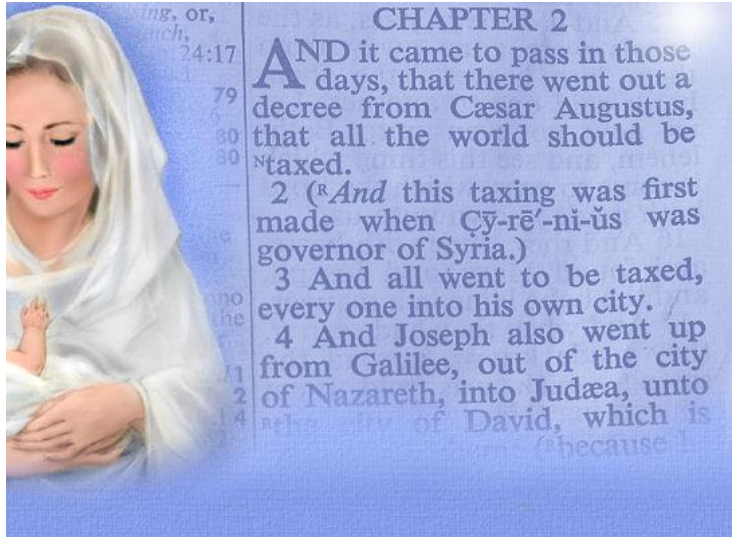


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**Bromsgrove
Methodist
Church
and Centre**



**December 2024 –
January 2025**

Bromsgrove Methodist Church and Centre: encouraging, supporting and developing followers of Jesus Christ and sharing God's love in the wider community

REGULAR SERVICES and KEY CONTACTS

SUNDAY

1st 9.00 am Holy Communion
10.30 am Morning Worship

2nd 10.30 am Morning Worship

3rd 10.30 am Morning Worship

4th 10.30 am Morning Worship

- Holy Communion at one 10.30 am service each month
- Holy Communion at 6.00 pm once a month
- Special Services as arranged.

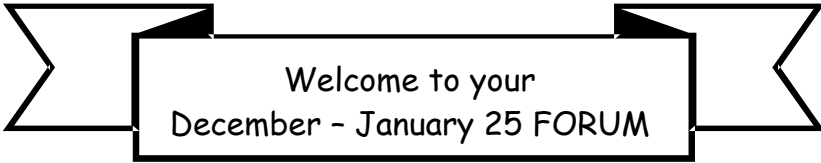
Please see the Centre Pages for full service details

Minister: Revd Stephen Levett
151 Birmingham Road
Bromsgrove. B61 0DJ
Tel: (01527) 575017

Centre Office: 19 Stratford Road
Bromsgrove, B60 1AS
Tel: (01527) 835843

Room Bookings: e-mail: bromsgroveroombookings@gmail.com

Find out more at www.brommethcentre.org.uk



Welcome to your
December - January 25 FORUM

What's inside...

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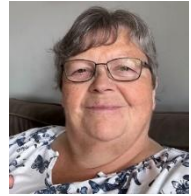
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Material for FORUM to the Editor, Jim Buchanan, c/o Centre Office
or email: les.jim42@btinternet.com

*Opinions expressed are those of the writers and do not necessarily represent the views
of the Church at any level*

Deacon Gwynn's Letter

The other day I found myself in the area of Sidemoor. I know Bromsgrove like the back of my hand. I was confident I knew that I knew where I was going. I was slightly smug that I could find my way around. It was only after turning up and down several roads I began to realise that my confidence might have been misplaced. I looked desperately for a familiar road sign, the ones I'd seen were no help.



It took me a while to awake to the realisation that I was lost. I didn't want to admit it, but I was. There was something humbling, dare I say humiliating about it. I'd lived in and around this town for 40+years and yet did not know where I was.

One writer has said that for the first time in history there is a generation growing up that will never say in a response to a question, "I don't know"; instead, they will just Google the answer. In the same way, technology has moved at such a pace that no one has a Sat Nav anymore, but they just use their phone with Google maps and different apps to help them find their way. No one need ever be lost again because of technology- of course, that is if the technology works.

My issue was the realisation that I had been lost, but I didn't realise it. I was so confident in my own ability and rightness, an assurance that I knew the way – I was utterly blind to my lostness.

I think we see this in our culture consistently. In so many ways, our world thinks that it knows better than previous generations. It clearly displays what CS Lewis called 'chronological snobbery'. However, there is rarely any awareness of lostness. There is little recognition in our culture of where we have come from, where we are, or where we are going. There is a refusal to admit that we might be lost. There are millions of people in our city blind to their lostness.

The word lost conjures lots of distressing images. The child in the supermarket separated from his mother in floods of tears. The driver in an unfamiliar city having no idea where he is. We talk of being lost in our thoughts, that is someone being so focussed in one's thoughts that they are no longer paying attention to their surroundings. We talk of someone having "lost it", meaning that they suddenly lose control of their emotions and start to shout or cry or laugh. When someone is said to have lost control, that is never seen as a good thing.

The great chapter in the Bible on being lost is Luke chapter 15. There Jesus presents us with a lost sheep, a lost coin and a lost son. Jesus tells those

parables to religious people who were pretty confident of their own righteousness.

In his first parable there is a sheep who is lost, he is only one of 100, but this shepherd remarkably leaves the 99 and goes after the one. There is enormous joy because the one sheep has been found. The good shepherd goes after the sheep and searches for it until he finds it.

The next story is of the lost coin. Here there is a poor woman who has lost one of her 10 silver coins. She cleans the house, searches the house, turns the house upside down and then finds it. Again, the emphasis is on the woman searching, seeking that which is lost and the joy of it being found.

The question we could ask is, 'What would have happened if the lost sheep and the lost coin had not been found?', and the very simple answer is that they would have been lost forever. The shepherd is looking for the sheep, but the sheep are not looking for the shepherd. The woman is looking for the coin, but the coins are not looking for the woman. There is no hope for the sheep or the coin until they are found.

The first two stories picture a God who came to seek and save the lost. He is the one who seeks, searches, saves and finds. We need to pray that people would recognise that they are lost, they would face up to the clear reality and stop pretending. If they are not found, they will be lost forever.

The other truth we need people to see is that they are valuable to God. He cares for the lost, that is clear from Luke 15 – the lost sheep so valuable to the shepherd, the coin so valuable to the woman and obviously a lost son so valuable to his father.

The third story is different however, there are two sons. The older dutiful, seemingly well-behaved older son. The younger is wild and kicks off the traces. He goes off into the far country, squanders his inheritance and ends up in a terrible way. The father in the story does not go after him, does not send a search party, he waits and he waits and he welcomes. It's a beautiful and sobering picture to us of the joy that awaits those who will repent and come back to the father. There is a response that is called for to the good news of a God who comes to seek and to save – to come to our senses and return to our father.

The older son, close to home, turns out to be just as lost as the younger one, but he doesn't realise it. The punchline of the chapter is the religious leaders to whom Jesus told the parables also have no idea that they are lost and outside the party.

Luke 15 is a chapter for our day. It speaks to the religious, and irreligious; the one who knows he's lost, and the one who doesn't. It makes us face up to the reality of our lives. We are people who have been found because "The Son of Man came to seek and save that which was lost." As we prepare through Advent to welcome Him again may our thoughts and actions be to gather in the lost, bind up the broken and bring back the strays.

May we all be richly blessed this Advent Christmas tide.

Shalom Gwynn

THE NIGHT BEFORE-2024

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house

Not a creature was stirring, except Papa's mouse.

The computer was humming, the icons were hopping,

As Papa did last minute Internet shopping.

The stockings were hung by the modem with care

In hope that St. Nicholas would bring new software.

The children were nestled all snug in their beds,

While visions of computer games danced in their heads.



In Memory

FLORENCE PAULINE COURT

We are sorry to have lost Florence, who was a staunch member of New Road Methodist Church before, in 1983, it joined Carlisle Road and Birmingham Road Methodists to form the new Bromsgrove Methodist Church.

For many years Florence was a regular supporter of the Wesley Guild. She also gave long service on a weekly basis to our church coffee shop. In recent years due to increasing infirmity, she was unable to attend church, but through pastoral visits and the Forum she maintained a keen interest in church life. More recently, she supported the Crosslinks Lunch Club and the Holiday at Home events they ran.

Florence was a devoted family person and her two sons and their families were the centre of her life, and she always had news of them for those who enquired.

A very long life, well lived, and it surely is a case of “Well done good and faithful servant – enter into your rest”.

It has been a privilege to know Florence and she will be sadly missed.
John Webb

GILL PRICE

Our thoughts and prayers are with Jeremy and his sons Robin and Thomas as they come to terms with the loss of their beloved wife and mother.

Gill was a long-standing Member of the Church and, despite her illness, continued to fulfil a number of roles including, most importantly, the administration of room bookings in the Church.



What about the gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh

The story of the coming of the Magi grew in the telling. By the 6th century they had acquired names: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. By medieval times they were considered to be kings. Whoever they were, we do know from Matthew that they brought three gifts to Jesus.

What about their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh? While we cannot know for sure what was in the minds of first century Magi, one Victorian scholar has offered a possible explanation as to the significance of their gifts.



He was the Rev John Henry Hopkins, an American Episcopalian minister, who in 1857 wrote his much-loved Christmas carol, 'We Three Kings of Orient Are'.

Gold, said John Henry Hopkins, was a gift that would have been given to a king.

Frankincense had traditionally been brought by priests as they worshipped God in the Temple

Myrrh was a spice that the ancients used in preparing bodies for burial.

If that is true, then you could say that the Wise Men, in choosing their gifts for this infant, honoured Jesus with gold because He was King of the Jews, with frankincense because He was to be worshipped as divine, and with myrrh, because He would also become a sacrifice and die for His people.

The Wise Men were the very first gentiles ever to worship Jesus. What faith they had! They travelled for months over difficult terrain, they never saw any evidence of Jesus' kingship, His divinity or His sacrificial death. They worshipped Him through faith in God's promises about Him.

Isaiah foresaw this response to Jesus: "Nations will come to your light, and kings to the rightness of your dawn."

The Magi's eyes of faith saw clearly and far into the future. Compare that with the High Priest and religious leaders whom the Wise Men saw in Jerusalem when they first arrived. These head priests knew all about the prophecies of their own coming Messiah, but NOT ONE Jewish religious leader travelled to look for Him in Bethlehem.

And it is only six miles down the road!

CROSSLINKS TELEPHONE BEFRIENDING SERVICE – VOLUNTEERS

Crosslinks Befriending service is looking for more volunteers to supplement our team. We currently have a number of pending clients who await someone to offer telephone befriending.

Our clients tend to be people of all ages who are usually lonely because of their personal circumstances and are requiring social inter-action. Volunteers are ideally good listeners, able to offer a few minutes a week or fortnightly to offer friendship and a connection to the outside world for people who are often housebound or isolated.

Referrals come from various agencies in Worcestershire.

Volunteers are required to be DBS vetted because of the vulnerability of the clients.

If you feel this is for you, please contact the Co-ordinator, Sue Butler, by email to bromsgrovebefriending@gmail.com for more details.

One Starry Night in Bethlehem

One starry night some shepherds saw
A star that twinkled more and more.
A voice they heard, which said to them,
"To Bethlehem ,To Bethlehem."
A voice they heard which said to them,
"To Bethlehem"

One starry night some wise men knew
That things they'd read would soon come true.
A sign which said to them,
"To Bethlehem ,To Bethlehem"
A sign which said to them,
"To Bethlehem "

One starry night a babe was born.
Who lay on that first Christmas Morn,
A special child for us and them
In Bethlehem, In Bethlehem
A special child for us and them
In Bethlehem. Jean Wiseman

THE CHRISTMAS ROSE

What is the flower that blooms each year
In flowerless days,
Making a little blaze
On the bleak earth, giving my heart some cheer?

Harsh the sky and hard the ground
When the Christmas rose is found.
Look! its white star, low on earth,
Rays a vision of rebirth.

Who is the child that's born each year —
His bedding, straw:
His grace, enough to thaw
My wintering life, and melt a world's despair?

Harsh the sky and hard the earth
When the Christmas child comes forth.
Look! around a stable throne
Beasts and wise men are at one.

What men are we that, year on year,
We Herod-wisel
In our cold wits devise
A death of innocents, a rule of fear?

Hushed your earth, full- starred your sky
For a new nativity
:Be born in us, relieve our plight,
Christmas child, you rose of light!

Cecil Day Lewis





CHRISTMAS POST 2024

This year the Christmas post box will be in the Foyer on Sundays 1st, 8th and 15th December. During the week it will be in the Office. Sorted cards will be available from 8th December.

The last collection, **December 15th**, gives time for cards to be sorted and picked up. **Please post as early as you can and only cards which people will be able to pick up themselves. We sort but we don't deliver!**



As always, the post is run for the benefit of Action for Children – please give generously. If you are not sending cards, perhaps you would like to give a donation instead.

Janet and Brian Henderson (Post Organisers)

MISSION IN BRITAIN FUND ADVENT APPEAL

The Methodist Church
Registered charity no 1132208



**MISSION
IN BRITAIN FUND**

Support us to share the gospel
in words and action in Britain

giftaid it

The Mission in Britain Fund supports “[New Places for New People](#)” projects, through allocation of funding to districts and circuits. It also continues its support for “Methodist Action on Poverty and Justice” projects. The work is only made possible through kind donations.

Envelopes for donations to the Fund will be available on 1st and 8th December. Please give if you are able. Thank you!

Charity and Missions Committee

Carols at Avoncroft Museum

As part of its 'Christmas Through Time' weekend, Avoncroft Museum continues its tradition of hosting an annual carol service in Bringsty Chapel.

The service will be 5 lessons and carols in this historic building.

All are invited to attend the service which will start at 2:30 pm Saturday 7th December.

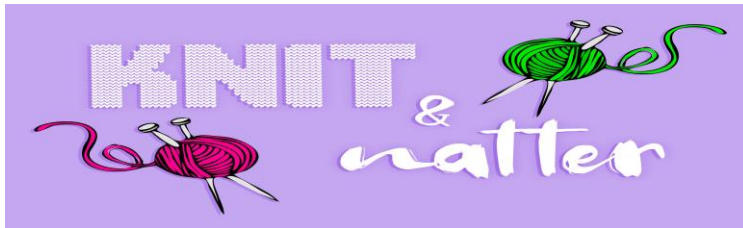
Entry to the Museum will be free after 2:00 pm for those attending the service.

The Community Choir led by Ruth Henley will support the singing.

Meryl Davis will provide keyboard accompaniment.

I do hope to see you there.

Pete Gale



If you enjoy knitting, crochet and chatting, you would be very welcome to join our group which meets in the Welcome Coffee Shop on Tuesday mornings between 10am and 11.30.

Bring your own handiwork or knit for a charity.



Dementia Friendly Community

Friday
December 2024
2-4 pm



Bromsgrove
Methodist Centre
Stratford Road
B60 1AS



Remembering Christmas



Refreshments

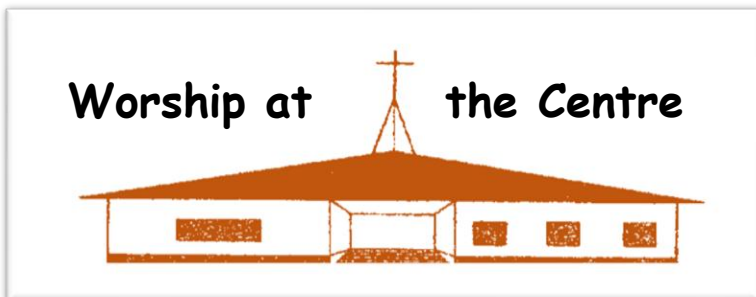


All welcome

Safe space



Come and join our informal and accessible carol service!



December 2024

| | | | |
|------------------------|---|-----------------------|---|
| 1st | Advent Sunday/Church Anniversary | | |
| | 10.30 am | Morning Worship | Revd Richard Wilde |
| | 4.00 pm | Circuit Service | Revd Steve Levett/ Revd Ruth Wilson |
| 8th | 2nd of Advent | | |
| | 10.30 am | Morning Worship | Deacon Janet Thomas |
| | 6.00 pm | Brigade Carol Service | Revd Steve Levett |
| 15th | 10.30 am | Holy Communion | Revd Anne Smith |
| 22nd | 10.30 am | Grown Up Nativity | Deacon Gwynn Bamford/ Jackie Hartrey |
| | 6.00 pm | Candlelight Carols | Deacon Janet Thomas |
| 24th | Christmas Eve | | |
| | 11.30 pm | Holy Communion | Deacon Janet Thomas |
| 25th | Christmas Day | | |
| | 10.30 am | Christmas Day Service | Deacon Gwynn Bamford/ Jackie Hartrey |
| 29th | 10.30 am | Morning Worship | Mrs Di Ross |

January 2025

| | | |
|------------------|--|---|
| 5 th | Covenant Service 10.30 am Morning Worship | Rev Ruth Wilson |
| 12 th | 10.30 am Morning Worship | Deacon Janet Thomas |
| 19 th | 10.30 am Morning Worship | Deacon Gwynn Bamford/ Jackie Hartrey |
| 26 th | 10.30 am Morning Worship | Mr John Webb |

Sunday Flowers

The following list indicates the names of those who will contribute to the cost of Sunday flowers during December and January.

December

- 1st John Wyatt
- 8th Ilona & Terry Clarke
- 15th Linda Ashworth
- 22nd Candlelight Service
- 29th Sue May

January

- 5th Sandra Deboo
- 2nd Jill Palmer
- 19th Margo Rutter
- 26th Pam & Pete Gale



Christmas Rose (Helliborus Niger)

 **HYMNS WE LOVE** 

One more step along the world I go” by Sidney Carter (1915-2004)

Biographical notes courtesy of Wikipedia. Sidney Carter was an English poet, songwriter and hymn writer, born in Camden Town. He is best known for “Lord of the Dance” (1963).

He worked as a lyricist for Donald Swan’s revues. He also worked as a critic for “Gramophone” magazine. In 1968 the band “Reflection” released an album of his poetry and songs entitled “The Present Tense”. A reviewer of his work in 1972 called him ‘an impressive spokesman for the believer in an age of general unbelief’.

StF No. 476

1. One more step along the world I go, one more step along the world I go; From the old things to the new, keep me travelling along with you:

Chorus: And it’s from the old I travel to the new, keep me travelling along with you.

2. Round the corners of the world I turn, more and more about the world I learn; All the new things that I see, you’ll be looking at with me.
3. As I travel through the bad and good, keep me travelling the way I should; Where I see no way to go, you’ll be telling me the way, I know.
4. Give me courage when the world is rough, keep me loving though the world is tough; leap and sing in all I do. keep me travelling along with you.
5. You are older than the world can be; you are younger than the life in me; Ever old and ever new, keep me travelling along with you.

REFLECTION

Once Christmas is celebrated, we are soon looking forward to a New Year. Life is a journey, so I thought the above hymn quite apt for this period.

As we journey through life what a comfort to know that we don't travel it alone. We have other people to help and encourage, to listen and comfort, to share.

Importantly we have the Presence of the Holy spirit with us and within us to guide, protect and when necessary to admonish us. (See Psalm 139 – “You have searched me and know me...At the end you are still there! etc.)

A new year can bring changes in our circumstances and as we travel from the old things to the new God is by our side and offers his hand to ours, indeed “nothing can pluck us from His hand!” (v.1)

It is never too late to learn new skills, to undertake new activities, to learn more about our world (v.2).

We all face “bad and good” at times - what a comfort to have the assurance that when we don't know which way to turn, God is there to direct our paths. (v.3)

Our courage often seems inadequate with what is asked of us when things get “rough and tough”. We are then enabled to see things in a different light especially if love is our motivation, and we find the strength even to “leap and sing” of our blessings. (v.4)

Whether we are old or young in human years, God is both older (eternal) and younger (in outlook) than we are and is ever able and willing to find solutions for any and all of our problems. All of this is ours to experience, if we keep travelling along with God. (v5)

Every blessing for Christmas and the New Year. JOHN WEBB

Conversion of St Paul



January is a month of the beginning of great things! As well as the naming of the Son of God, we celebrate the conversion of the greatest ever apostle of the Christian faith. Many books have been written on Paul, is the briefest of introductions.

He was a Jew, born as ‘Saul’ at Tarsus, and brought up by the rabbi Gamaliel as a Pharisee. A devout, fanatical Jew, Saul persecuted the Christians, and watched with satisfaction the first Christian martyrdom, the stoning of Stephen.

Then, on his way to Damascus, Saul had a vision of Christ that stopped him in his tracks. He realised that this Jesus whom he was persecuting Saul changed overnight. He was given a new name, Paul, and became an evangelist for the cause of Christ. He became a leader in the early Church, and his special calling was as an apostle to the Gentiles.

He wrote epistles to the young churches that he founded – and thus, inadvertently, wrote a great part of the New Testament.

Life as the greatest apostle was hardly full of perks: Paul was stoned, beaten, mobbed, homeless, hated, imprisoned, and finally martyred. Tradition has it that he was beheaded in Rome during the persecution of Nero in 64AD and buried where the basilica of St Paul ‘outside the walls’ now stands.

His mighty faith in Christ has kindled similar belief in many hundreds of millions of people down the centuries

Driving the North Coast 500

It's something that was on my to do list for a long time, I was in the process of planning the journey early 2020 but alas covid came and well we all know the rest! 2024 came around and I decided that maybe this time, and began planning dates & route.



The North Coast 500 is a 516-mile scenic route along Scotland's northern coast that begins and ends in the city of Inverness, the capital of the Scottish Highlands. The NC500 route offers visitors the opportunity to see rugged landscapes, sandy beaches, spot wildlife, visit museums and heritage sites, stay in castles, sip whisky, sample the local produce, and get to know the people who live there. The route was designed to encourage more visitors to visit this sparsely populated region of Scotland, and it has been very successful and numbers of visitors grows each year.

Neither Jackie or I have driven the route before and, as Jackie no longer drives, the trip needed good planning of comfy beds, travel miles and rest time, so I planned it over 10 days.

Planning a North Coast 500 road trip can be a bit overwhelming as it is a relatively new route but there is more and more information available online or in guidebooks as it begins to rival other top road trips around the world.

The North Coast 500 (NC500) was created in 2014 by the North Highland Initiative, which is a non-profit organization that was established by Prince Charles in 2005 in an effort to develop economic growth across the North Highlands. The NC500 is not an actual single road or highway like Route 66 or the Pacific Coast Highway, but is a series of existing roads that form a loop around the northern Highlands.

The route is just over 500 miles and mainly hugs the northern coast of Scotland, hence the name. It's designed to showcase the natural beauty in this part of Scotland which has previously received a relatively low level of tourism.

The North Coast 500 route runs 516 miles to and from Inverness, forming a loop around the northern Highlands. So, if you drive the full route, you'll end up where you started which could be very convenient if you were flying in and out of Inverness or renting a car. The largest city is Inverness with a population of close to 50,000 people and the next biggest places are towns and villages like Ullapool, Durness, Dornoch, Wick, Thurso, and Lochinver which each have a population of under 2,000 people! Hence you spend time in lots of small villages and rural areas.



The highlights of the route for me are the scenic views along the coast and the feeling of “being away” from it all for a while, rugged coastline, beaches, rural farmland, marshland, rivers, forest, lochs, and Munros (Scottish mountains) when you most definitely feel many ‘God moments’, the land is so spiritual.

Of course, there are also loads of sheep and the iconic Highland cows (another favourite of mine) in the fields. In addition to nature and wildlife, there are loads of things to see and do along the route which include hiking, golfing, castles, heritage sites, prehistoric sites, a geological park, museums, beaches, whisky distilleries, and much more. Sampling the local food is a must, traditional Scottish dishes like haggis, black pudding, Scottish salmon, Cullen skink (smoked haddock, potato, & onion soup), cranachan, stovies (potato dish), and a full Scottish breakfast.



During our 10 day trip we were prepared for rain or worse and took suitable clothing but the coats never came out of the boot of the car as we had such (unexpectedly) beautiful weather, we had a little mizzle (drizzle) one morning- but we were in the car driving so it wasn't a problem!

For me the North Coast 500 is designed for sightseeing and taking things slowly. Time for detours, the excitement of seeing what you unexpectedly come upon! We drove over lots of bridges and one in particular we detoured to was the bridge from the Kyle of Lochalsh over to the Isle of Skye, a beautiful isle and it didn't disappoint.



While we were there, whales were spotted on the south of the isle. There are so many sea mammals or seabirds to be seen. There were many park up places along the NC500 to enable photos to be taken, it's breathtaking as you drive

along and you find yourself having to stop and just take it in and try to capture it on camera.

One thing that struck us was the number of crofts and bothies abandoned during the Highland Clearances that were now mostly derelict, which brought a sense of sadness, then the surprise of coming upon gorgeous sandy beaches was a delight!



The locals are warm and friendly, always ready for a chat and answer questions, little café bothies are an absolute delight and usually full of beautiful handmade gifts as well as gorgeous cakes.

I think we will return to the NC500 soon to visit some of those places we missed. In all I drove 1430 miles over the 10 days and in Scotland they were effortless! **Deacon Gwynn Bamford**

**Wednesday Meeting Point
Programme for December/January**



Wednesday December 4th Pointless
Wednesday December 18th Christmas Nibbles
Wednesday January 1st No Meeting
Wednesday January 15th Meal Out

We meet at 7.30 pm in Room 6. All are welcome. We collect a small voluntary donation from attendees each meeting which will be given to Charities of choice at the end of our year.

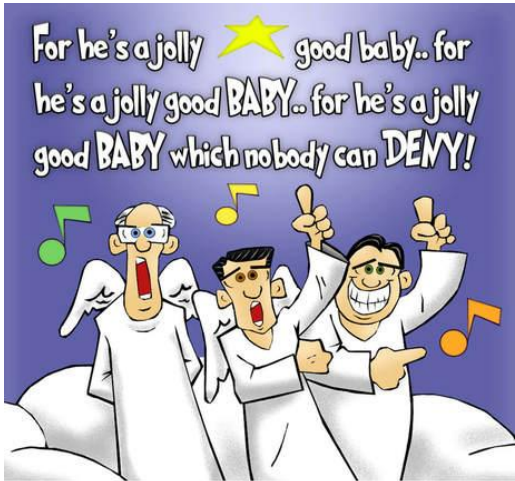
Humour Corner

The Back Pew – Jeff Larson



Dateline: Dec 25, 0000

It was just another SILENT NIGHT for Lenny watching his sheep by night until.. Suddenly ANGELS ARE HEARD ON HIGH singing GLORIA, little DRUMMER BOYS drummed, and 3 KINGS set their GPS for that LITTLE TOWN OF BETH-LEHEM where AWAY IN A MANGER Jesus was born with no crib for his bed.



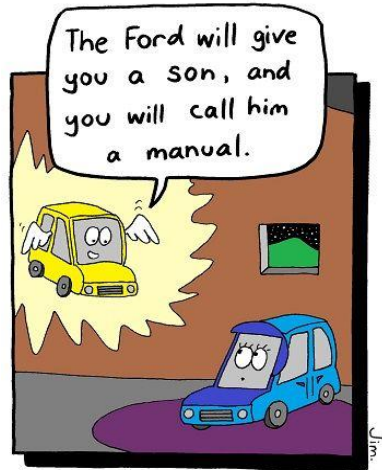
The **REALMS OF GLORY** choir tryouts for that first Christmas night included this spirited ditty.

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



Thanks to John Michael Sullivan (See Luke 2:1-16) 12-23-2005

AT LEAST WE CAN SAY THAT HE WAS BROUGHT UP IN A STABLE HOME



Merry Car-istmas!

Make Christmas Last All Year Long

Why confine the beauty of Christmas to a single season?
Give to the needy whenever you're able.
Volunteer at a charity at least once a month.

Wish people a good day every day
Sing your favourite Christmas carol just because.
Send cards to let loved ones know you're thinking of them.

Surprise someone now and then with a gift from the heart.
Let that mistletoe hang all year round and use it.
Pray for peace on earth each and every day.

Try to love your fellow human beings even though they're far from perfect.
Give thanks for all the Lord provides.
Keep Jesus first in your heart.

If you can do these things all year long, Christmas never has to end.

PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

O God of new beginnings and wonderful surprises, thank you for the gift of a new year. May it be a time of grace for me, a time to grow in faith and love, a time to renew my commitment to following Your Son, Jesus.

May it be a year of blessing for me, a time to cherish my family and friends, a time to renew my efforts at work, a time to embrace my faith more fully.

Walk with me, please, in every day and every hour of this new year, that the light of Christ might shine through me, in spite of my weaknesses and failings.

Above all, may I remember this year that I am a pilgrim on the sacred path to You. Amen

And Finally . . .

Can you believe that quarter of a Century has passed since in December 1999 we were anticipating the start of a new Millenium with a mixture of hope and some trepidation?

Hope that in the 21st Century the world would be a friendlier and happier place and trepidation with the threat of the 2K bug turning off the world's computer systems with ensuing chaos. Unfortunately, our hope has not materialised but thankfully the 2K bug was a damp squib.

However, as Christians, we look forward to and celebrate once again the birth of Jesus at Christmas with all the hope that he brings.

As this is the last edition of the year it is my pleasure to thank all those who make FORUM possible. I am particularly grateful to **Janet Henderson and Sue Watson** who take my raw material and wizard it into the magazine you see every two months.

Lesley and I wish everyone a Joyful Christmas and, when it comes, a Happy, Peaceful and Healthy 2025.

The next edition of FORUM will cover February and March with the deadline for contributions being **Sunday 19th January**. Please email any items to me at les.jim42@btinternet.com or leave any hard copy items in the FORUM folder in the Church Office. **Jim**

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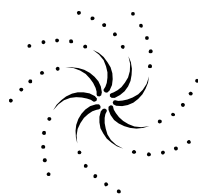
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CHURCH ACTIVITIES AT THE CENTRE

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|-----------|----------------|--|
| MONDAY | 6.00 pm | Girls' Brigade |
| TUESDAY | 10.00 am | Toddler Group |
| | 10.00 am | Knitting Group |
| WEDNESDAY | 6.00 pm | Boys' Brigade Anchor Boys |
| | 6.45 pm | Boys' Brigade Juniors |
| | 7.45 pm | Boys' Brigade Company/Seniors |
| | 7.30 pm | Meeting Point (1 st & 3 rd) |
| FRIDAY | 10.30 am | Welcome Housegroup (1 st) |
| | 10.30 am | Have You Heard Housegroup (2 nd) |
| | 2.00 - 4.00 pm | Memory Change Café (3 rd) |
| SATURDAY | 10.30 am | CAMEO (1 st & 3 rd) |

During the week other groups and organisations run activities at the Centre too. See the noticeboards for information.



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