

*A voice of one calling in the wilderness,
'Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him. Luke 3:4*



7th December 2014

- 10:00am Prayer upstairs
- 10:30am Communion Worship Service
- Sermon Sermon: John 1:1-14 The Word
- Toddler Bible Stories
 Sunday Club and Young Persons group
- 7:30pm Word Alive at Slanns Meadow
 more information on the insert

Prayer is available after the service from our Prayer Ministry Team

If you are visiting we are pleased to have you with us, please take time to write in the visitor's book and stay for tea or coffee after the service.

For those who use a hearing aid, a hearing loop is provided in the main hall if you would like to use this switch to the 'T' position.





Please remember this week's events in your daily prayers.

Monday 8th December

- 1:15pm SNAILS
- 6:30pm Rock Solid
- 7:00pm Mayor's Carol Service
- 7:30pm Prayer meeting at Peter Heckford's home Long Barton

Tuesday 9th December

- 10:00am KILTS Parent & Toddler Group
- 10:30am Bible study at Peter Heckford's home Long Barton

Wednesday 10th December

- Get in the Picture s- please see Richard if you can help
- 7:30pm Muswunga housegroup
- There is no housegroup Rundle Road this week, we meet next week

Friday 12th December

- 9:30am "Craft on Friday" in the Mary Hall Suite
- 6.15pm Carols Around the Tree more info. opposite

Saturday 13th December

- 10:3am Pennywell Nativity Cost £7 per person. Please email Tricia if you would like to join us.

Sunday 14th December

- 10:30am Nativity Service
- 2:30pm Coombeswood Service

If you know of any events that you would like included in our newsletter. Please let me know. Thank you Sarah

Make a note in your diary

A few dates to remember for Christmas - all in the Community Hall unless stated



★ *Carols Around the Tree*

One of the town councillors has a vision for an annual town celebration of Christmas around the tree at the Fountain (next to Mini-Tesco). The idea of a public, open service in the town sound like something that the churches get excited about and want to support it. So if you are around this Friday (12th) wrap up warm, come down to the Fountain and give your voices to half an hour of carols. The event starts off with Father Christmas at 6:15, the carol singing starts at 6:30.

★ *During the Nativity Service* on Sunday 14th there will be an opportunity to share what God has done, what you have learned or something to encourage in a time of short testimonies. Please come prepared. If public speaking is too much for you, write it down and someone else can read it for you.

- ★ Tuesday 16th 7:00 pm Sing Christmas Sandygate Inn
- ★ Sunday 21st 10:30 am All-Age Carols
- ★ Sunday 21st 6:30pm Carols by Candlelight
- ★ Thursday 25th 10:00 am Christmas Day Service



Many thanks to everyone who knitted, gave money and filled lovely shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child.

KCBC sent 37 boxes and over £200 online donations and gifts towards transportation costs. A big THANK YOU on behalf of those 37 children in Belarus and the many more who had extra items added to their boxes.

Tricia

**“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up,
just as in fact you are doing”**

1 Thessaonians 5:11

It would be great if YOU could forward bible verses, poems, passages, songs etc. that have been of encouragement, I can then include them in the newsletter and we can all encourage each other...thank you *Sarah*

At a recent “Worship with a Difference” we were asked which bible verses had encouraged and inspired us, I will be including the in the next few noticesheets:

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance,
kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and
self-control.*

Galations 5:22-23



Word Alive

The church worldwide has a variety of views on gender roles and in some instances this causes major division. So what does the Bible say about gender roles? Is there any substance to strong views that women can or can't lead? What about how we dress and style ourselves? Should men have long hair, traditionally for women and should women dress like men usually do, wearing trousers? Closer to home, what are the roles for women and men in a household? With the Bible written so much from a male perspective, will that bias views on subordinate roles for women?

We now have a clash between the culture of the Near East, where the Bible comes from, and our own Western culture on the roles for men and women, all claiming a Biblical basis for their position. We bring our own background, thinking and faith in the Bible as the Word of God to wrestle with this tough topic



Today is the second Sunday in Advent.

When Traditionally Christians all over the world light the first candle of the Advent Wreath.

But what does it all mean?

The Wreath: The wreath itself means "victory" as Christ's victory over sin so He can save us. The Advent Wreath has 4 or 5 candles that are arranged in a circle symbolizing Christ's eternity, as a circle has no beginning and has no end, it is a symbol for God, Who is eternal and thus without beginning or end. The evergreens mean He is "ever with us," they are usually pine branches or holly that are used as a base that represents anticipation, newness, renewal and His everlastingness. The red berries of the holly represent the shedding of Christ's blood.

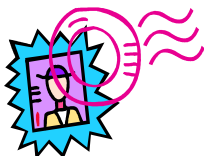
The second candle "CANDLE OF PREPARATION" means His light and preparation. Preparation means to 'get ready'. "Help us to be ready to welcome YOU, O GOD!"

“As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

A voice of one calling in the wilderness,
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.
Every valley shall be filled in,
every mountain and hill made low.
The crooked roads shall become straight,
the rough ways smooth.
And all people will see God’s salvation.’”

Luke 3:4-6





HOME MISSION STAMPS

.....and much more

Thank you so far this year we have raised
£5450, an increase on last year's **£5110**

Please save all your stamps from Christmas cards and encourage family and friends to do

Stamps should have a 6mm or ¼ inch border.

For more information please talk to Rita

Words for Voices

A special event takes place at Powderham Castle on Wednesday 17th December. Words for Voices perform a superb mixture of serious - and very funny - dramatised readings, poetry and music in the iconic 18th century Music Room.

Words for Voices are a quartet of professional actors who also sing who present a great programme of readings about Winter and Christmastime, including serious and comedic items.

In the setting of Powderham Castle decked out for Christmas, and with complementary mulled wine and mince pies, there is a really attractive pre-Christmas event.

Tickets are £10 each and have to be pre-ordered.

Register your interest by calling 01626 871076 or send a message via their website

www.thehelenfoundation.org.uk

Annie and Roger Kirk