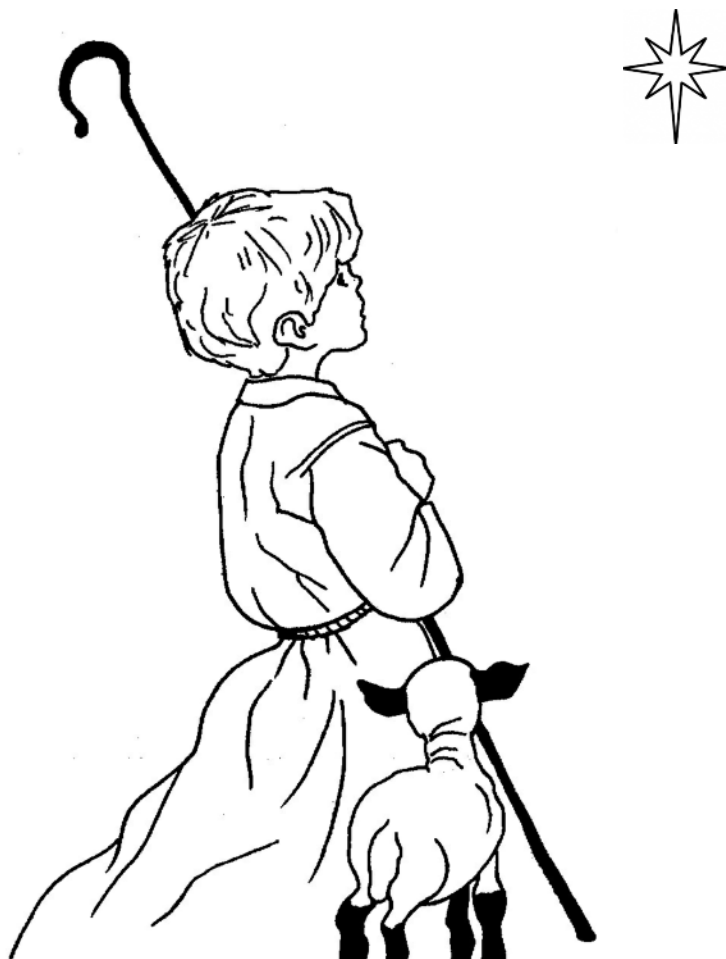


Rejoice



December 2017 - February 2018

South Molton and Ringsash Methodist Circuit Magazine

South Molton and Ringsash Methodist Circuit

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The 'Temporary' Rejoice Team

With apologies for any error (there may well be plenty) we were more concerned to get it out in time.

If we find ourselves doing it again - we will try harder!

Anita Vellacott
Rose Courtney
Martin Hickman



Circuit Website: **www.smandrcircuit.co.uk**

The articles in this magazine are submitted by individuals and are not necessarily the views of the Methodist Church

Dear Friends,

Roy Wood was singing 'I wish it could be Christmas every day' in the Queens Theatre. He did say, 'you can always sing about Christmas' but it was mid-November! 'Turkey and Tinsel' holidays virtually all year round. Christmas decorations up at the end of November lifting the spirits. And I will guarantee that someone will tell me how many days it is to Christmas as we enter January!

Does the longing after the Christmas season tell us something about life for many people? Life without Christmas would be missing something important – perhaps this should tell all of us that Christmas is special.

I believe that the birth of Jesus makes a difference to my life and it should make a difference to everyone's life. Christmas is one of the seasons that demonstrates the love of God in action to the whole world in every time.

Through the birth of Jesus, God comes among us, he moves into the neighbourhood, and, for a while, pitches his tent amongst us. This to show God's love for a world that lost its way and, even today, still struggles to find the way. Through Jesus all can find salvation, forgiveness, God's mercy and love – now that is worth celebrating and proclaiming. It makes a difference to life if we let it change us into the people God wants us to be.

We celebrate this gift of God's love by sharing love with each other, through cards and presents; we share love wider through gifts to charities; we seek peace and offer forgiveness. Now I am starting to 'wish it could be Christmas every day'! wouldn't it be great if this sharing continued on and didn't finish on Boxing Day?

The singer/songwriter and Scottish worship leader, Ian White, sees the opportunities that Christmas offers encouraging us not just to seek Christmas but to also 'walk in the Spirit of Christmas Day'. I leave you to reflect on his words whilst wishing you a merry Christmas and expressing the hope that the spirit of Christmas will be with you all the year round.

Stuart

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| 1 | There's so much love in heaven and earth,
it can heal the hate, it can bring new birth,
for near is the word and clear is the way,
come on and walk in the spirit of Christmas Day. | 2 | Now the autumn gold has faded away,
but the hearth is warm come on out of the day,
there's a heart of love that is longing to save,
come on walk in the spirit of Christmas Day. |
| 3 | We follow the star as we walk through the snow,
sometimes you can feel all alone,
but I don't mind walking the loneliest road,
if it leads to the place where my heart finds a home | 4 | There's so much love in heaven and earth,
God has sent his son, let's celebrate his birth,
for he is the word and he's mighty to save,
come on and walk in the spirit of Christmas Day. |
| 5 | So many faces and so far to go,
sometimes you can feel all alone,
but I don't mind waiting, I'll soon be on board,
back to the place where my heart finds a home. | 6 | There's so much love in heaven and earth,
God has sent his son, let's celebrate his birth,
for he is the word and he's mighty to save,
come on and walk in the spirit of Christmas Day. |

Ian White © Little Misty Music

Comment

It would be unforgivable to get stuck into this somewhat limited edition of *Rejoice* without first thanking the person who made the magazine what it is today. Helen reminded us in the previous edition that she had been Editor of *Rejoice* for fifteen years. The number of editions per year has varied over the years, but the total number of issues produced must be around sixty which is huge level of commitment over an extended period and an example of a service to the Circuit second to none. Put that alongside Helen's desire for the highest standards – second best was not in her vocabulary and the commitment becomes even greater.

We are, of course, sad that Helen has moved away from the Circuit but we understand the reasons and hope that the relocation will mark a new and happy chapter in her life. It is just over an hour's journey so not just around the corner, to keep 'dropping in', but not a prohibitive distance.

Helen, we do sincerely thank you for all you have done and wish you every blessing in your new life and pray that God will richly bless you and your life in your new Church and Circuit.

MH

And what now for *Rejoice*?

The magazine and its future are now the subject of ongoing discussion as it is an integral part of the infrastructure of the Circuit. Knowing that she would be moving at some time, Helen has, on several occasions, sought an understudy but with no results. It may be that there is someone who would enjoy taking it on but has been worried about trying to follow in Helen's footsteps. The important thing in these situations is to realise that however successful a project has been there are always changes in style, emphasis or direction that can mark out the change in "ownership" to that of a new Editor without, in any way, detracting from, or being in competition with, what has gone before.

So, if someone is having thoughts in this direction then now is the time to ask. If you are interested then if I can in any way help in giving information, explaining what is involved, providing software, offering tuition or support, I would be pleased to do so and all without any commitment by the enquirer.

This somewhat rushed edition is nothing like as 'pretty' as Helen's but has been done to get information concerning Christmas activities out in time.

If it turns out that nobody wants to take on the Editor's role then we will think again and circulate other possible solutions for discussion. At least we have a little time before the next edition. So, if you are an embryonic editor waiting to hatch, please do speak to Stuart or me about it soon – this is still the best and hoped for solution!

Thanks – in anticipation.

Martin Hickman

From Then to Now as I Pack and Remember!



I knew that the move would be swift as soon as the ball started rolling, but it still took me by surprise! Packing up has been a bitter-sweet experience. I have wanted to thin out our possessions for some years now, so it has been good to do so, but I still had moments when I ummed and ahed over things! A lot has memories attached and I think it was that rather than any possible future need that caused the indecision.

Any thinking back over the last 31 years has to start with the painful loss of Richard's twin brother, Matthew, who died just two weeks after we moved in, but it goes on with smiles, laughter, tears, faith and encouragement as Richard grew up into a fine man of God and I also changed with the years. As we leave now, I am a Local Preacher and Richard is in training to become one - I attribute the path our lives have taken not just to God, but also to years of attending *New Wine*, but especially to the solid, loving encouragement of our spiritual family in North Molton and the rest of the Circuit.

At the Shoebox Service I was surprised with a shoebox of my own and as I rifled through it, I was delighted with the contents. My pleasure was not just because of the gifts it contained, but because they showed just how much my spiritual family know me. As just one example of this - over the years I have made many people in many chapels shiver with cold just to see me in a T-shirt when they were bundled up in various layers; this image came to mind when I found a hand-held fan in my box! (I would love to comment on each thing in there, but there just isn't the space!)

While the contents of the box had me smiling, one item gave me a laugh of delight. It was a tiny pad of paper with the words on the poster which has been in my stairway for over 30 years - *Help me to remember, Lord, that nothing's gonna happen today that you and me can't handle together.* - proof positive that someone remembered at least one sermon over the years! This is the promise that I have clung to many, many times during my life, and fully intend to hang on to as I step into the future.

Helen



Burrington Report

The Coffee Break speaker for September was David Worden who told us of his life from childhood to today. The October speaker was Mrs Heather Castle who used the word 'REMEMBER' as her theme. Freedom Centre in November gave us an insight into the poverty and homelessness in Barnstaple. A Bring and Buy stall raised much needed money to help them.

Our Harvest Celebrations were led by Barry Searle and the service was well attended. A concert on Sunday evening, given by the Newton St Petrock Male Voice Choir was enjoyed by all who heard their inspiring singing.

A Summer Tea Party was held in late August for Marie Curie cancer nursing charity. The sum of £375 was raised for their work.

From the more recent Macmillan Nurses' Coffee Morning the sum of £150 was sent by the Wednesday Coffee Group.

Wednesday Night Specials - these resumed in October when Dr Luc van Damme gave an interesting talk on the growth of M A F - the Mission Aviation Fellowship. In November Mr McKinnell shared with us the process of wine making in Winkleigh.

The Methodist Insurance Company's Community Awards - a competition inviting Chapels across the country to submit an account of the work done by the Chapel for the community was entered by The Wednesday Coffee Group. We were one of the six finalists guaranteed a prize of £1000 and were invited to London in November when a small group from the Chapel attended a lunch at Westminster Methodist Central Hall for the presentation, at which an overall winner was announced. Our entry won and Paul and Sue accompanied by friends, were presented with a cheque for £5000.

This coffee morning is still well attended and the fellowship seems to grow each time we meet. (Must be the cake and chocolate biscuits!)

Lorna Ward

Burrington Methodist Church Coffee Morning Award

6.30 am and off we went
Three Burrington ladies, and one Burrington gent
To catch the train to London city
Then return home and compose this ditty

The onward journey went very well
On the excitement ahead, we dared not dwell
To win £1000, or the best prize of all
Which would we win, how would the dice fall?

We arrived quite early, and mingled in
With others all waiting, to see who would win
Some photos were taken, then the lunch call was heard
And off we went, it all feeling a little absurd.

The tables were set for groups of eight
The four of us, and the good and the great
Methodist recorder reps, ministers and other elite
Sitting patiently, all waiting to eat.

The food they served was a welcome sight
We finished it all, every single bite
But the finishing touch was the clotted cream
For us from Devon, the ultimate dream

Award time arrived, and all was hushed
One by one announced, no one was rushed
We were the last to be called to accept the prize
We had the £5000, we could not contain our surprise.

More photos, more poses, more applause
Congratulations for the work of our cause
A small community, but with a big heart
But it's the support we've been given right from the start.

A taxi ride followed, for a tour of the town
Our excitement at winning, we could not hold down
We laughed and we chatted and saw all the sights
And as evening approached we saw all the lights.

But back at the station, the best bit of all
Busby wearing bandsmen, suddenly entered the hall
To serenade us with music as we waited for our train
Our patience for waiting had not been in vain.

We had seen Marble Arch, and the London Eye
Big Ben, and The Shard reaching up to the sky
Now homeward bound with the cheque in the bag
And a poem completed to put in the magi

Rosella Turner



**Congratulations to Burrington on pulling off this
National Award - Brilliant!**

Zion Ashreigney

Our closing service was a wonderful success. An event with mixed emotions for many, but it really gave us a tremendous boost, to see so many people there, and to hear so much positive feedback as we chatted over the bring and share tea. The tea itself was a 'feeding of the 5000 event'!

So many people brought so much food, that there wasn't exactly 12 baskets leftover but it did remind us of that Bible story.

We have had our first meeting in the village hall, led by Rev Verity, which went well. Our heads are already working overtime as we keep thinking of ways to make it even better. We may be small in number but we are big in getting together with ideas to make our new challenging way of worship work, not only for us, but for anyone who might join us.

A relative of ours, who suffers with the dwarfism gene, reminded us that, what God kept back in stature, he made up for in inspiration, and we think that is something we should hold on to, as a small group of worshipping Christians.



We will be holding our annual Nativity service in the hall this time, with no stable to utilise. We will meet at 6.45pm on Monday December 11th, and weather permitting will walk around the village prior to the carols and readings in the hall. Children will be invited to dress as angels, shepherds or wise men (suitable garments provided). This year there will also be the opportunity to be Mary or Joseph.

Refreshments will follow. Donations for Action for Children will be gratefully received.

On January 6th, we are holding our annual Old Christmas Day concert, given by the Iddesleigh singers and the Hooper family. Start time 7.30 pm Supper to follow.

A warm welcome awaits all who come to share in our services or events.

Rosella Turner

Brayford

The year 2017 is almost gone, just another month, how the time has flown and many things seem to have happened. We now have the new doors for our school room, and it has made such a difference to the school room, no more draughts or wet floor in the porch when the wind is blowing from the west.

Those who attended our 'Café Church Breakfast Fellowship' did enjoy and appreciate the cooks' bacon butties and tea and toast, and we were grateful for Stuart's leading. He had to leave fairly quickly in order to take more services, so after clearing away we were able to go home, having had a different, but enjoyable time.



The Harvest Festival was fairly well attended. Martin Hickman, our preacher, gave us a 'well-up-to-date' address which gave us a lot to think about.

A packed chapel and half the school room enjoyed a super concert by the Newton St. Petrock Choir Male Voice Choir but with the added bonus of some ladies as well, all followed by a well supplied, free supper at the end. Proceeds were for our Church Gift Evening Funds for the upkeep of the building. Thank you to all who gave so generously.

It was a very rough morning for the Remembrance Service at High Bray Church but quite a good number stood and braved it out; we were glad to move into the warm Church after the ceremony for the Remembrance Service led by Chris Whinney.

On Christmas Sunday 24th December, our speaker will be Mrs S. Collier for a 'Carol Service' at 11.15 am. On the 31st Rev. V. Phillips will lead the service which will include the Sacrament.

KingsNympton

Our Harvest Festival Celebrations were led on Sunday by Melvyn Britten and the Supper on Monday evening was opened with a short service by Revd. Innalls. The evening raised just over £1000 for chapel funds.

A Concert by The Exeter Male Voice Praise was held in October. This was an uplifting evening and we look forward to them visiting us again.

Our lack of working chapel heaters and organ has now been resolved. We are extremely grateful to those who came to our aid, especially with the organ. A Christmas Coffee Morning will be held in the chapel Schoolroom on Saturday 2nd December 10-12 noon. Bring & Buy stall and competition, in aid of Action for Children (previously: National Children's Homes).

We wish you all a joyous Christmas and happy New Year.

Dates for your diary -

The Stowford Meadow Singers are to give a Concert at KingsNympton Chapel on Good Friday Evening 30th March 2018 at 7.30pm.

An Evening in KingsNympton Parish Hall with Entertainment by The Harmony Four on Friday 25th May 2018 (including ploughman Supper) more details next year!

Angela Bilham

North Molton

For our Chapel Anniversary, held in September, Reverend Brian Hadfield, who I am sure many of you will remember, travelled up from Sidmouth to lead the service, and was accompanied by his three daughters, but unfortunately Sara was unable to be with them. An all age worship Pet Service was also held in mid-September, led by Stewart Grenyer. Amazingly all the pets - five dogs, a cat, a pigeon and three guinea pigs - were all very well behaved. Harvest Festival was again a joint celebration with our friends from All Saints, this year at our Church, and followed by a buffet lunch at the village hall. For Remembrance Sunday a joint service was held at All Saints Parish Church in the morning following a wreath laying ceremony at the war memorial.

A dedication service for this year's Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes was held in the afternoon of Remembrance Sunday, led by Sue Radley. A total of 106 boxes were received at this time with more being received later in the week. Many thanks to all who filled boxes or gave donations towards transport costs, and also to South Molton Women's Fellowship who contributed a large number to this total. By the time you read this Helen Graham will have left the village to go to live in Ottery St Mary in a flat which is more suitable to her needs. Helen has covered the shoeboxes in Christmas wrapping paper for many years, probably about 2,500 boxes in total! In recognition of this, Helen was presented with a shoebox overflowing with small useful items and also a card with pictures of all the chapels in the Circuit, past and present. Helen said rifling through the box was an experience, and gave her a small hint of the delight of the children who receive them. We all wish Helen every happiness in her new home.

Several fundraising events have taken place since the last edition of *Rejoice*, a stall at Brayford Car Boot Sale, a quiz and carvery (10% of the profit from this went to Chemo Heroes), a table top sale (10% went to the Little Princess Trust, plus sponsorship money), Phil the Bag, and an evening of music and performance by 'You Are Wolf' which also featured performances from South Molton Community College and the Taw Dance Company. This was supported by the Arts Council of England in partnership with Beaford Arts Centre. Together these events raised a considerable amount to help with church finances. Many thanks to all who organised these events and helped in any way.

At the Table Top Sale, church member Hayley Veryard had her very long hair cut which was sent, along with the sponsorship money, to the Little Princess Trust, a charity who provide wigs for children undergoing cancer treatment and other hair loss conditions. Congratulations to Hayley who raised more than £250 for the charity.

All are welcome to our next Messy Church which will be held on Sunday, 4th February at 4pm.

Wishing everyone in the Circuit a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Ruth Govier

THE CIRCUIT MISSION IN BRITAIN EVENING

on

WEDNESDAY 21st FEBRUARY at 7.30 p.m.

at

Duke Street Methodist Church

Come and join us for a



**SOUP AND
DESSERT
QUIZ
EVENING**



We will make informal groups after arrival for the Quiz which will be lighthearted and a way for everyone to relax and enjoy a pleasant social evening together.

We would be pleased for each church to let us know beforehand numbers attending and what soup or dessert they are able to contribute.

*A minimum £6 charge will be for the
Methodist Mission in Britain Fund.*

North Molton Methodist Church

February Fun & Delicious Desserts

at

North Molton Methodist Church

on

February 3rd 2018

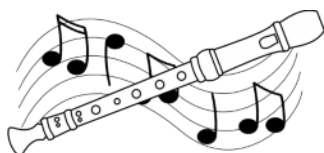
at

7.00 p.m.



An Evening of Fun & Food which will include:

- Harmony Four - Clive Faulkner and His Group
- Jo & Claire - Flute & Recorders
- Marian Williams
- Raffle
- And more!!



Compère Geoff Ley

TICKETS £5 FROM: ROSE COURTNEY (01598 740382) OR BULLEDS

In Aid of North Molton Methodist Church & Care for Kids North Devon

Coolstuff/Messy Church South Molton

We had a very busy time at our last Messy Church at the end of September, when our theme was 'creation'. As usual there were lots of different crafts to try, including pom pom spiders, a dog mask, creation wheel, sea creature fridge magnets to paint, and tasty gingerbread men to bake and eat. The Messy Church board looks really great with some very exotic flowers. A lot of time was spent on the activity of trying to collect baskets from the seven days of creation before time ran out, it was not easy.

Rev Stuart led the worship in the church and talked about how we don't always share what we have fairly, and there was as always some fun songs with actions to take part in.

By the time this edition of Rejoice comes out we will have enjoyed our next Messy Church on Sunday 26th November, when there will be the opportunity to take part in crafts and activities on the theme of 'Light'.

South Molton Women's Fellowship

Our Women's Fellowship Anniversary was held on Sunday 5th November and Tuesday 7th November. We were blessed with three good services. On Sunday morning our preacher was Mrs Beverley Bedford. She preached on 'I am the vine and on gentleness, one of the fruits of the Spirit. Lessons were read by Mrs Janey Easton and Mrs Gwen Kingdon.

On Sunday evening our preacher was Mrs Brenda Prentice. She preached on 'Special Occasions'. She talked of some of the special occasions in Jesus' life. Lessons were read by Mrs Mona Coupland and myself. The service on Tuesday was led by myself and the speaker was Deacon Joan Cole. She preached about 'The Lord make his face to shine upon you' and likened it to Jesus smiling on us. She talked about different kinds of smiles, of love, joy, oneness, reassurance and reconciliation and reminded us that God smiles on us in all times of our life. Lessons were read by Mrs Jenny Holland and Mrs Marion Smith.

This was followed by a lovely tea in the Hall where we had fellowship. Derek Summers provided us with the usual Bookstall, with Christmas cards, calendars, gifts etc. we are thankful for his time in doing this.

I would like to thank all those who took part in any way to make this weekend a success

Doreen Lake

South Molton & District Christian Aid 2017

During the past year has raised an amazing amount of £7,350. You, the people of this small rural area, have been very generous so thank you all very much.

Internationally Christian Aid says "Let us Love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action" (1 John 3,18)

- 1) 'Jesus loved all people'. Christian Aid takes the side of the driven-out, the forgotten, the ignored.
- 2) 'Jesus told Peter to lower his sword and pursued peace over retaliation'. Christian Aid tries to find new ways past violence.
- 3) 'Jesus held sick people close'. Christian Aid protects and cares for the health of communities around the world.
- 4) 'Jesus had compassion for a hungry crowd'. Christian Aid aims that everyone can get the essentials they need.
- 5) 'Jesus turned over the tables of the money lenders'. Christian Aid speaks up for those whose rights have been trampled and ignored. Christian Aid aims to show Jesus' love to the world's poor.

The local branch of Christian Aid is looking for caring people to help in its organisation. If you are interested and willing, please contact Joyce Jones or Gwen Kingdon at South. Molton Methodist Church.

Joyce Jones

South Molton

In September Duke Street appointed a Children and Young Families' Worker - Linda Mitchell, so since then we have been getting to know her. We wish God's guidance and blessing on her work.

Although only a few children are brought to Duke St. to the services, a lot come to Messy Church and like the 'Lucky Dip' fun-format of making craft items, playing themed games, eating food, but especially like worshipping in the Church. For, as a couple of children busy doing the crafts in the hall, said last time, "Aren't we going in there (indicating the church) to sing to Jesus?" When I replied, "Yes - later", they said, "Good 'cos we like that". The children who come to Messy Church are not the same ones every time, but generally come a lot more than once, to enjoy the variety of crafts, relevant to the chosen Biblical topic which interests them and brings them to know God's love for them.

Now as advent approaches with its wonderful annual message of:

"Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely,
Love divine, Love was born at Christmas, star
and angels gave the sign."

This is a message of great hope for a new beginning in Love, for children and adults alike. Let us all share it eagerly.

Joyce Jones

Bishops Nympton

Our Christmas Carol Service will be held on 17th December at 11:00 a.m., all are most welcome.

The Christmas Coffee Morning is on Wednesday 13th December; thank you in advance to Michael and Cherry for again hosting it at their home 'Ellesfield' Bishops Nympton 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

The Christmas Community Lunch will be on Sunday 10th December. The lunches after that are on January 7th and then February 4th 2018.

Helping those in need will always be a priority each winter, especially for older folk unable to get out. Ensuring they have warmth and frequent company; when for some just looking out of their windows- may cause them to feel sad. *I'm writing this feeling privileged to help at Abbeyfield South Molton; (sheltered residential- accommodation for independent people), where my often-daily interactions with the elderly residents; provide bright and amusing conversations - helping to lighten not only their day but mine too. (Have things really changed since the 17th century?)

A thoughtful verse for you -

Senseless Man

Heaven, what an age is this! What race
Of giants are sprung up that dare;
Thus fly in the Almighty's face,
And with his Providence make war.

I can but go nowhere but meet
With malcontents and mutineers,
As if in life was nothing sweet,
And we must blessings reap in tears.

O senseless Man that murmurs still
For happiness, and does not know,
Even though he might enjoy his will,
What he would have to make him so!

Charles Cotton (1630-1687)

And something light-hearted from Lewis Carroll -

'You are old Father William', the young man said,
'And your hair is exceedingly white;
And yet you incessantly stand on your head-
Do you think, at your age it is right?'

'In my youth', Father William replied to his son,
'I feared it might injure the brain;
But, now that I'm perfectly sure I have none,
Why, I do it again and again'.

With Best Wishes for a Happy Christmas and a good New Year

Martin Long

Circuit Choir

This Session we have been preparing a new work called, '*Breath of Heaven*'. It is narrated from the viewpoint of Mary and Joseph telling the Christmas story and interspersed with new as well as familiar lyrics. We are also rehearsing a range of Christmas Carols and Songs to provide a varied and ambitious programme with something to delight everyone.

Our Christmas Activities are taking place at:

North Molton Methodist Church at 5.30 pm entertaining at the Community Tea on **Sunday 10th December**

Eastleigh Care Home at 7.00 pm singing well known Christmas Carols on **Wednesday 13th December**

Horwood Church at 7.00 pm a Concert on **Saturday 16th December**

Then in the New Year we return to our wider repertoire of songs when we visit Newport Methodist church at 6.30 pm on **Sunday 14th January 2018**

Do come and join us at any of these occasions, as appropriate, as we do value your support and encouragement.

With all good wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Circuit website

Have you looked at the Circuit website recently - or possibly never?

It contains a wealth of information - brief details about each Church, local information, Circuit events, etc.

There is also a section on Safeguarding with links to useful websites.

The circuit Plan (without addresses for obvious reasons) is there, which is also downloadable and printable. Very useful if you misplace your hard copy at home - or does that happen just in our house?

Rejoice is also available for viewing and can also be downloaded should you misplace that as well.

You may find that some of the information about your own Church is out of date - that is simply because I haven't been told. How about a New Year's Resolution to email me if you spot an error and it will be corrected?

Thanks a lot and do have a look www.smandrcircuit.co.uk

Martin Hickman

Girls' Brigade

We have had the pleasure of welcoming our new Children's and Families worker, Linda Mitchell, this term. Her main role has been running the Explorer section and preparing badgework for them, although we have had some evenings where the whole Company has met together which she has organised. She was rather pushed in at the deep end and left to get on with it, but she has coped admirably. This term the Explorers have looked at their Community and the Community where Jesus lived, and made lots of fun crafts. We also appreciate the relationships she has already built with children and parents and look forward to her developing this further.

The Junior section have completed a badge entitled 'Courage', which was centred around the life of Paul and his missionary journeys. The challenge was there - do we always stand up for what we believe when it is difficult to do so?

A good proportion of our young people attended the United Remembrance Sunday Parade, and we were so proud of them, for both their smartness and their behaviour.

The GB will be joining with the BB for their annual Rededication Service on Sunday 3rd December at South Molton Methodist Church, when we once again commit ourselves to the work God has called us to do. We value your prayers for all the leaders, the work is not always easy, it is very time consuming, but it is always worthwhile as we have the opportunity of sharing the good news of God's love.

We have now started preparing for our Christmas Celebration which will be on Monday 18th December at South Molton Methodist Church commencing at 7pm. The presentation is entitled 'The Best Present', and if you want to find out more you will have to join us on the evening. The young people will be involved in items of drama, music, dancing and puppets, and as always promises to be entertaining. As usual we will be taking a collection for a charity at the end of the performance and tea/coffee and mince-pies will be served in the hall. Please note the date in your diary and come along and support the young people and have a really uplifting evening as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Saviour

After the Christmas break, GB will resume in January with a party before we commence on more badgework.



Circuit Youth Work

It's that time again to take a look at what is happening with the youth work in the Circuit.

Let's start with the schools:

The work in Chulmleigh is going very well, I'm in the school on a Wednesday and Thursday and on these days working in the RPE (Religion, Philosophy and Ethics) department alongside most year 10 and 11 groups supporting them with their GCSEs. I am also helping in the Technology department with specific year 11 students for their GCSEs,

On a Wednesday lunchtime I run a lunch club called 'Discussion' where we look at the big questions in life. This club is well attended and we are seeing 15 + young people each week. On a Thursday I also run a lunch activity in the form of a 'board game club'. This is quite a small club at present consisting of 5 or 6 year 11s but this is good and gives me a great opportunity to talk faith with them.

Along at South Molton I continue to run Ignite in room 202. We are seeing 7 to 10 youth each week, and are also still trying something to replace the bridge project which closed in July due to funding issues. Please watch this space and pray.

Over to the youth clubs we are seeing a good attendance at Brayford where we have been to the Calvert trust swimming and for a night walk around the lake. At the start of September, we joined up with North Molton Youth Club to go to Woodlands adventure park for a great day.

Talking of North Molton we have had a good first half term and have seen lots of new young people joining. We have played skittles been swimming at Barnstaple and had some club nights and also a most enjoyable fireworks night .

Along at boys brigade we are still seeing the same older boys week in and week out we are seeing such spiritual growth in them, I have also started taking devotion for the junior boys looking at how God transforms us. This appears to be going well and has been well accepted by the young people.

Nick Jefferson



Methodist Women in Britain

Autumn District Day was held at Ridgeway Methodist Church, Plympton. It started with a service of Induction for Mrs Di Smart as District President. The Address was given by Mrs Anne Browse, Connexional Vice President MWiB. She preached on 'Do not worry what you shall wear'. She took the passage from Colossians, Chapter 3 v.12-17 where it says, 'Cloth yourselves with kindness, humility, gentleness and patience, and over all these virtues put on Love' and emphasised 'put on love'. She likened it to the overall pinnies that women wore years ago, to protect their clothes, to wrapping all the virtues with love. The service concluded with communion.

This was followed by an update from Mr Phil Pugsley of Amigos District project. We then had a break for lunch.

In the afternoon our speaker was Mr David Mann from SAT7. This is a charity which produces Christian television by and for the people of the Middle East and North Africa, broadcasting in Arabic, Turkish and Farsi to the people of the region.

It makes the gospel visible to families who wouldn't have access to it. It makes the Local Church visible in places where Christians often remain invisible to society. Through this satellite television we enable the Church in the region – isolated, often small and facing many restrictions – to make known the love of Christ. They televise something for everyone, children's games, shows to bible studies, lifestyle magazines to sports and through all these is woven the thread of God's transforming love for the world through Jesus Christ.

Mrs Di Smart led us in closing devotions and finished with the following:

Equipping God, you gave us gifts.
Gifts we have not yet used
Show us what we can do.

Encouraging Jesus, give us courage
to try new things, meet new people
and keep us moving on.

Enabling Spirit, melt us, mould us,
fill us, use us, move us to act
to give thanks and pray
and spread the Word of God.

Equipping, Encouraging and Enabling Father
Help us to spread Your Word
with faith and hope and love.

Afternoon Tea was then provided before returning home.

Doreen Lake

Dates for your Diary

December

Friday 1st	Molemead - Youth Group - all years
Saturday 2 nd	KN Christmas Coffee Morning - 10.00 a.m. with Bring & Buy Stall in aid of Action for Children.
Sunday 3 rd	DS Girls' & Boys' Brigades Re-dedication Service - 11.00 a.m.
Sunday 10 th	BN Christmas Community Lunch
Sunday 10 th	NM Community Tea - 4.30 p.m. with Circuit Choir - 5.30 p.m.
Monday 11 th	Ash Nativity Service in the Hall - 6.45 p.m. followed by refreshments.
Wednesday 13 th	Eastleigh Care Home – Circuit Choir – Carols - 7.00 p.m.
Wednesday 13 th	BN Christmas Coffee Morning at 'Ellesfield'
Friday 15 th	Molemead - Youth Group - all years
Saturday 16 th	Horwood Chapel - Concert - 7.00 p.m.
Sunday 17 th	BN Carol Service - 11.00 a.m.
Sunday 17 th	DS Tea 5.30 p.m. Carol Service - 6.00 p.m.
Monday 18 th	DS The Brigades Celebration - 'The Best Present' - 7.00 p.m.
Sunday 24 th	Brayford Carol service – 11.15 a.m. with Mrs S Collier
Christmas Day	NM Family Service - 11.00 a.m.
Sunday 31 st	Brayford Service with Rev Verity Phillips including Sacrament

January

Friday 5 th	Molemead - Youth Group - all years
Saturday 6 th	Ash Old Christmas Day Concert with the Iddesleigh Singers & the Hooper family - 7.30 p.m. - supper to follow.
Sunday 7 th	BN Community Lunch
Sunday 14 th	Newport MC Concert - 6.30 p.m.
Friday 19 th	Molemead - Youth Group - all years
Thursday 25 th	DS MWiB - AGM - 2.30 p.m.
Sunday 28 th	DS Messy Church - 4.00 p.m.

February

- Friday 2nd Molemead - Youth Group - all years
Saturday 3rd NM 'February Fun & Delicious Desserts' - 7.00 p.m.
Sunday 4th BN Community Lunch
Sunday 4th NM Messy Church - 4.00 p.m.
Wednesday 14th Burr Wednesday Night Special with Neil Parsons
Monday 19th Last Date for items for *Rejoice* – see inside back cover for details.
Friday 16th Molemead - Youth Group - all years
Wednesday 21st DS Circuit Mission in Britain evening with Soups and Desserts quiz - 7.30 p.m.

Looking Ahead

- Wednesday 14th March Burr - Wednesday Night Special with Mervyn Way
Good Friday 30 March KN - Stowford Meadow singers - 7.30 p.m.
Friday 25th May KN - Harmony Four – with a Ploughmans supper.

The latest date for copy to be included in the next edition of *Rejoice* is

Monday 19th February

This is the last possible date which will allow the magazine to be circulated on the first Sunday of March.

Please note:

Copy sent electronically should be sent to:

rejoicemag@smandrcircuit.co.uk

All copy, however sent, will be acknowledged. If you receive no acknowledgement then no copy has been received either!

Thank you

