

KEEP CALM
IT'S
NEARLY
CHRISTMAS!



Parkwood Methodist Church

Happy New Year

The Herald

January 2021

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

Merry Christmas!

Christmas time is here again, and with it big questions this year. As I write this there are conversations about people meeting each other indoors, a review of which tier we are in, and how we celebrate Christmas in a pandemic.

Over the past few weeks I have noticed more and more people putting lights on their houses and in their windows. Lights of different colours sparkling in the cool, dark, evening. It seems that there are a lot of people who are comforted and cheered up by putting their Christmas decorations up early and talking about which Christmas films they have watched so far.

For me, this is a time of preparing services, though a bit differently this year. But whether it is a service that takes place face to face, on Zoom, on the TV, radio, or by reading a service sheet, the story is the same. The long journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem to respond to the census, and the birth of Jesus in a way that isn't neat and perfect, but in a way that is messy and vulnerable. Perhaps those two words resonate with you at the moment in our messy world where we can feel that sense of vulnerability, or perhaps the images that the nativity may bring up for you are comforting.

I know that Christmas can be a very important part of the year for so many people,

and not least the Church. I also know that Christmas can be a hard time for a lot of people, when we can miss people that we love, we might feel incredibly lonely, trapped, or in some cases, under pressure mentally and financially to make it a perfect experience.

I wonder about that messiness of the birth of Jesus, into our messy, imperfect world. It isn't a neat, ordered experience for him or for Mary and Joseph, but one that still brings life, hope and love to us, in an unexpected way, through the vulnerability of a baby, born for us.

This Christmas may unfold in ways that are unexpected, but in that is still hope, and light in a time when we probably need it most.

Whether this Christmas is something to feel happy about or it is a challenging time or is a mix of these, I wish you all a peaceful Christmas and a happy 2021.

Rev Ros.



Parkwood Methodist Church

The Parkwood Church family closed its church building and we moved to St Marks Community Hall in Longwood for our services. We continued with our Messy Church and All Age Worship on the first Sunday of each month with up to 12 young people, 2 years to 12 years old. We also set up Parkwood Children's Club with the help of Primetime, at the Drop-By Community Centre on the "trees" estate in Golcar but after a few sessions we had to close due to Covid. We wanted to keep in touch during the pandemic with our Messy Church children and the 15 or so who come on Thursday evening after school, so we started to deliver Activity and Holiday bags throughout the lockdown. We grew bean plants from seed and cress heads, made craft items and had treats. There were colouring sheets, pattern making and activity word searches and quizzes. Advent calendars with the story of Christmas book have also been delivered to all our children and a kit with instructions to make a Christingle.

During the lockdown we had names allocated to us of people connected with Parkwood to ring and chat to. Anne has also organised a Parkwood Catch up on zoom every week for anyone interested and of course with a computer. Someone also suggested keeping in touch with friends of Parkwood in other ways and it was decided to deliver Activity bags to people within our Parkwood community.

In the run up to Christmas a team of people from the Parkwood Leadership Team have been making and delivering these bags to both our children and Parkwood family people. Everyone, both children and adults were delighted to receive the bags. We have had photos of children (which unfortunately because of safe guarding we cannot publish) making Christingles, adults finished results, phone calls, emails, text messages and of course verbal thanks.

The adult bags included a Christingle kit, chocolates, biscuits, playing cards, spring flower bulbs to look forward to, note pad and pen, word searches etc. Members of the Drop-By Centre have supported us with our monthly Saturday breakfasts and Thursday Children's club and four of them were pleased to receive a bag. The ladies were delighted we had thought about them and were excited to tell us about the new

decorations, blinds and cupboards they have installed during lockdown. Parkwood now has its own cupboard for breakfast and Children's club equipment---we will soon fill that! Thank you for allocating us one. We hope to continue with our bags into 2021 but also sincerely hope that the eagerly awaited vaccine will soon be for all. Take care and stay safe.

From all your friends at Parkwood.

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The Lord's Prayer and Music Through the Ages - 2

All Hebrew poems were written to be sung or chanted. Music-makers were important and respected people and the Canaanites were considered to be the best musicians in the ancient world. Most books in the Old Testament refer to singing, dancing and music.

In the very earliest days, much of the music was played and sung by women and was associated with dance. When Temple priests learned to play musical instruments, the women were no longer allowed to use their instruments in worship.

Generally, singers sang their own versions of a limited number of traditional folk tunes. When people sang together, it was normally antiphonal (i.e. the singer sang a phrase and a 'chorus' or a congregation sang the next phase - in unison) Only in the Temple was there 'evidence' of new music being composed.

Moving forward, almost 1000 years after the birth of Jesus, vocal music in the church still hadn't changed very much.

Gregorian chant (a form of Plainsong, where vocal music was restricted to unison or two-part harmony, over a restricted vocal range) developed, mainly, in Western and Central Europe during the 9th and 10th centuries. Over succeeding centuries church music became more 'polyphonic' as combinations of several voices, singing several different notes that harmonise together, allowed the development of the type of music we have become accustomed to during our lifetime. Gregorian chant was traditionally sung by choirs of men and boys and the recording I invite you to listen to this time will immediately conjure up, in your mind,

images of monks in a monastery. Melodies still have limited range and are generally centred on the pitch of A natural. On this recording, the Lord's Prayer (Pater Noster) is sung in Latin, as it would have been for centuries in the Roman Catholic Church. Here it is performed by A12 El Aldeano on their album Duendes.

To access from the 'Net' type – YouTube, Pater Noster, Our Father in Latin, El Aldeano.

Gareth

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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The Longwood Advent Trail.



Do take the time to look, Worth the effort!

Parkwood contribution "Star" for the 20th. "Manger" by Margaret Fairclough. The rest by "Committee".

If you missed "Lucy Worsley's Christmas Carol Odyssey" on BBC 4 and you have an interest in music, history or like me are just plain inquisitive, then I recommend you view it through iPlayer if you can.

Also currently on BBC4

"The Joy of Painting" with Bob Ross.

I'm no artist but having watched him at work, he made it look so easy, I just had to have a go. Wow! Surprised myself.

Again worth a catch up if you can.

Have Fun

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Letters to the Editor!

Many thanks for the lovely surprise parcel, festively decorated, delivered by Gareth.

The bulbs were planted within half an hour in a pale green metal bucket and will look lovely in the spring.

The oranges were a mystery until I checked the bottom of the bag and found candles etc... and found instruction, so two Christingles were soon made. Chocolates and biscuits lasted a little longer!

Wordsearch and crosswords are what fills in a lot of my time but have not mastered Sudoku as numbers are not to my liking but will persevere and maybe a new hobby maybe found.

The other items and crafts were a nice idea and your card and good wishes were very kind thoughts which are reciprocated to all Friends at Parkwood.

Hoping 2021 will be a better year for all of us.

Pat Battye

(It appears that the Christmas Activity bags have been well received (Ed))

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JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

5th Pat Battye
5th Robin Whittam
10th Rita Crossley
12th Jane Flaherty
21st Albert Battye

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I have always found Christmas as a time for reflection on the things that have happened during the year and this of course leads to day dreaming of years past, particularly if you have had a large dinner and are feeling a little drowsy! I thought of how many people had crossed my life path from infant school to date:- a lot! So I started to write down all the names I could remember. Bucket loads, next was to make columns to include "from where".

I have now amassed a huge file containing tens of hundreds of names, some unfortunately not with us anymore; but: there are many that still are, so beware-you may get a surprise visit.

(Now that could be your "Nightmare before Christmas")

(ed)

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Because it's Christmas; I thought a little reminiscence was in order.



Now one from 2020 from Elsie one of our Junior Members. *Thank you Elsie.*

