



# The **Methodist** Church

## **Wesley Focus on December 2019**



*The Census at Bethlehem by Pieter Bruegel the Elder, 1566. (see p4)*

*And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered... So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. — Luke 2:1-5, NKJV .*

Wesley Chapel Harrogate

## Welcome to Wesley Chapel

We really enjoy welcoming visitors to Wesley Chapel and we hope your time with us will be enjoyable and uplifting. If you are new to Harrogate or just new to Wesley Chapel, we would love to welcome you back and tell you a bit more about what we do here and hopefully get to know you a little more.

If you would like to remain in contact with us please speak to the minister, stewards or the person who welcomed you into the church and let us know your preferred method of contact.

Welcome again!

### Wesley Chapel Contacts

**Ministry Team:** Rev. Ben Clowes, Rev. Ann Fox, Rev. Trevor Dixon.

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***The deadline for 'Wesley Focus on January' is 28 December.***

*Please send any notices, news, articles, photographs to Judith Yeats: 01423 506014, [judithyeats0@gmail.com](mailto:judithyeats0@gmail.com). Wesley 'Focus on November' is also on the website. If you would also like to receive the monthly newsletter by e-mail please let Judith know.*

## MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear friends

*"The Lord's is my shepherd; I shall not want" Psalm 23:1*

We've reached the time of year when whichever shop we go in we'll be bombarded with Christmas music. I'm not sure why shops do it as when I'm doing my Christmas shopping I know it's Christmas coming and I have no intention of spending any more money than I intended but there's obviously some psychology behind it. All around us people are beginning the mad rush of spending ridiculous amounts of money on people. I saw a report earlier in the year which stated that the average spend on presents per child in the UK last Christmas was £1000! We live in a culture where people are encouraged to want more, a culture where children browse catalogues, the web, even the adverts on the TV and begin to write long lists very early. Well you need to get your list into Santa!

And all this is before we even hit Christmas. On Kids TV channels a few years ago we noticed a trend of adverts for different Advent Calendars, including ones from Playmobil and Lego, average cost £25. So we're being encouraged to spend money for the children on Advent so they can get excited about what we're going to spend on them for Christmas. Adults are not immune with a number of different Advent Calendars for us - candles, pork scratchings, tea etc. We've moved sadly from the language of 'I'm dreaming of a White Christmas' to 'All I want for Christmas ...'.

Yet what do we really want for Christmas? Ask most adults about what they really want for Christmas, many would say World Peace, the abolition of hunger, the end of diseases, the sharing of wealth, all alongside a freedom to believe. A few years ago the Church of England produced an advert to be shown in the pre-Christmas showings of the new Star Wars film, challenging people to think about the Lord's Prayer. The film censors and the Advertising Standards Agency allowed it but many cinemas banned it because it might offend.

So what do you want for Christmas? World Peace? With everything going on in the world and in country is this possible in the near future? The abolition of hunger? The end of diseases? The sharing of wealth?

*Continued p4*

*Ben's Letter continued*

A freedom to believe? So what do you want for Christmas? Should we even be wanting anything apart from the love of God to be shown and for us to be used as its conduits? Maybe this Advent is an opportunity for us to truly love God, putting him first and loving others by reaching out into our community, remembering that by truly loving we are putting this into practice. Let's not want this Advent, let's love instead.

Yours in Christ  
Ben

### **COVER PICTURE**

*The Census at Bethlehem* (also known as *The Numbering at Bethlehem*) is an oil-on-panel by the Flemish Renaissance artist Pieter Bruegel the Elder, painted in 1566. It is currently held and exhibited at the Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium in Brussels. It is one of the first paintings in western art to feature a significant snow landscape and was painted in the aftermath of the winter of 1565, which was one of the harshest winters on record.

The painting shows a Flemish village in winter at sundown. A group of people is gathered at a building on the left. A sign bearing the Habsburg double-headed eagle is visible on the building. Other people are making their way to the same building, including the figures of Joseph and the pregnant Virgin Mary on a donkey. A pig is being slaughtered. People are going about their daily business in the cold, children are shown playing with toys on the ice and having snowball fights. At the very centre of the painting is a spoked wheel, sometimes interpreted as being a reference to the wheel of fortune. To the right, a man in a small hut is shown holding a clapper, a warning to keep away from leprosy. Leprosy was endemic in that part of Europe when the painting was created. There is a begging bowl in front of the hut. Bruegel is treating a biblical story, as a contemporary event, and the painting gives reference to particular political events in particular the severity of the Spanish administration in the southern Netherlands. The ruined castle in the background is based on the towers and gates of Amsterdam (see detail on back cover). [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Census\\_at\\_Bethlehem](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Census_at_Bethlehem)

# Church Family News

## Congratulations

Congratulations to Rachel Goodwin for obtaining her Bachelor of Arts in German from Leeds Beckett University on 16 July 2019. Rachel studied part-time for six years while continuing with her normal work. The picture shows Rachel at her graduation with her parents Jenny and Philip.



### THANK YOU

Anita and Malcolm would like to thank their friends from Wesley for all the messages and support they received during their recent illnesses. Your prayers and thoughts have been much appreciated.

*See page 16 for more church Family News*



## WESLEY GUILD

November is the month for remembering and we were delighted to hear from Mike Comerford about the wonderful work carried out by the Royal British Legion, at our November gathering.

There are thousands of charities aimed at supporting serving or ex-serving members of the Forces but the constitutions of many limit the assistance they can give or to whom it can be given. The British Legion was formed in 1921 with the amalgamation of several charities that had been set up to support those in need following the Great War. A great driver behind this was Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig who played an active role in the Legion's lead in national remembrance, advocating, in November 1921, that the poppy should be worn on 11 November each year to honour the fallen and the tradition of a two minutes silence was also established.

To qualify for the Legion's help you simply need to be a serving or former serving member who has received seven days pay in any of the U.K. Armed Forces or be the dependent of someone who has done so. Membership of the legion is, however, open to anyone and you need not have a connection to the Armed Forces but help is only offered under the above terms. There are other eligible groups but these relate to service during hostilities. Royal Assent was granted to the Legion in 1928.

The work of the British Legion is defined by four pillars :-

Pillar 1 -To provide welfare to the whole Armed Forces family – serving, ex-serving members and their dependants

Pillar 2 - Comradeship

Pillar 3 - Representation

Pillar 4 - Remembrance

The help and support covered by all these four pillars is diverse and tremendous. We learned that a staggering one in twenty of homeless people have a service background. The members were each given a leaflet about the legion and a booklet entitled 'Live On' which consists of poems and other words to live on by. Please see me or a Guild member if you would like to have sight of these.

*Continued p7*

*Wesley Guild continued*

We were told that there is no correct way to wear a poppy and no specific time to wear it other than on and around 11 November of course. All we are asked to do is to wear our poppy with pride. The Legion raises about half of the funds it needs for its welfare work through the annual Poppy Appeal. The 2018-2019 appeal raised a staggering £50 million.

At the time of writing we are looking forward to our next gathering on 27 November when members of the Guild and Fellowship visit Ascot House for a Christmas lunch. A few days later on 5 December, we look forward to a festive feast with members of the Forward Together after which we shall have our annual Carol Service in the Upper Hall. All are welcome to join us. Please see me for a meal ticket if you would like to attend.

May I say a big thank you to all who support the Guild in any way - my fellow officers, Barbara our accompanist, the tea ladies/gentlemen and the members whose loyal support all contribute to a loving Guild fellowship. I wish you all every blessing for Christmas 2019 and every happiness in the New Year.

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We were delighted to welcome back two of our good friends at the beginning of October. Rev. Jennifer Potter came to Harrogate to lead our Chapel Anniversary service on 6 October. Rosemary Green was also visiting Harrogate that weekend together with her niece and husband, Cynthia and Vince. It was a chance lucky encounter that Rosemary was able to attend the service, as she had been Jennifer's mentor many years ago when she was a local preacher.

It was good to see Rosemary looking so well and to hear all about life in Stafford. We miss you but wish you well and are delighted that you enjoy living in Stafford and are able to see so much more of your family. With our love and God's blessings.

**Lynne Harvey**

## Wesley Chapel Regular Activities

**Sunday Worship** 10.30am every week.  
Holy Communion included in the first Sunday of the month.

**Network** 2pm for 2.30pm fourth Monday in the month from October to April.

**Bible Study** at the home of Helen Evison, usually on the 3rd Monday of each month at 2 pm. Check with Helen to confirm and for further details, 01423 870725

**Tuesday Coffee** 10am-12noon every Tuesday in the foyer.

**Prayer Meeting** every third Tuesday of the month at about 11am in the Green Room.

**Book Club** every alternate month. Contact Judith Yeats for details, 01423 506014.

**Forward Together.** Coffee served from 10.45 am, lunch at 12 noon.

**Journey Group** usually on the first Thursday in every month. Contact Philip Goodwin for details, 01423 563990.

**Wesley Guild** monthly on Thursday afternoons from March to December. Contact Lynne Harvey for more details, 01423 568968.

**Wesley Welcome Café** First and third Fridays of the month from 1.30pm to 3pm in the Upper Hall. Contact Les Sudron for more details, 01423 797406

See pages 10 & 11 for more details of our activities this month.

Also visit [www.wesleychapelharrogate.org.uk](http://www.wesleychapelharrogate.org.uk)

It never snows at Christmas in that dry and dusty land.  
Instead of freezing blizzards, there are palms and drifting sands,  
and years ago a stable and a most unusual star  
and three wise men who followed it, by camel, not by car,  
while, sleepy on the quiet hills, a shepherd gave a cry.  
He'd seen a crowd of angels in the silent starlit sky.  
In the stable, ox and ass stood very still and calm  
and gazed upon the baby, safe and snug in Mary's arms.  
And Joseph, lost in shadows, face lit by an oil lamp's glow  
stood wondering, that first Christmas Day, two thousand years ago

*Marian Swinger from Read Me: A Poem for Every Day of the Year.*



## Rotas

### Sunday Morning Porch Duty

01 Dec. Shelagh & Shirley  
08 Dec.. Katharine  
15 Dec. Janet  
22 Dec. Sue  
24 Dec. 6.30pm. Shelagh  
25 Dec. Shelagh  
29 Dec. Katharine  
05 Jan. Sue & Shirley

### Sunday Worship/Christmas Stewards

01 Dec. Christine B & Les  
08 Dec. Les & Christine S  
15 Dec. Maureen & Mike  
22 Dec. Jenny & Philip  
24 Dec. 6.30pm. Les & Christine S  
25 Dec. Christine B & Les  
29 Dec. Ulrike & Andrew  
05 Jan. Christine B & Judith

### Communion Stewards

01 Dec Les & Christine S.  
05 Jan Katharine & Judith

### Organist/Piano Accompanist

01 Dec Graham  
08 Dec Philip  
15 Dec Philip  
22 Dec Philip  
24 Dec Graham  
25 Dec Graham  
29 Dec Judith  
5 Jan Graham

### Sunday Morning Coffee

01 Dec Ulrike  
08 Dec Eileen  
15 Dec Anita  
22 Dec Katharine and Keith  
29 Dec Jenny  
05 Jan Ulrike

### Tuesday Coffee

03 Dec. Shelagh & Trevor  
10 Dec. Jean & Wendy  
17 Dec. Judith (see p15)  
Closed 24th and 31st Dec.  
07 Jan. Jean & Wendy

### Forward Together

#### 05 December

10.30am-1pm Christine D &  
Judith D  
11.50am-1.15pm Ros & J Bateson  
12pm-2pm Eileen

#### 09 January

10.30am-1pm Christine B & Pat  
11.50am-1.15pm Jenny  
12pm-2pm Hannah

### Christmas Coffee Morning

#### 7 December

Refreshments 10am-12noon;  
Christine S  
Ulrike  
Eileen

Refreshments 12noon—2pm  
Bijana  
Wendy  
Jean

Sandwich makers from 10am  
Shelagh  
Carol  
Margaret H  
Priscilla

#### Stalls

Les (10am-2pm)  
Lynne H (am)  
Jenny (10am-2pm)  
Eileen (pm)  
Keith (pm)

## WESLEY ACTIVITIES

### Worship

We warmly welcome any visitors to our services and invite you to stay behind afterwards for tea or coffee and a chat.

**Sunday 1 December 10.30am.** Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev. Arnold Clay.

**Sunday 8 December 10.30am.** Morning Worship led by Rev. Gillian Robertson.

**Sunday 15 December 10.30am.** Carol Service. Local Arrangement.

**Sunday 22 December 10.30am.** Morning Worship led by Rev, Trevor Dixon.

**Tuesday 24 December 6,30pm.** Christmas Eve Service with Holy Communion led by Rev. Trevor Dixon.

**Wednesday 25 December 11am.** Christmas Day Service led by Rev. Linda Phillips.

The service will be followed by our Annual Christmas Lunch in the Lower Hall. Please see Philip Goodwin for more details.

**Sunday 29 December 10.30am.** Morning Worship led by Mrs Susan Langley.

**Sunday 5 January 10.30am.** Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev, Ann Fox.

### Lunchtime Recitals

**Monday 2 December 1pm-2pm.** Piano Recital. Susan Tomes. Rondo in A minor by Mozart, Ballade No. 1 in G minor by Chopin.

**Monday 6 January 1pm-2pm.** Piano Recital. Alisdair Hogarth. Music by Haydn, Busoni, Rachmaninov, Lizst. Webber/Tausig.

*Continued p11*

### **Bible Study Group**

**Monday 9 December 2pm.** At the home of Helen Evison. Please contact Helen for more details. Tel. 01423 870725. Please note that the Bible Study is meeting on the 2nd Monday of the month on this occasion.

### **Network**

**Thursday 5 December.** See Forward Together.

**Monday 16 December 2.30pm.** Christmas Surprise. (See page 12 for more details)

### **Tuesday Coffee**

**Tuesdays** from 10am to 12 noon. There will be a prayer meeting on 10 December from 11am in the Green Room. See p15 for details of our Tuesday Coffee Carol Service on 17 December.

There will be no Tuesday Coffee on 24th and 31st December. Back to normal on 7 January.

### **Forward Together.**

**Thursday 5 December.** Christmas Lunch and Carols with Network and Wesley Guild. Ticket required for lunch. Forward Together will recommence on 9 January.

### **Journey Group**

**Thursday 5 December 2.15 for 2.30pm.** In the Upper Hall.

### **Wesley Guild**

**Thursday 5 December 12 noon.** See Forward Together.

### **Book Club**

**Thursday 12 December. 2pm.** In the Lower Hall. There is a General Election going on that day. However, whilst everyone else is voting, book club members will be discussing *The Mayor of Casterbridge* by Thomas Hardy.

### **Wesley Welcome Café**

**Friday 6 December and Friday 20 December.** 1.30pm to 3pm in the Upper Hall. Conversation, laughter, advice, support, everyone welcome. Wesley Welcome Café will resume on **Friday 17 January.**

*See p14 for more activities.*

## NETWORK

The new season of Network started in October with *Guess That Tune*. This was a very entertaining afternoon. If you knew the tune you had to sing the first line. It caused a lot of laughing. A number were tunes of hymns regularly sung, but getting that first line was not easy. However, with a group effort all were achieved.

This month we are 'Going round the World in forty minutes'. It was unanimously decided as from the November meeting tea will be served after the meeting.

Tickets will be available at the November meeting for the Christmas lunch on Thursday 5th December which we have been invited to join with, Forward Together and Guild at £4 each.

Our December meeting on the Monday 16th will be Christmas Surprise starting with devotions followed by tea, with the surprise later in the meeting.

**Shelagh Outhwaite**

### **Pulpit notice : 24 November 2019**

*The following notice was read out at all our circuit churches on 24 November.*

'The circuit will be fully aware that we have been in stationing for a replacement for Rev Ann Fox to look after Bilton Area, Starbeck and have oversight of Wesley with a Lay Pastor Lead in place. Last weekend the Circuit Invitation Committee met a presbyter we had been matched with in the first round of Connexional Stationing this year. After a successful visit and a time of prayerful reflection the Circuit Invitation Committee have offered an invitation, which has been accepted, to Rev Lesley Taylor who is currently stationed in the Wharfedale and Aireborough Circuit of Yorkshire West District, living in Otley at present.

The Circuit Invitation Committee were unanimous in their support to invite Lesley and everyone who met her felt she was a really good match to the churches and to the circuit team. We look forward to welcoming her in September 2020.'

Ben Clowes

## TUESDAY COFFEE

The closing of the *Save the Children* shop was met with some disappointment amongst many of our church family, who had been involved with this charity. However, as the well known 16th century proverb goes 'it's an ill wind....' Wesley benefited from the closure when some of the volunteers from *Save the Children* came to help us at Forward Together and Tuesday Coffee. They have given of their time willingly and enthusiastically and we are very grateful.



Jean and Wendy (left) are now very much a part of our Tuesday Coffee mornings, which seem to be going from strength to strength. More to the point, they are very enjoyable.

This was a typical scenario one morning last month: the doors were wide open early on and our ministers and staff were holding a meeting in the Upper Hall. This particular morning Barbara was playing the piano from 10.45 to 11.15pm; most of our regulars were there - our own church family members and others who we have got to know well over the years; we had a visit from two ladies from Scotland who were on holiday (and donated £10), three people from an Anglican Church in Stockton-on-Tees including a young curate, (they raved about the church and the tea), we had a lady who just wanted to come and have a look in the church because she had lived in Harrogate for two years and had never been in our building before, (and went home with a pile of leaflets). I was on duty on my own that morning but I had plenty of spontaneous help, like someone filling the dishwasher and one of our regular customers (not one of our members) collecting the trays and the sugar bowls at the end. I came home buzzing from such a successful morning, and less importantly, we added £40 to the coffers.

And that is what Tuesday Coffee is like. Sometimes we don't get as many people, but it is always enjoyable, and definitely worthwhile, and when our doors are open, somebody always walks in and inevitably admires our 'beautiful church'.

**Judith Yeats**

*See page 15 for more details of our special Tuesday Coffee on 17 December*

*More events coming soon*

## HARROGATE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MISSION

**Saturday 7 December 10am to 12noon.** Dr Elaine Storkey "Gender and Justice". (Postponed live lecture) at Mowbray Community Church. *Dr Elaine Storkey is a philosopher, sociologist, and theologian, broadcaster and writer. Her presidency of Tearfund spanned 17 years and influenced her book, 'Scars Across Humanity: Understanding and Overcoming Violence Against Women'.*

## FUNCTIONS FOR FUN & FELLOWSHIP

**Saturday 7 December 2019 7.30pm. Starbeck Methodist Church.** *Christmas Concert. Tewit Silver Band.* Admission £8 Children Free - Pay at the door Light refreshments available - Everyone is most welcome.

## VOCALIS WITH ST. AIDAN'S CHAMBER CHOIR

**Sunday 8 December 2019 3.30pm.** *In Dulci Jubilo.* A Feast of Christmas music old and new. Adults £12, Students £5, includes a glass of wine or soft drink. (Under 19s and carers in company of people requiring assistance free.)

## BILTON AMBLERS

**Saturday 14 December.** All walks start at 9.30 am on Bilton Methodist Church car park where we meet to arrange transport. Winter walks usually about 5 miles. Please bring a packed lunch. Contact Janet Allen, 01423 524634, e-mail, [janetallen09@btinternet.com](mailto:janetallen09@btinternet.com) or turn up on the day.

## HARROGATE CHORAL SOCIETY WITH HARROGATE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA....

**Saturday 14 December 6.30pm.** Convention Centre. Christmas concert with hundreds of local primary school children. Tickets £14, half price for students and free for under 14s when accompanied by an adult. Tickets are on sale from The Harrogate Box Office: Tel 01423 502116.

*More events on page 17.*

## **CHRISTMAS SPECIALS AT WESLEY**

### **Christmas Coffee Morning**

**Saturday 7 December 10am—2pm**

Refreshments, home-made cakes, bric-a-brac stalls, books, cards and much more



### **Tuesday Coffee : Shoppers Carol Service**

**17 December 11am—11.30am**

Come and join us for a short Carol Service.  
Favourite carols and a short service of  
celebration. Led by Rev. Ann Fox



### **Christmas Day Lunch**

**25 December 12.30 noon**

Don't be alone this Christmas  
Come and join us for Christmas lunch  
Book a place with Philip 563990  
Transport can be arranged



# More Church Family News

## **New trees planted at Springwater in memory of Alan.**

Last month the Harrogate Lions planted two new trees in memory of Alan Stangroom at Springwater school in Starbeck.

Alan had a long connection with the school and was especially proud when one of his grandsons, Andrew, became deputy head.

The pictures show Margaret with friends from the Harrogate Lions at the recent ceremony and the current President Lion Carol Houseman helping with the spade.

Following this dedication, Head teacher Sarah Edwards, joined by Andrew, gave us a very interesting update of the hopes and aspirations of Springwater school and we hope that the Harrogate Lions connection will continue into the future; a fitting legacy for Alan.



*You might be interested to know that the trees are: Prunus Serola known as Tibetan Cherry and Liquid Amber known as Sweet Gum*



## *Even more events coming soon*

**Saturday 14 December 10am to 3.30pm. An Advent Quiet Day** and introduction to Godly Play with Godly Play UK trainer Susie Steel. Immerse yourself in story. Discover a new and ancient way of exploring scripture. At Hampsthwaite Methodist Church. Cost £10, free to Nidd Valley Circuit Members—a donation towards costs would be appreciated.. Hot drinks included, please bring a packed lunch. To book please contact Grace Caudwell 01423 562542, e-mail revgracec@gmail.com.

### **VOCALIS WITH CHOIR OF ST. PETER'S**

**Tuesday 17 December 7.15pm. Handel's Messiah**, Director Alexander Kyle. Accompanied by Harrogate Handel Players led by Fiona Love. Tickets from £12 from St. Peter's Office, 01423 568218 Mon-Fri.

### **BOOK CLUB**

We haven't fixed a date for our February meeting, however we have fixed a title - we will be reading *Suffragettes. The Fight for Votes for Women*. Edited by Joyce Marlow. A history of the suffragette movement drawing on extracts from diaries, newspapers, letters, journals and books. Watch out for a review of *The Language of Kindness, A Nurses Story* by Christie Watson, which we read at our last meeting and will be reported in our next Focus.

Happy, happy Christmas, that can win us back to the delusions of our childish days; that can recall to the old man the pleasures of his youth; that can transport the sailor and the traveller, thousands of miles away, back to his own fire-side and his quiet home!  
*Charles Dickens, The Pickwick Papers*

One can never have enough socks. Another Christmas has come and gone and I didn't get a single pair. People will insist on giving me books. *Professor Dumbledore in Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, by J.K. Rowling

## STORIES FOR ADVENT

*(Stories to challenge and inspire from Christian Aid)*

**First Sunday.** Two weeks after Joudy and Mhealden were married in war-torn Syria, they were forced to take to the road. They eventually reached the Serbia-Macedonia border, where Christian Aid is supporting refugees with hot food to sustain them, clothes and shoes to replace worn-out ones, and hygiene kits to help them keep healthy and clean.

**Second Sunday.** Celestin had to flee violence, after his bishop and nine of his fellow priests were killed by armed groups in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Now his ministry brings the light of Christ to others who have been forced to escape from horrific violence. The community in which he now works as a priest is relatively safe compared to areas around it, so it has become a sanctuary to many traumatised survivors of violence. Local host families show extraordinary generosity and kindness to newcomers, but their few resources are often stretched.

**Third Sunday.** Christian Aid has been supporting refugees from Myanmar's civil conflict in camps on the Thailand-Myanmar border for more than 30 years. Now, as the political situation shifts and the possibility of returning home becomes more realistic, we're helping refugees to prepare for their return. One teacher in Nu Po camp says: 'The light will come after the dark. I want my people to see the light.'

**Fourth Sunday.** Celebrating Jesus, the light who came into the world, many of us fill our homes at Christmas with light and laughter, family and friends. But for millions who are fleeing from conflict, a joyful home is a distant memory at best. As we celebrate the light of the world, we remember those surrounded by darkness, and pray that our candle will light the way.

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/sites/default/files/2016-09/christmas-appeal-candle-light-liturgy.pdf>

Christmas doesn't come from a store, maybe Christmas perhaps means a little bit more....

*Dr. Seuss, How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*

## *Focus on prayer*

### **Circuit Prayer 2019/20**

9.30am for 30 minutes.

11 December Starbeck  
8 January Trinity

**Please remember in your prayers:** All those for whom Christmas will not be a happy time: those who are ill; those who have lost loved ones; those who are lonely.

### **Prayer for Advent**

When we are blinded by the brashness of this season:  
Open our eyes to the glimpses of your glory.

When we want simple answers:  
Open our minds to the hints of incarnation.

When we are deafened by our own shouting:  
Open our ears to the whispers of your grace.

May we share with you in longing for restoration and renewal  
and may we be watchful for the light that breaks through  
the darkness of our world.  
In Christ's name. Amen

God says 'Be patient, watch and wait,  
for the time is close at hand.'  
Know that you are loved, forgiven and healed.

Amen. Thanks be to God.

*The Revd Michaela Youngson, Former President of the Methodist Conference*

My idea of Christmas, whether old-fashioned or modern, is very simple: loving others. Come to think of it, why do we have to wait for Christmas to do that? - *Bob Hope*



*Detail of Mary & Joseph from The Census in Bethlehem (front cover)*



*Detail of ruined castle from The Census in Bethlehem (front cover)*



*Wishing all our families  
and friends a very happy  
and blessed Christmas and  
a peaceful New Year.*