

INSIGHT

DECEMBER 2023-JANUARY 2024



If Jesus was born in Palestine in 2023?

INSIDE
Insight

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THE MAGAZINE OF GUISBOROUGH METHODIST CHURCH

KEVIN WRITES

Monthly Musings From Our Minister



God is with us.

This is one of the most exciting times for Christians, the coming of Jesus- God with us- Immanuel. Advent marks the beginning of the new church year, followed closely by the new calendar year. New beginnings, a chance for renewal, the birth of something new and different. God came to be with us, to live with us, forever. What joy we have to share with the world!

Christ lives on in the world today through us, the community of believers called the Church. During the pandemic many of us came to realise the importance of being physically present. God realised this over 2,000 years ago, and gave us a Messiah, born in a manger, to be physically present with us, sharing his life with us, teaching us how to live as human-beings worthy of the image of God. Being holy as God is holy, by loving each other, loving all people. I have mentioned before that John Wesley taught that pursuing holiness is pursuing love of God and neighbour to perfection, to glory.

“Presence” is another Godly habit or discipline. Giving our physical self, to the extent we can, to be present with each other, is a divine gift. I know of no way to experience the fullness of Christ’s presence without being a part of a Christian community in which to worship, serve, and grow as a disciple of Jesus Christ. No one walks alone as a disciple of Jesus.

Being a follower of Jesus means being in community with other followers of Jesus. We can be religious or spiritual without the presence of other people in our lives, but we cannot be growing disciples of Jesus Christ without the encouragement, guidance, wisdom, and accountability of other disciples. Community worship and small groups are essential to grow in faith and love.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu defined the African concept of *ubuntu* as meaning, “My humanity is caught up, is inextricably bound up, in yours. . . A person is a person through other persons” (*No Future without Forgiveness*). We find our humanity in our connections with others. A self-made individual is an oxymoron. I am who I am because you are who you are. Jesus said, “I do not call you servants any longer. . . I have called you friends” (John 15:15). The Apostle Paul told the disciples in Corinth, “Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it” (1 Corinthians 12:27).

The priority of presence – our presence in the lives of others and their presence in ours – runs directly against the grain of the individualistic mentality of our society. John Wesley wrote, “The gospel of Christ knows of no religion, but social; no holiness but social holiness” (*Preface to 1739 Hymns and Sacred Poems*). His heart-warming experience of conversion happened at a small group bible study in 1738. This event ignited the revival and Methodist movement that has changed and continues to change many hearts around the world.

What if John Wesley had not gone to that small group meeting? No one can promise you that your hearts will be strangely warmed if you go to a small group study or to worship with a community, but I guarantee it will not happen if you do not go.

James Harnish writes, “There are times when I come to worship to affirm the faith that I hold, but there are other times when I come to worship so that the faith the church affirms can hold me. There are times when I come to sing my song of hope, but there are other times when I need the church to sing that song for me. There are times when I am present with my small group in order to encourage someone else, and there are times when I need to be present so they can encourage me” (*The Disciple’s Path*).

We can have individualized religious experiences watching the sun rise over the mountains or watching the sun set into the ocean. But we cannot experience the fullness of Christian love and grace by ourselves. We do it together with brothers and sisters in Christ whom we do not choose and who are drawn together in the name of Christ. Our presence in Christian community and in corporate worship really matters.

It matters to us because it is one of the essential practices by which we are formed into the likeness of Christ. It matters to others because our presence may be the gift that God uses to strengthen, encourage, challenge, and bless our brothers and sisters in Christ. It matters to the world because it prepares us to become the agents of God’s persistent love as we participate in God’s transformation of the world!

It’s a new beginning, Christmas, when God decided to be present with us, let us be present for each other in Christ.

“...let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another...” (Hebrews 10:24-5, *NIV*).

Let’s have tea and biscuits and talk.

Happy Christmas and New Year! Grace and peace,

Rev. Kevin Highfield

ARE YOU CALLED TO LEAD WORSHIP?

A preliminary meeting for those who feel called to be worship leaders and those who would simply like some training on leading worship for example to cover local arrangements or mid-week services.

We will outline the course which is available through the Methodist Church and is the 'gold standard' option. We would also like to discuss the training you would like, so that if you want something different to the full course we can develop it.

At this stage we are thinking of 4 meetings over 4 months, (Jan to Apr 2024). We will agree a location once we know who would like to participate and choose the most suitable location and time. If you are unsure do come along with your comments or requests and we will do our best to accommodate.

When? Tuesday 12th December

Time? 1.00 – 3.00 pm.

Where? Zetland Park Church, Redcar

If you are interested but not available then, please let us know and we will get back to you.

Grace and Peace

Kevin Highfield and June Feather



GUISBOROUGH CHORAL SOCIETY 2023 CHRISTMAS CONCERT "A NIGHT OF SHINING STARS"

Guisborough Methodist Church,
Saturday 9th December 2023 at 6 PM.

Performing *Christus Natus Est* by Cecilia McDowall and many other beautiful seasonal songs.

Conductor: Rebecca Johnson

Tickets £8 (under 19s £1) from Guisborough Bookshop or on the door (subject to availability. For more information or assistance contact the Publicity Officer at 07960 301758

Walking with Micah

ADVENT COURSE



The Revd David Hardman, the Methodist Liaison Officer for Jerusalem, is coming to Guisborough Methodist Church on 29 November at 7 pm to talk about peace and justice in the context of his recent experience of living in Palestine and what it is to be a Christian activist and disciple.

This is the first session of our weekly Advent series on **“Walking with Micah to Bethlehem”** focusing on social justice today, and how we can be a justice-seeking church. We will refer to The Methodist Church’s report for the **Walking with Micah** project exploring questions like:

- What is justice like?
- What can we learn from British Methodist history, hymns, and the Bible about how to seek justice?
- What are the principles, priorities, and practices for Justice?
- What might it look like for us to be a justice-seeking church?

Each session will ponder these questions and material from the report, but also look intently on a particular area.

The areas of focus are listed below. We will seek to hear many voices on these focus areas. Please consider being a part of it, as we reflect on how we are a justice-seeking church in today’s world.

29 November- 7 pm Palestine and Israel conflict *with David Hardman, Methodist Liaison to Jerusalem.*

5 December- 7:30 pm . Refugees and Sanctuary Seekers

13 December- 7pm Sexuality and Gender Identity

20 December- 7pm Poverty

TELLING THE CHRISTMAS STORY

The New Testament account of the birth of Jesus was made many years after his death: it is the only written version, and is in two separate, factual and contrasting parts. Its retelling since has inevitably gathered many more details!

Luke's is the only account of the annunciation and the actual birth, followed by the visit to the temple, according their Jewish tradition. He relates the story as it was told to him, possibly by an ageing Mary, while maintaining his belief in Jesus as the Saviour, who he never met. Well educated, both as historian and doctor, he wrote with empathy.

Matthew was a tax collector for the Romans, mistrusted by his fellow Jews, so used to 'aggro', and was ostracized by the rabbis as a sinner. Jesus' calling him as a disciple must have been his 'eureka' moment! In his gospel he relates the visit of the magi to the holy family, with valuable gifts, and then the family flight into Egypt, based on facts he was told, his new attitude to authority, and his political 'savvy'.

Those two contrasting stories, interpreted by artists, writers and musicians, have been joined together over time, so we now have a more colourful and detailed picture of the events, turning the magi into 'Kings', for instance.

We have also had to assume how they might have travelled!

Our Christmas carols give a chilly view point, derived from our Northern hemispheric knowledge of winter weather! The Czech Rocking carol, for instance, has the baby wrapped in fur! From Spain to Sweden, the story has snow or ice or wintry weather, including North winds!

The gospel account gives us no idea, other than starlight, which means only a cloudless sky. Moreover, even the actual timing of the Christmas celebration, set in the 6th century by a council of the church, was designed to replace the old Roman winter 12 day festival. We are guilty of adding our own interpretation to suit what we know of December weather, and many carols reflect that, e.g. 'See amid the winter's snow', 'In the bleak midwinter', but there is one carol, dating from the 17th c., that has some very different modifications. The author, a French Jesuit priest, had been sent on a mission to North America.

The priest was patient, and astute. He adapted the story to suit the culture of the Huron Indians. Thus shepherds, the animal keepers, were called 'hunters' and the magi became visiting 'tribal chiefs'. God was given the name 'Gitchi Manitou', and the baby was wrapped in ragged rabbit skin. The tune he used is in a minor key, rather than a warm major, so reflecting the solemnity of the story.

The version of the carol which follows was published in a collection by the Scottish hymn writer, John Bell, who says:

'It uses terms familiar to the tribe, to let the story of the incarnation become real in their context. The tune is from France, and when the carol is sung in the 1926 English translation, it identifies the three major cultures which have shaped contemporary Canadian life'.

[If readers want to sing this themselves now, the nearest suitable tune is 'God rest you merry, Gentlemen' : it fits by using an adaptation of the refrain at the end of each verse.]

So here it is, first sung in 1641, but now we have this lovely translation from 1926 by Canadian poet, Jesse Middleton.

*'Twas in the moon of wintertime when all the birds had fled,
The mighty Gitchi Manitou sent angel choirs instead;
Before their light the stars grew dim
And wond'ring hunters heard the hymn:
Now Jesus your Saviour is born, Gloria,
Now Jesus your Saviour king is born.*

*Within a lodge of broken bark the tender babe was found,
A ragged robe of rabbit skin enwrapped his beauty round;
But as the hunter braves drew nigh,
The angel song rang loud and high:
Now Jesus your Saviour is born,
Now Jesus your Saviour king is born.*

*The earliest moon of wintertime is not so round and fair
As was the ring of glory on the helpless infant there;
The chiefs from far before him knelt
With gifts of fox and beaver pelt.
Now Jesus your Saviour is born,
Now Jesus your Saviour king is born.*

*O children of the forest free, O sons of Manitou,
The Holy Child of earth and heav'n is born today for you.
Come kneel before the radiant boy,
Who brings you beauty, peace and joy
Now Jesus your Saviour is born, Gloria,
Now Jesus your Saviour King is born.*

Jenny Bolton

BOOK OF THE MONTH



“Remember Jesus Christ-Responding to the Challenges of Faith in Our Time” by Father Raniero Cantalamessa.

Some of you may recognise the name of the author as he features in the Nicky Gumbel Alpha DVD’s.

Father Raniero Cantalamessa is preacher to the papal household. Having listened to him on the DVD’s, I thought I would see if he has written any books and he has written quite a few!

So, I chose this one and I wasn’t disappointed. The book is in two parts, Part 1 for Advent (proclaiming Christ) and Part 2 for Lent (imitating Christ). Raniero uses “Scripture, personal testimonies and even works of art to reinforce his powerful message for Christians today.”

Raniero explains that in “order to bring people to Christ today, the church needs to proclaim, as simply and succinctly as the apostles did, that “Jesus Christ is Lord!” ...The cross of Christ is the supreme proof of God’s love for us”. The book contains meditations that reflect on the challenges that faith in Christ encounters in modern culture and on the way to respond to these.

However, before we can start telling others about Jesus, Raniero asks us to check how well equipped we are to do that.

As Joyce Meyer put it: “People want to see if what you have is real before they listen to what you say.”

This is where the book really begins to challenge the reader. Raniero encourages the reader to take an honest look at where you are on your journey with God-is your journey progressing? Have you stopped? T

aken a wrong turn? How can we tell? Raniero explains that we can tell by looking and meditating on Jesus (particularly during the times of Advent and Lent).

Raniero asks the reader to reflect on questions such as “What do those who call themselves “believers” really believe in? What place does Christ have in modern society? What place does Christ have in *my* life? Do I yield the reins of my life to him or do I set limits on my obedience to God? For whom am I labouring, for me or for God?” Raniero says encouragingly “Let us rediscover the person of Jesus and renew our act of faith in him.”

I think that the book helps the reader to do that. The chapter headings truly present the focus for each section/meditation. Raniero reminds us that as Christians we have a job to do “...we cannot, however, remain passive, we need to do something to respond in an adequate way to the challenges that faith in Christ is facing in our time.

The recurring prophecies about the inevitable end of the Church and of Christianity in a future technological society make us smile....we have a much more authoritative prophecy to hold on to”.

A good book to read especially during Advent and Lent.

If you would like to borrow a copy of this book then please let me know and I will get a copy to you.

Sally Wardell

CAROL SINGING BY “SNOWMEN ALLOWED”

Carol singing this year will be on Friday 22nd December at 6.30pm, starting in Kestrel Hide, followed by hot mince pies and mulled wine.

As in previous years, this will be in aid of the Friends of Murambinda Hospital and the homeless charity Emmaus. Singers of ages and ability welcome - just come prepared for whatever the weather turns out to be like on the night.

Carol sheets will be provided, but a torch would be handy.



6 LITTLE KNOWN FACTS ABOUT THE EPIPHANY

Epiphany is one of THE most important Christian celebrations. It marks the visit of the Magi to baby Jesus, bringing gifts to herald his divinity. Every year, Christians around the world observe this special day on January 6th in commemoration of this event.

But Epiphany is surrounded by misunderstandings and wrong ideas. Join me now as we delve into seven things you might not know about Epiphany.

1. Epiphany has a deep meaning for Christians.

The word “Epiphany” means “manifestations”—in the Anglican Book of Common Prayer, it has the subtitle, “The Manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles.”—which accurately reminds us that this was the first occasion where Jesus was revealed to non-Jews.

Easter churches sometimes call this feast “The Theophany.” Again, this reminds us of the core meaning that we can know God personally because he chose to reveal himself to us in the person of Jesus.

2. Epiphany in an ancient Christian celebration

The Epiphany is one of the oldest Christian feasts and was observed before the Christmas holiday was established at the end of the second century.

The church season that follows this day, lasting until the Presentation of Christ on February 2nd, is also called Epiphany. According to Christian belief, it commemorates the first two times that Jesus’ divinity was manifested—when the Magi visited the infant Jesus in Bethlehem and when John the Baptist baptised him in the River Jordan.

3. Nobody knows when the Magi visited

Whilst many Christmas cards, storybooks and nativity plays conflate the visit of the wise men with the birth narratives, the fact is that they likely happened sometime later.

Matthew refers to the Magi visiting a child, not a baby, and a child who lives in a house rather than a stable. And when Herod flies into a rage and orders the murder of the innocents, he insists on the death of infants under the age of two. Why set such a limitation if this event occurred a few days after Jesus’ birth?

Although we have no date given—and no means to pin it down—it is likely that it took place a few months after the birth of Jesus.

So put aside romantic notions of the Magi elbowing Shepherds out of the way to approach the baby...

4. We don't know how many Magi came

We don't have to go far to find examples in art, paintings or images with THREE suitably wise-looking Magi.

In fact, Matthew makes no mention of the number of visitors. Check if you don't believe me...

Most people believe there are three because there were three gifts—and most Christmas Nativity plays feature three wise men, each carrying a single gift.

But whilst the Bible does say wise MEN visited Jesus—and not a wise MAN—the gifts could have been brought by two, three, four or fifty of them

5. We don't know their names

While dispelling myths, we must mention that the Magi are not named in the Bible. It was a much later legend—in other words, “made up by someone— which gave rise to the names Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar.

6. They were astrologers, not kings

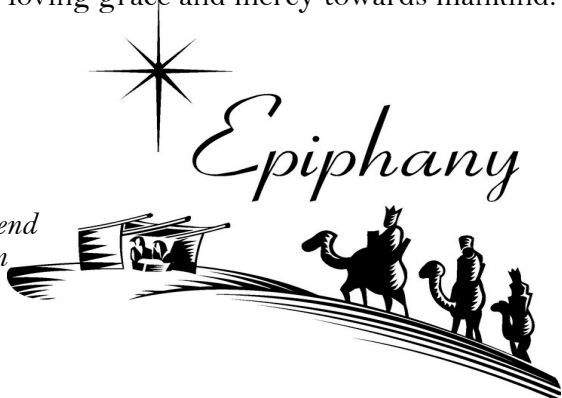
Matthew tells us the visitors were the “Magi from the east.” The term “Magi” is derived from the Greek word “magos”, which means “one of a learned and priestly class.” The Persian word for these men in their society was magush, which means “magician.”

The text mentions that they somehow detected the imminent birth of Jesus from astrological observations. This all combines to give us the picture of these people as astrologers at the royal court, possibly in Persia (now Iran).

We are unsure if they were part of any royal family—but they were not kings. So you can dismiss the “We Three Kings” image entirely.

The Feast of the Epiphany is an exciting time, full of joy and festivities - a reminder to us all of God's loving grace and mercy towards mankind.

*Creator of the heavens,
who led the Magi by a star
to worship the Christ-child:
guide and sustain us,
that we may find our journey's end
In Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen*





BAKE FOR UKRAINE

Bake for Ukraine is an international charity based in Berlin that does what it says on the (baking) tin – playing a crucial role in providing affordable basic food via local bakeries for Ukrainian communities facing the most difficult circumstances because of the ongoing war in their country.

As stated on the charity's website "Bread is a fundamental and sacred food, an everyday product that everyone can relate to"; as Christian women we recognise bread as central to our faith "Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." *Luke 22 v19*

And the concept of sharing food is of course found in the story of The Feeding of the Five Thousand "And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke them, and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd. And all ate and were filled. What was left over was gathered up, twelve baskets of broken pieces." *Luke 9 vv16-17*

The charity states that "through the taste of Ukrainian bread we want to remind people all over the world of the ongoing war and the effect on the people of Ukraine".

At a recent District MWiB Coordinating Team meeting we were delighted to be joined via Zoom by Mykola Nevrev, a Ukrainian-Slovak baker and one of the founding volunteers who set up Bake for Ukraine last year in response to the need for fresh food supplies in many parts of Ukraine, including on the front-line. Monies raised are used to buy supplies, ingredients such as flour from Ukrainian farmers, machinery including generators to provide a secure power supply during black-outs, and to pay professional bakers to feed refugees who have had to flee their homes, families who have stayed behind in war-torn towns and villages and also the armed forces.

We're also in touch with their UK-based volunteer Felicity Spector, who has experience of working with Bake for Ukraine on the ground, delivering ingredients and finished bakery products to the places that need them most.

We heard about a very special bakery working under the banner GOOD BREAD FROM GOOD PEOPLE in Kiev that produces 10,000 loaves every day, employing people with mental & physical disabilities who might otherwise have struggled to find meaningful employment during this time of war and disruption.

There's also a Mobile Bakery that delivers 2,000+ fresh loaves every day in the war-zones, including for the Ukrainian Army, but is in need of new sturdy wheels to continue this vital work.

It was tough to listen to Mykola's accounts of what is happening in so many places whose names we recognise from the News Bulletins over here: they supply bread to Bucha, scene of a massacre last year and now re-occupied by Ukraine; to Kharkiv and to Kherson, a target for ongoing Russian air-strikes, where the bakery was damaged but thankfully no-one was hurt there – they need funds for a new oven now.

Ongoing fund-raising in the coming months will not only be used for current needs but also to begin a programme of re-integration for the post-war period to provide employment and encouragement for those returning home with PTSD and other disabilities; we heard about a long-term healing programme through baking.



So we encourage you to bake and provide bread and pastries and cakes for congregations and neighbours and your own local communities as you help us to fund-raise for this year's charity. Ukraine was known internationally as "the bread basket of Europe" that previously supplied a significant proportion of the world's wheat. Their national flag represents the blue sky above and the yellow grain fields below.

Jesus says "I am the bread of life; he who comes to me shall not hunger" in *John 6 v35*

For the expert bakers amongst you, you can find a recipe for the traditional Ukrainian Palyanytsya bread on-line at: www.bakeforukraine.org

For further information please contact Pamela Stenson; any donations of funds raised will be gratefully received by Sheila Jones, District MWiB

REMEMBERING JILL CROSSMAN

I wrote the poem on the facing page while in Canada and Alaska in early August and read it while we scattered Jill's ashes in the East Fork of the Toklat River in Denali National Park, Alaska.

Our round trip was some 15,000 miles and when we scattered the ashes we were only 200 miles from the North Pole. We had blue skies and brilliant sunshine. Every day we were fortunate to be able to see Mt. Denali, North America's highest mountain at over 20,000 ft. as most days it is obscured by cloud. I completely understood why Jill had fallen in love with Alaska.

This Christmas Yu-Ting, Jill's Taiwanese PhD student at Windsor, Ontario, is coming to stay with us for a week. Some of you will have met her when she was here last year for Jill's Celebration Service. She was awarded her Doctorate in the summer and is now working as a post-doc at Exeter University, where she was welcomed as "Jill's baby".

Jill's memory lives on, not only among the people she knew and worked with, but in the methods she devised to model future flooding, pollution in rivers and lakes, the proliferation of micro-plastics, and climate change. One of her former professors has told us that the UK Space Agency is using her methods in its work on rivers.

The University at Windsor has dedicated a memorial garden to her and one of her colleagues has set up an annual award in Jill's name for a postgraduate student who is continuing Jill's research. Colin and I have contributed to this to make it a perpetual award. Nearer home, Jill's name, among many others (some 9,999!), is on the bow of the new Whitby lifeboat, the Lois Ivan. The boat's number is 1349 and Jill's name is on the bottom left of the number 4. One of the steps at the new location of the Whitby Gin Distillery will also carry her name.

It reminds me of the last few words of the poem "My journey's just begun" by Ellen Brenneman :

"And think of me as living
In the hearts of those I touched,
For nothing loved is ever lost
And I know I was loved so much".

Jill's Departmental secretary has built her own memorial garden to Jill at her home in the mountains in British Columbia and named a star after Jill in the constellation of Sagittarius. This was Jill's birth sign and its stars are arranged in the shape of a teapot - very appropriate for Jill.

Sheila and Colin Crossman

Jilly, into the world you came like a whirlwind,
Disturbing the peace of that quiet afternoon.
But you brightened our lives like the sun shining through,
A star in the heavens to be taken too soon.

So we watched on in wonder as all the years passed,
At the choices you made and the people you knew,
Saw the drive that you had to make the world safer,
And to do it so fast before taken too soon.

And did you know then how much you needed to rush,
For your life would be short, that time won't wait for you,
You must use those few years that were given to you,
To do all you could before taken too soon.

A true force of nature, you lived life to the full,
Tracking rivers and lakes, meeting bears in the gloom,
Wolves, moose, never fazed you, nor professors nor deans,
None stood in your way, then you were taken too soon.

We will never understand and we will always why ?
We will forever be grateful for the time spent with you,
To have witnessed you grow to the person you are,
To see all the lives that you changed, before taken too soon.

You had so much to give, and we loved you so much,
Our hearts are all broken, with memories of you,
We remember the laughs and the joys that you brought us,
Our beautiful girl, who was just taken so soon.

DARLINGTON DISTRICT METHODIST WOMEN IN BRITAIN



ADVENT WORSHIP

at Zetland Park Methodist Church on Friday December 1st from 1.00-3.00 pm
Worship followed by Afternoon Tea by Presentation by Debs Coggrave

THE LITTLE GARDEN SHED

After reading in Insight about the possible changes to our Church building, Ethel Hugill sent the following: to Kevin

"Dear Kevin, I feel sure that we all have that special something in our lives which we would love to keep and hold on to, but sometimes for various reasons we have to let go and move forward."

She enclosed this poem.

The Little Garden Shed

At the bottom of my garden
Once stood a little wooden shed
And there placed beside it
Were three chimney pots, painted red.

I used to choose some special bedding plants
For springtime of each year
To decorate those planters
Against the shed that's standing there.

But I guess like other garden sheds
Everything gets thrown inside
Then we have a clearance day
To remove those things we try to hide.

So once a year, it gave me joy
To give the shed a special treat
I'd wash the tools, and clean inside
Till all looked fresh and neat.

And then I'd work outside the shed
Cleaning out every corner and every nook
For to give the shed, a coat a paint
To enhance it with a fresh new look.

But sadly, with those passing years
The little shed showed signs of aging
It needed a brand-new roof, and window frame
And lots of wood replacing.

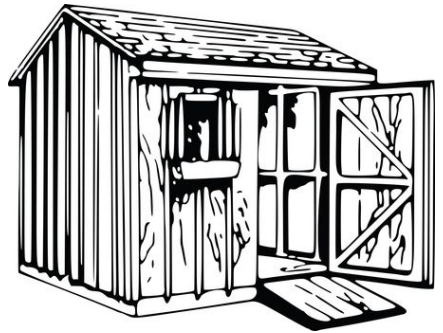
And so alas, the shed has now been taken down
Owing to all the rotting, and decay
But it has given me time for thought
Now that the rubbish has been cleared away.

There is much more space in the garden now
Where the little wood shed once stood
So I plan to create a new image
And when completed, I'm sure will look good.

But now I have a garden box
To store the tools all placed in neat,
Which also has a further use
It helps to provide me with a seat.

And as I look across the garden
At those chimney pots, painted red,
They will always hold fond memories
Of the little garden shed.

*With love and God's blessing,
Ethel Hugill.*



A MESSAGE FROM MARGARET BETTON

I have said so many goodbyes in the past week or two and I have been quite overwhelmed by the number of cards, presents, good wishes and visits before I left. Thank you to the readers of Insight for many years of friendship in church and house group and also to The Bridge helpers. I am sure I will find a welcome in the church here but will always value what I have had in Guisborough. I do hope to be back to see you and expect to see some of you coming to Scotland on holiday.

With love and thanks to you all. Margaret Betton.

GROWING IN FAITH

For further information about any activity please phone the church office on 610349 and they can give you the contact details of the person you need to speak to. If nobody is in the office, please leave your name and a contact number on the answerphone, and someone will get back to you.

Monday house group meets weekly at 19. 30 at the home of Jason and Karen Griffiths. Sung worship, Bible study and prayers. Contact Jason Griffiths

Nurture group meet weekly on a Thursday at 19:30 on Zoom . This is a Bible study and hopefully a time when people can share and grow in confidence. The main theme of this group is people don't need to say or do anything so "no pressure" Contact Jason Griffiths

Monday house group meets fortnightly at 7.30 pm for prayer and Bible study at the home of Gill McCleave.

Thursday house group meets weekly in different homes at 7.30pm for light supper and Bible study - contact Isabel Stuart or Trevor Hume

Thursday morning house Group 9.15 am for a cuppa; aim to finish at 11am. Contact Roma Ross

MWiB group meets fortnightly on Tuesday afternoons (once a month in the Community Room at GMC) Contact Pam Stenson

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Tuesday December 5th 5.00-7.00 pm

It's that time of year again! I have booked in a great variety of stalls for the Christmas Fayre. Please let me know if you can help on the night and/or donate mince pies or home-made Christmas biscuits.

And come along on the night to support all the stall-holders and do all your Christmas shopping! *Jenny Tyrrie*

EVERY WEEK IN GMC

Day	Time	Activity	Contact
Sun	10.30am	Church service	Office - 610349
Sun	10.30am	Sunday Club for children	Juanita Osborne - personal
Mon	10am -12 noon	Good Neighbours – for a helping hand / lift to hospital etc / info about church activities	Office – 610349 Ken Darragh
Mon	9.30-12.45	Nurture Nest baby class	Becky
Mon	1.30-3.30pm	Women's Fellowship	Roma Ross
Mon	7-9pm	Guisborough Residents' Assembly	Michael Dakin
Tues	10am -12 noon	FoodStop - Bridge	Juanita Osborne - Bridge
Tues	1-2.30pm	Tuesday Toddlers (term-time)	Jenny Tyrie
Tues	12-3pm	Community shop - Bridge	Bridge - 638771
Tues	5-6.30pm	Gener8 youth group – 8-11 yrs	Mel Bradley or GMC Facebook
Tues	7-9pm	Credo youth group 11-14 yrs	Mel Bradley or GMC Facebook
Weds	10am -12 noon	Good Neighbours	Office – 610349
Weds	10-11am	Prayer Group	Isabel Stuart
Weds	10am – 12 noon	Bridge2Parents	Juanita Osborne – Bridge
Weds	11.30am – 2.30pm	Community shop and Drop-in - Bridge/GMC	Bridge – 638771 GMC - 610349
Weds	7-9pm	Trefoil (3 rd week of month)	Sue Thompson
Thurs	10am – 1pm	Hot drinks and bacon sandwiches from 10am; Soup and Roll lunch from 11am	Lorraine Nash
Thurs	10.30 – 12.30	FoodStop - Bridge	Juanita Osborne – Bridge
Thurs	2.30-4pm	U3A's Singing for Pleasure (fortnightly)	Wendy Milnes
Thurs	7-9.30pm	Guisborough Photo Group	Aileen Newcombe
Fri	6-7.30pm	Brownies (term-time)	Lisa Handley
Sat	10-11.30am	Saturday Coffee Morning (usually last Saturday of month)	Jenny Tyrie

The NEXT Issue of **INSIGHT** will be the February issue, available on Sunday January 28th. Please submit ALL your contributions to Jenny Tyrie no later than January 14th. Happy New Year!

DECEMBER & JANUARY



3rd

ADVENT SUNDAY WORSHIP

Led by Roma Ross

Worship

10th

CAFE-STYLE COMMUNION

Led by Revd. Trevor Haigh

Hinton Court Led by Jenny Haigh

17th

NATIVITY SERVICE Local Arrangement

24th

Communion @ Hinton Court Led by
Revd Kevin Highfield (No Service @ GMC)

11.15 PM **MIDNIGHT COMMUNION**

Led by Revd Paul Walker

25th

FAMILY SERVICE Led by Revd Isabel Stuart

31st

MORNING WORSHIP Local Arrangement

7th

CAFE -STYLE WORSHIP

Led by Sandie Dixon

14th

HOLY COMMUNION

Led by Revd Keith Martin

Hinton Court Led by Paul & Sandy Walker

21st

MORNING WORSHIP

Led by June Feather

28th

COVENANT SERVICE

Led by Revd Kevin Highfield

Hinton Court Led by Sandie Dixon