

December 2018 - January 2019

Northgate News

125 Years
Warwick Methodist Church
edition no 483



*'Peace and Blessings to you All
for Christmas and the New Year'*

Warwick Northgate Methodist Church
Rev Barbara Greenwood

Telephone 01926 740846

COFFEE MORNINGS EVERY SATURDAY



10:00 TILL 12 NOON - In the Church Hall
Come along and take a break and enjoy fellowship
with tea, coffee and hot chocolate - with biscuits!

Don't forget - 1st Saturday Monthly!!

CAKE STALL

Make and bake - come and buy!



The next edition will be for February 2019!!

**Deadline date for your news and events will be
Tuesday 22nd January 2019**

Do contact Noelle

by email: noelle_trevor@hotmail.co.uk
or tel. 01789 841722.
Or a written note (!)



It is YOUR magazine—lets have YOUR news!!



Check out the website

www.warwickmethodistchurch.org.uk

If you would like to receive the newsletter, weekly notices
and latest news by email -
please contact Trevor Blades 01789 841722

**www.warwickmethodistchurch.org.uk
[Twitter@WkMethodists](https://twitter.com/WkMethodists)**



Christmas by John Betjeman



And is it true,
This most tremendous tale of all,
Seen in a stained-glass window's hue,
A Baby in an ox's stall ?
The Maker of the stars and sea
Become a Child on earth for me ?

And is it true? For if it is,
No loving fingers tying strings
Around those tissued fripperies,
The sweet and silly Christmas things,
Bath salts and inexpensive scent
And hideous tie so kindly meant,

No love that in a family dwells,
No carolling in frosty air,
Nor all the steeple-shaking bells
Can with this single Truth compare -
That God was man in Palestine
And lives today in Bread and Wine.

Have your diaries/calendars ready!!

As we start our journey into Advent - there are a number of services for us all to participate in and enjoy.

Check out the dates and times in this newsletter and we look forward to seeing you as we journey through Advent and celebrate the birth of Christ.

Wishing everyone a blessed Christmas and Peaceful New Year

Minister's Letter – from me to you



Friends,

It started with a journey..... or in fact, several journeys.

Mary and Joseph making their way to Bethlehem, for the census, at the worst possible time of year, with the birth of Mary's child imminent. Nazareth to Bethlehem, by the most direct route, about 80 miles. Then to Jerusalem, to fulfil the required sacrifices at the temple, a mere 5 or 6 miles. And then, having heard from the angel that Herod was out to kill the infant Jesus, they fled to Egypt – we don't know to which part, but several hundred miles at least. All of that without mechanised transport – or Sat Nav!!

As Christmas approaches, many of us will be planning journeys to visit family – either before, over, or after Christmas. It may be as short as from here to Leamington, it may be to the other end of the country, even abroad. We may have family coming to visit us – just for the day, or maybe for several days. We are probably hoping that it won't be a hard winter, with lots of snow and ice to make the roads hazardous. That might put us off our trip. And we are looking for a change of routine, a different way of spending our time, and in particular for many of us, spending time with friends and family who live some distance away.

Then January will come, and we will go back to the way things were, albeit with a few extra items around the home, the gifts we have received.

The journey that Mary and Joseph made was the outward manifestation of a much bigger journey – the one which God made to become a human being, to experience the life of his creation from the inside for the first time. And unlike our celebration of Christmas, which comes round every year and may not change anything of any significance, God's journey changed everything, for ever.

We are creatures of habit. It is easy to follow the rituals of Christmas and miss the reality beneath it. We also commonly fall into the same patterns of behaviour with our families – discussing the same issues, saying the same things. It is easy to stick with those patterns and fail to connect at a deeper level.

I wonder what would happen if you did something differently? Tell them that you really appreciate – or dislike – something they have done. Open up about something you have been struggling with. Mention the previously unmentionable and ask what they think. Conversations like that tend to shift the dynamic in a relationship, and can lead to greater honesty and closeness. But we often shy away from them, because they feel risky.

When God became flesh in Christ, he took a risk. He risked rejection, incomprehension, vulnerability. To tell someone you care about how you honestly feel is to make yourself vulnerable. But it is the only way to bring who you truly are closer to who they truly are – stripping off the masks and being your authentic self, known and loved by God. At Christmas, we dress God up in all kinds of disguises, traditions and rituals. But somewhere, amid the tinsel and carols and mince pies, there is a still place where God is to be found. Bring the real you into the quiet presence of the real God and see what transformation will come.

However you spend your Christmas outwardly, may you inwardly know God's peace and richest blessings.

Barbara

Please pray for

Our housebound friends,
for those who are bereaved, for those in poor health,
anticipating or recovering from surgery,
sick, troubled in spirit,
moving house
and making life changing decisions.

Our thoughts and prayers go to them and their families -
may they know Christ's peace and love in their lives.

Amen

Don't go empty handed!

Flower arrangements for sick and housebound friends are left on the windowsill in the foyer each Sunday.

Please feel free to take one to someone you know, who may be housebound, unwell, or just appreciative of your visit.



No need to ask!

CHRISTIAN AID - CHRISTMAS APPEAL



This Christmas Christian Aid is concentrating its publicity on the **"Meet the Peacemakers"**.

Who are the Peacemakers? These are often young, maybe refugees themselves, working quietly in their local environment to improve and educate those around them.

They may require anything from more knowledge, equipment or even a lawyer to help them in their work.

This is one of the many ways that Christian Aid works globally, striving to achieve equality, dignity and freedom for people of all faiths and backgrounds, trying to tackle its root causes.

Please use the enclosed envelope. If you receive this by email there is a plentiful supply of envelopes in the foyer.

Please give generously to help the work, gift aiding it if possible, and either put it on the collection plate or hand it to me or one of the stewards.

Trevor Wills





CHURCHES TOGETHER IN WARWICK - Prayer Breakfasts

Are open to all and take place on the first Saturday of each month for 30 minutes of reflection and prayer, followed by a simple breakfast.

They are led and hosted by each church in turn making them different each month.

All start at 7:30am

**Saturday 1st December at St Nicholas
Saturday 5th January at Castle Hill Baptist**

Everyone is warmly invited to join us.



Traidcraft News update

As many of you know Traidcraft has been in consultation on the future of its business. It has been decided it will continue in a smaller form, reviewing their working practices and mode of operation, to enable them to get back on a more stable financial position for future trading.

I would like to say a big thank you to all who have answered my plea to support Traidcraft with increased orders and sales, It has been of great help. Here's to a successful and profitable 2019!!

Please see me if you would like any more information about Traidcraft.

Many thanks for all your support,

Susan Dodds, your local Fairtrader.



BREAD CHURCH



Bread Church is every 2nd and 4th Tuesday. However in December it will be **every Tuesday until Christmas - 4th, 11th & 18th December and will include an Advent Reflection over lunch.**

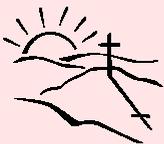
Changing the way you think about your daily bread.
At Bread Church we include time for:

- ◇ All the elements of making bread
- ◇ Conversation and refreshments
- ◇ Shared reflection and prayers, and
- ◇ A simple meal together, prepared by volunteers and those who come to make bread.



ALL are invited. From 10:30am, followed by lunch at 12:15pm

Why not bring a friend?



Into the Light House-group

The group meets for fellowship, bible study and discussion on the first and third Monday of each month, 7.45 for 8pm start.

Do you want to come along? New members will always find a warm welcome; ask one of the stewards to introduce you to one of us for more information.

Anne Oliver



EXTEND

MOVEMENT TO MUSIC CLASSES FOR ALL

Exercise for older adults and people with disabilities
Led by Susanne Soal

In the Community Centre - Reduced class fee of £2

**IN DECEMBER IT WILL BE EVERY TUESDAY UNTIL CHRISTMAS -
4TH, 11TH AND 18TH DECEMBER.**

In January it will resume to every 2nd and 4th Tuesday.

Susanne will teach exercises that are great for you,
looking to improve your mobility, strength, flexibility and endurance.

Join in with as much or as little as you like
Play good music to help enjoy the exercises
Help you make friends and have fun

The class will be for an hour with:

A gentle warm - up
A short low impact aerobic section
Muscle & endurance exercise
Flexible stretches

For more details contact Susanne Soal or Trevor Blades



NORTHGATE FRIENDSHIP CLUB **First Tuesday Monthly**

From 1:30pm till 4.00pm - at Northgate

An afternoon of Fellowship and Fun
with a variety of activities, including table games
and refreshments -
just drop in for tea & chat

Contact Denise 01926 496336

COMMUNITY TUESDAYS

ACTIVITIES FOR ALL



"LETS CREATE" **3rd Tuesday each month - 2pm till 4pm**

Come for a
knit and natter, Sew and natter, make a handmade greeting card
or just for a cuppa and company

Everyone Welcome



For more details contact **Linda Mitchell**

Warwick District Foodbank



The foodbank is an outreach and relief project run by 15 of the Churches across Warwick, Kenilworth and Leamington. Our Church is an enthusiastic member of the group of 15 churches.

With 7 distribution sites across the 3 towns and a further 3 warehouse sites it has grown into a significant enterprise distributing over 42 tonnes of food a year.

To run this mission project we have an army of volunteers led by some part time paid staff. Finding the money to pay the staff and cover other expenditure is a continuing struggle so we are looking to develop our regular income stream.

Nearly 2 years ago we launched a successful appeal to fund a van and we would like to thank all those who responded to that as well as thank people for their essential ongoing food donations.

Now I would like to make an appeal for people to help us develop the regular income stream by entering into a monthly financial donation to support Gods work amongst the local poor. A standing order form can be printed from the foodbank website www.warwickdistrict.foodbank.org.uk or you can ask David Witham for one.

Want to know what items are needed?

Please see the notice on the notice-board which lists all that is urgently required by Foodbank.



Your generosity is much appreciated - thank you.

For further details please see Christine Fell.

Proposed changes to Mid-Warwickshire and Strafford & Evesham Circuits in September 2019

I am sure many of you are aware that discussions are taking place with a view to bringing together the Mid-Warwickshire Circuit with 5 churches, Stratford, Bidford, Henley, Mickleton and Welford, from the Stratford and Evesham Circuit.

There was a very well attended open meeting on Monday 12th November at Wellesbourne with representatives from all the Mid-Warwickshire Churches, plus District and Stratford.

These are the main points that were discussed at the meeting;

Geographically it is a natural match and the new enlarged circuit of 17 churches would be named **The South Warwickshire Circuit.**

The new circuit would also include Homewood, Cedar Lodge, and Cedar Lawn (all MHA) plus Lighthorne Heath Church Renewal.

There would be 4 full time ministers, Revs Peter Powers, Audrey Simpson, Barbara Greenwood and Jeongsook Kim plus Rev Jemima Strain who is part time.

Within the proposed reorganisation, Rev Barbara would continue to look after Warwick, Wellesbourne and Whitnash.

It was acknowledged that there was already considerable pressure on the ministerial team and although paid lay workers are presently being sought to support Rev Barbara it could take some time before this resource is put in place.

Worship resources will be stretched in the new circuit, especially as most churches have Sunday services at either 10am or 10.30am and the challenge will be how to meet the number of requests for preachers to lead Sunday worship.

There will be a need for change in patterns and times of services with greater use of lay worship leaders and readers.

Financial and property details were also discussed, please speak to Richard Ratcliffe, Ian Meddoms or Trevor Blades for more information.

There will be Circuit meetings held on 6th December and only if there is agreement at each of the Circuits involved will the proposed formation of the new South Warwickshire Circuit go forward to the District for approval.

Your prayers would be appreciated for all those involved
in the decision making at these meetings.





MISSION 2019

After the successful Summer Holiday Club there was a meeting to discuss the feedback received from those who came and those who kindly helped over the six weeks.

Out of this discussion it was agreed that a more regular event for young families was needed.

It was suggested that in early 2019 we should launch a Messy Church on the last Sunday of each month. It would be late afternoon / tea-timeish,

But to do this we need your help! It can be either on a regular or occasional basis.

Contact Trevor Blades if you can help, are interested, & need more information.



Date for your Diary!

Saturday 2nd February 2019 at 7:30p

A Concert in aid of

Bloodwise
The blood cancer research charity

Featuring Newburgh School Choir, The Two Castles Male Voice Choir

Organist Nicky Grant

Tickets - £8 - will be available after Christmas from
Brian Goddard & Anne Oliver

Interval refreshments included Raffle

Christmas Music at Northgate



If you've been to Saturday morning coffee recently you will have witnessed an exodus of Northgate choristers, first some ladies then, a half hour later, a group of men disappearing into church to be schooled in their parts for the annual service of lessons and carols by Trevor Barr. This is always a special occasion in our Advent preparation, with plenty of opportunity to join in the congregational singing and not to be missed.

Likewise, if you have been to Guild on a Wednesday evening and someone inadvertently left the church interconnecting door open, you will have heard joyful snatches of Immanuel's Ground Quire learning carols special to the counties of the English west country in preparation for their concert. The concert will begin in the Cornish tradition because of Northgate's links with that county through the Wills and Bolitho families but it won't be the first time some of these carols have been heard in our church. Many years ago, our choirmaster, the late Dr Gordon Ratcliffe, received a book from Anne Wills – the carols of Thomas Merritt - still sung annually in Truro Cathedral and from then on Gordon usually included at least one in our service of lessons and carols. Merritt drew on the already well-established west country carolling tradition, greatly influenced by the nonconformist chapel choirs in that stronghold of early Methodism. In fact, it comes as a surprise to learn that many widely familiar carols and tunes adopted for seasonal use have their origins in or are linked by regular use to the west country chapels.

If you come to the concert, as well as being entertained with carols and anecdotes by Immanuel's Ground you will be able to join in some of the singing in the good old Methodist way, as John Wesley put it to "Sing lustily and with good courage".

Sunday 9th December, Northgate Church at 4:30 p.m.

'A West Country Christmas' A concert of carols and readings from the West of England by Immanuel's Ground West Gallery Quire. £8 - proceeds to Northgate Church & Hall refurbishment fund.
Tickets from Ian Meddoms or on the door.

Sunday 16th December, Northgate Church at 4:30 p.m.

A service of Lessons and Carols with Northgate Church Choir.



NORTHGATE GUILD - Guild News



The last Guild Meeting of 2018 will be on Wednesday 5th December when the speaker will be a welcome return visit of Amanda Quinn from one of Northgate's favourite charities "Action for Children." Do come along and learn how the charity has been helping families in need since her last visit.



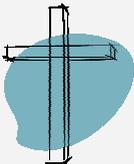
On Wednesday 12th December members of the Guild and Northgate Choir will be meeting at Rohan Gardens at 2.30pm to sing Christmas Carols to the residents and staff. We hope that the weather will be kinder than last year when very cold icy conditions caused the visit to be called off at the last minute. Do come and join the party if you can.

The first Guild Meeting of 2019 will be a Members' Evening on Wednesday 9th January [the second Wednesday of the month] when members are invited to give short talks on "Things handed down or my favourite family heirloom." Please let Richard know beforehand if you are willing to participate in the meeting. Don't be shy, let's get 2019 off to a bright, cheerful start and forget Brexit for one evening!

Happy Christmas to you all from Northgate Guild.

Richard Ratcliffe, Guild Secretary

Pray without Ceasing



There is a quiet corner by the 'Prayer Net', where there is a box for confidential requests for prayer.
Or you can contact the prayer circle through
Sheila 491516 or Norma 493630

Forthcoming Sunday Services at Northgate

All services begin at **10:30am** unless otherwise stated

There is an activity table in the Church,
and Junior Church for our young people.
Lots to do to keep them busy!



ADVENT

December 2nd - Mr David Shaw

December 9th - Rev David Greenwood - Gift Service - (see page 18)

December 16th - Rev Barbara Greenwood - Communion

And at 4:30pm - Candlelit Carol Service

December 23rd - Rev Chris Clewlow

December 24th - **CHRISTMAS EVE**
Midnight Communion Service at 11:30pm



December 25th - **CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE**
AT 10:00AM Come and Celebrate!
Led by Mr John Cotterill

December 30th - Local Arrangement

*Coffee, Tea and Fellowship in the Hall
after our Sunday Services*



All are very welcome -please make yourself known to us

Sunday Services at Northgate January 2019



January 6th - Dr Denys Hill

January 13th - Rev Barbara Greenwood - Covenant and Communion

January 20th - Mr John Cotterill

January 27th - Rev Rachel Hextall



Before the paling of the stars,
Before the winter morn,
Before the earliest cock crow,
Jesus Christ was born:
Born in a stable,
Cradled in a manger,
In the world his hands had made
Born a stranger.

Priest and king lay fast asleep
In Jerusalem;
Young and old lay fast asleep
In crowded Bethlehem;
Saint and angel, ox and ass,
Kept a watch together
Before the Christmas daybreak
In the winter weather.

Jesus on his mother's breast
In the stable cold,
Spotless lamb of God was he,
Shepherd of the fold:
Let us kneel with Mary maid,
With Joseph bent and hoary,
With saint and angel, ox and ass,
To hail the King of Glory.



GIFT SERVICE - Sunday 9th December



This year we are once again asking for gifts for our friends from Mencap, that Santa, our special guest, will give out at the Way Ahead Community Carol Service on **Thursday 13th December here at Northgate.**

We suggest toiletries (value £5 approx.) that should be brought **unwrapped** to the Gift Service on 9th December. In previous years, your generosity has enabled us to send gifts to Homewood which we would very much like to continue to do.

On that day we would also welcome gifts for Warwick Foodbank, such as, chocolates, biscuits etc, something special for those in need at Christmas.

To ensure we have enough gifts for the Way Ahead Service and Homewood, split between male and female and also items for the food bank, please see Trevor and Noelle Blades for a ticket, indicating which gift you wish to donate.

Thank you for your generous support.



MENCAP/WAY AHEAD CAROL SERVICE **Thursday 13th December at 7pm**

Led by Rev Barbara Greenwood

Put on your Santa hats and tinsel and join us as we welcome our friends from Mencap /Way Ahead Support Group for carols and a surprise 'guest'!

Refreshments and mince pies served after the service.



Childrens Corner

Picture to Colour !



Christmas Eve



Expectancy hung in the air, for it was Christmas Eve.
Once more the season of goodwill to give and to receive.
The presents gaily wrapped and tied for friends and family,
Are neatly placed in little piles beneath the festive tree.

And there beside the tiny crib the Christmas candle stood,
Casting beams upon the figures carved in olive wood.
The joyful carol singers came and sang outside the door,
Their money boxes jingling, collecting for the poor.

The Christmas star up in the sky brings sense of mystery.
The air is filled with angel wings, or so it seems to me.
And from across the village green the church bells peel and chime,
Welcoming the Saviours birth - for this is Christmastime.



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