

Services for December

3rd 10.00am Miss Marilyn Dore

*10th 10.00am Revd Dan Beesley
Curate of St Mary's Church*

*17th 3.00pm Revd. Keith Edwards
All -age Carol Service*

*24th 10.30am Revd. Keith Edwards
Communion*

25th 9.30am Revd. Keith Edwards

31st 10.00am Mr Ken Harris



Tea and coffee are served after the
morning service.
Please join us in the Hall.

*Princes Risborough
Methodist Church*

'The Messenger'
December /January 2017



*This magazine comes to you with the
good wishes of the Church*

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Material for the February Messenger to the Editor
by Sunday 14th January at the latest please.

Please note the next Messenger will be edited by Peter Willetts
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*This Church is proud to be a member of 'Churches Together in
Risborough' associated with The Baptist Church, Elim Church ,
St. Dunstan's Church, St. Mary's Church and St. Teresa's Roman
Catholic Church.*

Services for January

- 7th 10.00am* *Worship with Christchurch
Thame—no service here*
- 14th 10.00am* *Revd Andrew Shergold
Communion*
- 21st 10.00am* *Revd Rose Williams*
3.00pm *Revd Keith Edwards, United
Service for Week of Prayer
for Christian Unity at Speen
Baptist Church*
- 28th 10.00am* *Miss Marilyn Dore*



If unavailable, please arrange an exchange or replacement, notify the steward, and amend the porch and vestry lists. If you would like to be involved as a welcoming steward or Bible reader, or any other rota please speak to Joe Needham (01844 343246), or one of the Stewards.

Those who kindly provide flowers please leave the wrappings in the vestry so that the stewards have something to wrap them in when they distribute them after the service. We could always do with more than is provided so if anyone has any suitable paper please leave that in the vestry or the vase cupboard.

December

Weekend	Flowers	Grass Cutting	Cleaning
2/3		Mrs M Stevens	Mr D Stevens
9/10		Mr G Hudson	Mrs B Hudson
16/17		Mr N Trout	Mrs K Trout
23/24		Mr C McMullan	Mrs F McMullan
30/31		Mr B McCleery	Mrs S Wilson

January

Weekend	Flowers	Grass Cutting	Cleaning
6/7	none	Mrs M Stevens	Mr D Stevens
13/14	Mrs M Stevens	Mr G Hudson	Mrs B Hudson
20/21	Mrs D Robbins	Mr N Trout	Mrs K Trout
27/28	Mrs B Oates	Mr C McMullan	Mrs F McMullan

What's on

Preparing for Christmas by studying the Beatitudes – St Mary's at 19.30 for refreshment and a 19.45 start Wed 6 & 13 December.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL: James Hornsby, a versatile professional actor who has performed on television and the West End stage is giving a One-man Performance of Charles Dickens 'A Christmas Carol' at the **Baptist Church** on Saturday, December 9th commencing at 7.30 pm. He brings Dickens alive with an unforgettable evening in this special Christmas performance. Tickets at £8.00 are available from Princes Risborough Baptist Church Office (Tel 274499) or from Princes Risborough Library.

PRMS Future Concerts: The Christmas Concert will be held at St. Mary's Church Princes Risborough on December 19th at 7.30 pm.

We will be performing the Fauré Requiem on March 18th 2018 at the Church of St Lawrence West Wycombe. This will be an afternoon tea Concert.

The Summer Concerts will be held at Longwick Village Hall on the 28th 29th and 30th of June at 7.30 pm. We will be singing a Concert version of the Mikado by Gilbert and Sullivan.

From the Manse ...

Dear Friends



Yours in Christ – Keith

Church News

Junior Church

The dates for Junior Church are 3rd & 10th December.

Churches Together Joint Services

To mark the beginning of Advent, there will be a CTR United service on December 3rd at St Teresa's beginning at 6.00 pm.

During the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity there will be a CTR United service on Sunday January 21st at Speen Baptist Church beginning at 3.00 pm. Please support these if you are able.

Joe Needham (CTR rep)

United Service — with St. Mary's Parish Church and the Baptist Church.

These services are held either in our Church, the Baptist Church or St. Mary's Church. We are grateful to the ministers for leading these services. The United Services in December and January are replaced by the CTR Joint Services. The next United Service will be on Sunday 11th February at the Baptist Church.

Tuesday Fellowship

At our meeting in October Brenda & Peter Willett showed us slides and told us about the 'History of Avignon' following their recent holiday there. Thank you to you both for a very interesting afternoon.

In November we enjoyed a creative afternoon making costume jewellery with Corina Shergold. Everyone had

the chance to make a necklace, bracelet or glasses chain, and we all had a lot of fun choosing from the huge supply of beads that Corina brought with her.



Our Christmas meeting on the 19th December will be led by Rev. Keith Edwards and our first meeting of the New Year will be on 16th January 2018 and will be held at the home of Sheila Hunnisett.

You are very welcome to join us.

Pam Scott

Christian Aid Lunches

The monthly lunches will be held on Thursday 7th Dec and Thursday 4th Jan from 12 noon at the Baptist Upper Hall. It has been lovely to see some new faces from our church attending. Everyone who comes seems to enjoy it.

Margaret Stevens

Five short prayers for Advent and Christmas

December 3rd - Lord Jesus, as we await your coming, help us to look for you in the hoodie on our estate, the beggar on the street, the outcasts in our society and open our hearts to love others as you do. **Amen**

December 10th - Lord Jesus, from the repetitive muzak carols heard in every shop and supermarket to the frantic shopping for glitzy gifts, may we, your disciples, be ready to grasp every opportunity to share the true meaning of Christmas with others. **Amen**

December 17th - Jesus our Prince of Peace, we pray that every time a carol is sung, a Christmas greeting spoken, a nativity play performed, that your name be honoured and glorified and that hard hearts be melted to receive you afresh. **Amen**

December 24th - Lord, I pray that your Spirit of truth and love will fill the hearts of those for whom Christmas has no meaning. **Amen**

December 25th - As people strip away the Christmas wrappings may they find your precious gift of love within. Come Lord Jesus, Advent is ending. **Amen**

by Lynne Newland, taken from the Methodist Church Website

Socially responsible efforts!

To encourage us as a church to continue looking outwards as we go into the Christmas season, here are some of the ways we have supported charities and the amounts we have raised over the year so far.

January; the Bakers' tea party raised £250 for Whitechapel Mission.

March: The famine appeal raised £80 for All We Can.

April: Our cake and plant stall raised £120 for One Can Trust, plus at least £160 from our retiring collections throughout the year, plus food donations from the reverse advent calendar and from the box kept in the church.

June: the envelope appeal raised £85 for Methodist Homes.

July: home collecting boxes & envelope appeal - £250 for Action for Children.

October: the Harvest lunch and appeal raised £250 for All We Can, and an amazing trailer-load of goods (food and clothing) plus £50 for Whitechapel Mission, including some items from the earlier reverse advent calendar.

Our monthly **Fairtrade** stalls have taken over £400. The profit goes to Christian Aid. We also support the Risborough-wide **Christian Aid** collections and the lunches at the Baptist church which together raise a substantial amount. The Government will match any donation to the Christian Aid Christmas appeal.

Judith Gerrard

(As you can see, it all tots up to quite a substantial amount for a congregation of our size. Thank you Judith for your faithful service in organising the Fairtrade stalls, and to Margaret as our Christian Aid Rep – Eds)

Reverse advent calendar

No – not opening little door 24 on 1st December and counting down to door 1! This is a reprise of last year's effort to recognise the needs of others around this time of year and to help them, and us, prepare for Christmas by putting aside something on a daily basis for the Whitechapel Mission or the One Can Trust. If it can be done with a prayer or just focussing on others' needs for a moment, so much the better.

Details of current needs are on the relevant websites but as an indication:

Whitechapel would like any non-perishable, bulk, and staple items (dry and canned) as well as new razors, toothbrushes, soap, toothpaste, deodorant, hand cream and shampoo. Hats scarves and gloves in cold weather are also appreciated.



One Can Trust would like tins, pasta sauce, coffee/hot chocolate, tinned meals, corned beef, squash, jam/spreads,

biscuits, toilet roll, toothbrushes and paste, shower gel, shampoo, soap and washing up liquid.

If you can't go shopping or carry in goods then an easy alternative would be to set aside a coin a day and bring the total in as a donation.

Last year we did this for the first time and managed to amass quite a pile of food and suitable toiletries to donate to others. I think that there was a sense of purpose and commitment from those who joined in which I hope can be replicated this year. Although some chose to bring in their items at the end of advent, I think it was encouraging last year to see the pile of goods grow as people brought in items weekly and, of course, it was good to be seen to be committed to helping our local community in practical ways.

Finally we are grateful to those who transported the goods to their destinations but especially grateful to those that have continued to contribute to both organisations faithfully during the year, not just at Christmas.

Neville Trout

'Link to Hope' Shoebox Appeal

A very big 'Thank you' to our Church family, The Secret Garden Pre-School parents, members of The Sew & Sews 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 for filling these boxes together with the transportation costs. 20 shoeboxes have been packed very full and sent on their way to families in Eastern Europe to give them the extra special gifts for Christmas. Thank you for your support for this worthwhile project.

Pam Scott

SALT (Sharing And Learning Together)

The SALT group will not be meeting during December, but instead members will be attending the Advent Course held in St Mary's Chapter House on 'Preparing for Christmas by using the Beatitudes'. These sessions are on Wednesday evenings, November 29th, December 6th & 13th, with refreshments at 7.30 pm for a 7.45 pm start.

Our own meetings will resume on Thursday January 25th beginning at 7.30 pm (venue to be confirmed) when we will begin a series on 'Prayers of the Old Testament'.

For further information contact Victoria Haydon, Maureen Judd or Joe Needham.

Fairtrade Stall

The stall in November took £52.00 Thanks to all who supported it. I hope to have a stall after the services on 3rd December and 7th January.

Judith Gerrard

Self Denial

January is traditionally the time when we think about 'Self Denial' and how we can contribute to support further the work of The Methodist Church Fund for World Mission to assist our Mission Partners working overseas. Envelopes will be available during January for any contributions 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

Retiring Collection

There will not be a retiring collection in December or January as we have envelope appeals.

Birthdays

Happy Birthday to Barbara Drake who celebrates a special Birthday on 13 December.



Do you have a "shared interest"?

In the October Messenger, I shared my membership of "Lend with Care" with you and promised a further note on another grass roots effort to invest in the material lives of others which you may not be aware of but may like to think about.

I've been an investing member of Shared Interest for over 20 years. Shared Interest specialises in loans and credit facilities to producer groups often where traditional lenders are not interested. There are around 11,500 members and about £39 million in the investment pool. This is put to use to help around 400 fair trade organisations through direct lending on fair terms. In the past year Shared Interest suggests that the organisation has had a positive impact on the lives of 362,000 people.

The Organisation is clear that there is risk attached to the loans and that your money may not be repaid, but there appears to a low incidence of bad debt and there has never been a charge against investors' Share Accounts since its commencement in 1990. Members receive a set % interest on their loans to the Society although this can be waived if you want to donate funds.

If you are interested, more details can be found on the internet (if you have access) at <https://www.shared-interest.com/en>

As their literature puts it "Our aim is to alleviate poverty by enabling people in remote and disadvantaged communities, to trade and earn a living. We do this by pooling the investments of our members and lend these funds to fair trade farmers and handcraft producers, who buy seeds, fertilisers and raw materials. Once they sell their crops or crafts, they pay back the loan, and we lend this money again.

Your investment may not make you rich but it will enrich the lives of others."

Neville Trout

Seen on a church noticeboard

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

Rotas for December

	Duty Stewards	Welcoming Stewards	Bible Readers	Tea/coffee
3 rd	Mr M Pullen	Trout family	Mrs & Mrs N Trout	Mrs M Stevens
10 th	Mrs J Gerrard	Mr & Mrs G Hudson	Mr & Mrs G Hudson	Mr J Needham
17 th	Mrs M Judd	Mr J Drake & Mrs F McMullan	Carol Service	Miss P Scott
24 th	Mrs C Palmer	Mr & Mrs D Robbins	Mr & Mrs D Robbins	Mrs S Hunnisett
25 th	Miss M Dore	Mr & Mrs V Baker	Mr & Mrs V Baker	Christmas Day
31 st	Mrs J Gerrard	Mrs T Shepherd Mr J Needham	Mrs T Shepherd Mr J Needham	Mrs B Oates

Rotas for January

	Duty Stewards	Welcoming Stewards	Bible Readers	Tea/coffee
7 th	Mrs C Palmer	Mrs M Stevens Mrs B Oates	Mrs M Stevens Mrs J Gerrard	Miss P Scott
14 th	Mrs M Judd	Trout Family	Mr & Mrs M Trout	Mrs S Wilson
21 st	Mrs J Gerrard	Mr J Drake & Mrs F McMullan	Mr J Drake & Mrs C Palmer	Mrs M Stevens
28 th	Mr M Pullen	Mr & Mrs G Hudson	Mr & Mrs G Hudson	Mrs B Oates

Diary Dates for December and January

1st December	World Aids Day
3rd December	Fairtrade Stall
3rd December	CTR Advent Service, 6pm at St Teresa's
6th December	Advent Preparation Course, 7.30pm at St Mary's
7th December	Christian Aid Lunch
9th December	A Christmas Carol, 7.30pm at the Baptist Church
9th December	RAF Halton Concert Band, 7.30pm at St Mary's
13th December	Advent Preparation Course, 7.30pm at St Mary's
19th December	PRMS Christmas Carols, 7.30pm at St Mary's

4th January	Christian Aid Lunch
7th January	Fairtrade Stall
14th January	Deadline for February Messenger
17th January	Pastoral Committee
18th January	Start of Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
27th January	Holocaust Day
28th January	Homeless Sunday

Future Dates

6 th March:	Church Forum
21st April	Lighthouse Quiz at St Mary's
May 2018:	Circuit Holiday

Smile: A vicar was looking for a Christmas present for his wife when he came across some new bathroom scales which, rather cleverly, had a speaking voice to tell the weight. She thanked him profusely for such a thoughtful gift, but changed her tune when she stepped on the scales for the first time on New Year's morning and a voice said, "One at a time please." *Barbara Oates*

Weekly Church Notices: Please contact Mrs Maureen Judd by telephone (01844 344935) or e-mail - maureenjudd@maureenjudd.plus.com with any information regarding weekly notices by noon on Friday. *Maureen Judd*

Rest Day—Rev. Keith Edwards' 'day off' is a Wednesday; please try to respect this whenever possible.

Special Days in January 2018

18th – 25th Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The themes of the daily material raise some of the contemporary issues addressed by the churches of the Caribbean. Abuses of human rights are found across the region and we are challenged to consider our manner of welcoming of the stranger into our midst. Human trafficking and modern-day slavery continue to be huge issues. Addiction to pornography and drugs, continue to be serious challenges to all societies. The debt crisis has a negative impact upon the nations and upon individuals – the economies of the nations and people have become precarious. Family life continues to be challenged by the economic restrictions which lead to migration, domestic abuse and violence. The Caribbean Churches work together to heal the wounds in the body of Christ. Reconciliation demands repentance, reparation and the healing of memories. The whole Church is called to be both a sign and an active agent of this reconciliation.

27th Holocaust Memorial Day

"The power of words" is the theme for Holocaust Memorial Day 2018.

Words can make a difference – both for good and evil.

'I want to go on living even after my death! And that's why I am so grateful to God for having given me this gift, which I can use to develop myself and to express all that's in me. When I write I can shake off all my cares; my sorrow disappears; my spirits are revived.' - Anne Frank's diary, 5 April 1944.

Spoken and written words from individuals, corporations, community organisations or the state, can have a huge impact, whether good or bad. The theme for 2018 explores how language has been used in the past, and how it is used in the present day.

Activities could focus on the impact that words had in the Holocaust and subsequent genocides, through propaganda used to incite, through slogans written in resistance, and through memoirs written to record and respond to what was going on. The words that we see and hear all around us today – in newspapers, online, in conversations – the words that we choose to use, all have an impact upon us and those around us.

28th Homeless Sunday

Homeless Sunday is a chance for Churches and Christian groups from across the country join together to pray, reflect and plan practical action on homelessness, but also for a united Christian voice to offer solidarity and be a prophetic voice for change.

Friday the 13th

Are you superstitious?

We started our recent cruising holiday on that special day; was it peaceful or was it eventful?

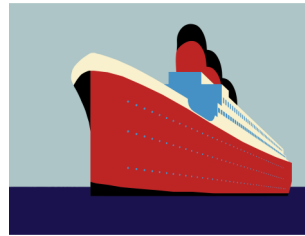
We boarded the cruise ship Britannia and set sail to the Mediterranean and the seas were calm all the way through the Bay of Biscay and we missed Hurricane Brian. Our stop at Cartagena was great but Barcelona was in doubt because of the problems in Catalonia, but in the end it was a great place to visit.

Our next stop was Marseilles where we were told that one of the trade unions representing bus drivers were on strike, there was a little delay with extra traffic but in Avignon we met a union march going through the town, no problem, but a bit lively with fireworks, drums and shouting. Safely back on board we had just left the quay but had to return and tie up so that a young child who had slipped by the swimming pool could go by ambulance to hospital. He was ok and re-joined the cruise at the next port.

We left the port somewhat late heading at full speed to Italy. However at 01.00hrs we heard an urgent message for medic to go the 11th deck. An hour later it was announced that the person was critically ill and was to be helicoptered off the ship, this meant that we had to divert nearer to the coast to reduce the distance for the helicopter which arrived at 03.00hrs and it took 2 hours to get him in a condition where they could winch him onto the helicopter. All this took so much time that we had to forgo the Italian port and head to our next stop in Corsica where we spent 2 peaceful days.

However left that port late afternoon and at about 01.00hrs (again!) another message : "Man overboard Port side". The ship had to slow down and turn round, it takes over a mile stop the ship so it's not quick! And then the ship launched some small craft, assisted by a helicopter (a different one!), We were astonished to learn that they had picked up 11 North Africans people which they then transferred later to a Spanish vessel because they were in a very small boat travelling from Morocco and looking for a better life in Europe. After that it was a very smooth sea all the way back to the UK

Would I go away again on Friday 13th ? Yes!



Mike Pullen

Message from the temporary editors :

It is our second attempt at editing "The Messenger" and it has become even clearer how so much of the magazine content, production and distribution relies on a team of people happy to contribute in the ways they can. We should be proud of the fact that the team produce a publication which is circulated widely and read with interest.



This time of year is hectic for many, regardless of the stage of life we have reached: Pre – children festive socialising; a family and school focussed run up to Christmas; having the children boomerang back to crash with their family in tow; or being pushed out of our familiar routines and surroundings as we visit others or find ourselves alone without our usual support.

So, much like the slow food movement, this edition tries to help us discover "Slow church" by inviting the reader to step aside from their busyness and focus elsewhere. Advent is a time of preparation but often, outside weekly services, we don't make the time to prepare or necessarily know how to. January, by contrast, after seeing in the New Year can seem to have little purpose – a month where our prime objective is mainly to get through. By providing some focal points for thought together with some prayers we hope to help in the challenges of December and the self reflection and resolutions of the New Year.

Happy Christmas to all in the congregation, friends of Princes Risborough Methodist Church and our wider readership.

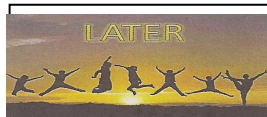
Neville and Kathryn



Transport to Church

If you require transport to or from any of the Sunday services or other events please speak to a Steward.

Youth Matters



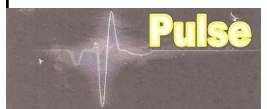
The Later Group

The Later Group meets at our church on the third Sunday evening of the month. Our next meeting will be on 21st January.

We welcome a number of 11-17 year olds, with an average of 14 each session. There are various activities including table-football and snooker.

For more information please contact our Minister, Rev. Keith Edwards ulysee798@gmail.com; Rev. James Tomkins (St. Dunstan's Church) jamestomkins@btinternet.com or Fran McMullan chris-fran@live.com

Fran McMullan



Informal Bible Study for school years 10-13
Meets on 2nd Sunday of the month at St Mary's Chapter House from 6-8pm.



Deeper Worship Evening for anyone
Meets on 4th Sunday of the month at St Mary's Church from 6.30-8pm.



Breakout We meet Fridays from 5 - 6.15pm at Elim Church, during term time, and have games, craft, lego, puzzles as well as watching an episode of an exciting DVD called Friends &

Heroes, where we watch the adventures of a group of friends who also tell a Bible Story which is part of the theme for that particular week. For dates of the next meeting contact me.

Doline Gadd

dolinegadd@googlemail.com

A New Year – new resolution?

The Covenant Service is a peculiarly Methodist tradition and one which helps to focus our thoughts annually as individuals, but also as a Congregation. As a Connexion we often hold Covenant Services in January – although at Princes Risborough we have taken the decision to move it to the start of the Connexional, rather than calendar, year. Nevertheless at a time of resolutions and possibly life reassessment following the Christmas period it might be worth reminding ourselves of some of the content of the Service. This is the key passage for me:

This means that, by the help, of the Holy Spirit,
We accept God's purpose for us,
and the call to love and serve God
in all our life and work.

Christ has many services to be done:
Some are easy, others are difficult;
Some bring honour, some bring reproach;
Some are suitable to our natural inclinations and material interests,
Others are contrary to both;
In some ways we may please Christ and please ourselves;
In others we cannot please Christ except by denying ourselves.
Yet all the power to do these things is given to us in Christ who strengthens us.

Other parts may speak to you as an individual, but let us all take time in our own homes to ponder again the sections that we find the most powerful, and try to work out what "our" passage means to, and for, us.

Neville Trout

Prayer for the start of Advent

Come Lord, come again

Come Lord, your wounded world is yearning
for you to come again.
Come Lord, your weary world is crying out
for you to lift us up
out of our despair, our hunger,
our thirst for something better,
our need for the food that will last.
Come Lord, come again,
we need to begin again.

Sue Allerton/CAFOD via the URC website

Princes Centre Update

We continue to get acknowledgement of our good work providing day care services for the elderly and for younger adults with all types of disabilities at the Princes Centre. Below is a photo showing an award recently received by the staff for 'Team of the Year' from the One4All.



Refurbishment of the new female clients' toilet facility is almost completed but there will be a delay due to further underground leakage of sewage and the need to dry out the foundations. Recently our contractor has converted a corner of the entrance hall into a much-needed large walk-in cupboard in which to house the wheelchairs and stores for the rest rooms in the

vicinity. This has involved the relocation of a radiator and pipe-work in an adjoining room. However the result is very good and the cupboard looks as if it has always been part of the entrance hall.

Some trees which are causing problems for a neighbouring property are due to be removed shortly and a new fence is planned for that boundary. Princes Risborough Rotary Club has very kindly offered to fund the work and we are extremely grateful for their continued support for all we are trying to achieve. The Interactors, youngsters from the Princes Risborough School, have recently visited to see the clients and have also very kindly raised some funds and donated a bench for the garden. With part of the Tesco grant some ornamental trees, pots, bulbs and other plants have also been purchased for the garden area.

Our new finance officer commences work this week which should make life a lot easier for our office staff as keeping on top of monies due from outside agencies is rather complicated.

We will be holding a collection outside Tesco's on Friday 1st December. The Jingers will be performing there for a while in the morning followed by 'Aunt Sally's Delight' playing festive and folk music immediately afterwards. Please come and shop to music there and support the Princes Centre at the same time.

Please remember that our next Quiz and Bingo evening is being held on January 26th at 6.30 pm. The cost will be £10 per person for the quiz, including a curry meal, and if you wish to join in with the bingo this is a little extra.

We have recently received a very useful donation from an anonymous person which is very much appreciated. We would also like to acknowledge the other generous donations we have received from individuals which are most welcome. If you wish to contribute financially to our continuing refurbishment needs, you can donate on line by visiting www.princescentre.org.uk, and by clicking on the 'My Donate' button. If you would like to book a hall or offer support in any way please ring Kim, our manager, on 01844 345105.

Maggie Wooster Keyte



Smile

These sentences actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced during Church services:

The Fasting and Prayer Conference includes meals.

The sermon this morning "Jesus walks on the water. The Sermon this evening "Searching for Jesus"

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

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

Contributed by Maureen Judd