the community to oversee the running, upkeep and refurbishment of the centre.

We understand that Tesco intend to make a large donation as part of their proceeds from the charge on plastic bags which will be used for a garden project. The trustees are grateful to Lucy, their Community Champion, who does a huge amount for the Princes Centre. – *Maggie Wooster.*

Church Forum -

Tuesday 7th March 2017 at 8pm. Everyone is warmly invited to this meeting held at the Church where various decisions are made regarding our Church life and the practicalities involved. Why not come along?

Tuesday Fellowship

At our October meeting we were pleased to welcome John Cotton and Elaine Needham from Karibuni Children. John showed us pictures and updated us on the various projects they support in Kenya and told us about how they support some of the children all through their education and what some of the students are now doing to help in Kenya after leaving education. Fellowship members made purchases from the stall to help towards the funding of Karibuni. Please see the notice for a fundraising Quiz event for Karibuni.

In November our Speaker was Kitty Norwell, Fundraising Coordinator AGE UK Buckinghamshire. She told us about all the services that they are able to offer to the older people in Buckinghamshire. She has left with us a number of leaflets and I will put some in the Church Porch for people to pick up if they are interested.'

Our Christmas meeting on the 20th December will be led by Rev. Keith Edwards and our first meeting of the New Year will be on 17th January 2017.

You are very welcome to join us.

- Pam Scott.

Christmas Concert by Candlelight

with the Chinnor Silver Band

at St. Dunstan's Church, Monks Risborough on 14th December at 8pm. Tickets £9 to include a glass of wine or soft drink and a mince pie. Tickets from Rachael on 01844 761535 or James on 01844 275944

Bye ... In 1987, our then Minister, Rev. Alan Triffitt asked me to edit the Messenger on a temporary basis until a full time editor could be found. Soon afterwards, Alan and June retired and moved from the area! A cunning plan. Each year via a Christmas card I gently remind Alan of the grudge I still bear him.

I have really tried over the years to get more and more things wrong in an effort to be fired, but to date it hasn't worked. Now, after almost 30 intense and wonderful years as editor of the Messenger, I've decided that *'I'd like to spend more time with my family'*

Having given three month's notice my last edition will be March, the month of the next Church Forum. The new Editor will surely not have to serve for quite so long.

- Barbara Oates.

Absolutely outrageous!

The Archbishop of Canterbury has said it is "absolutely outrageous" to suggest that people are racist if they're concerned about large numbers of migrants coming to Britain.

Most Revd Justin Welby said people are entitled to fear the impact of uncontrolled migration on their communities. In an interview with Parliament's *The House* magazine, he said that the scale of the migrant crisis meant such anxieties were entirely reasonable. "Fear is a valid emotion at a time of such colossal crisis. This is one of the greatest movements of people in human history. Just enormous. And to be anxious about that is very reasonable," he said. "There is a tendency to say 'those people are racist', which is just outrageous, absolutely outrageous."

The Archbishop said it was essential that the "genuine fear" that people felt was listened to and resources put in place to address their concerns. In fragile communities particularly - and I've worked in many areas with very fragile communities over my time as a clergyman - there is a genuine fear: what happens about housing? What happens about jobs? What happens about

access to health services?" he said. Archbishop Welby said the British people had shown in the past they were able to deal "brilliantly" with the challenges of the situation in the Middle East. "It is simply a question of the scale on which we are prepared to act, in a way that spreads the load so it can be managed," he said. "Fear is justified, I wouldn't want to criticise that for a moment, but so is hope wholly justified, because we have the capacity. 'We're those kind of people, we always have been.' Lord Andrew Green is a Christian and the director of the think tank Migration Watch, which says current levels of immigration are too high.

The peer said immigration was good for Britain and had been for many years, however it needs to be controlled.

Oh, so true!

A complex system that doesn't work is often found to have evolved from a simpler system that worked just fine.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity



This is an international Christian ecumenical observance kept annually between 18th and 25th January.

Here in Princes Risborough our United Service is to be held at St. Mary's Parish Church at 6pm on 22nd January next.



Yes, simply 'thank you' to everyone who has contributed in any way to our Church life over the last year. You know who you are, no matter how small or large the task it's wonderful to know that we are a great team. We mustn't forget our Minister, Rev. Keith Edwards, who is hugely supportive of our Risborough Church. Thank you.

United Services 2017

All are welcome to our Sunday evening joint services which begin at 6pm. They are usually held on the second Sunday of the month and alternate between churches. There will be no United Service in December and August.

8th January / Baptist Church

12th February / Methodist Church

12th March / St. Mary's Church

9th April (Palm Sunday) /
Baptist Church

14th May / CTR Christian Aid
Service – St. Mary's Church

11th June / Methodist Church

9th July / Baptist Church

10th September / Methodist
Church

8th October / St. Mary's Church

12th November / Baptist Church

Can you hear me?

Some of us have problems hearing in church. Here are 10 commandments. The first 8 are for those who use a microphone in church and need to be heard. The last 2 are for those of us who can't hear.

1. Speak clearly.
2. Don't drop your voice at the end of a sentence.
3. Speak slower than you would in normal conversation. (but not artificially slow)
4. Use the microphone
5. Speak straight into the microphone.
6. Speak normally into the microphone. There is no need to raise your voice to reach the people at the back.
7. Don't speak to your toes.
8. Be confident that we really want to hear what you say and please don't be offended if we give you feedback that we couldn't hear you.
9. Tell someone when the loop isn't working.
10. Be brave enough to tell them if you couldn't hear and suggest what would make it better next time.

12 Gifts of Christmas

Rather than singing the twelve days of Christmas,
I will ask for twelve gifts of Christmas

Laptop, new phone, ipad,
clothes, ring and jewelry box
Add some gift basket, more
gadgets and cash.

Just kidding, my friend, don't fret.

My Christmas wish list is something simple, yet still twelve.

Contentment in life, love, peace, prosperity, faith and good health.

Good figure, handsome boyfriend, career, some cash, yummy treats and wealth.

Simple, isn't it?
Merry Christmas!

Diaries for December & January

December diary

- 1st : Christian Aid Lunch
- 1st : SALT Group
- 2nd : Risboro' Christmas Lights switched on
- 3rd : Choral Concert
- 4th : Junior Church with Crèche
- 10th : Soup Lunch at Stone Methodist Church
- 11th : Junior Church with Crèche
- 11th : Fairtrade Stall after Morning Service
- 14th : Christmas Concert by Candlelight 8pm
- 17th : Soup Lunch at Stone Methodist Church
- 18th : Church Carol Service 3pm led by Mr. John Shaw
- 20th : Tuesday Fellowship
- 20th : Music Society concert
- 24th : Christmas Eve Communion Service at 8pm

January diary

- 5th : Christian Aid Lunch
- 8th : Junior Church with Crèche
- 12th : SALT Group
- 15th : Junior Church with Crèche
- 15th : Fairtrade Stall after Morning Service
- 15th : LATER Group go to the Aylesbury Bowling Alley
- 17th : Tuesday Fellowship
- 22nd : Junior Church with Crèche
- 22nd : United Service for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 6pm St. Mary's
- 26th : SALT Group meet
- 28th : Afternoon tea at the Bakers
- 28th : Quiz Night with Fish & Chips for Karibuni in Fairford Leys

Forward date: 7th March 2017 – Church Forum meeting

Rotas for December & January

Stewards' Rota for December : (01844 unless otherwise stated)

4th : Mr. Mike Pullen – 343188
 11th : Mrs. Maureen Judd – 344935
 18th : Mrs. Judith Gerrard – 01494 449732
 24th : Mrs. Maureen Judd – 344935
 25th : Miss Marilyn Dore - 345537

Welcoming Stewards for December :

4th : Mr. and Mrs. D. Robbins
 11th : Mr. and Mrs. G. Hudson
 18th : Mrs. M. Stevens and Mrs. B. Oates
 25th : Mr. and Mrs. B. Palmer

Bible Readers for December :

4th : Mr. and Mrs. D. Robbins
 11th : Mr. and Mrs. G. Hudson
 18th : - (3pm Carol Service)
 25th : Mrs. B. Palmer and Mr. W. Richmond

Church duties in December :

	<u>Cleaning</u>	<u>Grass Cutting/Garden</u>
3 rd :	Miss M. Dore	Mr. B. McCleary
10 th :	Mrs. N. Trout	Mr. N. Trout
17 th : YDA	Mr D. Stevens	Mrs. D. Stevens
24 th :	Mrs. G. Hudson	Mr. G. Hudson
31 st :	Mrs. S. Wilson	Mr. J. Needham

Flowers in December :

4th : Mr. K. Smith (*in memory of Sylvia*) 11th : Mrs. M. Lewis (via Marilyn)
 18th : Mrs. D. Robbins

Refreshments in December :

4th : Mrs. C. Palmer 11th : Mr. J. Needham
 18th : 3pm/Mrs. J. Gerrard & Mrs. B. Oates

If unavailable for any date listed, please arrange an exchange or replacement, notify the Steward and amend the porch and vestry. Please contact a Steward if you are able to offer help with any of these duties.

Rotas for January 2017

Stewards' Rota for January :

1st : Miss Marilyn Dore 345537
 8th : Mrs. Maureen Judd 344935
 15th : Mr. Mike Pullen 343188
 22nd : Mrs. Judith Gerrard 01494 449732
 29th : Mrs. Judith Gerrard/Mr. Mike Pullen

Welcoming Stewards for January :

1st : Mr. J. Drake and Mrs. F. McMullan
 8th : The Trout family
 15th : Mr. and Mrs. V. Baker
 22nd : Mrs. F. Shephard and Mr. J. Needham
 29th : Mr. and Mrs. D. Robbins

Bible Readers for January :

1st : Mr. J. Drake and Mrs. J. Gerrard
 8th : Mr. and Mrs. N. Trout
 15th : Mr. and Mrs. V. Baker
 22nd : Mrs. F. Shephard and Mr. J. Needham
 29th : Mr. and Mrs. D. Robbins

Church duties : (Saturdays)

	<u>Cleaning</u>	<u>Grass Cutting/Garden</u>
7 th :	Mrs. C. Palmer	Mr. B. McCleery
14 th :	Mrs. F. McMullan	Mr. C. McMullan
21 st : YDA	Miss M. Dore	Mr. K. Smith
28 th :	Mrs. S. Wilson	Mr. J. Needham

Flowers :

1st : 8th : Brenda Willett
 15th : 22nd :
 29th : Mrs. B. Oates

Refreshments :

1st : Mrs. J. Gerrard 8th : Mrs. M. Stevens
 15th : Mr. J. Needham 22nd : Miss P. Scott
 29th : Mrs. B. Oates



December 2016

4th : 10am Rev. Keith Edwards
Holy Communion Service/Junior Church & Crèche

11th : 10am Miss Marilyn Dore
Junior Church & Crèche

18th : 3pm Mr. John Shaw leads our
CAROL SERVICE *followed by refreshments*

24th : 8pm Rev. Keith Edwards
Christmas Eve Holy Communion Service

25th : 9.30am CHRISTMAS MORNING
Service led by Rev. Keith Edwards

[Join us for refreshments after Morning Service](#)



January 2017

1st : 10am **Rev. Keith Edwards**
Covenant Service

8th : 10am **Rev. Michael Langley**
Junior Church with Crèche
6pm **United Service at the Baptist Church**

15th : 10am **Ways of Worship Group (WOW)**
Junior Church with Crèche

22nd : 10am **Mr. Ken Harris**
Junior Church with Crèche
6pm **United Service**
for the Week of Christian Unity at St. Mary's Church

29th : 10am **Rev. Ann Henman**

Join us for refreshments after Morning Service