



# GRAPEVINE

DECEMBER 2021/  
JANUARY 2022  
Number 559

The monthly magazine of  
Belmont Road Baptist Church, Carey Baptist Church and  
The Church of the Resurrection, Grovehill  
(Anglican/Free Church)

## DOING CHRISTMAS THE RIGHT WAY

I wonder if you 'do' Christmas Day the 'Right Way'? The way the Keightleys do Christmas Day, and have done for years, is: church, dinner, presents. This has become the 'Right Way' to do Christmas Day. Anything else, for example: presents, church, dinner, is the Wrong Way. Everyone knows that. (Don't even get me started on presents, dinner and no church!)

From what I hear, many of us repeat the same patterns each year over Christmas: the order in which we do things, the people we see, even down to always having turkey (and ham, please) sandwiches on Christmas night. (Have you made them yet, Dad?) There are events we try not to miss; Carols by Candlelight perhaps or a pantomime trip. "On Boxing Day we always..."

To some, this repetitiveness may sound very dull and unimaginative. Surely, this way we end up just going through the motions. We hear the same bible passages each year and more or less the same sermons. Surely this way lies boredom? For others, however, it's the very fact that we are repeating something we love to do, hear or see that appeals. And while there may be only so many ways to say, "God is with us, isn't that fabulous?" the truth of that has the power to surprise and refresh us every year.

According to the theory of 'Hedonistic adaptation' as pleasures grow familiar they stop delivering joy (citation link below) so we have to try something else. But apparently not necessarily so. Recent (2019) research found that, to quote my source article (*see below\**), "people enjoy repeat experiences more than they predict they will. And not because they use the sameness to lull themselves into a comfortable trance, but because they discover new things they'd missed first time around." Even a daily walk to the same corner shop is a unique experience if we only take the trouble to notice the differences each time.

So, the research suggests to me, it can be with Christmas. If we take the trouble to listen, look and see, we will encounter something new. Some insight or realisation a song or Carol will inspire; a new thought or image provoked by a reading or sermon; something helpful someone will say, a new perspective on long held truths. Try it. Let Christmas surprise you. Having said that, for some, Christmas can seem a repeated reminder of all they do not have – a home, a family, somewhere warm to stay, friends. One way we can help counter that, is to support those churches and organisations working to include the more marginalised among us, so they too can experience the joy and the surprise.

Each day is unique – there has never been this today before. This Christmas will be unique too if we pay attention.

Whichever Way you 'do' Christmas Day (though I hope you will do it the Right Way :) may you be blessed. God is with us; isn't that fabulous?

*Tim Keightley*

\*<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2020/jan/24/do-you-love-doing-the-same-thing-over-and-over-heres-why-it-doesnt-make-you-boring>



## NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

### BELMONT ROAD

#### ***Preaching Plan for December***

All are welcome at the following services, which will also be on Zoom, with no need for people to “pre-book”. Congregational singing is permitted but face coverings must be worn, except for someone with a medical exemption, with windows kept open at the back of the church so dress for outdoors if you plan to sit there. There are a number of blankets and throws available at the back of the church, please use if required. Coffee, tea, squash and biscuits will be served in the hall after the service.

**5<sup>th</sup> December** - a Worship Service led by Kathy Williamson from Borehamwood.

**12<sup>th</sup> December** – an all-age service with a Nativity Presentation by the Sunday Club.

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December** at 8pm – Communion by Candlelight led by our Minister, Tim Keightley.

**19<sup>th</sup> December** 10.30am - an all-age Christingle Service led by our Minister Tim Keightley.

6:30pm – Carols by Candlelight led by our Minister, Tim Keightley.

**25<sup>th</sup> December** – a Christmas Morning short Service led by our Minister, Tim Keightley.

**26<sup>th</sup> December** – tbc

#### **Preaching plan for January**

**2<sup>nd</sup> January** - a Worship Service led by our Minister, Tim Keightley.

**9<sup>th</sup> January** – a Worship Service led by Stephen Copson for the Central Baptist Association.

**16<sup>th</sup> January** – an Open Service.

**23<sup>rd</sup> January** - A Communion Service led by our Minister, Tim Keightley.

**30<sup>th</sup> January** - a Worship Service led by our Minister, Tim Keightley.

#### ***Induction Service***

On Saturday the 6<sup>th</sup> November members and friends of Belmont Road Baptist Church gathered for the Induction of our new minister, the Rev Tim Keightley. It was well attended, with contributions by the Rev Stephen Copson, Rev Austin Janes, Hilary Donovan, on behalf of Rev Colin Cartwright, Jenny Keightley, Andy Barton, Rev Garry Jenkins and

the sermon was given by Maria Bond, from Goldhill Baptist. We welcome Tm and Jenny into our fellowship and pray God's richest blessing on them both.

### ***Heidi's Disability Awareness Project***

For those of you who were at the open service earlier in the year (? July) you will probably remember that I shared my new disability awareness project which I was working on with Austin. Well last night I clicked the button and launched it on Facebook. In the new year I'll do work trying to get it into schools but as my church family I wanted to share the final version with you. All the info is on my website <https://beawarebeclear.home.blog/puppetry/> Or you can go direct to my YouTube channel [https://m.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLmUdINgSwfoej1v9v\\_y-MuJ7\\_W0qXgz9](https://m.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLmUdINgSwfoej1v9v_y-MuJ7_W0qXgz9)

*Heidi Buckell*

**CAREY**

### ***Tribute to Win Clarke***

We are sad to record the death of Win Clarke on 14<sup>th</sup> November, at the age of 93. She was born in Islington, where she began work, at the age of 15, as a Clerical Assistant in the GPO and was later promoted to Clerical Officer. It was there that she met Ray and they were married in 1953. Two of their sons were born in Islington and two in Hemel Hempstead, after they moved here in 1958. Win and Ray took up ballroom dancing in the mid-1970's and won many awards. Holidays, both in this country and abroad, were a highlight of their lives for many years. Win was a life long knitter, who was always knitting something, including Postman Pat jumpers for the grandchildren. She continued to knit until her late 80s, when her arthritis made this too difficult.

Win and Ray started attending Carey Baptist Church in the early 1980's and were received into membership in July 1991. Win was a member of the Ladies' Group, did flower-arranging, was on the Coffee Rota for serving refreshments after the morning services and made wonderful cakes for bazaars etc and the Heather Club. She and Ray also helped with stewarding for many years. Comments from friends at Carey have included: 'She was so kind' and 'She was a lovely lady' and she will be remembered with great affection.

### ***Sunday worship***

We are continuing to meet at the church and on Zoom. Obed will be hosting the Zoom services. You can also listen to recordings of the sermon on our website, usually available by Sunday evening. We would encourage all who are able to wear a mask to do so, before, during and after the service. Bear in mind that wearing a mask is mainly for the protection of others. (*See the weekly Newsletter for more details.*) Everyone should continue to observe social distancing. We are also keeping other measures in place, such as the use of hand sanitiser, social distancing etc. Please avoid talking in the aisles after the service. We will continue to keep a record of who is attending the service for 'Test and Trace' purposes. The Youth Church group has now returned to meeting at the church.

### ***Creche and Coffee rotas***

Please contact Judy (01442 216387) if you could help with the Creche and/or refreshments after the service, so that she can complete the rotas for the coming months.

### ***Prayer meetings***

The **Wednesday** evening Prayer Meeting at **8.00pm** continues on Zoom. Please contact Obed for an invitation. The Thursday evening meeting continues at **7.30pm at Joan's house**.

### ***Bible Studies***

#### ***Thursday Evening Group***

The Thursday evening group will be meeting on Zoom at 8.00pm on 9<sup>th</sup> December and resuming after Christmas on 20<sup>th</sup> January. They are studying 'Galatians – why God accepts us' by Jack Kuhatschek, part of the LifeBuilder Bible Study Series. Contact Charlene if you are interested in joining this group.

#### ***Zoom coffee mornings***

These weekly get-togethers continue on **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> December from 10.30-12 noon**, with Tamzin hosting. Please let her or Hilary know if you would like an invitation. You can join any time after 10.30am.

#### ***Baby and Toddler Group***

Our Baby and Toddler Group continues on Friday afternoons for a slightly shorter time (1.00-2.30pm), to allow for extra cleaning afterwards. Please use the Facebook page to find details and to contact Olivia to book - <https://m.facebook.com/careybabytoddlergroup> There

will be a **Crib Service at 1.00pm** in the church on **Christmas Eve, 24<sup>th</sup> December** for young children and their parents.

### **Carey Hymn Café**

The Advent Hymn Café has been rescheduled for **Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> November** from **2.30-4.00pm** in the Memorial Hall (*due to Win Clarke's funeral on 7<sup>th</sup> December – see above*). We will resume these monthly meetings in March next year.

### **Church Members' Meeting**

The usual January Church Meeting has been re-scheduled for Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February.

### **Reminder - Recycling pens and ink cartridges**

There are now baskets in the front foyer/vestibule where you can leave pens etc. (including felt tips, highlighters, markers, correction fluid pots, correction tape, mechanical pencils and eraser pens) and empty ink cartridges for recycling.

### **Church walks**

As the weather is getting more unpredictable and everyone is getting very busy in the run-up to Christmas, we will not be arranging any more walks this year. We hope to start again sometime in March.

### **BMS Mission Partners**

Peter and Louise, our Mission Partners in Bangladesh, will soon be home for an extended period of leave and Home Assignment. Unfortunately, it has not been possible to arrange for them to visit us this time, but they will record a video message for us for one Sunday in the new year. Please continue to pray for them and the country of Bangladesh.

### **Christmas Services (see December Diary)**

## **GROVEHILL**

For all Zoom events, please send an email to: [revaustin@sky.com](mailto:revaustin@sky.com) to receive an invite.

**Sundays 11am** - Communion Service in Church and on Facebook 'Grovehill Church of the Resurrection - The Church behind the Chippy' page. (Services can also be found on the 'Grovehill Church of the Resurrection' YouTube Channel.) (Junior Church and Creche have returned during the service)

- **1<sup>st</sup> Sunday** of the month 3.30pm Causeway Church (*see below*)
- **2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays** of the month 6.00-7.00pm Hard COR Youth Group (10 to 14 year olds) in church
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday** of the month 6.00-7.00pm Digging Deeper Bible Youth Group in church (10-14 year-olds)
- **Monday-Friday 9.00am** – Morning Prayer on Zoom
- **Mondays 9am to 12noon** - Church open for private prayer
- **Mondays 1.30pm** - Sticky Fingers - Craft, chat, drinks, toys and Toddler Church in the Church Hall
- **Monday-Friday 9.30pm** - Night Prayer on Zoom
- **1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays** - 'Men's Bible Chat Group' on Zoom. Contact [revaustin@sky.com](mailto:revaustin@sky.com) for details.
- **Wednesdays 12 noon** - Ladies Bible Study on Zoom

### ***Causeway Church***

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December and Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 3.30pm** - Causeway Church in Church (unless Covid prevents) Call Rev Austin in advance 01442 270585. If you know of any young people (16+) or adults with additional needs who might be interested, please let them and their helpers know about this – they will be very welcome.

### ***Saturday morning refreshments***

Refreshments in the Church Hall **10.00am to 12noon** (a chance for people to get used to coming back to church).

### ***'Just a Thought' Bible Study Group***

This group has restarted on **2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays** of the month at **2pm** in the Church Hall.

### ***Christmas Services (see December Diary)***

## **CHURCHES TOGETHER NEWS**

### ***December Prayer Calendar***

Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Seventh Day Adventist Church
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Society of Friends (Quakers) – Old Town area
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup>	All Churches celebrating the birth of Jesus.
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Pray for God's blessing on His world as we prepare for a New Year

## ***Carol Singing***

Join us to sing carols in the Marlowes Shopping Centre between 12.30-1.30pm on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December or on Maylands Plaza (Outside Adeyfield Free Church) from 1.30-2.30 on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December.



## **HEMEL OLD TOWN NATIVITY TRAIL**

Follow the star...? Why not follow the Old Town Nativity Trail this Christmas instead? Enjoy a festive, family time exploring Hemel's tinsel-covered Old Town.

Three local churches, St Mary's, Carey Baptist and the Quakers invite local children to colour in a Nativity scene, and to go on a 'treasure hunt' to find stickers. Prizes to be won: Old town theatre tickets and gift vouchers from Leisure //wheels and House of Elliott in the High Street. A number of shops and businesses along the High Street will be displaying a Nativity poster in the window. At each of these shops and businesses children can collect one blank copy of this Nativity scene to colour in, together with particular sticker(s) at each one. Once the picture has been coloured in and all the stickers collected, the artwork must be returned to the Old town Hall post box (there will also be a special post box in the foyer) before 12 noon on December 23<sup>rd</sup> to be considered for a prize; remember to put your name and address on the back.

The launch of the Nativity Trail will take place in St Mary's Church on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> November at 4.00pm. Winners will be announced at a special event at Carey Baptist Church on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January at 4.00pm.



## BELMONT AND CAREY YOUTH CAMP 2022

Belmont and Carey Youth Camp will be on the Isle of Wight next year. We will be returning to one of our favourite sites on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2022. Prices are £150 per child (8 to 18 years old) for the week's activity. For booking information please contact Warren (07890 494273 or warrenpyke@hotmail.com). More information can be located on our website [www.bcyccamp.com](http://www.bcyccamp.com)

*Warren Pyke*

## SAVE YOUR STAMPS

Don't forget to save the stamps from your Christmas cards (and other post). Carey is collecting stamps to raise money for BMS World Mission and they can be put in the box which is available in the vestibule at the front of the church or given to Janice Breckell. Grovehill is collecting to raise money for Home Mission. There is a box in the lobby and Bob Baker is responsible for the collection. Stamps should be cut out neatly, ideally leaving a margin of about 1/4 inch (approx. 1/2 cm).



# A Very Special Baby

JESUS WAS BORN ABOUT 2,000 YEARS AGO IN THE SMALL TOWN OF BETHLEHEM, NEAR JERUSALEM.



AN ANGEL HAD TOLD MARY SHE WOULD HAVE A VERY SPECIAL BABY.



...YOU MUST CALL YOUR BABY JESUS



MARY AND JOSEPH MADE THE LONG JOURNEY FROM NAZARETH TO BETHLEHEM. THEY HAD BEEN ORDERED THERE FOR THE CENSUS.

BUT THE TOWN WAS FULL



SORRY... I'VE NO ROOM!

THE ONLY SHELTER THEY COULD FIND WAS A STABLE...

...WHICH IS WHERE JESUS WAS BORN.



SHEPHERDS IN FIELDS NEARBY RACED TO SEE THE BABY



AN ANGEL HAD TOLD THEM WHERE JESUS HAD BEEN BORN.

WISE MEN CAME FROM THE EAST. THEY TOO WANTED TO SEE JESUS. THEY HAD BEEN GUIDED BY A STAR.

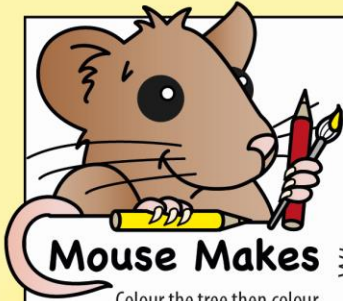


THEY BROUGHT GIFTS OF GOLD, FRANKINCENSE AND MYRRH.

BUT MARY, JOSEPH AND BABY JESUS SOON HAD TO ESCAPE TO EGYPT...



...AS KING HEROD WANTED JESUS DEAD!!



## Mouse Makes

Colour the tree then colour in one star each day until Christmas. Leave the large star at the top of the tree to colour in on Christmas day!

What's on the Christmas Tree?



**A STAR**  
shows the way  
to Jesus

Read  
*Matthew 2:1-12*



**ANGELS**

bring messages from God

Read about  
Gabriel's message in  
*Luke 1:26-38*



Read the  
shepherd's story in  
*Luke 1:26-38*

**LIGHTS  
AND CANDLES**  
remind us that Jesus  
lights our way to God

Read *Luke 2:29-32*



**PRESENTS**  
remind us of God's  
special gift to us ... **JESUS!**



**"For God loved the world so much that He gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life." *John 3:16***

Presents at Christmas  
under the tree,  
A red Christmas stocking  
waiting for me,  
But what really is Christmas,  
What is it about?  
Just look and the Bible  
and you will find out!  
It's about **JESUS**  
- the best present of all,  
**JESUS** our **Saviour**,  
God's gift to us all!

## DENS NEWS

### **High Needs List**

**Food:** Long life milk, Chocolate, Tinned sweetcorn, Tinned potatoes /instant mash, Rice pudding, Sponge puddings/jelly, Tinned fish (mackerel/sardines/salmon), Long life fruit juice

**Kitchen and hygiene items:** 20p carrier bags(bag for life), Shampoo and conditioner, Soap bars, Ladies deodorant, Washing up liquid – small, Washing powder – small, Nappies – size 6 and 6+ only, Combs/hairbrushes, Cleaning sprays – antibacterial

### **Please note that:**

- We do not accept furniture
- We currently are not taking any clothes, shoes and accessories

### **Thank you for your support**

For donations/deliveries: The Hub, Paradise, Hemel Hempstead HP2 4TF Weekdays 10am-12pm T: 01442

250969 E: office@dacorumfoodbank.org.uk [www.DENS.org.uk](http://www.DENS.org.uk) Charity No: 1097185

### **Arctic Adventure Grotto**

Visit Marlowes Shopping Centre's Arctic Adventure themed grotto this Christmas, with all ticket proceeds donated to DENS.

The Giving Grotto is open weekends only from Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> November – Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December, then daily from Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> December through to Christmas Eve. Visit the DENS website or the Marlowes Centre website [www.themarlowes.co.uk](http://www.themarlowes.co.uk) to book your visit and find out more.

*The Marlowes Centre website states:* A visit includes reindeer food making, a beautiful animal walkthrough experience and a visit with Father Christmas plus gift, and we are asking for a £5 suggested donation per child with all proceeds going to DENS. Photo memories can be purchased separately with a % donated to DENS.\*

We are opening our Giving Grotto early on **Sundays 12th and 19th December from 9am - 11am** to provide quiet sessions for children with special sensory needs, and any other additional needs, to ensure no one misses out on the opportunity to meet Father Christmas.

## **REFLECTIONS ON COP26 FROM BMS WORLD MISSION**

*Laura-Lee Lovering, BMS Creation Stewardship Co-ordinator writes:*

**Dear brothers and sisters,**

The UN climate change conference (*COP26*) lasted two weeks and I'm sure you, like me, have been both encouraged and discouraged by the pacts, pledges and promises that have emerged, right up to and beyond the last minute on Saturday 13 November.

Pledges by more than 100 countries to reduce methane emissions (methane is about 80 times more potent than CO<sub>2</sub> as a greenhouse gas (GHG), although it doesn't stay in the atmosphere for as long) and reverse deforestation by 2030 are certainly positive outcomes. However, the current verdict on the climate change mitigation measures presented by each participating nation, almost 200 countries, is that the 1.5°C global warming threshold is very likely to overshoot and exceed 2°C.

Here in Peru, which contributes less than one per cent of global GHG emissions, we have been warned about the impacts of climate change on our future water supply due to the rapidly melting Andean glaciers. Seasonal meltwater from these glaciers is a significant source of freshwater throughout the country but scientists forecast that at the current rate of warming they will have melted completely within two decades.

It's very easy to feel anxious or frustrated about the scale of the problem, yet in my last email I hoped to encourage you that there are actions that all of us can take to play our part as responsible stewards of God's good creation. I gave up meat for the duration of COP26 because I know that large-scale industrial livestock raising emits large amounts of GHGs and contributes to tropical deforestation. It wasn't as hard as I thought it might be and I've since found it easier to not return to eating meat every day. I wonder what actions you or your church have been able to take?

**Whatever you have or haven't been able to do yet, I encourage you to not give up!**

We at BMS World Mission are committed to reducing our ecological footprint, including our carbon emissions, and offsetting what we can't cut out totally. We're investing in projects overseas that reduce

dependency on fossil fuels with solar power in Chad and help sequester GHGs through tree planting in Uganda.

And when Genesis Acaye, a BMS mission worker in Uganda, provides agricultural training in his community, he also focuses on environmentally friendly farming, rubbish collection and disposal as well as using energy-saving stoves.

Of course, we wouldn't be able to do any of this without your support! So, if you are thinking about what action to take next, I would encourage you to consider becoming a 24:7 Partner, partnering in BMS' efforts all over the world through regular giving. To read more about becoming a 24:7 Partner, please see our website [www.bmsworldmission.org](http://www.bmsworldmission.org)

**Let's not become weary of doing the good that we can, but let us continue to stand together as the body of Christ and stewards of God's good creation.**

Thank you for all your prayers during COP26. Thank you for responding in whatever way you can to protect God's creation and thank you for choosing to be a part of God's work.

Every blessing,

Laura-Lee Lovering, BMS Creation Stewardship Co-ordinator

## **SPURGEONS CHILDREN'S CHARITY**

Spurgeons was founded in 1867 by one of the most well-known public figures of the day – a Baptist preacher called Charles Haddon Spurgeon. He founded an orphanage in Stockwell, south London. The Spurgeons Home moved first to Surrey and then to Kent after the war, but closed in the late 1970's. Since then, Spurgeons has supported vulnerable children and families through many different types of work across the UK. Today, the charity has contact with over 30,000 children and adults, whilst working more intensively with over 3,000 children and young people.

Over the last financial year during Covid-19 and lockdown, 783 children were identified in safeguarding incidents Spurgeons responded to. 86% of children whose outcomes were measured with an evidence-based measuring tool showed positive progress.

Spurgeons services include children centres and family hubs, prison-based family support, services to support young carers, families affected

by domestic abuse and to girls and young woman in, or at risk of, joining gangs. Parenting courses and support are also offered by Spurgeons, and more recently, school counselling and support through the services of Fegans, which transferred into Spurgeons on 1st July 2021.

*(From Spurgeon's website [www.spurgeons.org](http://www.spurgeons.org))*

*Carey will be supporting Spurgeons again this year with an offering at the Communion Service on 19<sup>th</sup> December.)*

## ADVENT BLOG

The Baptist Union Retreat Group BURG will once again be posting a weekly Advent Blog this year. These can be found at

[www.baptistunionretreatgroup.blogspot.com](http://www.baptistunionretreatgroup.blogspot.com)

## THIS MONTH 100 YEARS AGO

*We continue our series about church life at Marlowes Baptist Church in the 1920's. We do not have copies of the November or December 1921 or January 1922 Marlowes Notes, but in the February 1922 issue there were some items relating to events in December and January.*

### **Winter Treat**

On December 27th the Junior and Primary Departments assembled in the large schoolroom for the annual Christmas treat. The first, and perhaps the most effective item, for the evening was the tea. About 105 eager children sat down to a tea which was practically of pre-war standard, the anticipated result being that the tables were quickly relieved of their load.

By way of entertainment a Jazz Troupe, composed of Primary Helpers, rendered numerous well-known choruses to the children, and judging from the many encores called for one could only conclude that this form of amusement was fully appreciated by all. This Jazz Band proved to be an incentive to the scholars, and a considerable amount of hitherto unknown skill in music and elocution was found to exist among them. The dismantling of the Christmas Tree came as the finishing touch, and, as always, was a fascinating event to all. Every child had at present, and special prizes were given to those who had good attendance records for

the year. In this way the time passed very quickly, and the parents soon came to take home their sleepy-eyed little ones...

### **Social**

The Thanksgiving Social on January 11th was a success in spite of inclement weather, some 80 or 90 friends assembled and spent a very pleasant evening. A very enjoyable programme of music was provided by our organist and choir, with solos by Miss. Webb, Mr Webb, and cornet solos by Mr. A.H. East. The generous start of £25 from the Women's League and liberal response of all to the appeal made from the Chair by our honoured leader Mr. A.J. Channels enables us to announce a total of £80 raised towards the £150 needed. Refreshments were served by our ever-ready and efficient Ladies' Committee, and words of cheer were spoken by the Deacons who appreciate fully the hearty co-operation of all in maintaining the traditions of dear old Marlowes. *(There is no indication what this appeal was for.)*

### **Annual General Meeting**

*The AGM was held on January 18<sup>th</sup>, but attendance 'was affected by the inclement weather and prevailing sickness', with only 50 members present compared with 90 the previous year!* 'the Secretary's statement showed present membership 252" and the Financial Report presented revealed a total raised for all purposes of £1,189:3:1¾ . The Fund for New School Building (*Memorial Hall*) was stated to be £570.'

## **WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY**

**18<sup>TH</sup> – 25<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY**

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is traditionally observed from the 18th to the 25th January – the octave of St. Peter and St. Paul. However, some areas observe it at Pentecost or some other time.

The story of the Magi visiting the Holy Family in Bethlehem is one very familiar to us. The Magi have sometimes been seen as a symbol of the world's diversity – different religions and cultures – that comes to pay homage to the Christ-child. The story might therefore represent the unity of all created that God desires.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in 2022 has been prepared by the churches of the Middle East, the history of which was, and still is, characterised by conflict and strife, tainted with blood and darkened by injustice and oppression. The Christians of the Middle East offer these resources conscious that the world shares many of the travails and



much of the difficulties that it experiences, and yearns for a light to lead the way to the Saviour who is the light that overcomes darkness.

Serving the Gospel today requires a commitment to the human being, especially the poorest, the weakest and those marginalised. It requires from the churches transparency and accountability in dealing with the world, and with each other. This means churches need to cooperate to provide relief to the afflicted, to welcome the displaced, to relieve the burdened, and to build a just and honest society. This is a call for churches to work together so that young people can build a good future according to God's heart, a future in which all human beings can experience life, peace, justice, and love.

## GRAPEVINE

Thank you to all who have contributed articles for 'Grapevine' over the past year or helped with its production, including Paula, Clifford, Keith, Chris P and our ministers. Items for the February 2022 issue should be with Hilary Donovan (258268 / [hilary.donovan@hotmail.com](mailto:hilary.donovan@hotmail.com)) or Paula Moore (Belmont Road) by **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> January**. Thank you



We wish all our readers a happy and joyful Christmas  
and New Year

## DECEMBER DIARY

### **BELMONT ROAD**

*(Services on Zoom and in church – see page 2 - All services led by Tim Keightley unless otherwise stated)*

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup>            10.30am    Worship Service, led by Kathy  
Williamson, Borehamwood

Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	All-age Service with Nativity Presentation by Sunday Club
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	Communion by Candlelight
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	All-age Christingle Service
	6.30pm	Carols by Candlelight
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Christmas morning short service
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	tbc

## CAREY

*(Services in church and on Zoom and audio recording of sermon on website – see page 3)*

Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	Carol singing outside church
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Advent Carol Service
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	1.45pm	Thanksgiving Service for Win Clarke
	8.00pm	Deacons' Meeting
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	Bible Study on Zoom (page 4)
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	All-age Christmas Service
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	'Christmas around the world' Celebration with Communion
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup>		Book Club social – venue tbc
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup>	1.00pm	Crib Service for toddlers and parents
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Christmas Day Family Service
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup>		<i>No Service</i>

## GROVEHILL

*(Services live-streamed, on Facebook and on YouTube)*

Sundays	11.00am	Communion Service in church and on Facebook
Wednesdays	12 noon	Ladies Bible Study on Zoom
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Christingle Service – with a difference!
	3.30pm	Causeway Church in Church (page 5)
Tues 7 <sup>th</sup> , 21 <sup>st</sup>	7.30pm	Men's Bible and Faith Chat Group
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> ,	6.00pm	Hard COR Youth Group
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm	Carols of Praise at COR
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup>	3.00pm	Crib Service – a lovely time to prepare for Christmas Day with young children
	11.20pm	Midnight communion in Church and on Facebook
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	All-age Communion in Church and on Facebook

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> 11.00am Communion Service Church and on Facebook

### **OTHER EVENTS**

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> 12.30 - Churches Together Carol Singing in Marlowes Centre (page 8)  
1.30pm

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> 1.30 - Churches Together Carol Singing in Maylands Plaza (page 8)  
2.30pm

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> 12 noon Deadline for entries to Old Town Nativity Trail competition (page 8)

## **JANUARY DIARY**

### **BELMONT ROAD**

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> 10.30am Worship Service led by Tim Keightley

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Worship Service led by Stephen Copson, CBA

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Open Service

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> 10.30am Communion Service led by Tim Keightley

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Worship Service led by Tim Keightley

### **CAREY**

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> 10.30am Morning Service led by Jon Neall

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> 4.00pm Old Town Nativity Trail Prizegiving

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> 8.00pm Deacons' Meeting

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> 8.00pm Bible Study on Zoom

### **GROVEHILL**

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> 11.00am *Return to normal service pattern*  
3.30pm Causeway Church

### **OTHER EVENTS**

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> – Week of Prayer for Christian Unity  
Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> (page 16)

# HEMEL HEMPSTEAD BAPTIST CHURCHES

## SUNDAY SERVICES

(see pages 2-6 & 18-19 for current variations to this pattern)

### BELMONT ROAD

(Bennetts End)

[www.belmontroadbaptist.co.uk](http://www.belmontroadbaptist.co.uk)

#### *Morning Worship - 10.30am*

Sunday Club (5 - 15 years)

Occasional All Age Family Worship on 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in month

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in month includes Communion

### CAREY

(Marlowes)

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

#### *Morning Worship - 10.30am* – Junior Church and crèche

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in month All Age Family Worship

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in month includes Communion

### GROVEHILL ANGLICAN/FREE CHURCH

(Church of the Resurrection, Henry Wells Square)

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

#### *Morning Worship - 11.00am* - with Junior Church

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in month: All Age Worship

### MINISTERS

**BELMONT ROAD** Rev Tim Keightley 07821 741435

**CAREY** Rev Colin Cartwright 256433

**GROVEHILL** Rev Austin Janes 270585