



# Holy Trinity Church, Old Hill Magazine

Christmas 2013, Issue 44

15th December 2013

## I've mislaid the baby!

That's right. I have. I put him down briefly on the floor. But then I needed to get the shopping in and some of that didn't fit on the table. So I put it on the floor in front of him.

Then my brother popped round: seems there has been another family fall out. We talked for a while. At this point the oldest children came running in very excited. Their favourite film was on. They want to watch it but the music is too loud on the stereo.

Oh, and then a family friend called in to bring some presents. He put them down by the shopping.

Finally, I get a couple of hours to do the work that I had booked in for the day. So I headed out in the van. On my return I pour myself a drink – boy do I deserve it - and watch the match.

It was fairly dull and I must have dozed off.

A couple of hours later my wife came back. She asks me, "where's the baby?"

Apparently, the shopping was making some strange noises during the film.

If parents mislaid their baby it would be serious enough. But at Christmas we're not just talking about any baby, as special as each baby is. We're talking about the Son of God. God loves us so much that he sees us in our mess and sends his eternal Son into the world as one of us to rescue

us for eternity.

In all the busyness of life we easily put this baby down and then everything else just gets in the way. Everything else is more urgent. It is more important. It is more interesting, more exciting.



And then we ask "what is God like; is he there?" But instead of turning to Jesus we say "I don't know" or "I like to think of God as..." **Have you mislaid the baby?**

We ask "what does God want?" But instead of turning to Jesus we say "I don't know..." or "what I think is..." **Have you mislaid the baby?**

We ask "what has God ever done for me?" Instead of turning to Jesus, we say "I don't know" or "not much really." **Have you mislaid the baby?**

We ask "how can I be forgiven?" or "what happens after death?" Instead of turning to Jesus, we say "I don't know" or "here's what I think." **Have you mislaid the baby?**

But the thing is, Jesus didn't stay as a baby. He grew up. He died on the cross. On the cross he took the place of all those who will put their trust in him. He did that so we can be forgiven and brought back into the loving arms of the God who made us. Without Jesus we are lost for eternity, facing eternal wrath rather than eternal love. Ignoring Jesus starts to look somewhat foolish.

*(Continued on page 16)*

## From the Editor

I have been giving some thought, while editing this magazine, to the question “what does Christmas mean to me?”

In most of the things that happen in our house, I tend to play the role of “organiser” and this is certainly the case for Christmas and New Year. I pretty much choose all the gifts, write and post all the cards, wrap the presents, decorate the house, sort out the food and drink, manage the social events, arrange the schedule of visits to friends and family and ensure we are well-prepared when visitors arrive.

But I wouldn't want anyone to think I'm unhappy about this. I really love Christmas time, I enjoy all the preparations and there's always someone at home happy to help if I ask. I'm generally well organised and I plan ahead using my trusty lists, which is just as well because this year I shall be in work right up until around 5pm on Christmas Eve.

So you may be interested to hear about one particular Christmas when I learned an important lesson that has stayed with me ever since. At the time I had a part time job, two school age children and a new baby. I had all my lists ready for Christmas but time was rushing by. And I had arranged to take the children on a canal boat trip to see Santa the Saturday before Christmas, so that was another day I couldn't rely on getting any shopping done. I was starting to feel a bit anxious that I wasn't going to get all the gifts and food on my list.

At the start of the next week, the baby didn't seem very well. She had had a cough which seemed to be worse at night for ages, but now she was off her food, quite sleepy and just not her usual self. That evening, she was very quiet and a bit floppy and my husband and I started to feel anxious. We rang the emergency doctor, who agreed to call round and within a couple of hours the baby had been admitted to hospital, was on a steroid inhaler and admitted to an

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isolation ward. The doctors couldn't be sure but were talking about whooping cough.

It came as quite a shock to find out our baby was dangerously ill. There was no question of leaving her in hospital, so for the next few days I stayed with her 24 hours a day. After two or three days of antibiotics and because she had had her first whooping cough vaccination, she was out of danger but facing a long period of recovery.

And as I sat there in the hospital with my little one in my arms, it occurred to me that it was only a few days to go until Christmas. We hadn't ordered a turkey, there were presents I hadn't got, I'd missed the trip to Santa with the girls, there were people I hadn't seen or given cards to. And the doctors were saying we might be home before Christmas, but they couldn't promise. And that's when I realised, none of that really mattered. It's nice to share these traditions with friends and family, but there is something much more important to get right at Christmas.

As our front page article and our church Christmas card reminds us, Christmas without Christ makes no sense.

Wishing you a peaceful Christmas time.

RF

# OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD – SHOEBOX APPEAL

## From One Community to Another

Operation Christmas Child is the world's largest children's Christmas project, run by the Christian relief and development organisation Samaritan's Purse, headed by Franklin Graham. Their mission is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to needy children around the world, and together with the local church worldwide, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

For 2013 our fellowship has lovingly filled 60 boxes that are now on their journey to Kyrgyzstan, almost by China. Kyrgyzstan, a country where the church is persecuted and yet the shoeboxes are helping to encourage and grow it in ways it had never imagined. THANK YOU!

Samaritan's Purse are passionate about seeing the Gospel transform both individual lives and whole communities. They long to see people restored in their relationship with God and with each other, and for their circumstances to be turned around.

Upon arrival, in-country partners (often the local church) will give out your shoebox to children based on need, regardless of their background or religious beliefs. It's an unconditional gift, asking for nothing in return.

Where appropriate, the church partners may also distribute a little booklet of Bible Stories telling of "**The Greatest Gift**" and invite children to participate in a follow-up programme called **The Greatest Journey**.

Here is an account of how that programme changed a young man's life.

Luis Trevejo Peña is a 13 year old boy in Peru. The day his shoebox arrived 'changed his life'. He describes it as one of the best days of my life, "I have never been so emotional".

Because of his bad behaviour, he had been expelled from school, would get into fights. Before Jesus was in his life he was a rebel.

His shoebox arrived containing, amongst other things, a flannel, scissors, measuring tape and an invitation to start "The Greatest Journey". He started classes, "It helped me to learn about the love of God" he reported. His mother Ricci and his friends noticed a complete change "now he is kind to people and gentle".

One of the teachers, Susanna received a shoebox when she was 14 and later had the opportunity to teach *The Greatest Journey* to the children of her church. Susanna says it not only changes the life of the children but also their families. One father, Victor Becera, said, "I was happy to see my daughter so enthusiastic and share stories from The Greatest Journey. At first it was hard for me to go to church but she said, Papa, Papa". He found the programme very emotional, received a certificate and a New Testament "and that meant a lot because I have never had my own Bible". This gave him a sense of belonging and worth.

Luis, describes his graduation from the course as "one of the best days of my life". "I want to say thank you to Samaritan's Purse. In my life I have decided to be a light in the darkness. Just like I was in the darkness I want to go with the light to those who are lost and I want them to have that light so that they can share it with others as well. We are all on a journey". Where is yours taking you?

Your shoeboxes contain much more than seasonal gifts, they open the way to new life in Christ.

P.S. It was good to hear from Mike and Rachel Hill that they had received shoeboxes whilst serving with OMF International (Cambodia).

**Joan Hughes**

# COFFEE TIME WITH DAVE



## Immanuel is with us

Christmas time is upon us once again and what a unique time it is. Isaiah tells us in chapter 7, verse 14, "the virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel". Immanuel means God with us.

I believe that God travels with us all the time. The bible teaches us that God is love; therefore his desire is to love us all the time. As a consequence of this love we receive his blessings. The blessings can be traced from the Garden of Eden through Abraham to Galatians in the New Testament.

And how do these blessings come upon us? By responding to God in the way he responds to us – through love. Love for God and love for our neighbour.

This Christmas time, I have a suggestion for those of you who find it hard to believe that God is with us. His word tells us that he is light, so every time you see a light, imagine God being there. Be open to letting your faith grow and expand and you will find that the "light" will start to shine in you. Why? Because **Immanuel is with us.**

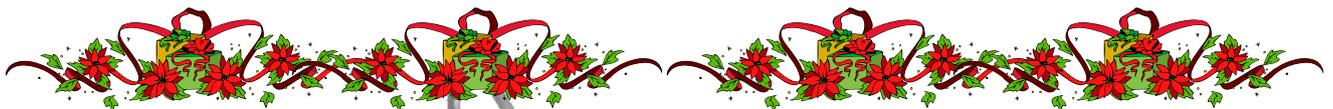
Merry Christmas, Dave Portman

## FLOWERS by GLENDA

I'm sure you will have admired the beautiful displays of flowers at the front of church each week. But do you know how you can get involved in this? If you would like an arrangement in celebration of a special birthday or anniversary or contribute to an arrangement in remembrance of someone, Glenda Jones would love to hear from you. You can add your name to the flower rota at the back of church or

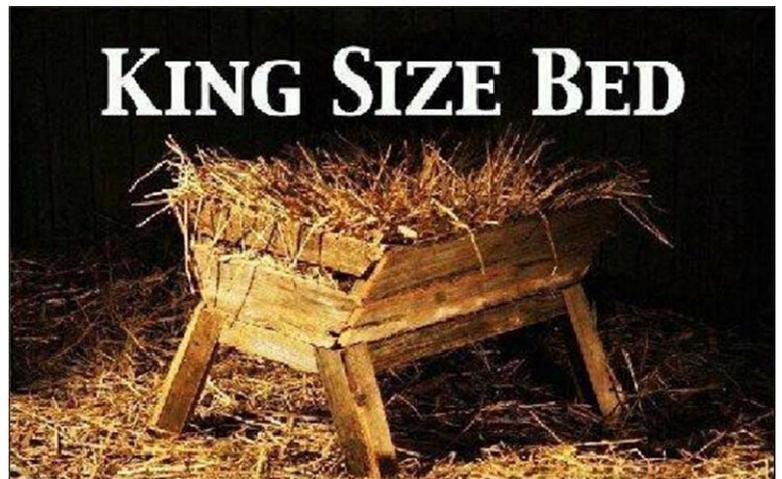
why not have a chat with Glenda? She will try her best to accommodate any requests for particular flowers or colour schemes and is also able to work with you if you wish to provide your own arrangements.

"Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these."  
**Luke 12 v: 27**



**THANK YOU...** to everyone who helped at the lights switch on (Saturday 30th November). We hope the people of Old Hill felt a warm welcome in church and will want to come back again.

Thanks in particular to our friends at Halesowen and Rowley Regis Rotary for sponsoring the lovely tree outside of church. May God bless you all this Christmas.



**The very first king size bed. Thank God for that bed and the baby who slept there! Amen**

## CITY MISSIONS

Here at Holy Trinity we get regular news updates about the work of our local city mission in Birmingham but did you know that London City Mission which was founded in the 1830s by David Naismith has recently celebrated the acquisition of a new chief executive – Graham Millar?



At their recent Thanksgiving Service in September he compared the time when LCM began with the scene today. Then the city was experiencing a massive influx of people moving from countryside to town in pursuit of work.

Recently the city has seen an influx of over 3million newcomers from all over the world -

again in the search for work. The need is still as great today to provide physical and spiritual nourishment to many needy people.

City missionaries set out daily to try to help the needy practically and above all to share the love of the Lord Jesus at the same time.

The “scouser” Graham Miller said of himself, “I’m a jar of clay, and yet our heavenly father puts his treasure in my cracked jar knowing the light of his glorious gospel will shine more brightly through the cracks.”

Report taken from ‘Changing London’ LCM magazine by Philip Adams

## HOLIDAY HUMOUR

Old Hill man Ben Willetts is on his deathbed, and knows the end is near. In the hospital room with him are the nurse, his wife, his daughter and two sons.

He beckons his children to his bedside. "Alan, I want you to take the Lawrence Lane houses."

"Irene, take the flats over in Riddins Mound."

"Ray, I want you to take the offices in Reddal Hill Road."

"And Jean, my dear wife, please take all the residential buildings in Halesowen Road."

The nurse is just amazed by all this, and as Ben slips away, she says, "Mrs Willetts, your husband must have been such a hard working man to have accumulated all this property".

Jean replies, "Property? He doesn't own property, he's got a paper round!"

Q. What is the most important part of your body at Christmas?

A. Your mistletoe

Q. What did Adam say on the day before Christmas?

A. "It's Christmas, Eve."

Q. What do you call a man who claps at Christmas?

A. Santapplause.

Q. What do you say to Santa when he is taking the school register?

A. Present.

Q. Where does Santa go to learn how to slide down the chimney?

A. The chimnasium.



# LAWS OF LIFE

**Law of Mechanical Repair** - After your hands become coated with grease, your nose will begin to itch and you'll need the toilet.

**Law of Gravity** - Any tool, nut, bolt, screw, when dropped, will roll to the least accessible corner.

**Law of Probability** - The probability of being watched is directly proportional to the stupidity of your act.

**Law of Random Numbers** - If you dial a wrong number, you never get a busy signal and someone always answers.

**Supermarket Law** - As soon as you get in the smallest line, the cashier will have to call for help.

**Variation Law** -If you change lines (or traffic lanes), the one you were in will always move faster than the one you are in now.

**Law of the Bath** - When the body is fully immersed in water, the telephone rings.

**Law of Close Encounters**—The probability of meeting someone you know increases dramatically when you are with someone you don't want to be seen with.

**Law of the Result** - When you try to prove to someone that a machine won't work, it will.

**Law of Bio mechanics** -The severity of the itch is inversely proportional to the reach.

**Law of the Theatre & Football Ground** - At any event, the people whose seats are furthest from the aisle, always arrive last. They are the ones who will leave their seats several times to go for food, drinks or the toilet and who leave early before the end of the

performance or the game is over. The folks in the aisle seats come early, never move once, have long gangly legs or big bellies and stay to the bitter end of the performance. The aisle people are also very surly folk.

**The Coffee Law** - As soon as you sit down to a cup of hot coffee, your boss will ask you to do something which will last until the coffee is cold.

**Murphy's Law of Lockers** - If there are only 2 people in a locker room, they will have adjacent lockers.

**Law of Physical Surfaces**- The chances of an open-faced jam sandwich landing face down on a floor, are directly correlated to the newness and cost of the carpet or rug.

**Law of Logical Argument**—Anything is possible if you don't know what you are talking about.

**Brown's Law of Physical Appearance** - If the clothes fit, they're ugly.

**Oliver's Law of Public Speaking**- A closed mouth gathers no feet.

**Wilson's Law of Commercial Marketing Strategy** - As soon as you find a product that you really like, they will stop making it.

**Doctors' Law** - If you don't feel well, make an appointment to go to the doctor, by the time you get there you'll feel better... But don't make an appointment, and you'll stay sick. This has been proven over and over with taking children to the doctors.

With thanks to Michael Brown



# HOW CLEVER ARE YOU?

Here is a quiz for the whole family to share over Christmas. But who has done the best? Mom or Dad? Grandma or Granddad? Or one of the children? And no cheating, the answers are on page 11.

1. You're in a race and you overtake third place. What position are you in?  
**A. Second**  
**B. Third**  
**C. Fourth**
2. If you re-arrange the letters CIFAIPC you will get the name of a kind of what?  
**A. Country**  
**B. Animal**  
**C. City**  
**D. Ocean**  
**E. River**
3. If you only have one match inside a matchbox and enter a cold, dark room, in which there's an oil heater, an oil lamp and a candle, which do you light first?
4. Which one of these five is least like the other four?  
**A. Painting**  
**B. Statue**  
**C. Novel**  
**D. Flower**  
**E. Poem**
5. You drive a bus from Cheltenham with 43 people on board. You stop at Cardiff to pick up seven more people and drop off five passengers. At Edinburgh you drop off three passengers and pick up four more and eventually arrive at York 20 hours later. What's the name of the driver?
6. Complete the sequence: A, Z, B, Y, C, X, D, W, E . . . ?  
**A. Q**  
**B. H**  
**C. V**  
**D. F**
7. The day before the day before yesterday is three days after Saturday. What day is it today?  
**A. Monday**  
**B. Tuesday**  
**C. Wednesday**  
**D. Thursday**  
**E. Friday**
8. People climb me, cut me and burn me. My rings aren't made of gold but do tell my age. What am I?
9. There are thirty-nine letters in this sentence.  
**A. True**  
**B. False**  
**C. Impossible to say**
10. If a doctor gives you three pills and tells you to take a pill immediately and another every half an hour, how long is it before all the pills are taken?
11. People is to Democracy as Wealthy is to . . .  
**A. Oligarchy**  
**B. Plutocracy**  
**C. Monarchy**
12. The letters in the word ABOUT are in alphabetical order.  
**A True**  
**B False**
13. Although I may have eyes, I cannot see. At one time there was a lack of me in Ireland, and people starved to death. What am I?
14. Which word does not belong?  
**A. Apple**  
**B. Marmalade**  
**C. Orange**  
**D. Cherry**  
**E. Grape**

(Continued on page 8)

15. Mary's father has five daughters: 1. Susan 2. Alice 3. Georgia 4. Tatiana. What is the fifth daughter's name?
16. Some say I'm rock. Some say I'm cheese and I lift and drop the sea. What am I?
17. Donald and Regan are married with four children, called Michael, Farley, Solomon and Larry. They've just had a baby girl and are picking the name. The choices are Tiffany and Allegra. Donald's brother, a piano teacher, tells them only one name would be correct if they want to follow the family tradition. Which name is it?
18. I am an insect, and the first half of my name is another insect. A famous pop group had a name similar to mine. What am I?
19. What is the similarity between '2 + 2 = 5' and your left hand?
20. How can you make the number seven even?
21. I am a married woman. John's son is my daughter's father. What is my relationship to John?
22. Two people were in a house. No one came in or went out, but then there were three people. What happened?
23. Which word is always spelled wrong?
24. A man walked through the woods with his dog and saw three cats, six wolf cubs, seven rabbits and 13 squirrels. How many feet were there in total?
25. Which members of your family are defined by the crossword clue —  
Lainws?
26. A farmer had 17 sheep. All but nine died. How many live sheep does he have left?
27. An electric train is travelling on a 200-mile journey from Swansea. It has 12 cars with a total of 230 passengers. The weather is overcast and damp, with a warm front approaching from the north. Which direction will the steam blow?
28. How might an American translate the phrase 'H2O autumn'.
29. David makes a bet with Sally that she can choose any name under the sun and he will use it in a song she will recognise, with the original lyrics. Sally doesn't believe he can do it, takes him up on the bet — and loses. What song did David sing to win?
30. How much earth is there in a hole that measures two feet by three feet by four feet?
31. A man sees a snake slithering across the road and swerves to crush it with his tyres. All the street lights were off, as well as the car's headlights. There were no other lights on along the road. How did the man see the snake?
32. There's a red bungalow on a red street with red walls, tables and chairs. What colour is the staircase?

## "QUIET MORNING" at HOLY TRINITY

Pastoral Care Action Group invites you to a **"Quiet Morning"** to be held on **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2014 from 9.30 am – 12.00 noon, in the Church Centre.**

This is the last Saturday before Lent and spending time with our God in quiet is a good way to

begin our Lenten times of reflection and meditation.

For more information speak to Yvonne Binder Tel: 01215597376 or email at [yvonnebinder@gmail.com](mailto:yvonnebinder@gmail.com)



# Out of the mouths of babes ...

A child was asked to write a book report on the entire Bible. Here is what was written:

## The Children's Bible In A Nutshell

In the beginning, which occurred near the start, there was nothing but God, darkness, and some gas. The Bible says, 'The Lord thy God is one,' but I think He must be a lot older than that. Anyway, God said, 'Give me a light!' and someone did. Then God made the world. He split the Adam and made Eve. Adam and Eve were naked, but they weren't embarrassed because mirrors hadn't been invented yet. Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating one bad apple, so they were driven from the Garden Of Eden ..... Not sure what they were driven in though, because they didn't have cars yet.

Adam and Eve had a son, Cain, who hated his brother as long as he was Abel. Pretty soon all of the early people died off, except for Methuselah, who lived to be like a million or something. One of the next important people was Noah, who was a good guy, but one of his kids was kind of a Ham.

Noah built a large boat and put his family and some animals on it. He asked some other people to join him, but they said they would have to take a rain check. After Noah came Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Jacob was more famous than his brother, Esau, Because Esau sold Jacob his birthmark in exchange for some pot roast. Jacob had a son named Joseph, who wore a really loud sports coat.

Another important bible guy is Moses, whose real name was Charlton Heston. Moses led the Israel lights out of Egypt and away from the evil Pharaoh after God sent ten plagues on Pharaoh's people. These plagues included frogs, mice, lice, bowels, and no cable.

God fed the Israel lights every day with manicotti. Then he gave them his top ten commandments. These include: don't lie, cheat, smoke, dance, or

covet your neighbour's stuff. Oh, yeah, I just thought of one more: Humour thy father and thy Mother. One of Moses' best helpers was Joshua who was the first bible guy to use spies. Joshua fought the battle of Jerry can and the fence fell over on the town.

After Joshua came David. He got to be king by killing a giant with a slingshot. He had a son named Solomon who had about 300 wives and 500 porcupines. My teacher says he was wise, but that doesn't sound very wise to me. After Solomon there were a bunch of major league prophets. One of these was Jonah, who was swallowed by a big whale and then barfed up on the shore.

There were also some minor league prophets, but I guess we don't have to worry about them. After the Old Testament came the New Testament.

Jesus is the star of The New Testament. He was born in Bethlehem in a barn. (I wish I had been born in a barn too, because my mom is always saying to me, 'Close the door! Were you born in a barn?' It would be nice to be able to say, 'As a matter of fact, I was.')

During His life, Jesus had many arguments with sinners like the Pharisees and the Republicans. Jesus also had twelve opossums. The worst one was Judas Asparagus. Judas was so evil that they named a terrible vegetable after him.

Jesus was a great man. He healed many leopards And even preached to some Germans on the Mount. But the Republicans and all those guys put Jesus on trial before Pontius the Pilot. Pilot didn't stick up for Jesus. He just washed his hands instead.

Anyways, Jesus died for our sins, then came back to life again. He went up to Heaven but will be back at the end of the Aluminum. His return is foretold In the book of Revolution.



# HOW CLEVER ARE YOU? ANSWERS

1. B, Third.
2. D, Pacific Ocean.
3. The match.
4. D, Flower is the only object that isn't man-made.
5. Whatever your name is.
6. C, V.
7. E, Friday.
8. A tree.
9. A, True.
10. An hour.
11. B, Plutocracy.
12. B, False.
13. Potato.
14. B, Marmalade.
15. Mary.
16. The Moon.
17. Tiffany. All the names' first syllables fit into the song, 'Do-Re-Mi'.
18. A beetle.
19. Neither is right. Two plus two equals five isn't right, or correct, and your left hand is not your right.

20. Take the ' away.
  21. Daughter-in-law.
  22. A baby was born.
  23. The word 'wrong'.
  24. Two — the rest have paws.
  25. Your in-laws.
  26. Nine sheep.
  27. There isn't any steam — it's an electric train.
  28. Waterfall.
  29. Happy Birthday.
  30. None — it was a hole.
  31. It was during the day.
  32. It was a bungalow, no staircase.
- HOW DID YOU DO?**
- 22-32 correct answers: Congratulations, Superbrain — your IQ is off the charts. You are among the chosen few, destined for a stellar career and blessed with a stellar intellect.
- 12-21: Not to worry. You are a mere mortal, much like the rest of us. Not stupid, but not a intellectual powerhouse either.
- 0-11: Don't be disappointed; maybe you'll do better next time.



# MUSIC MATTERS

If you are like me then music does matter and is a daily help and encouragement to accompany the ups and downs of everyday life. It is good too, to share conversation from time to time with others in church for whom music is such a joy. So in the spirit of sharing can I tell you about one of the musical delights we can share locally?

Paul Carr, an internationally acclaimed organist, who is a local Black Country 'lad', gives recitals every month at Holy Trinity Parish Church, Wordsley. Until five years ago he performed at Graingers Lane Methodist - but the church was demolished and his organ sold to China! Not daunted he has decamped to Wordsley and you

can hear him on the first Sunday of every month at 3pm.

The programme for 2014 is very varied with a different theme every month with such delights as French Flavours (5<sup>th</sup> January): Chicago Concerts Selection (4<sup>th</sup> May): Handel with Care (6<sup>th</sup> July): Pomp and Circumstance (7<sup>th</sup> September): The World Awaiting the Saviour (2<sup>nd</sup> November).

Do go and hear our local international star – well worth the effort- and the recitals are free. For more see [www.paulcarr.co.uk](http://www.paulcarr.co.uk)



## What Christmas means to me

### Christmas

A season of reflection, upon memories made over the year gone, and curiosity of what will come. A season for sharing and caring with family, and friends some yet to be made, at church, home, in the pub and beyond.

A moment in God's time to remember the greatest gift we receive, his only Son, a bundle of love for everyone

### Maurice Broughton Mills



*When we have  
nothing left but  
God, we discover  
that God is enough.*

Look at the candy canes, what can you see?  
Stripes that are red like the blood shed for me.  
White for my Saviour who is sinless and pure.  
"J" is for Jesus my Lord, that's for sure.  
Turn it around and a staff you will see.  
Jesus my shepherd is coming for me.

### Joy Wellings



# FORTHCOMING EVENTS



## Children's Carol Service

**10:45 am**  
**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December**  
**Holy Trinity Church**  
**Old Hill**

Come dressed up to take part in the nativity (optional)  
 Under 5yrs - a sheep  
 5-9yrs – shepherds or angels  
 10+yrs – a wise man

More details: Church Office 01384 411592  
 The Children's Carol Service is a lively and relaxed contemporary service with an age-appropriate mix of traditional and modern carols




# Help! I'm a parent!

Holy Trinity Church, Old Hill

<b>Monday evenings</b> <b>7:30pm – 8:45pm</b>		<b>Tuesday afternoons</b> <b>1:00pm – 2:15pm</b>
13 <sup>th</sup> January		14 <sup>th</sup> January
20 <sup>th</sup> January		21 <sup>st</sup> January
27 <sup>th</sup> January		28 <sup>th</sup> January
3 <sup>rd</sup> February	<b>You want the best for your children?</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> February
10 <sup>th</sup> February		11 <sup>th</sup> February
24 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>Explore how the Christian faith helps us be better parents to our kids.</b>	25 <sup>th</sup> February
3 <sup>rd</sup> March		4 <sup>th</sup> March

To book, contact: Irene Portman, 01384 411592  
 or [htohbookings@gmail.com](mailto:htohbookings@gmail.com)



# Len's Life

When I left you last time, I had just gone in to a new relationship. Let me first explain how this happened and the details surrounding it. When my first marriage ended, I once again lost the plot and traded in my Morris 1000 Estate for a Mk 2 Jaguar, which I really couldn't afford but what a new toy!



I was a manager of a small Gas Showroom in a little country town and in order for me to be able to take holidays, a relief from one of the big showrooms took over. On this one occasion after getting the Jag, my relief turned out to be a young lady, a divorcee with two children. I now know that this relationship grew because of the Jag. However, things progressed and she and I eventually got married.

We found a Minister of a local Congregational Church who was prepared to marry us even though we were both divorced, albeit innocent parties. My mother paid for a wedding reception for us and everything seemed to be fine. The flat was eventually sold and we managed to get a company flat over a showroom in Gillingham. My wife then went to work for a private gas installer and things still seemed to be going well. However, the Jag had been sold and replaced with a Mini Estate. Not quite the same!



We had taken a friend in with us in the rented flat and for a while all went well. However, the atmosphere between my wife and myself began to deteriorate although at the time I failed to see the warning signs. In 1971 my mother sadly passed away suddenly and my time was taken up with dealing with her affairs. At this time also, I had a big falling out with my brother, who, being in the Royal Air Force, was out of the country

most of the time but expected me to be able to do everything required. A water pipe burst in my mother's house and the place flooded, together with the furniture still there. The house had to be dried out and completely redecorated before being sold and again this was left to me to deal with.

However, just before the flood, on January 1<sup>st</sup> 1971, I arrived home from work to find the flat almost empty, with just the furniture which I had already owned left behind. The note left for me said that my wife had gone to live with her boss. Happy New Year Len. What really upset me most, however, was that this man's was still married and his wife was very sick. Our marriage had lasted 1 year 11 months.

Eventually, my mother's estate was settled and all the provisions of her will dealt with. I treated myself to a new car and refurnished the flat. It was at this time that I tracked down the new home of the Medway Towns Branch of the Royal Air Forces Association and found that many of my friends were still alive and members and once more threw myself into a regular drinking habit. I was asked if I would become Entertainments Officer and took over this responsibility, booking bands etc. It was at this time that I started singing again, and one of the bands which I had booked heard me sing and offered me a job with them. But then that's the start of another part of my story.

Until next time, with Every Blessing for Christmas and the New Year.

Len

# Keep A Child Warm



Last summer was a first for Holy Trinity Church – its first public leg wax! Friends and church, managed to raise £692 for the charity

Operation Orphan who are working with orphans and vulnerable children in Eastern Europe to ensure that they are kept warm during extremely cold winters.

In October, I had the opportunity to travel to Romania to distribute winter kits in some of the orphanages supported by the charity. Each winter kit contained a warm coat, a hat, gloves and a scarf – clothing that will come in very useful now winter has set in.

The 10-day expedition was split into two halves. The first half was spent in the towns of Tap and Gyor, both in Hungary. The second half of the expedition was focused in the city of Salonta, in the Transylvanian region of Romania.

The first few days in Tap were really special. The team were warmly welcomed into the community. According to the newspaper article in Gyor, over 1000 people received warm winter coats and clothes in this small region. The Mayor, Szilvia Farkas, was incredibly kind and hospitable to the team out there.

Another blessing in Gyor was the opportunity to come alongside a missionary working with the evangelical church out there. He has faithfully worked in this region for the past decade and has seen very little fruit. Half of the community came out to hear about the work the charity is doing. Team members were able to share their testimonies and the gospel was preached. This event has had a great impact in a community once so hardened to the gospel. Many people gave their lives to Christ and regular bible studies have been set-up! Please continue to pray into this.

Together with 5 other people, I joined the team in Salonta, Romania. During this part of the expedition we were based at an orphanage about 10 miles from the Hungarian border. In the time I had to explore the community it was obvious that this is a complex country. Poverty, prostitution, the after-effect of communism, past wars and the Roma mafia are all instantly visible.

The purpose of us being at the orphanage was to distribute winter clothing and host a fun day for other orphanages to attend. In total there were around 150 orphans able to make it. The children enjoyed the experience so much; they have apparently not stopped talking about it since we left. The balloon crafting, face-painting, hair-braiding, bracelet making, duck fishing, beanbag throwing, football, hoops and skittles went down an absolute treat. Over two days I played what felt like an endless game of football!

Even though we didn't speak their language – the one thing we could certainly understand were the smiles on their faces, warming our hearts.

The hardest thing for me was hearing some of the tragic stories these orphans have already lived through. One boy was living feral and could only make animal noises before he was rescued. Another 15 year-old boy, who had the most incredible character, had witnessed his own father murder his mother when he was 5 years old. These stories really broke me and it was humbling to be able to pray for these children and into their situations.

Coming home has left me with a range of emotions to process. It was such a great trip and we saw so much, experienced so many things and left behind gifts of clothing as well as lasting, happy memories.

You can find out more about the work of Operation Orphan from their website - [www.operation-orphan.org](http://www.operation-orphan.org)

**Jon Hughes**



We are here to take the love of Jesus in actions and words to all people

## MAGAZINE DEADLINES AND PUBLICATION DATES

### Easter Edition

Deadline for copy **30<sup>th</sup> March 2014**  
Publication date **13<sup>th</sup> April 2014**

### Summer Edition

Deadline for copy **6<sup>th</sup> July 2014**  
Publication date **20<sup>th</sup> July 2014**

### Harvest Edition

Deadline for copy **21<sup>st</sup> September 2014**  
Publication date **5<sup>th</sup> October 2014**

### Christmas Edition

Deadline for copy **30<sup>th</sup> November 2014**  
Publication date **14<sup>th</sup> December 2013**

Annual Subscription £2. See Rachel Ford.



The church at the heart of the community

We're on the web  
[www.holytrinity.org.uk](http://www.holytrinity.org.uk)

For details of Services and Regular Activities at Holy Trinity Church, Old Hill, see back cover.

## Christians in Sport

Once again for those of us who love sport, we are living in some exciting times.

For instance the O.T. Tennis Championship held in London was a fantastic event with some wonderful tennis played by top seeds. Hopefully, Andy Murray will be back in the new year after his back operation and it would be great to see Laura Robson challenging for some of the top tournaments especially now she has her new coaches.

In boxing the Carl Froch and George Groves fight was awesome. Hopefully they will have a re-match. And look out for the English boxer, Anthony Joshua. He won gold at the Olympics and then turned professional. He is a quality boxer who could perhaps, one day, become world champion.

Phil Taylor, the greatest darts player ever, just

keeps on winning. He won £100,000 at the recent Wolverhampton Civic Hall Tournament playing darts that were just "out of this world".

In football it is great news that England have qualified for the World Cup in Brazil. In domestic football we have already seen some wonderful goals and with the Premier League being so "open" this year it looks like we will have a great season ahead of us.

Our God does give people some wonderful gifts that we, the spectators, can enjoy and admire. However, God's greatest gift to us all is his son, Jesus. Please don't be a spectator with your Christian faith.

Come to church over Christmas and give God your public worship and praise. You will be given a very warm welcome and you might get an extra, small gift at the end in the shape of a mince pie!

Happy Christmas, Dave Portman

**Services and Regular Activities**  
**During holiday times, please check with group leaders which**  
**weekday activities are taking place.**

**Sunday Services**

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday**

10:45 a.m. Family Service  
 6:30 p.m. Evening Prayer

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday**

10:45 a.m. Morning Worship\* and  
 Holy Communion  
 6:30 p.m. Evening Prayer

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday**

10:45 a.m. Morning Worship\*  
 6:30 p.m. Holy Communion

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday**

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer  
 10:45 a.m. Morning Worship\*  
 6:30 p.m. Hungry for God

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday**

10:45 a.m. Morning Worship\*  
 6:30 p.m. Evening Prayer

\*With Junior church, young people's groups  
 and FROGGIES for pre school children.

**Tuesday**

1:15 – 3:00 p.m. Tots Are Us  
 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Tuesday Club  
 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Bell ringing



**Wednesday**

9 - 11:00 a.m. Tots Are Us

**Thursday**

9.00—11.30 a.m. Coffee and  
 Crafts (Addenbrook Court)  
 11:30 a.m. Midweek worship fol-  
 lowed by lunch  
 7.15—8.45 p.m. TNT youth group

**Friday**

9 – 11:00 a.m. Tots Are Us

**Saturday**

9:30 – 10:00 a.m. Prayer Meeting

**Every weekday**

8:30 and 11 a.m. Prayer  
 8.30 a.m.– 1 p.m. Open Door

**Marriage and Baptism enquiries**

Tuesday evenings from 7:15-8:30 p.m.

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And then Jesus was raised from the dead. He is now seated on the throne of the universe. One day he is coming back in great power to judge the world.

He might not be making strange noises from behind the shopping at the moment. But now is the time to find him. And don't just give him a nod this Christmas and then pack him away with the decorations. Truly turn to him. Realise how you have treated him. Say sorry. Ask him to

forgive you. Give your life back to him and commit to live with him in charge. Do it now. When he returns, it will be too late.

Nick Gowers

**CHRISTMAS AT HOLY TRINITY 2013**

**Sunday 22nd December**

**10.45 am** All Age Nativity Carol Service (see page 12)

**6.30 pm** Carols by Candlelight

**Tuesday 24th December**

**8.30 pm** Christmas Eve Holy Communion

**Wednesday 25th December**

**8.30 am** Christmas Day Holy Communion

**10.45 am** All Age Worship

**(Bring along your favourite present)**