



**AN OPEN DOOR  
NEWSLETTER OF  
WEST DERBYSHIRE URC  
COLDWELL STREET, WIRKSWORTH  
*January 2018***



I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:  
'Give me a light, that I may tread safely into the unknown',  
And he replied: 'Go forth into the darkness and put your hand into the  
hand of God.  
That shall be to you better than a light and safer than a known way.  
*ML Haskins.*

Minister : Revd Camilla Veitch  
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### **Light of the World**

Also known as "Here I am to worship" was written by Tim Hughes (born 1977). In 1999, while still at college, Tim sat down to write a musical response after reading St Paul's epistle to the Philippians Chapter 2. He says: "I'd been reading about the life of Jesus, and about us imitating Christ's humility and the fact that Jesus gave up everything, walked upon the earth and was obedient even to death on a cross.

I was playing around with my guitar when I began with these words, 'Light of the world, you

stepped down into darkness, I opened my eyes, let me see,' and also I had the words, 'I would never know how much it cost, to see my sin upon the cross'. But I could never get a chorus that I was happy with.

About six months later I saw a film called *The Green Mile*, a Stephen King story about substitution; someone taking on a punishment that wasn't rightfully theirs. The theme of the cross and sacrifice was so powerful, and I began to sing this song again and very soon the lyrics of the chorus quickly came to my mind.

The verses speak about what Jesus has done and the chorus needed to be a simple, "Well, I'm going to respond by worshipping you, bowing down, saying that, you're my God. So that's how this song came together."

*Here I am to worship,  
Here I am to bow down,  
Here I am to say that You're my God.  
You're altogether lovely  
Altogether worthy,  
Altogether wonderful to me*

### **THE CHURCH AND CHURCH FAMILY**

We were all sorry to hear of the death of Murray Cameron after a long illness suffering with Motor Neurone Disease. Murray, Christine and their two girls attended the URC whilst Murray worked locally as a mining engineer. Christine was our Church Treasurer for quite a number of years. On retirement they returned to live in Scotland. We think of Christine and her family and friends in their sad loss.

### **EVENTS IN DECEMBER**

We all enjoyed the various Christmas events and services which included offering a hot drink and mincepies when our church was open on a Sunday afternoon – this was well attended not only by our own members but lots of visitors who were in town for the Christmas Farmers Market.

**Christmas Dinner** - As new members of your church, David and myself were very pleased to be able to join in with the 'men's dinner' preparations and of course the dinner itself. Thank you to all who gave their time, expertise and hard work in creating such a very happy and joyful evening for so many of us. A special mention to Roy and Carole who even though struggling with heavy colds cooked the turkeys at home....beautifully! It was so well organised and everyone sat down together to enjoy a really superb Christmas celebration meal. Thank you all again for such a lovely evening.

*Gillian Brown*

Our **Evening Carol Service** was led by Camilla on Christmas Eve with our Sunday Explorers taking part. This was a "Festival of Carols and Lessons". The readings from the bible recounted the fall of humanity, the promise of a Messiah and the birth of Jesus – the readings were interspersed with traditional and modern carols. The Sunday Explorers told the Christmas Story in a modern way – they had prepared the scene in previous weeks and we congratulate them on how well they all did.

**On Christmas Day** we were joined with the members and friends from Wellspring Church as we shared worship together. The lovely service was led by Camilla and Kevin with Paul Heppleston playing for the carols, traditional and modern. It was lovely that so many were able to join in worship together.

**Charity Appeal** - This year the charities we will be supporting are: Spurgeons Children's Centres, Smile Train and Wirksworth's New Scout Hut. Envelopes are in church for your kind donation.

### **Flowers**

Thank you to everyone who has placed flowers in church during the past year. The flowers are then given to people who are in our thoughts, either because they have worries or concerns or people who are celebrating an occasion. 40 individuals received flowers during the year.

### **DIARY DATES FOR JANUARY**

#### **Folk Carol Service**

A Folk Carol service will be held on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> Jan (7pm), the day of Epiphany – everyone is warmly invited to join us. 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.

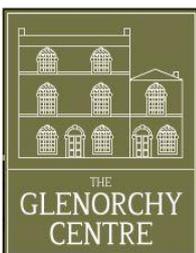
#### **Christingle Service**

On the first Sunday in January (7<sup>th</sup>) there will be a Family Christingle Service which will be held in the Glenorchy Centre at the usual time of 10am.

**Fellowship Meeting** - Please look out for place and date in the weekly news sheet.

#### **THE GLENORCHY CENTRE**

During January / February the work of "Spring Cleaning" the Centre will take place. If you are able to help in any way this will be very much appreciated. There will be a list of the jobs to be done and this will be placed on the dining room notice board in the Glenorchy Centre - please look out in the weekly news sheet for further details.



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**Coldwell Street, Wirksworth DE4 4FB Tel. 0162 824323**



#### **Taken from The Leprosy Mission 2018 Prayer Diary**

"As we begin a new year, please lift the Mission's people up in prayer. Pray that we – from all corners of the world, in all the parts we play in The Leprosy Mission family – will be strengthened and inspired as we continue Christ's good work of healing and restoration."

## **WIRKSWORTH & DISTRICT FELLOWSHIP OF CHURCHES**

The Week of Prayer runs from Wed 18th Jan until Thurs 25th January. There will be services during the week following the theme of "That all may be free". We will welcome Revd Kevin Price to our church to lead our Sunday service on the 21<sup>st</sup> January. On the same night there will be a Joint Service for all the churches to be held at Wellspring at 6pm. Please look out for fuller details nearer the date.

### **A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OUR AQUABOX AND VOLUNTEERS**

In 2017 Aquabox celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary and thanks to your wonderful support, we are still responding to disasters across the globe.

2017 has been a very busy year with Aquabox responding to the floods in South Asia as well as the devastating hurricanes and earthquakes in the Caribbean and Central America.

When the floods struck in South Asia, our stock of Aquaboxes in Nepal was deployed and distributed by local Rotary partners and the Gurkhas, to provide safe drinking water and aid to the communities most affected by the floods. This immediate response was followed up with an air shipment of Aquafilters to Bangladesh providing potable water and helping to prevent waterborne diseases.

A month later the Caribbean islands were being ravaged by powerful hurricanes. Once again Aquaboxes were mobilized by providing community and family water filters to the British Virgin Islands with a further shipment bound for Dominica before the year end.

Aquabox have also responded to numerous man-made disasters across the world, including the conflicts and resultant famines in South Sudan and surrounding countries, the continuing troubles in Syria and, more recently, the Rohingya refugee crisis in Bangladesh.

Without your fantastic help and support, none of this practical action would be possible, and the Aquabox trustees, on behalf of the recipients of the aid, would like to extend a BIG THANK YOU to you all and send all good wishes for the new year.

## **BIBLE STUDY**

The days after Christmas lead us to look at the visit of the Wise Men or perhaps think about the beginning of a New Year; but perhaps we should stay with the shepherds and the stable for a while and think about the ordinariness of it all – once the angels have disappeared! Read **Luke chapter 2, verses 15 to 21**.

- Verse 15 "Let's go to Bethlehem" After the great army of angels, what do they go to see? A baby! A weak helpless creature. They must have seen lots of babies before. What's so special about this one?

- Verses 16 and 17 “the baby lying in the manger” They were told that the child was the Saviour, the Messiah. Would they have really expected him to be in a stable, lying in the feeding trough and wrapped in strips of cloth? These were all run of the mill for ordinary people, but for someone special!?
- Verses 18 to 20 “all who heard it were amazed” They were all caught up in the wonder of it all. Except Mary perhaps, for now having the baby was wonder enough. She was more thoughtful.
- Verse 21 “he was named Jesus” This is all routine too. Even the name “Jesus” was a common name then; but it does mean “God saves”!

*Brian Heeley*

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### **SERVICES**

7<sup>th</sup> Jan. at 10am Revd C Veitch (Christingle Service) in the  
Glenorchy Centre

14<sup>th</sup> Jan. at 10am Mr Sean Worsley

21<sup>st</sup> Jan. at 10am Revd Kevin Price

21<sup>st</sup> Jan. at 6pm Joint Service for the Week of Prayer for  
Christian Unity to be held at Wellspring Church

28<sup>th</sup> Jan. at 10am Mr Bernard Ault

**Vestry Duty: Linda Orchard Porch Duty: Joyce Brown**

***Sunday Explorers! Children are invited to ‘explore’ God’s Word Together.***

***Activities are held in the side room during the Sunday Morning Service***

### **Events at West Derbyshire URC**

Mon. 7-9pm – Table Tennis in the Glenorchy Centre.

Tues. 9.30am – Morning Prayers

Fri. 9 – 11am - Toast and Tea at the URC.

### **Other Events in January**

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> Jan. at 7pm – Folk Carol Service.

Tues. 9<sup>th</sup> Jan at 11am – Communion Service at Waltham House.

Fellowship Meeting – Date, time and place to be confirmed.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – 18<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> Jan

### **Flowers in Church**

7<sup>th</sup> Jan. Mrs P Rose

14<sup>th</sup> Jan. Mrs R Martin

21<sup>st</sup> Jan. Mrs B Lomas

28<sup>th</sup> Jan. Mrs D Hodgkinson

### **Church cleaning week beginning**

8<sup>th</sup> Jan. Taking tree down

15<sup>th</sup> Jan. Maureen Butlin

22<sup>nd</sup> Jan. Joyce Brown/Eva Vallance

29<sup>th</sup> Jan. Jenny and Brian Heeley