

'Seeking to be the People of Christ at the Heart of the Community'.



Parkwood Herald

December
2017



NEWSLETTER OF PARKWOOD METHODIST CHURCH
PARKWOOD ROAD LONGWOOD HD3 4TT

Christ. What a glorious gift.

To us, the Gentiles, these words of Scripture bring encouragement and hope. Paul, quoting Isaiah 11:10, reminds us that God had a plan in place even before Christ became flesh and dwelt among us. That plan was to bring hope out of despair and life out of death.

This root of Jesse is the foundation of the words in Isaiah 11:1: "A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit." Jesse fathered King David and so this "Branch," the Messiah, would indeed come from the line of David. The genealogy of Christ occurs in both Matthew's and Luke's gospels. Luke's account traces Jesus back to God, while Matthew traces Jesus' lineage back to Abraham.

Matthew's account has captured the hearts and minds of artists for centuries. Their work has focused on the "Jesse" aspect of the Isaiah text. They have beautifully depicted the tree of Jesse, Christ's family tree, in stained glass, illuminated manuscripts, paintings, and much more. Many of these artists have incorporated a reclining image of Jesse with a tree coming out of his middle. The earliest stained glass example of the Jesse Tree appears in northern France in Chartres Cathedral. This magnificent, twelfth-century window is breath taking. It depicts the royal genealogy on the central panel and the images of fourteen prophets, seven on each of the side panels.

In recent years, Jesse trees have become another way to celebrate the hope we have in Advent. We can use a single branch, or a small tree, or even a simple paper drawing and then add Scriptures or symbols representing the journey from creation to Christ. Another type of Jesse tree traces the story from Jesse to Jesus. The Jesse tree was created to help people link the custom of decorating Christmas trees to the events leading up to Jesus birth. The tradition of

decorating Christmas trees actually predates the arrival of Christianity in Western Europe and was adopted by the early Church. In order to associate the custom more clearly with Christianity, people made Jesse trees—Christmas trees with decorations related to the events of Jesus' birth and the prophecies about him in the Old Testament. Many people and families make Jesse trees during Advent to remind them of these events as they prepare for Christmas. The "tree" also provides a visual vehicle to include children in the home on an Advent journey.

However you mark off the days in Advent. Whether a traditional advent calendar. You may choose one which has a chocolate for each day or more adventurous ones with coffee or some other gift inside. Maybe this year you might like to try a Jesse Tree or a reverse advent calendar. The 'reverse advent calendar' is a way of helping people with limited resources over Christmas. It consists of you putting one item of food aside each day to put into a parcel for someone else. Maybe take it to a food bank or to someone who is elderly or in need. It is a great way to show that Christmas is about giving, and bringing hope and joy into someone else's life.

Remember to take time to relax and spend time with the ones you love.

Have a Happy Christmas filled with Hope, Joy and Peace.

Christmas Blessings to you all. Jo

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

4th Margaret Fairclough

11th Gill Ritchie

19th Wendy Eastwood

25th ? ----- ?

26th Muriel Sheard

**'Seeking to be the People of Christ at the Heart of the Community'.
3rd photographic look back on Parkwood**



'Seeking to be the People of Christ at the Heart of the Community'



'Seeking to be the People of Christ at the Heart of the Community'

Did you notice anything about the photo's?
Not a mobile phone to be seen.
Oh! How things have changed.

Dates of 'Breakfasts' 2017

"NEW STYLE"

16th December @ The Drop By Centre
9.30am to Noon
All welcome.

Christmas Drop in Lunch
£6.00 Parkwood @ 12.30pm
All welcome but booking essential.
Please contact Barbara 01484 651681
**PLEASE NOTE: NO LUNCHES DURING
JANUARY OR FEBRUARY.**

See the diary for the first of the NEW STYLE
BREAKFASTS at THE DROP BY CENTRE

CHRISTMAS SERVICE

It is planned that John & Phil will be taking
the Christmas Service -
Monday 25th December.

Start time **10.00am**

Venue will be @
PARKWOOD CHURCH
CONFIRMED



Parkwood Methodist Church

New style breakfast

at the

Drop By Centre

FREE!

9.30am to 11.45am

Donations are welcome



Tea or Coffee



Bacon Sandwich



Sausage Sandwich

**Free!
Donations
appreciated**



Egg Sandwich



**PLEASE NOTE
TEMPORARY CHANGE
OF PLAN**

**ALL SERVICES AND FUNCTIONS
WILL BE AT PARKWOOD
CHURCH UNTIL FURTHER
NOTICE**

DIARY FOR DECEMBER 2017/JANUARY 2018

ALL DECEMBER SERVICES WILL BE AT PARKWOOD CHURCH

Saturday 2nd	L V G Coffee Morning @ Mechanics 10.00am-12noon
Sunday 3rd	ADVENT 10.45 Messy Church/All Age Worship Service
Sunday 10th	10.45 Holy Communion Service led by Rev Jo Brown
Wednesday 13th	Christmas Lunch £6. - 12.30pm all welcome but booking essential
Saturday 16th	New Style Breakfast @ Drop by Centre 9.30am to Noon
Sunday 17th	10.45 Service Own Arrangement
Sunday 24th	10.45 Service led by Mr Barry Lee
Monday 25th	10.00 Christmas Service with Mr John Oldham and Mr Phil McSweeney
Sunday 31st	10.45 Service Own arrangement followed by Faith Lunch.



JANUARY 2018

Saturday 6th	L V G Coffee Morning @ Mechanics 10.00am-12noon
Sunday 7th	10.45 Messy Church/All Age Worship Service
Sunday 14th	10.45 Service led by TBA
Sunday 21st	10.45 Service led by TBA
Sunday 28th	10.45 Service led by TBA