



AN OPEN DOOR
NEWSLETTER
OF
WEST DERBYSHIRE URC
COLDWELL STREET, WIRKSWORTH
December 2017



Minister : Revd Camilla Veitch
10 Woodlands, Wirksworth
01629 826913

Dear Friends,

As many of you may know, I have the honour of serving you for my last two-year placement at West Derbyshire URC, in training to become a Minister. I would like to thank you all, for the warm welcome and making me feel at home. I am amazed, how the local churches support each other, in church events, and display kindness to each other.

During this season we begin to prepare for Advent. I have begun to picture, in my mind, how the Advent wreath will look this year, which is a prominent symbol of the Advent season. It is usually made up of evergreen branches or boughs, placed in a circle topped with four luminous candles. We use the Advent wreath as a way to prayerfully and thoughtfully reflect, on the passage of Advent.

On the first Sunday of Advent, the wreath is blessed and one candle is lit, every Sunday another candle is lit, until all four candles are burning brightly.

The evergreens on the Advent wreath, reminds us of the everlasting life, promised to us by the gift of Jesus Christ, who came among us to save us from sin and death.

The lighting of the candles banishes the darkness, as a reminder of Jesus Christ, the Light of the world, through his birth, and who continues to shine brightly, within his church.

This can be an exciting time of year, but also, a stressful time too. I recently spoke to some young families, who feel the financial pressure of Christmas. They expressed to me that Christmas has become too commercialized, and just want the Christmas season over and done with.

Yet, sometimes it is the simple things that warm our hearts, for example, symbols of a mince pie with a nice warm fire, fluffy slippers and good company.

When reflecting on this season, we find that God was not born in splendour but born in a manger in a lowly stable, the Saviour of the world. Maybe this Christmas season we could let joy spring up, centred on WHO matters! Away from the stresses, we can simply open our hearts and make room to prepare for the Light of the World, to warm every dark space and to find a lustre of hope, wishing the humbleness of Christmas to shine through us all.

Be Blessed,

Amanda.

NEWS OF THE CHURCH AND CHURCH FAMILY

We are pleased to know that Barbara Lomas, David Taylor and Peter Shore are all now back at home after a period of time in hospital. We send them all our good wishes.



We were all saddened to hear of the death of our dear friend Sheila. Our Minister conducted the funeral service when we all gave thanks for her life. Sheila had been so very brave and has faced her many health problems with dignity and cheerfulness. We pray for Alf and the family that they will be comforted in the knowledge that we are thinking of them and praying for them at the time of their sad loss.

*May you find comfort in the memories
that are yours to cherish always
and may you find the courage to face tomorrow
in the love that surrounds you today.*

Christmas Services

Our Carol Service will be held on Sunday 24th December at 6pm led by our Minister – our Sunday Explorers will also be taking part; on Christmas Day members and friends from Wellspring will be joining us for the service at 10am.

Church Christmas Dinner

We all look forward to the annual Christmas Dinner which will be held on Saturday 9th December.

Fellowship Meeting

Fellowship Meeting on Tuesday 12th December will be held at The Manse at 7.30pm. This will be about Advent and we will also be singing Carols. Why not come along and share fellowship. Our church meeting is on Thursday 7th December at 7.15pm. Please try to attend – everyone's opinion is important.

Christmas Greetings

Camilla, Tom, Amanda and Freya would like to wish everyone at church a very happy Christmas! Instead of sending cards they have made a donation to charity.

Folk Carol Service

Following our successful Folk Carol services in previous years we will be holding another one on 5th January. Once again, there will be a mixture of carols old and new and a variety of readings – all celebrating the joy of Christmas and the hopes for the new year. January can often feel a bit gloomy with the excitement of Christmas and new year celebrations behind us – by having this service to look forward to we hope to begin the new year on a bright and hopeful note.

The Open Door

Our church magazine "Open Door" is printed monthly and we try to circulate it to as many people as possible. We always hope that everyone finds it interesting and that those who are unable to attend services for reasons of health or mobility will still feel a vital part of the church family and remember our activities in their prayers.

Prayer Book

A Prayer Book is placed in our Church in the Porch for everyone to use. It is there for us to place names of people we wish to be included in our prayers of intercession. Of course not everyone would like to be prayed for in a public service, particularly if the nature of their need is a private

concern, so everyone who uses the Prayer Book should be confident that the person they wish us to pray for is happy for this – if in doubt, you can always ask permission from the person.

REPORT ON EVENTS IN NOVEMBER

Coffee Evening

Carole and Roy would like to thank everyone who came along to their coffee evening when slides were set to music of their train journey across America, their time spent in the cities of Chicago, San Francisco and Boston together with slides of the glaciers etc they saw as they travelled on a gospel cruise of Alaska.

Weekend of 18 and 19th November

What wonderful fellowship we shared during this weekend both at the Annual Christmas Bazaar (thanks to everyone who worked so hard both before and on the day - £962 raised for church funds) and at the service held the following day which was led by the Elders. The lectionary reading for the day was the "Parable of the Talents" and the Elders prepared and delivered a thought provoking service which was illustrated by pictures and music. There was wonderful singing to the well chosen hymns with special meanings. The whole weekend was a very uplifting time.

Submitted by a church member

Coffee and mince pies at the URC

It was lovely that we were able to keep the church open for the afternoon of Sunday 26th November so that people could come and join with us for a hot drink and mince pie. Thanks to all who supported this and to Terry Lemon for organising the event.

THE GLENORCHY CENTRE

A very big "thank you" to the eight volunteers who successfully loaded two vans full of unwanted items from the top room. We must now keep the level of items stored there, down, to ensure it does not become a fire hazard.

Joyce Brown

AROUND THE TOWN

Singing in the Train – Sat 9th December. Ecclesbourne Valley Railway have organised an evening of Carols, linking the communities which the line serves. Local churches have been invited to lead the music. Join the event on the train or just at one of the stations where carols will be sung on the platforms. The train departs Wirksworth at 6pm, with the first carols at Duffield (6.30pm) – where we will be joined by the Bishop of Derby – then on to Shottle (7.15pm), Idridgehay (7.40pm) and Wirksworth (8.15pm). A return train will leave Wirksworth at 8.45pm, arriving Duffield 9.15pm. Donations for Derby Refuge Aid Centre (the train ride is free).

Wirksworth Annual Peace Ceremony and lighting of the Christmas tree is on Saturday 2nd December. This will begin with a time of reflection when candles are lit from the Hiroshima flame, lit many years ago to remind us of the terrible cost of war and the hope for peace for all humanity. From the Memorial Gardens, we process through the town to the Market Place where the tree is lit to great excitement and we share in the singing of carols. It's a lovely occasion which

makes the place so special at this time of the year.

'Discovering the Peace' – Wellspring Church will be open on Sunday 17th December at 6pm for a time of music, song, silence, candlelight, poetry and reflection. On the other side of the coin is the traditional (and wonderful) Carol Services that happen throughout our land at this time.

Christmas Day Lunch at Waltham House – An invitation to spend the day with friends old and new at the Community Christmas Lunch at Waltham House from 12 noon on Christmas day. If you know of anyone who might like to attend, or would like to help out in some way (volunteers are always needed to help with preparations on Christmas Eve and on the day itself for transporting guests / cooking / hosting tables etc), please contact Paul Briggs on Tel. 01629 822210 (evenings) or write to "Wirksworth Christmas Lunch", c/o 45 Summer Lane, Wirksworth, Derbyshire DE4 4EB.

The Traid Links Shop in Wirksworth invites you to look around for your Christmas gifts and greetings cards. The shop has striking jewellery, a wide range of crafts, handbags and accessories sourced from around the world. Fairtrade and organic wholefoods and Fairtrade chocolate – and oh so many more things for you to choose from.



The Leprosy Mission

Joyce thanks everyone who has supported the request for items for sale. The sale of stamps and collectables is very important in raising funds for the work of The Leprosy Mission. We have received lovely letters of thanks for our donations – they really are appreciated. Do please let Joyce have the stamps from your letters / Christmas cards together with any other collectables

BIBLE STUDY

How are your Christmas preparations going? There is so much to think about; cards, decorations, tree, presents, food. The list is endless. Each year we get ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus, but is this the sort of preparation we need? How did they get ready for his actual birth? In **Mark chapter 1, verses 1 to 8**, you can read about the part John the Baptist played.

- Verse 1 "the Good News". Being expectant. Are we ready to be joyfully surprised?
- Verses 2 & 3 "make a straight path". The message is "clear the way". Do we put obstacles in the way to finding Jesus?
- Verses 4 & 5 "Turn away from your sins". Are we the ones that are standing in the way? Forgiveness is needed if we are to be ready.
- Verses 6 & 7 "much greater than I am". John was not the one they were waiting for. We are not worthy either, but we can show the way.

Please pray for



..... for all alone this Christmas, especially those who have lost loved ones in the past year and for whom it will be an especially poignant time and all those away from homes and loved ones during these coming weeks, whatever the reason.

..... the highly complex and problematic political issues throughout many Arab nations especially the ongoing conflicts in Libya and Syria, and for the wisdom for the leaders of all nations as they consider how to work for the future.

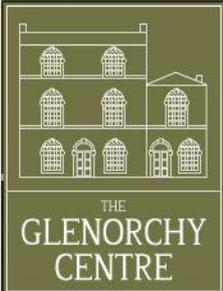
.....for those affected by the recent earthquake in Tibet and for those suffering uncertain times in Zimbabwe, currently without clear leadership.

..... those who continue to live with the consequences of disaster or long term conflict; those around the world who are persecuted for their faith, that they will be strengthened and encouraged; those working in horrendous working conditions across the world; the homeless and for refugees living under canvas as temperatures drop and all those who live daily with fear and anxiety.

..... those in our towns and cities who are without a home and are out on the streets in this cold weather and for those who work to relieve the suffering in shelters and soup runs, those who are working for food banks and those working at the Derby Refugee Centre in Derby and for the charities that help.

.....the safe delivery of the shoe boxes and for the children receiving them.

.....for those who, in our own area, struggle to cope with the financial demands of this time of year as the “Christmas rush” gets under way.

	<p style="text-align: center;">AFFORDABLE SELF-CATERING ACCOMMODATION FOR UP TO 26 PEOPLE Ideal for families or small groups. Well equipped kitchen, dining area. Large Hall and 4 bedrooms. Email secretary@glenorchycentre.org.uk www.glenorchycentre.org.uk Coldwell Street, Wirksworth DE4 4FB Tel. 0162 824323</p>												
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<p>Minister - Revd Camilla Veitch, 10 Woodlands, Wirksworth 826913 Secretary - Ian Wright, 9 Derwent View, Church Road, Darley Dale 0776 894 8506 Pulpit Secretary - Mrs Sue Fay, 16 Yokecliffe Hill, Wirksworth. 821891 Editor - Mrs Carole Powlson, 27 Nan Gells Hill, Bolehill. 822963 Treasurer – Mr Paul Fay, 16 Yokecliffe Hill, Wirksworth. 821891. Website : www.westderbyshireurc.co.uk</p>													

SERVICES

3rd Dec. at 10am Revd C Veitch and Mrs A Linney
(Communion Service)
10th Dec. at 10am Revd D Baird
17th Dec. at 10am Revd C Veitch.
24th Dec. at 6pm Revd C Veitch (Carol Service)
25th Dec. at 10am Revd C Veitch (Joint Christmas Day Service
with the Wellspring Church to be held at the URC)
31st Dec. at 10am Mr B Heeley
Vestry Duty: Mr B Heeley Porch Duty : Mr I Wright

*Sunday Explorers! Children are invited to 'explore' God's Word
Together. Activities are held in the side room during the
Sunday Morning Service.*

Regular Events at West Derbyshire URC

Mon. 7 - 9pm – Table Tennis in the Glenorchy Centre.
Tues. 9.30 - 10am – Morning Prayers at the URC.
Fri. 9 – 11am - Toast and Tea at the URC.

Other events at the URC

Thurs. 7th Dec at 7.15pm – Church Meeting.
Sat. 9th Dec at 6pm – Annual Christmas Dinner.
Tues. 12th Dec. at 7.30pm – Christmas Fellowship at The Manse.
Fri. Jan. 5th at 7pm – Folk Carol Service.

Services / Events in Town

Sat. 2nd Dec. 10 to 12noon – Annual “Write for Rights” card signing
event for Amnesty International at Wellspring Church.
Sat. 2nd December at 5pm – Annual Peace Ceremony followed by
the lighting of the town Christmas Tree
Sat 9 Dec 2pm Concert and Quiz for Cancer Research, Town Hal
Sat 9 – Singing in the Train – see fuller details in the newsletter.
Tuesday 12th at 11am - Communion Service at Waltham House
Sun. 17th at 6pm – “Discovering the Peace” at Wellspring Church
Tues. 19th Dec. at 8.30pm– “Be Still” gathering at Studio 1, Coach
House Studios, Crown Yard, Market Place, Wirksworth.
Wed. 20th Town Carols at 7pm

