



Newsletter

January 2018



*He will never leave us, he will not forsake;
His eternal covenant he will never break!
Resting on his promise what have we to fear?
God is all sufficient for the coming year.*

*Frances Ridley Havergal
MHB 955 verse 4*

Welcome to the January Newsletter

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A Message from our Minister

Happy new year! It's a greeting I'm happy to share in those first days of a new year. It's a genuine wish too. I want people to be happy, don't we all? The new year gives the image of a fresh start, perhaps an opportunity to shake off the difficulties or disappointments of the previous year.



Of course, life doesn't behave how we might want. Much is in our own hands, but much is not. How does one deal with this uncertainty? Minnie Louise Haskins' famous poem "God knows" is rightly much quoted (and I'm doing it too!) after King George VI used it for his 1939 Christmas broadcast:

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."

And he replied: "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."

Her poem sums up something important about God from the Bible, Christian tradition, Reason and our own experience. It shows the deep relationship which anyone might have with God, if one is willing to place one's trust in God.

So perhaps I should wish you a new year in which you are able to trust in God's loving care. But that's a bit of a mouthful! So, I'll resort to shorthand... Happy New Year!!

Graham

Church Family News

We pray for Margaret Fletcher and her family and friends as they mourn the loss of Peter, who died on Christmas Day. May God's peace and love surround them and sustain them day by day.

We pray for the family of Elsie O'Dell who died on 13th December. Elsie was a member of our church and worshipped with us for many years until she moved into a residential home a few years ago.

Please remember in your prayers Francs Impey, who is in hospital.

We remember Maryan Pateman and her family following the death of David. We pray that God will comfort and sustain them with his peace and presence.

Our love and prayers go to all who are going through a difficult time.

Church Flowers in January

We thank those who have agreed to donate the flowers to enhance our worship this month.

7th January	Ann Childs
14th January	Maryan Pateman
21st January	Frances Impey
28th January	Anne Foley

The flowers in church each week are a reminder of the great beauty of God's creation and as we look at the flowers we are reminded that God gives us so many things to enjoy and care for.

We thank Beryl for organising the rota and doing many of the arrangements.

Action for Children Carol Singing

The attached photos show a happy group of singers, who met on December 13th outside Tesco. We sang to support Action for Children and with the help of a wonderful number of people from Flitwick Singers, who helped to make our singing really melodious, we raised just over £171 in the hour we were there, with another £40 in donations given later.

We are joined most years by Shona, the dog, an added interest to our group.

One Tesco visitor would have brought his trumpet and joined in if he had known earlier that we were going to be there.



Thank you so much to all who sang and all who donated to this very worthwhile charity.

Linda Pitts



Luncheon Club

On Friday 8th December the Luncheon Club was held, giving us an early Christmas treat!

The meal, as always, was delicious, and the festive appearance of the tables added to our enjoyment. The traditional turkey meal followed by Christmas pudding was appreciated by all who



attended. There was a cracker for everyone and the meal finished with tea or coffee and mint chocolates.



We thank all those who helped in any way, both with this meal and the meals held during the year. We know that a lot of work goes into producing these meals, in preparing and cooking the food, and preparing the room and clearing up afterwards.

Sadly, this was the last of the Luncheon Clubs scheduled to be held, so grateful thanks to all who have given so much of their time in the past as well as on more recent occasions. It has been a privilege to be able to enjoy these meals.

SO THANK YOU ALL.

Prayer Leaflet
January 2018



*Eternal God,
by a star you led wise men to the worship
of your Son,
Guide by your light the nations of the earth,
that the whole world may see your glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit
one God, now and for ever. Amen*

Collect for Epiphany from the Methodist Worship Book

Prayer Suggestions for January

New Year

Monday 1st	Thank God for bringing us to the start of another year.
Tuesday 2nd	Ask God to help us trust him through the year.
Wednesday 3rd	Ask God to help us use the new opportunities he gives us.
Thursday 4th	Pray that we will make the most of the chances God gives us to make a new start.
Friday 5th	Thank God for new beginnings in all areas of life.

Epiphany

Saturday 6th	Thank God for revealing himself to the Magi.
Sunday 7th	Praise God that his revelation of himself in Jesus is for everyone.
Monday 8th	Thank God that he reveals himself to us.
Tuesday 9th	Pray we will recognise Jesus when he comes to us through other people.
Wednesday 10th	Thank God for revealing himself through the Bible.
Thursday 11th	Thank God for his revelation through creation.
Friday 12th	Ask God to reveal his will for us.
Saturday 13th	Ask God to reveal himself to those we know who are not yet Christians

Winter

Sunday 14th	Pray for those for whom winter is a difficult time.
Monday 15th	Pray for those who have to travel in bad weather.
Tuesday 16th	Pray for the emergency services.
Wednesday 17th	Pray for medical staff coping with more work.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Thursday 18th	Pray for the Christian leaders of all denominations.
Friday 19th	Pray that Christians in the public arena will show tolerance towards each other.
Saturday 20th	Thank God that we can learn from Christian with different traditions.
Sunday 21st	Pray for the united Week of Prayer for Christian Unity service this afternoon.
Monday 22nd	Pray for the local Churches Together Group and its activities.
Tuesday 23rd	Pray that we will be tolerant of Christians with different views.
Wednesday 24th	Pray that we will work together to present a united Christian presence in our area.
Thursday 25th	Pray that we will remember that the central aspects of the Gospel are the same for all denominations.

Holocaust Memorial Day (27th January)

Friday 26th	Pray for the victims of hate crime and for those who work to eradicate it.
Saturday 27th	We pray for those working to ensure that genocide does not happen again.

Homelessness

Sunday 28th	(Homelessness Sunday) Pray for those who are homeless, especially those in Bedfordshire.
Monday 29th	Pray for the work of the Prebend Day Centre.
Tuesday 30th	Pray for all who work and volunteer to help homeless people.
Wednesday 31st	Pray for the work of Emmaus Centre at Carlton, who give a home to homeless people.

Services in January

Please remember in your prayers those leading our worship this month, especially during the week prior to the service.

7th January	10.30 am	Rev. Graham Claydon-Knights United Covenant Service
	6.00 pm	Jim Ragless
14th January	10.30 am	Geoff Talbot
	6.00 pm	Christine Denny
21st January	10.30 am	Paul Jarrett
	3.00 pm	Rev. Graham Claydon-Knights United Service – Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
28th January	10.30 am	Rev. Graham Claydon-Knights (Holy Communion)
	6.00 pm	Richard Crane

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### **Monday 22nd January 3.30 pm – 5.30 pm**

Refreshments, craft, stories, fun, singing, and a cooked tea.

Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Please contact Graham on 01525 713468 for more information.

Donations welcome to cover costs.

**Future Dates: 19th February, 19th March, 30th April**

## *Thank you from Samaritan's Purse*

The following was received in acknowledgement of the money sent to offset the cost of sending overseas the shoeboxes we filled. You can also read the letter on the Guild notice board.

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your donation to Operation Christmas Child. We are most encouraged to receive your gift to this year's campaign.

Some memories will forever be etched into my mind and in truth, I never want to forget them. One of those is the first Operation Christmas Child shoebox gift I ever gave out. In December 1992, I visited Children's hospital in Zagreb, Croatia. Too many of the young boys and girls there were victims of the war that broke apart the former Yugoslavia.

I gave the box to a twelve year old boy. He opened it and on the very top of the box, was a small stuffed animal. He smiled – something I would expect from any child upon seeing the treasures inside. But I quickly noticed a doctor and nurse standing in the corner, both begin to cry. They called me over and told me this boy's story.

Warring soldiers had come to his house three months before. They marched out this young boy's family and executed his parents in front of him. He was found alone and brought to the hospital in Zagreb. For the first time in three months, the medical team saw him smile.

Operation Christmas Child is about so many things – certainly one of the greatest things is that each and every gift brings hope. A reminder that the child is loved by all of us and by a loving God. Your kindness is a living testimony that there will forever be hope.

Thank you. You bless us and you bless the children we serve.

Sincerely,  
Dr Sean Campbell, Executive Director

*Thank you from Prebend Day Centre*

Dear all at Flitwick Methodist Church,

On behalf of Smart Prebend Centre I would like to thank you and your congregation for your kind Harvest donation.

The Day Centre continues to provide hot meals to those most in need 365 days a year. We would not be able to do this if it was not for the support we receive at Harvest time.

It is crucial that the Smart Prebend Centre continues to receive the support of our local community. Without such support we would not be able to run the service or make improvements in the future.

We are looking forward to expanding our opening hours for our service users. We already have plans to open for an extra hour a day, starting 23<sup>rd</sup> October. We will also be offering two afternoon sessions a week involving a structured activity.

More information is on our website [www.smartcjs.org.uk](http://www.smartcjs.org.uk) and our Smart Prebend facebook page.

Again, many thanks for your harvest donation this year.

Yours sincerely,  
Sue Flynn  
Day Centre Manager

(Note from the website:

On 30th August 2017 SMART took over the operation of The Prebend Homeless Centre in Bedford. SMART have been supporting BeChar in managing the Centre since early 2017. Currently SMART

are working closely with the existing team at Prebend to improve the facilities, processes and delivery)



### *Christmas Offerings*

Thank you to all those who contributed to the total of £635.99, which was collected during the Christmas period for Keech Hospice Care.

This total was made up as follows:

|                                      |         |
|--------------------------------------|---------|
| Christmas Card Greeting Donations    | £160.00 |
| S Club Nativity - Loose Cash         | £ 81.21 |
| Nine Lessons and Carols - Loose Cash | £ 90.36 |
| Christmas Eve Communion Offering     | £107.70 |
| Christmas Morning Offering           | £196.72 |



### *Churches Together Lent Prayer Spaces*

On each of the six Saturdays in Lent, starting on 17th February, a quiet prayer space will be available from 10.00 am to 12 noon at one of the churches in Ampthill and Flitwick. The prayer space at our church will be on 3rd March. This year the prayer spaces will be based on the 'I am' sayings of Jesus, and the one for our church will be 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life' from John 14 verse 6. Everyone will be welcome. More details next month.



### *Lent Course*

During Lent the Thursday Bible Study Group, meeting from 1.30 pm to 3.00 pm, will be using a York Course entitled 'On the Third Day'. This is a five session course with the theme of the Jesus' Resurrection. Each week we listen to a CD in which prominent

Christians discuss a different aspect of the theme. Then the group discusses the questions posed in the study booklet. If you are interested in joining us, or would like further information, please speak to Janet Watts.



## 1<sup>st</sup> Flitwick Boys Brigade



Happy New Year and we have an exciting 2018 to look forward to.

We finished 2017 with a Messy BB for Christmas involving Anchor Boys and Junior Section and their families. Craft Carols and cake (mince pies) were shared by all present. The older lads finished with a Computer Games Evening but had previously done some Christmas craft and each hand made a Christmas Card for me which was lovely.

Battalion Activities at the end of the year included a party for Anchor Boys and Figure Marching and Dodgeball for Junior Section. At the turn of the year Battalion Positions are Anchor Boys 2<sup>nd</sup>, Junior Section 3<sup>rd</sup>, Company Section 6<sup>th</sup>, and Seniors 4<sup>th</sup>.

January sees Company and Senior Section Battalion Football, Junior Section Unihoc. and the first weekend of February Anchor Boys Potted Sports.

Also starting in January is the Battalion Band Practice when Company and Seniors will join with other boys from Harlington and Wootton BB Companies to share resources and move all three company band forward.

We are back at BB on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January and hope to see some new members on that evening.

Thank you for your continued support of BB and I would ask you to prayer for leadership across all sections to be smoother this year. We have a couple of staff who work shifts and others for whom other

commitments mean they cannot always be there. And there are some weeks where things become stretched!

That's all for now.

*Angela Brydon  
Company Captain*

### *Messy Church*



On Monday December 18th we celebrated our Christmas Messy Church, followed by a Christmas party buffet meal. Eleven families shared in the afternoon, divided into four sessions, meeting time and refreshments, activity time, worship time and eating time...

The activities included a gingerbread shepherd with his candy stick crook, a ply board setting of the stable scene, a lollypop stick manger – and other activities too. Graham shared the Christmas story with his wonderful IT presentation, which helps the children to remember the stories told in each session.

Our next Messy Church will be on Monday January 22nd but we really need more helpers to make it easier for us all – so if you are free from 2 pm to 6 pm on a Messy Church day, please come and help us. If interested, please speak to Graham, who fires our enthusiasm.

Thank you.



### *The Upper Room*

At Ampthill Methodist Church on alternate Thursdays  
Dates in January – 4th and 18th

Coffee or tea and cakes from 10.00am  
Light Lunches from 11.30 am – 1.00 pm  
Proceeds after expenses for local charities.

All are welcome



## *Clophill News*

### Tea and Chat

Every Wednesday 10.00 am to 12 noon



## *Circuit Prayer Meetings*

You will be welcome at the Circuit Prayer Meetings on  
Monday 8th January at 4.15 pm at the Putnoe Manse, 12 Hartop  
Close Bedford MK41 8HE - contact Rev. Wendy Evans-Wood,  
and Monday 22nd January at 10.30 am at Willington.



## *Friday Market 'Tea' Charities*

As many of you will know, teas and coffees are provided each Friday  
in the Village Hall, helping to raise money for different charities.

26th January Templefield School PTA



## *The Newsletter*

Thank you for reading this, the first newsletter of 2018, and thank you to those who have contributed items.

Please note that the last date for items for the February newsletter is 21st January. It would be lovely to include something from you.

Janet Watts                      telephone: 717492                      email:  
janetwatts14@btinternet.com

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