

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



St. Mark's Parish Centre  
53 Thornhill Road  
Longwood HD3 4UL

# Parkwood Methodist Church

# The Herald

DECEMBER 2019



Dear friends,

As I wrote this newsletter Christmas preparations are in full flow. Christmas adverts are quickly appearing on the scene and I'm getting loads of emails with gift suggestions. I have made a list this year of all the different gifts I need to think about, just to make sure that I am organised.

Advent and Christmas can be an exciting time of year. It can be a cold, wet and frustrating time of year, especially with all the rain we have had this time! As we look forward, memories of Christmas past come to mind, or perhaps images of what we want Christmas to be like.

It was into a busy world, full of life and death, hope and despair, that Jesus was born. He was born in a way that could have gone unnoticed, but his messy birth reveals the depth of love that God has for humanity. This birth brought hope into focus, through the fulfilment of promise and the wonder that is God with us, the 'Word made flesh' as it is described in John's gospel.

It is a much told story and one that we can often remove from the reality of what it means for a baby to be born. We can often present it as purely being a pretty picture and not show the earthiness of this story. When we do this I think that we miss out on how this story can be so relatable to so many people. That the circumstances of Jesus' birth were not how we might think of as being ideal. Not in a clean hospital with all his family around, but out in the cold. How many children are being born in cold and

temporary places as we read this? From the news we can see that this is too many.

We may find this time of year to be magical and wonderful, and that everything is to be enjoyed. It's when we can focus on what is important and having fun is a good thing!

This might also be a time of year that brings pain. Perhaps it's the first time a family member or friend isn't able to be with us or us with them. It could also be when we miss certain people in particular, and so Christmas is hard to enjoy, or is a bittersweet experience.

However we arrive at Christmas, maybe we can have a look at the different layers within the story. The joy and happiness mixed with the rejection of a woman looking for a safe place to give birth. The bittersweet gifts that were brought at a time we call epiphany.

Happy Christmas to everyone and may God bless us in 2020.

Rev Roz

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

4<sup>th</sup> Margaret Fairclough

11<sup>th</sup> Gill Ritchie

19<sup>th</sup> Wendy Eastwood

25<sup>th</sup> ? ----- ?

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

### Musical Memories

Some of my most abiding childhood memories are of Mum constantly singing songs from the shows about the house - not necessarily the best voice but sung with feeling. My sister Charmaine was the one to have singing lessons, which were originally a bribe to stop her riding and incurring some terrible imagined injury! I remember attending her first solo Messiah at Crosland Hill Methodist when I was about 18. I have done Gilbert & Sullivan shows with both Honley & Huddersfield Societies and am currently a member of the ladies' choir Pennine Singers. Ken Rothery was Musical Director of Honley G&S at that time and also of Parkwood's church choir, later succeeded by Gareth. I think that hearing a piece of music stimulates memories like nothing else. Singing for the Brain is a great initiative of the Alzheimer's Society where I was a local volunteer for 2 years singing everything from the Beatles to Vera Lynn with "On Ilkley Moor Ba'at 'At" somewhere in between. We chose "Trust & Obey" as a wedding hymn which allowed Robin to joke that was the only way he could get the word "obey" into the service. My favourite hymn is "And can it be ..." where the line "And claim the crown ..." echoes my Granddad's favourite hymn "Will there be many stars in my crown?". What musical memories do other Parkwooder's have?

Sheila Whittam

## **BUTTIES FOR BREAKFAST**

*The Drop By Centre  
Sycamore Avenue*

**SATURDAY 7th DECEMBER  
9.30 am – 11.45 am**

*Bacon, Sausage or Egg Butties  
Donations Welcome*

**PARKWOOD METHODIST CHURCH  
AT THE DROP BY CENTRE**

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**Sad News:-** Once again I'm tasked with giving you bad news Mrs Margaret Noble died on the 7<sup>th</sup> November in hospital after a long illness bravely borne. Her happy demeanour will be sadly missed.

### **PARKWOOD JANUARY 2020 SERVICES AT ST. MARK'S CENTRE**

<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>10.45 am Messy Church and All Age Service.</b>
<b>Saturday 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Parkwood Breakfast at the DROP BY Centre, Sycamore Avenue. All Welcome</b>
<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.45 am Communion Service led by Rev Roz Page</b>
<b>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.45 am Carol Service led by Golcar Brass Band.</b>
<b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>10.45 am Service led by Mr Neil Ward</b>
<b>Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.45 am Christmas Day Service led by Rev Roz Page</b>
<b>Sunday 29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.45 am Service led by <u>NO SERVICE AT PARKWOOD St. Mark's</u></b>
	<b><u>Alternative services. 11.00am @ Mission led by Rev Roz Page,</u></b>
	<b><u>10.45am @ Mount Own arrangement 10.30am @Fartown led by Mr Robert Booth</u></b>

### **JANUARY 2020**

<b>Saturday 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Parkwood Breakfast at the DROP BY Centre, Sycamore Avenue. All Welcome</b>
<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.45 am Messy Church and All Age Service.</b>
<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.45 am Service led by Mr Paul Bussey</b>
<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.45 am Service led by Mr David Joyce</b>
<b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.45 am Covenant Service led by Rev Roz Page</b>

[www.parkwoodmethodistchurch.org.uk](http://www.parkwoodmethodistchurch.org.uk)