

WALKDEN METHODIST CHURCH

OUTREACH

Rev Sarah Knebel - Tel. 0161 637 4800

Christmas 2020

Life was a little strange this year, and the world seemed so unsure
But one thing that we learnt was that we couldn't love each other more
We lived a moment in history our lives changed beyond doubt
But we learnt the true meaning of what family is about.
Although this Christmas may be different to the ones that we once knew.
We will soon be back together, because LOVE will see us through





From the Manse

Dear Friends,

This year has been far from a 'normal year' for so many of us, and I know many of us will have been hoping for a more 'normal' Christmas. It would seem, however, that this year Christmas is going to be far from 'normal'. The preparations we would have made will be slightly altered; the way we shop perhaps, the way school nativities take place, the work parties we might have attended, the many meals we might have gone to with friends or family, the way in which we spend Christmas day itself to name but a few. Similarly, the way we will be able to worship and celebrate Christmas in our churches will be different also; with restrictions in numbers and ongoing restrictions on singing, which becomes all the more heartfelt when we can't sing those much loved Christmas carols.

I have heard so many people say, "Oh well, it's just another day. There's always next year." This sentence, in itself says so much. Christmas never was just another day. The 25th December was, long before it became associated with the birth of Jesus Christ, a day for feasting, for festivities and for the giving of gifts as part of a pagan festival celebrating the winter solstice. The date then became adopted by the early Christian Church, for numerous different reasons, as the day when Christians all around the world celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, our Saviour. This year it would be entirely wrong not to recognise and acknowledge that, for many, our usual ways of celebrating Christmas are being disrupted, because what we celebrate at Christmas matters. The birth of Jesus matters. But was Jesus, himself, and was his birth, itself, not disruptive?

Jesus, the King, the Son of God, who was born in a dirty stable, far away from home and visited by shepherds. Jesus, who, though just a baby, challenged the fragility of Herod's worldly power. Jesus, who sat in the temple as a young boy and challenged the leading Church leaders of the time about their understanding of Scripture. Jesus who, as an adult, dined with sinners and outcasts, challenged injustice as he turned the tables in the temple courts, advocated peace with the commandment to "love our enemies", and paid the ultimate sacrifice as he died on the cross for the forgiveness of sin, giving his life for the many.

This year, as we celebrate Christmas differently to the way we normally would, let us remember the disruptive nature of Jesus' birth and ministry and be challenged by it in the way we live our lives and reflect on the Christmas story.

However and wherever you may be spending Christmas this year, may you have a very blessed Christmas and a happy New Year.

God bless you all.

Sarah

TEAMS4U SHOEBOX APPEAL 2020

I wanted to say a big thank you to everyone who filled shoe boxes and made donations to the 2020 appeal.

I know that it was difficult under the circumstances that we found ourselves in, but everyone rallied round and did what they could.

I collected 88 shoe boxes from various locations and these were collected from me by one of the co-ordinators from Teams4U in quite a hurry on Saturday morning the 31st October. This was just before we went into lockdown. The depot they were going to was in Wrexham North Wales and they had to collect the boxes before the national lockdown began in England.

The shoe boxes will be sent to children and families in the remote villages of Romania and Bosnia. We do hope that these will bring smiles to their faces. It may be the only present that they will receive this Christmas time.

Once again, thank you for helping to make a difference to the lives of the children who receive a shoe box.

Pauline



YCT BIRTHDAYS



DECEMBER

30th Anton Williams

JANUARY

1st Danny Macharia

14th Aaron Tagoe

-o-o-O-o-o-

It was Christmas and the judge was in a merry mood as he asked the prisoner, "What are you charged with?"

"Doing my Christmas shopping early," replied the defendant.

"That's no offence," said the judge. "How early were you doing this shopping?"

"Before the store opened," answered the defendant.

Jam and Jigsaws?

Anne still has jars of jam if anyone would like some. She is willing to bring it to you. Donations to help the church finances can be made once we are back at church. You can get in touch with Anne on 0161 703 9449. If anyone would like a jigsaw to tackle over the winter months give Anne a call she has some available for loan.

BUSY DURING LOCKDOWN

One of the ladies from the Chat and Craft group (Sue) has been busy during lockdown making twiddle mats, twiddle pockets and octopuses for the children at Green Fold School and The Orchards Nursery High Needs Base. The Chat and Craft members visited the school last year and we have kept in touch with the teachers and helpers. It was lovely to get the following message from them.



Sue and the team - thank you ! The children are very much enjoying their unique and personalised bright tactile twiddle mats, pockets and octopuses - they are gorgeous!! The tactile system is our sense of touch through different sensory receptors in our skin. It is through the tactile system that we first receive information about the world - and the ability to process tactile information effectively contributes to our social and emotional development as well as developing our fine motor skills to enable the development of lifeskills. Varied tactile input resources play a very important part in our personalised curriculum and these unique items are a very welcome addition.

YOU ARE INVITED TO our weekly zoom coffee chats - they are held alternatively - morning coffee at 10 am and the following week evening coffee at 8 pm. If you would like to give it a go please email me on margaret.oneill@hotmail.co.uk or telephone me on 01942 870196 and I will let you have the link or further details. If you are on email it's quite easy to access the coffee chat through the link. If you have a problem with the link or are unsure we can give you help over the telephone. It would be lovely to see or speak to you. I do hope you can join in.
Take care. Margaret

25 Days of Christmas Bible Verses

www.homeschoolencouragement.com

 JOHN 3:16	Phillipians 2:8-10	ISAIAH 7:14	Zechariah 9:9	 Isaiah 9:6-7
Acts 5:31 	Romans 5:1	 ISAIAH 40:1-11	Luke 1:1-17	Luke 1:18-25 
Luke 1:26-38	Luke 1:39-45	<i>mary</i> Luke 1:46-56	 LUKE 1:57-66	Luke 1:67-80
Luke 2:1-12	 LUKE 2:13-21	Luke 2:22-35	LUKE 2:36-40	Luke 2:41-51 
Matthew 1:78-25	Matthew 2:1-12	Matthew 2:13-18 	MATTHEW 2:19-23	Isaiah 53:5

We remember with love and great affection one of our members Diane Nyandoro who sadly passed away in November.

Please continue to remember her family and friends in your daily prayers

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Please continue to hold each other in prayer during these difficult times and remember especially those members in residential homes

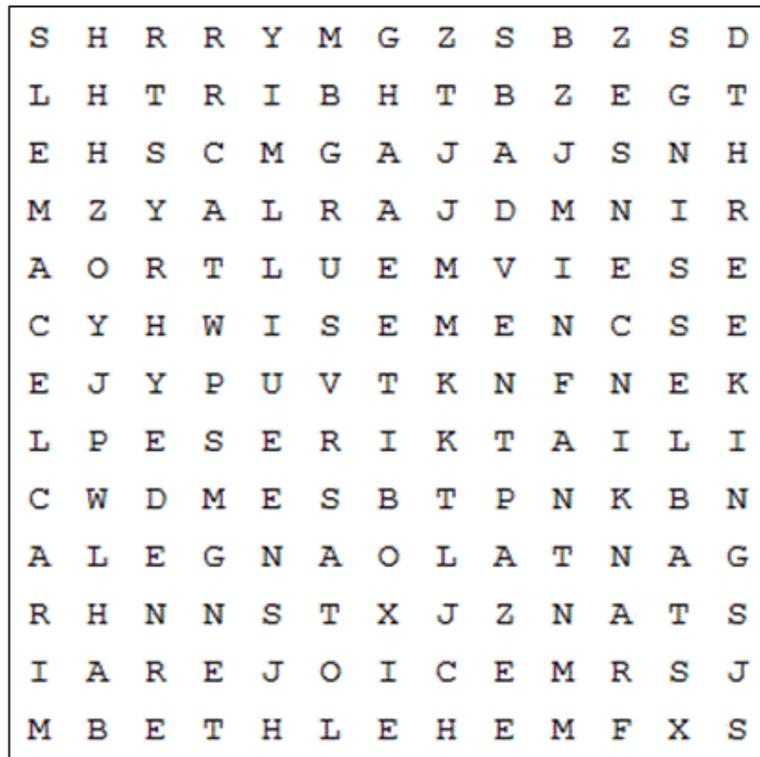
THANK YOU

May I take this opportunity to thank you all for your prayers, flowers, support and good wishes for a speedy recovery after my recent fall, as a result of which I fractured my lower jaw in three places. I am now, thankfully, well on the road to recovery. Please could I ask you pray for my continuing recovery.

Thank you. God bless, Rev. Sarah Knebel.



Joy to the World



ADVENT
ANGEL
BETHLEHEM
BIRTH
BLESSINGS
CAMELS
FRANKINCENSE

INFANT
JESUS
JOSEPH
MAGI
MANGER
MARY
MIRACLE

MYRRH
NATIVITY
REJOICE
STABLE
STAR
THREE KINGS
WISE MEN



Christmas Carousel

Christmas trees and bells and stars, Candles, dolls and model cars,
Baubles, tinsel, mistletoe, Santa Claus and sleighs and snow,
Reindeer, robins, rabbits, mice, Christmas cake and food so nice –
Rennies for the not so well, All revolve around the Carousel.

Christmas lights and toys and holly, Friends and drink to make us jolly,
Yule logs, cards and carol singers, Stockings, sacks & present bringers.
Mincepies, puddings, friendly talk, Turkey, duckling, goose and pork,
Dates and crackers, nuts to shell – All revolve around the Carousel.

Right in the centre of it all – Dwarfed by all things great & small,
Hides a simple family scene, Lodging in a stable mean -
Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus, No glamour to attract or seize us.
Yet this baby, strange to tell, Is the REASON for the Carousel

The Wise Men

It was a very awkward moment,
A stony silence reigned,
The Wise Men stood there shuffling
Feeling quite ashamed,
The other two stood waiting –
They had played their part,
Remembering their practiced lines
From the very start.

Gifts had been presented
Before the infant king,
Now the third Wise Man must speak
Before the choir could sing.
Words were all forgotten,
But the plucky little lad
Improvised his own remark –
'Isn't he like his dad?'

Never was a truer word
Uttered by a child,
About the advent of God's Son
As a baby meek and mild,
Jesus was His Father's image
In the semblance of a man,
Born on earth to fashion
God's great Salvation plan.

*The above two poems were taken from Versatile Verse by Sylvia M Bradford
(Thanks to Mary Walker for providing these)*

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM AROUND THE CHURCH

<p>Best Wishes for a healthy and safe 2021 Love from Carolyn, Jon, Millie & Baby Rosie Olive Parkinson xx</p>	<p>With love and best wishes to everyone at Christmas. Stay safe. Anita and Fred xxx</p> 
<p>Here's wishing all a Very Blessed Christmas And Happy New Year. Praying for better times and see you all soon. Esther and son Vikas</p> 	<p>Love was born at Christmas bringing justice, hope, peace. May God's love shine around you all and lighten any darkness. Dawn & John xx</p>
<p>Happy Christmas to all our friends at church. Hope you are all keeping safe and well. Love from Rosemary and Derek</p>	<p>Wishing all our church family a safe peaceful Christmas and a better New Year. Love from all the Wardley Family</p> 
<p>Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed Christmas. From Adeyemi & Elizabeth Okubanjo</p> 	<p>Happy Christmas everyone. We miss you and hope to see you all soon. Carolyn Nixon and family.x</p>
<p>Happy and peaceful Christmas to everyone. Hugs all round! Mary x x x</p>	<p>Peace, Joy and Love to everyone. From Jean Jackson</p> 
<p>Wishing you all a very happy Christmas with your families and a good New Year. Love Eileen B.</p> 	<p>Best wishes for Christmas and hope you all have a happier New Year. Love from Anne B.</p>
<p>Happy Christmas to you all with best wishes, take care. Love Pauline Ashton</p>	<p>Wishing everyone a Very Happy Christmas. God Bless for 2021. Stay Safe. Take Care. With love from Marjorie & David</p> 
<p>Wishing everyone very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year. Stay safe. Love and God bless. Barbara H.</p> 	<p>Wishing all my church family best wishes and hope we can all meet again quite soon.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ivy</p>

<p>Seasons greetings for Christmas and New Year. June Cartwright</p> 	<p>All our best wishes for Christmas and a peaceful and safer New Year. Margaret and Jim Lever</p>
<p>Christmas greetings to you all. Thank you for your support during this difficult year and I look forward to meeting you all in fellowship and friendship. Dorothy</p>	<p>Missing our church family and wishing you all a Happy Christmas. Love from Francene, Adam, Henry and Theo, xxx</p> 
<p>Special thoughts and very best wishes this Christmas to our friends at Walkden Methodist Church. from Julia Patterson and Christopher</p> 	<p>Whether at home or far away God bless you all this Christmas Day Love & prayers Marion & Gaynor xx</p>
<p>I send my Christmas and New Year Greetings to all at Church at the end of a very difficult year. God bless you all. Love Olive x</p>	<p>Seasons Greetings. Hope to see you all soon. Love David & Brenda</p> 
<p>Happy Christmas to everyone at Walkden Methodist Church. Love from Liz Kennedy xx</p> 	<p>Missing everybody and looking forward to seeing you all and to better times. Irene Davidson x</p>
<p>Wishing you a joyful Christmas and a peaceful New Year filled with many blessings. With love, Carol, Pete & Amy Sniadek x</p>	<p>I send my love to everyone and wish you all peace and happiness this Christmastime and throughout the coming year. Annie</p> 
<p>Christmas greetings to everyone. From Jean Hadcroft</p> 	<p>Wishing you all a very blessed and happy Christmas and new year. With love from Sarah, Rob, Keira and Clara</p>
<p>Seasons greetings to all our friends across the circuit. Looking forward to seeing you all in 2021. God bless. Eric & Lorraine</p>	<p>Thinking of you all at Christmas. Love to all. Renee</p> 

<p>Wishing everyone a very Happy Christmas and a better New Year LOVE Sheila Henshaw</p> 	<p>Wishing you all a safe, peaceful and happy Christmas and New Year. Barbara and Trevor Laverock</p>
<p>Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year. With love to you all from Jill and Brian</p>	<p>Thinking of you all and wishing you a blessed Christmas time. Love from Sandra</p> 
<p>Christmas greetings to everyone and looking forward to when we can all meet together again. Love Val x</p>	<p><i>Merry Christmas Everyone (from a social distance)</i></p>

Now for a selection of festive fun supplied by MarjorieEnjoy (Answers on the last page)

A CHRISTMAS QUIZ

A mixture of myth and true questions and answers

WHO

1. was crowned King of England on Christmas Day 1066?
2. who popularised the Christmas tree in Britain ?
3. made a life-sized crib scene with real people and animals?
4. wrote Auld Lang Syne?
5. thought Christmas was "humbug?"

WHERE

1. did Christmas turkeys originally come from?
2. did Good King Wenceslas live?
3. does Kriss Kringle bring Christmas gifts?
4. was St. Lucia's Day (December 13th) first celebrated? (Country required)
5. are the bones of the three wise men reputed to be buried? (city required)

WHAT

1. was a Christmas Pudding originally called
2. shape is a French Christmas cake?
3. were the "Waits" ?
4. does "wassail" really mean?
5. Were known as "Cosaques" in the 19th century?

WHEN

1. are Christmas decorations traditionally taken down?.
2. if you forget to take them down when are they supposed to remain up to? (name the day)
3. does Advent begin?
4. is St. Stephen's feast day and what is he the patron Saint of?
5. is Epiphany celebrated and who is particularly remembered that day? (names please)

WHICH

1. Roman God is connected with the New Year and why has he two heads?
2. wood is reputed to have been used on the fire that first warmed the Baby Jesus?
3. nursery rhyme refers to a mince pie?
4. people held the mistletoe as sacred?
5. English ruler banned the eating of mince pies by act of parliament?

Hope you didn't use Google !!!! for the answers ????. It may not agree with me! (Oh dear.)

CHRISTMAS JOKE PUZZLES..... Enjoy a Laugh Ha!! Ha!!

Example.... What do you call a snowman in the summer.....a puddle !

1. What do you get when you cross Santa with a duck?
2. What does Santa do when elves misbehave themselves?
3. How do you describe a rich elf ?
4. Why are Christmas trees so bad at sewing?
5. Mum, can I have a dog for Christmas?
6. What hides in the bakery at Christmas?
7. What do you call a lobster who won't share his Christmas presents ?
8. What do you call a reindeer with no eyes?
9. What do you call a man wearing trousers made of Christmas wrapping paper?
10. What do Santa's little helpers learn at school?
11. What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations?
12. What's Tarzan's favourite Christmas song?
13. But what about his chimp's favourite Christmas song?
14. How many letters are in the Christmas alphabet?
15. If athletes get athletes foot, what do elves get?
16. What does Santa do with fat elves?

Try to make up some quiz jokes and send them in for the next OUTREACH.

Cryptic Christmas songs and carols to tease you brain. Good Luck

1. Far off in a Feeder
2. Bleached Yule
3. Delight for this Planet
4. Nocturnal Noiselessness
5. The Dozen Festive twenty four hours
6. Singular Yearning for Twin Anterior Incisors
7. The Quadruped with the Vermillion Proboscis
8. An arrival at 12.00p.m. with good visibility
9. Lord relax you happy fellows nought must make you cry
10. Listen to the news of holy messengers raising tuneful voices
11. The prickly bush and the trailing leafy one eventually will be as big as they can be
12. Personally wanting something very special to take place through each 24 hours
13. Where the cold and bare middle time icy gales whine
14. A special winter celebration white berried plant plus alcoholic drink. .
15. Virgin's male off-spring
16. Round letter, journey here (x2)."God with us" set free your prisoner tribe

Local businesses have been struggling during the past months with the lockdown and severe restrictions imposed on them. Hug In A Mug Café does a lot of good work serving the community around Walkden and it is good to support them if we can.

Hug in a Mug Presents:
**Santa's Socially Distanced
Magical Grotto!**

1 x Child £3.50
2 x Children £5.00
3 x Children £6.50
4 x Children £8.00

Saturday
5th, 12th & 19th
December 2020
1pm – 4pm

**Santa will be wearing a mask and expects children 11 years and over to wear one too.
Children can have a chat with Santa and every child will receive a gift.
We are now accepting bookings and expect to be busy so please book ASAP to avoid
disappointment. All bookings must be made in advance and paid for in full by card
at the time of booking. Please phone Hug in a Mug on 0161 376 3315**



The **colours** of Christmas are bright and they're true
they tell of God's great love for me and for you.



Blue is the sky where the angels appeared
as they sang "Peace on earth", to the shepherds
who feared.



Silver is for the bright Christmas star
Which guided the wise men from countries afar.



Gold tells of their gifts for the Baby that day
who they found in a manger, asleep on the hay.



Purple for suffering and death on a hill.

Red is the blood, which Jesus did spill.

Green shows that Jesus arose from the dead
And saved us and freed us, just as he said.



We are trialling the issue of the magazine by e-mail wherever possible. If you have received this Outreach magazine in a paper format and you have an email address please contact Val Hancox (vhancox04@gmail.com) with your email address and we can arrange to send future magazines or update sheets direct to your inbox.

Answers

WHO

1. William (1) the Conquerer;
2. Prince Albert (Queen Victoria's husband)
3. St. Francis
4. Robert (Robbie)Burns
5. Ebenezer Scrooge

WHERE

1. America
2. Bohemia in Czechoslovakia
3. America
4. Sweden Festival of Light ("lux" means light, St. Lucia was an Italian Saint)
5. Cologne Cathedral

WHAT

1. Plum Pudding
2. Log shaped
3. English custom of carol singers going around a village (just carol singers answer OK)
4. Good Health
5. Christmas crackers

WHEN

1. January 5th or 6th (some countries count Christmas Day as the first of 12 days of Christmas others don't)
2. Shrove Tuesday
3. Four weeks before Christmas
4. December 26th Patron Saint of bricklayers and masons (first Christian martyr - stoned to death)
5. 3 Kings/3 wise men/Magi....Caspar, Melchior, Balthazar

WHICH

1. Janus - one head faces backwards (past), the other faces forwards (future)
2. Ash
3. Little Jack Horner
4. Druids
5. Oliver Cromwell

Daft Answers to the Joke Puzzles

1. A Christmas Quacker
2. He gives them the sack
3. Welfry
4. They always drop their needles
5. No, you can have turkey like everyone else
6. A mince spy
7. Shell-fish
8. No idea
9. Russell
10. Elf-e-bet
11. Tinsilitis
12. Jungle Bells
13. King Kong merrily on high
14. 25 No L
15. Mistle toes
16. He sends them to an elf farm

CRYPTIC PUZZLE ANSWERS

1. Away in a Manger
2. White Christmas
3. Joy to the World
4. Silent Night
5. The 12 Days of Christmas
6. All I want for Christmas is my two front teeth
7. Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer
8. It came upon the Midnight clear
9. God rest you Merry Gentlemen
10. Hark the Herald Angels sing
11. The Holly and the Ivy
12. I wish it could be Christmas every day
13. In the bleak Mid-Winter
14. It's Christmastime mistletoe and wine
15. Mary's Boy Child
16. O come, O come Emmanuel