



CARLTON-IN-LINDRICK METHODIST CHURCH



December 2022 / January 2023

Dear Friends

As I write, we are fast approaching Advent Sunday and our preparation for Christmas will begin. The traditional themes of Advent allow us – through meditation, prayer, and affirmation – to contemplate ways to share our deepest gifts: hope and faith, peace, love, and joy.

Advent Week 1: Hope and Faith – I look for the many ways the good I seek is already mine.

We contemplate both hope and faith as we spiritually prepare our hearts and minds for Christmas ... Blessed are we, for each of us has access to hope, belief, and faith in the Christmas story's promise of infinite good and love everlasting.

Advent Week 2: Peace – I affirm the peace of God as my welcomed companion.

In the Gospel of Luke, because he is so old, Zechariah questions whether paternity is possible, like Mary's initial response to her improbable pregnancy. But while Mary's question is answered, Zechariah is chastised for doubting, then struck mute for the duration of his wife's pregnancy. Muting the perpetual cycle of thought is a gift that brings greater peace. For Zechariah, muteness was imposed. We are called to mute our own thoughts ... With quiet minds and open hearts, we find rest in the peace that surpasses all understanding.

Advent Week 3: Love – I receive love graciously and reflect it to the whole world.

What that means for us is that from his birth, Jesus taught that we should love everyone: black, brown, or white; rich or poor; cool or nerdy; gay, straight, or questioning; and people of all political persuasions. At our core, we are one in God's love. It's a view of unconditional love that defines Christ succinctly.

Advent Week 4: Joy – I relax, release and enjoy the wonder of the present moment.

When we light the Advent candle for joy, we remind ourselves of the spiritual truth of this season: "Unto us a child is born." In telling the Christmas story, the Gospel writers remind us that when things seem darkest, joy can come in unexpected places and small packages. Children remind us of the joy of playing, giving, learning, and loving. In the presence of such joy, our inner child can awaken our Christ nature and then the Messiah is truly born.

I wish you peace this Christmas and a happy New Year.

Meg

Rev Meg Burton



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Since the Circuit Plan was printed, there have been quite a few changes or additions to Carlton's services, for a number of reasons. The changes are all included below in red

DECEMBER		
Sunday 4 th	11.00 am	Morning Worship – Rev A Hindmarch
Monday 5 th	10.30 – 12 noon	Coffee Morning
Sunday 11 th		
Monday 12 th	10.30 – 12 noon	Coffee Morning
Sunday 18 th	11.00 am	Morning Worship – Teresa Abel – Carol Service
Monday 19 th	10.30 – 12 noon	Coffee Morning
Sunday 25 th	10.00 am	Christmas Day United Service at St John's Parish Church No service at the Methodist Church
Monday 26 th		Boxing Day – No coffee morning

JANUARY		
Sunday 1 st	11.00 am	Morning Worship – Rev Meg Burton United Service with St John's at the Methodist Church (There is also United Service at The Crossing at 10.15 am)
Monday 2 nd	10.30 – 12 noon	Coffee Morning
Sunday 8 th		
Monday 9 th	10.30 – 12 noon	Coffee Morning
Sunday 15 th	11.00 am	Morning Worship – Rev Meg Burton United Service with St John's at the Methodist Church Covenant Service (including Holy Communion)
Monday 16 th	10.30 – 12 noon	Coffee Morning
Sunday 22 nd		
Monday 23 rd	10.30 – 12 noon	Coffee Morning
Sunday 29 th	11.00 am	Own Arrangement (Also, United Service at Wheatley Methodist Church at 10.30 am)
Monday 30 th		

Advance Notice – February Plan Change

February 5th 11am Morning worship – Rev Alan Hindmarch

Quiz

If you haven't picked up your copy of Yvonne's 'Rather Super' quiz to keep you busy over Christmas, they are still available. Cost £1. Closing date 15th January.



Christmas Greetings Reminder



If you would like to send Christmas Greetings to your friends at church instead of sending individual cards, there is still time to let Helen have these – but as soon as possible please. If you wish to give a donation in lieu cards towards Church funds, please pass it to Alan.

For those wishing to send cards to church friends, the box will be in church from 4th December. Cards will be distributed at the Carol Service on 18th December.

Recent Fundraising

The Bag 2 The Future clothing collection raised £36 for Church funds, and the Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association Book & Toy Sale raised £138.80 for their funds. Thanks to all those who contributed and helped in any way with either of these events.

The remaining books and jigsaws are set out upstairs in church and will be available to buy whenever you are there. Money can be paid into the Monday coffee mornings, or given to one of the stewards.

Operation Christmas Child – Shoe Box Appeal

Thank you for the very generous community-wide support people have given to the Shoebox Appeal. We collected 77 shoeboxes and people also donated a number of items for inclusion in the boxes. We collected £256.50 in cash that was used to purchase online barcodes to support transport costs. We collected a further £70 (cash and cheques) which was sent to Samaritan's Purse in donations. Thank you all so much for contributing to the Shoebox Appeal.

Louise Brereton

THERE IS ROOM

(The Methodist Church's Advent and Christmas campaign 2022)

And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:7

In the Christmas story, we are made acutely aware that there was no room for Joseph and Mary to rest when they arrived in Bethlehem, in the more traditional places reserved for hospitality in Jewish culture. This meant they had to use other spaces which were available.

Jesus' birth changed everything and made room for us in God's Kingdom. As part of the Methodist Church, we seek to demonstrate our open, inclusive and welcoming nature by saying to all people, 'There is Room' for you.

There is Room for us all in the story of God's boundless love, no matter where we are, how we feel, or how hopeless everything might seem.

There is Room for us all, no matter how much we may feel looked down on, no matter what shame or guilt or prejudice we may carry.

There is Room for us all, no matter how alone, or different we may feel.

There is Room for us all, even if we feel stuck in cycles of addiction, or our lives have become flooded with hate and despair.

At Christmas, and beyond, we celebrate this with a simple invitation:

Come, just as you are, because There is Room for you.

STARS (Yvonne)

Stars seem to be all around us at this time of the year – in windows, on Christmas trees and of course in the heavens – visible on a clear night. The starriest nights are when there is no moon. Stars and planets seem to move from east to west. In winter there are star clusters, constellations and December's meteor shower. Many believe that there was a conjunction of stars when Jesus was born. Wise men followed the star from the east.

The magnificent and extraordinary Sagrada Familia basilica (or temple) in Barcelona was designed by Gaudi. Work began in 1882 and it is still unfinished. The Nativity facade was built between 1894 and 1930. Many sculptures show the birth and early life of Jesus in the temple and carpenter's workshop.

A 12 point star was added to the Virgin Mary tower in November 2021. The star of Bethlehem is a huge glass and steel structure measuring 24.6 feet and weighing 5.5 tons. The Archbishop said that lighting it would be a historic moment after a year of darkness.



Other facades depict the Passion and Ascension. 12 bells represent the 12 apostles.

Cologne cathedral is famous for holding the shrine of the Three Wise Men – a holy relic.

Three Kings Day is celebrated as a festival in Spain. They arrive by ship, helicopters and camels. Floats form a parade with children distributing sweets – a time of great celebration.

*We three kings of Orient are, bearing gifts, we travel so far,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright.
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to your perfect light.*

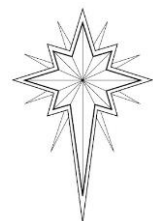
In Italian folklore, La Befana is an old woman or witch who loves housework. Legend says that she turned down an invitation from the Wise Men to join them to find baby Jesus as she had too much sweeping and housework to do (similar to the story of Mary and Martha.) She tried to follow with a basket of toys for little Jesus but could not find them. She has been searching ever since and on the night before Epiphany on January 6th brings presents to children in Italy. If they have been naughty, they might get coal, onions or garlic – though the coal is made of sugar!

Extract from a hymn by Rev Ally Barrett (tune Sing Hosanna)



*We bring all that we have to his manger,
We bring all that we have today,
We bring all that we are to his manger,
As we offer him ourselves today.*

*Star of wonder! Light to lead us!
Show the way to find the Lord of lords,
Star of wonder! Light to lead us!
Show us how to find the Lord.*



Why wish upon a star when you can pray to the one who created it.



RECIPE CORNER (Yvonne)



Cheesy Christmas Stars Star pastry cutters are festive (Boyes have sets of different sizes)

150g / 6oz SR flour
½ tsp of salt
75g/3oz butter or marg
75g/3oz cheese finely grated
1 egg & 1 tblsp milk, beaten together

Heat oven to 200°C/400°F.

Rub butter or marg into the flour and salt with fingers to make fine crumbs. Leave a tablespoon of cheese on a saucer. Add rest to bowl and stir in. Put a tablespoon of egg & milk mix into a cup. Mix rest into flour to make a dough. Roll out on floury surface. Cut out stars. Brush with egg mix and sprinkle with cheese. Bake on a greased tray for 8-10 minutes.

Starry Mince Pies

Shortcrust pastry
Stewed apple
Mincemeat

Heat oven to 190°C/375°F/Gas 4

Cut bases with round cutter – put in patty tray. Add a little stewed apple, then mincemeat then a pastry star. Bake about 20 minutes until golden. When cool, dust with icing sugar.

THE WISE MEN AND THEIR GIFTS



... Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

Matthew 2: 1-2

Imagine the fuss that would have surrounded these wise men back home. There would have been many days and nights of study and debate to understand this new star and to work out the reason for it. Then they insisted on making this long journey, taking with them very expensive gifts. And they could not have travelled all that distance alone, so they must have had servants with them. Perhaps they left wives and children at home?

They were Magi, they travelled from the East following a star, and they brought three gifts: gold for someone important; perfume for someone special; and spices for someone who would die.

It is unlikely that they were kings, but they were wise – they studied the skies and with the help of old scriptures they worked out that this special star would lead them to a new king, someone very special. They obviously journeyed for many weeks, if not months.

As they were looking for a new king they went off course, going first to the palace in Jerusalem where one might expect to find royalty. Then, after Herod's 'wise men' consulted the Jewish scriptures, the travellers were redirected to Bethlehem, and so got back on track with the star. They came to a surprising place: it was so quiet, there were no crowds of family or excited visitors. They wondered if they were in the right place and then ... well ... they just knew.

They didn't just offer gifts to the baby, they knelt in worship and homage – can you imagine that? These would have been important people where they came from. They were wealthy and respected, yet here they were, kneeling before a small child. It was what felt right for them at that time.

As well as the three gifts for which they are famous, they brought other gifts: their wisdom, their effort and their sacrifice as they journeyed doggedly for many miles. And they applied their wisdom well – realising that they should not return to Jerusalem.

And one last thing ... the wise men were foreigners, they had come from the East, a wonderful reminder that Jesus did not just come to the Jewish nation, but for you and me and for all nations.

Christine Osman (Former Treasurer of The Leprosy Mission International)

TEARS AND CELEBRATION

One Christmas tradition that will see a change this year, is 'The Queen's Speech'. Christmas broadcasts by the monarch began in 1932, when George V spoke on the radio. Elizabeth II used radio for the first five years of her reign, until the advent of the television broadcast in 1957.

These speeches became an important part of the Christmas Day celebrations for many in Britain and across the Commonwealth. They covered current issues and concerns, and the Queen's reflections on what Christmas meant to her – she was never afraid to speak about her Christian faith.

It will be very different without Her late Majesty this year. The Royal family, for the second year running, will have a Christmas without a loved one. The country will have its first Christmas without a remarkable, record-breaking Queen at its helm, who has left us such an example to follow. Some of you will also be experiencing your first Christmas without someone very dear to you. It reminds me of a song from the musical Joseph – "There's one more angel in heaven, there's one more star in the sky there's one less place at our table, there's one more tear in my eye."

Following the Queen's passing, Katherine Jenkins recorded a song called "Tears and Celebration". We never had the chance to use it in a service, so here are the words.

(It is sung to the tune 'Dim Ond Iesu/Cymraeg' (best known for 'Here is love vast as the ocean')

We see tears and celebration,
For this life so dignified,
Bearing thanks and hearts of sadness,
To the God of death and life.
As he takes her to his promise,
Of an audience with the King,
We remember all she gave us,
Wreaths of gratitude we bring.

In these days of change and trial,
Be the rock on which we stand,
When we fear in this new season,
Hold us firmly in your hands.
May we rise to her example,
To be humble, kind and fair,
Swift to pray and slow to anger,
Choosing faith and not despair.

In the midst of coronation,
She once knelt in silent prayer,
Oil was poured in Christ's commission,
Called to lead her people there.
May we know that same anointing,
Move in royal authority,
Then speak liberty and healing,
To a world in need of peace.

Lord forgive, when pride and envy,
Leave our nation bruised and stained,
Turn us back towards our calling,
To make your name great again.
May we rise above divisions,
Lord, our brokenness we bring,
That a more united kingdom,
Would give glory to the King.

When our days are at their dimming,
And our work on earth is done,
May we hear as does our sovereign,
'Faithful servant, welcome home.'
May we rise with Christ to witness,
A new heav'n and earth displayed,
Ours a robe that will not tarnish,
Hers a crown that will not fade.

Tune: Dim Ond Iesu/Cymraeg
Words: © 2022 Andy Flannagan and Sam Hargreaves
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One little girl told everyone she was going to be 'a narratorate' in the nativity play. Her family was very puzzled. It turned out that she had a speaking part, just after narrator seven and just before narrator nine!

After hearing about the wise men offering gifts to Jesus, one little boy said, "I know Jesus got money and gold when he was born, but I would have given him a Liverpool kit."



CHRISTMAS QUIZ TIME



St Andrew's Day Answers

1. He was martyred on this day in AD60
 2. Saint Peter (Simon Peter)
 3. Fishmongers (He is also patron Saint of gout, singers, sore throats and old maids!)
 4. The Saltire
 5. The Order of the Thistle
 6. Winston Churchill
 7. Robert the Bruce
 8. Advent Sunday
 9. Fife
 10. 1410s (1413)
 11. Jack Nicklaus
 12. Stirling
 13. Sir Walter Scott
 14. Arthur's Seat
 15. Perth
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Christmas Traditions

Can you match the tradition to the country

1. 25th December isn't a holiday here, but millions take a trip to KFC for a festive meal of fried chicken.
 2. After the Christmas tree has been decorated, parents will hide a pickle somewhere in the branches. The first person to find it receives an extra gift from St Nicholas.
 3. In the capital city of this country, thousands of people make their way to Christmas morning mass wearing roller skates.
 4. Here children leave polished shoes by the fire place, hoping that Sinterklaas will fill the shoes with small gifts and treats in the night.
 5. A popular tradition, particularly between young people, is to send cellophane-wrapped apples as gifts to friends. It is thought that eating the apple will bless you with a safe and peaceful year ahead.
 6. In this country a popular festive treat is deep fried caterpillars, covered in festive spices.
(a) China (b) Germany (c) Japan (d) Netherlands (e) South Africa (f) Venezuela
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Christmas Carols – First Lines

What is the first line of the carol / hymns containing the following 'star' lines?

1. The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay ...
2. O morning stars together ...
3. star and angels gave the sign
4. Wise men journey, led to worship by a star
5. And by the light of that same star
6. Lo, star-led chieftans
7. ... he who built the starry skies
8. Star of silver, sweep across the skies
9. did the guiding star behold
10. Ye have seen his natal star
11. Star of the east, the horizon adorning

Scrambled Chocolates

Many households enjoy chocolates at Christmas, possibly these particular tubs. But, do you know which ones are in which tub? (Hopefully still up to date!!)



- | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Bounty | Galaxy Caramel | Snickers |
| Cadbury Fudge | Galaxy Milk | Strawberry Delight |
| Caramel Brownie | Golden Barrel | Strawberry Dream |
| Caramel Swirl | Hazel in Caramel | Tangy Orange Crème |
| Coconut Éclair | Hazel Whirl | The Green Triangle |
| Country Fudge | Maltesers Teasers | The Purple One |
| Crème Egg Twisted | Mars | Toffee Finger |
| Crunchie | Milk Chocolate Block | Toffee Penny |
| Dairy Milk | Milky Way | Twirl |
| Dairy Milk Caramel | Orange Crème | Twix |
| Dinky Decker | Orange Crunch | Wispa |
| Eclair | Signature Truffle | |

May the wonder of the shepherds,
the generosity of the wise men
and the compassion of Mary,
be in us and flow from us,
this Christmas and always.

W L Walker, New Zealand



Our old friend Mary has a little verse in a frame sitting on her mantelpiece.
"It's always there to remind me," she says and she often recites it to visitors:

Life is an echo
That all comes back,
The good, the false
And the true.
So give to the world
The best you possess,
And the best will
Come back to you.

Wise thoughts to keep in mind at the start of this new year.

From The Friendship Book

Closing date for items for February Contact – Monday 16th January

CHILDREN'S PAGE

The Lost Star

Hello to the young people and the young at heart

A long time ago there was a star who knew that he had a special job to do but couldn't remember what that job was. Then he heard that a very special baby was to be born and he knew that his job was to do with that birth. A girl called Mary was to be told from God that she was to have that baby. Was Star's job to do with that announcement? When Star shone on the scene he was told off by an angel who had been sent to speak to Mary.

Star was upset and wondered what his job was. Mary had her baby in Bethlehem among the animals in a stable. Should Star shine on the scene? Star was turned away again. Then Star heard that shepherds were to be told about the baby. Was his job to shine there and possibly guide the shepherds to the baby? As soon as Star began to shine, an angel appeared and told star to go away while the shepherds were told about the baby and an angel choir sang to them.

What was Star to do? What was his special job? The scene looked complete. Then Star heard that some very clever men from another country were looking for the baby, and he knew this was his job. Star went ahead and shone brightly to lead these wise men all the way to the baby. When they arrived and gave their very expensive gifts to the baby, Star was satisfied. The job was found and done. Everyone was happy.

The special baby – you've guessed – was Jesus. The strange thing is that Jesus is still alive and shining brightly. He shines for you and me. He will help us to find our job in life if we talk to him and accept him as our friend.

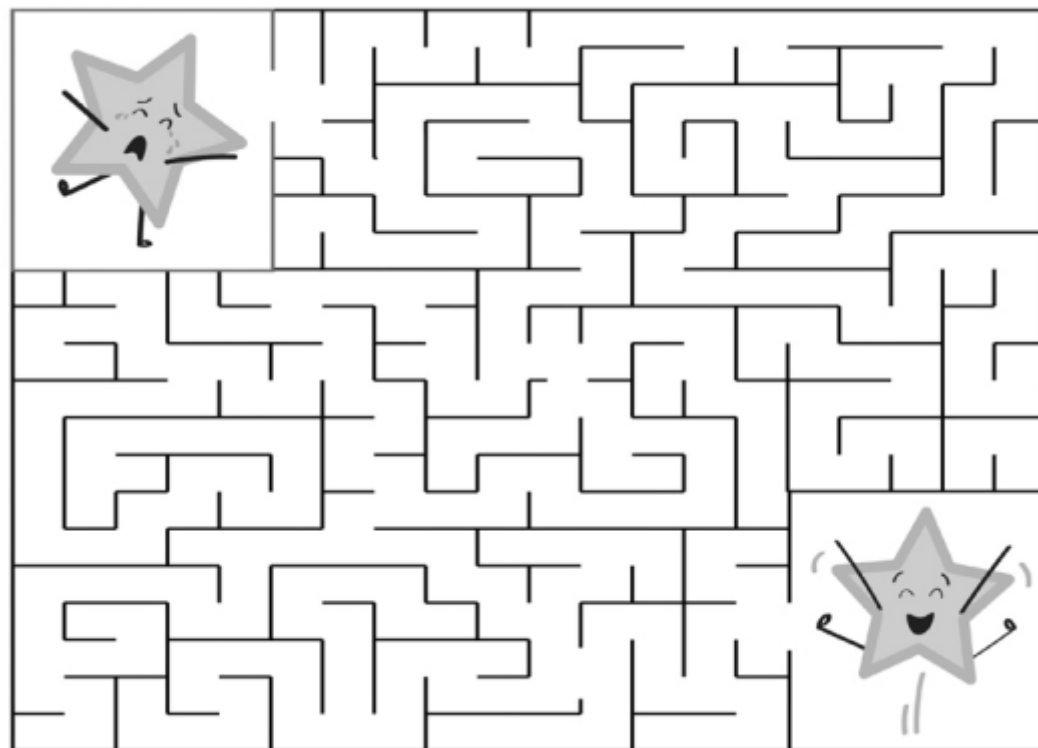
Have a very Happy Christmas as we celebrate that same birth which the Star saw.

God bless you

Rev Alan (Chaplain – 1st Carlton Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association)

LOST STAR MAZE

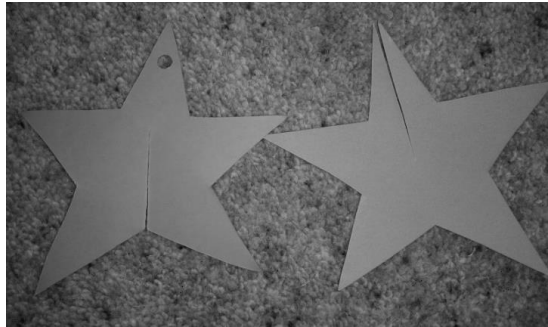
Can you help the lost, sad star find his way to the happy star.



MAKE A PRAYER STAR

Out there amongst the planets are billions of stars. In fact, there are more stars in the universe than grains of sand on all the beaches on earth. How impressive is that? Each one made by God to light up the sky.

Make a prayer star, to remind you that we can pray to the God who created all the stars in the sky.



You might need some help using scissors.

1. Cut out two star shapes from coloured card.
2. On the first star, make a cut from the bottom of the star to the middle. Punch a hole in the top.
3. On the second star, make a cut from the top to the middle.
4. Write on the star some words or names to pray for, such as family, friends, peace ...
5. Slot the stars together using the slits to create a 3D star and fix into place with tape.
6. Tie some string or cotton through the hole then hang the star somewhere to remind you that you can talk to God in prayer and share your hopes and dreams with him.

