

Parkwood Methodist Church

The Herald

December 2020



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

Dear friends,

As we head onwards into the season of longest night, the days and weeks can feel very different from the long days of the summer. Perhaps also affected, for many, by our second lockdown this year. When I was a small child the summer holidays felt so long - six weeks! Now six weeks fly by. I was warned about this by the many older and wiser people in my life as I was growing up, and now I can see how true it seems to be.

Human beings like markers in the year; birthdays, anniversaries, holidays, and more personal events of note that help us to grasp hold of the passage of time, if even for a little while. The Church has similar markers in time, Easter, Advent and Christmas, for example, that map out the focus of the year. When these markers, big or small, are interrupted they can throw us off, even give the sense that time itself has stretched or warped. This is why, for me at least, the arrival of Advent has felt like a sudden one.

Reading through Isaiah 9 this week, the words of 'The people who have walked in darkness have seen a great light.' (Isaiah 9: 2) feel that they take on extra meaning for me this year. A lot of people are living through some of the hardest times we have experienced in living memory. Whether that's graduating into a time of high unemployment and hiring freezes, losing

jobs, losing friends and family members (sometimes multiple members of the same family), lengthy furlough, or feeling isolated and lonely. In past years of hard times we have been able to gather together, but this year we have not been able to do that without huge risk to other people. It might feel that we are really living in the middle of the night, where light seems to have fled. The reading, though, reminds us that even in the darkest time of the night we can see the stars all the more clearly, light still shining on and on, travelling over unimaginable distances to the earth.

Advent and Christmas remind us of the important role that hope has in our life and in the Christian faith. That hope could come to us in such an unexpected way, through the birth of Jesus, and that it is the fulfilment of God's promise to be with us. As we mark off the weeks of Advent, may the lighting of the candles remind us of the power of light not only to shine in the night, but also to give us hope.

In Christ,

Rev Roz Page

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

4th Margaret Fairclough

11th Gill Ritchie

19th Wendy Eastwood

25th ? ----- ?

A proper Yorkshire joke:-

Daley Thompson, Tessa Sanderson and Steve Cram are all round at Seb Coe's house for tea. Steve brought the fish, Tessa brought the chips, Daley brought the mushy peas and Seb provided the salt and vinegar. Suddenly there's a knock at the door so Seb gets up to answer. "Who is it", asks everyone in unison,

It's Fatima wi't bread

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First response to the request for recipes:-

After 8 cookies.

175g butter

220g dk brown sugar

2 tablespoons water

340g plain choc chopped

2 eggs

310g plain flour

1¼ teasp bicarb

½ teasp salt

380g approx. After 8's.

Melt butter sugar and water stirring continuously. Stir in choc and allow to cool for 10 mins. beat in eggs one at a time. Stir in flour, bicarb and salt. Put the dough in the fridge for 1 hour. Roll the dough into walnut size pieces and place n a greased baking sheet. Bake for 8-10 mins at 170deg fan. Do not overcook. When the cookies come out of the oven place an After 8 on top of each. When melted swirl with a fork.

Barbara

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**Don't forget the Wednesday Zoom
Catch up, 2.30pm . Contact Anne
for details**

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**Sunday Morning Zoom Service,
11.00am. All welcome. Contact
Anne, Rev Roz or any of the
Leadership Team for more details**

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Message to all!

What would you like to see in the Herald?

**Recipe's, Quiz, Poems. Jig Saw swaps,
Photo's, Gardening tips, Practical Hints.**

**What has kept you sane during this
lockdown? Come on give us a clue!**

**Have you a skill that could be shared with
others?**

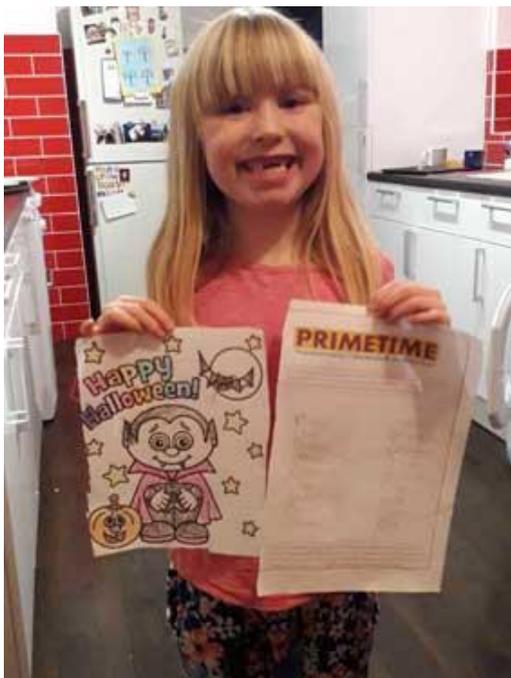
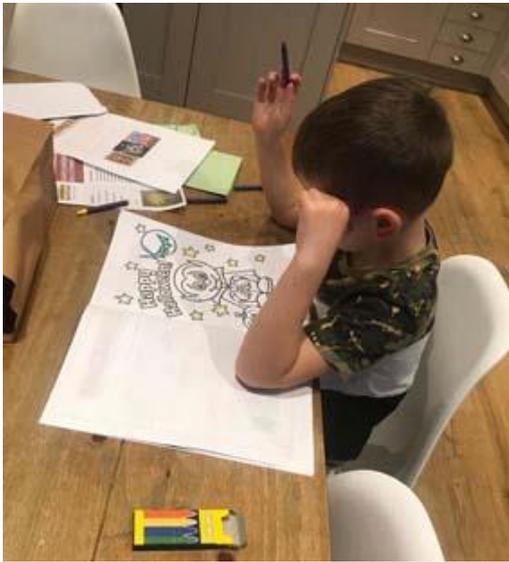
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**Early results from the Children's
Holiday Bags.**

Names deliberately not included.

Well done the young people.





Keep up the Good Work. There must be more to come!

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Music for the Lord's Prayer - 1

For a church with a proud musical heritage, I am finding it hard to accept that I can't adequately 'sing my praises to God'. Whilst those of us who 'log on' on a Sunday morning, are able to sing along to the accompaniment of hymns in our own homes, it is a poor substitute for singing together in our churches. With this in mind, I have been thinking about aspects of musical worship that used to be common in our services. As well as singing congregational hymns, the choir was able to broaden our experience and elevate our worship.

Sadly, it is many years since we regularly experienced the singing of an Anthem or the Lord's Prayer. A recent experience has encouraged me to think again about the 'sung' Lord's Prayer.

The text for the prayer can be found in two places in the New Testament – St. Matthew ch.6 vs.9-13 and St. Luke ch.11 vs.2-4. Slight differences exist in the two versions. This may be partly due to the two writers recalling Jesus' words slightly differently, although they are likely to have used the same sources. The account of the Sermon on the Mount has the longer text but neither account includes what is known as the 'Doxology', i.e. 'For Thine is the kingdom and the Power and the glory, for ever'. This passage is found in the majority of ancient Greek manuscripts. The ancient catechism, the Didache (known as 'The Teaching of the Twelve Apostles') which pre-dates the Greek manuscripts, also contains this passage. There is a profound strength in the knowledge that this prayer is regularly spoken or sung in all Christian churches throughout the world. In the early days of Christianity, adherents were encouraged to do this on three occasions throughout the day. This must have had an impact on Christian worship in more recent times as, until only recently, it was common for us to worship 'morning, noon and night', on a Sunday. Where am I going with all this? Well, I thought a reminder about how the text came into our possession should precede any reflection on music that, over the centuries, has been used to elevate the prayer and make it more accessible to the worshipper. Over the next few editions of the Herald it is my intention to introduce you to different musical interpretations of the Lord's Prayer. Some music will be new to you, some will be familiar. I hope you will feel that each enhances the text and its impact on the listener and elevates the prayer. If you are able to 'log on' to a computer, all the music can be easily accessed via YouTube. If you do not have a computer, perhaps you could seek help from family members who do? In these difficult times that may not be possible but the music will still be accessible for many months to come. Happy listening!

Gareth
To be continued (Ed!)

A little domestic tip:-

IF your Electricity "fuse" (MCB or RCD) trips, before putting it back "on" disconnect the last electrical item you plugged in or switched on. If it just tripped for no apparent reason check any lights that were switched on, a blown bulb can sometimes trip it.

DO SWITCH OFF OR DISCONNECT BEFORE CHECKING.



An ADVENT Walk for you, from 1st December with various input from Longwood organisations:

