

the magazine
the magazine

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dear friends

We face challenging times ahead at a point in the life of the Methodist Church when we simply cannot sit on our heels and look on as opportunities pass us by; as the world moves along its ever quickening course in a way that suggests that the institution (though not necessarily the ethos) of the church is becoming less and less relevant to society. As a Circuit we are being encouraged to look seriously at where we see our worshipping community in 5/10 years time. What is it that God is asking of us as His people in this place in order that His kingdom may come in all its fullness and that His will may be done. Not what is it that we want, but what does God want? Seeking for, and then listening to, the answer to that question will be uncomfortable and unsettling for us but if our commitment is to God and to His church as the body of Christ and not simply as a social gathering of people in a building, then we have to be prepared to make sacrifices and to take risks.

I recently came across this quote "you cannot discover new oceans unless you have the courage to lose sight of the shore." Much of what we have and do has served the church well in the past but we now have the challenge of asking 'what needs to change?' in order that the church today is fit for purpose for 21st century generations. And that isn't just about bricks and mortar and physical accessibility to facilities etc. It's also about the language we use, our expectations upon an 'unchurched' culture, our 'presentation' of the gospel message. Jesus talks about himself as the vine and us as the branches, and those branches that aren't bearing fruit being removed, cutting out the dead wood so to speak. What is it in our church life (and our personal lives) that needs cutting out in order to enable new shoots to grow and develop? A difficult question but one which we cannot ignore.

And there are things to help us both to ask the question and find the answers. 'Talking of God' for example – a four session course to encourage us and develop our confidence in talking about our faith. These sessions will culminate with the visit of Rev Paul Smith on March 10th/11th. See the magazine and church notices for more information. Then there are the many opportunities that the Olympic Games are opening up, especially through 'More Than Gold'. Again there are more details to come about events and worship services so keep your eyes open!

So as we move into 2012 with all the possibilities that this new year brings let us pray for God's guidance and for the courage to trust in Him, for in God all things are possible and we don't need to fear the future but embrace it with expectation and confidence and a willingness to do things differently. Another quotation I saw this week reads "why talk about the sky being the limit when there are footsteps on the moon."

"When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father." (John 15:8)

May God bless us as we seek His will.
Liz



Methodist Relief & Development Fund

Throughout the year as disasters occur around the world, we are appealed to to give generously to assist Methodist Relief & Development Fund bring much needed aid to stricken communities.

The following is an extract from a letter sent to Roy:-

' A very special thank you to St Helier Methodist Centre at Christmas

As you know, MRDF is committed to creating life-changing opportunities for some of the world's poorest people, and we are fortunate to have you as a partner in this mission.

We have made a number of achievements over the last year - we supported 110,000 people improve their quality of life and provided humanitarian aid in 18 countries. We also assisted people in setting up 6,726 new businesses and provided training in good health and sanitation practices to over 60,000 people.

Our overseas partners, the individuals living in these communities and the staff at the MRDF office have worked hard to make this possible, but we could not have made this impact without the support of people like you.

.....

Thank you for your ongoing partnership with MRDF. St Helier Methodist Centre is one of our most dedicated supporters and we deeply value your support. Wishing you a peaceful Christmas and New Year.'

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a week of prayer for Christian unity

This year's theme was **change** and how change comes to us in different ways and circumstances. There is a need for change in all our lives; Friday's service focussed on changed by suffering.

" A clay pot sitting in the sun will always be a clay pot. It has to go through the white heat of the furnace to become porcelain."

Mildred White Struven

"The way I see it, if you want the rainbow, you gotta put up with the rain."

Dolly Parton

"God does not bring about everything that happens in the world. Because God is a God of love, he allows creatures to be themselves and to make themselves. That sort of valuable, worthwhile, independent creation has a cost. We see that in the terrible cruel choices of humankind. We also see it in the physical history of the world. Exactly the same biochemical processes that enable some cells to mutate and produce new forms of life - the very engine that has driven the amazingly fruitful history of life on earth - will allow other cells to mutate and to become malignant. You cannot have one without the other. The tragic fact that there is cancer in the world is not because God did not bother - it is a necessity in a world allowed to make itself."

John Polkinghorne (Professor, Cambridge Univ)

*Finish then thy new creation
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see thy great salvation,
Perfectly restored in thee,
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee,
Lost in wonder, love and praise!"*

Charles Wesley



the giving tree

Thank you to all who took labels from the tree and returned them with a donation for PresentAid - an arm of Christian Aid - at the Sunday service on 18 December.

Our Treasurer was able to send £762 .00 and has since received a message of thanks which is on the vestibule notice board.



the Christmas Post box

raised £137.91. This has been sent to Jersey Hospice Care. Again, **thank you** to those who donated in this way.



Family worship 2011-12

- Sunday 26 February 'Accept or Reject'
- Sunday 18 March 'Mothering Sunday'
- Sunday 8 April 'Easter Day'
- Sunday 27 May 'Pentecost'
- Sunday 24 June 'The world's best seller'
- Sunday 22 July 'Olympic Games'
- Sunday 19 August 'Holiday Club Service'

**family news
and prayer concerns**



We remember in our prayers

BUNNY BREHAUT, whose husband FRANK died at Hospice on 19 December. Bunny & Frank will be remembered by members who were at Wesley Grove in the earlier days. They have always kept an interest in church affairs and been very appreciative of our concern and prayers. Frank had suffered considerably in the last two or three years, but had always remained cheerful and grateful for the love and support of his family and friends. Both he and Bunny felt blessed that they had reached their 80th birthdays, and had celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary. We continue to remember Bunny in our prayers.

MARGARET WRIGHT (MARGO) had the misfortune to fall at home resulting in a fracture to her pelvis. She was in hospital just before Christmas but has returned home, where she is making steady if slow progress. She is receiving physiotherapy so that eventually she will feel able to tackle the stairs and steps to her flat. She appreciates seeing people for short visits.

VIRGINIA TOUDIC spent Christmas Day and several days afterwards in hospital with a particularly nasty chest infection. She returned home to convalesce and recuperate and it was good to see her back in church on Covenant Sunday. We hope she will continue to improve.

CHRIS LAKE also spent Christ-

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mas Day and several days afterwards, in Intensive Care after falling down stairs at his place of work on Christmas Eve. He suffered a ruptured spleen and cuts and bruises, but is now at home, recovering. We remember him and Carolyn in our prayers at this difficult time.

DARYL DE GRUCHY, who was taken ill at home and is at present in hospital making a steady recovery. It is likely that she will be sent to Overdale in the next few days, so friends would be wise to ring the hospital before visiting her to ascertain whether she has been moved. Our prayers are with her and her dear friend Idrys who is naturally missing her company.

DAVID PAUL is holding his own, and there has been an improvement in his speech, which is good news. Ann has had problems with her back which needed physiotherapy. She is now helping to look after her son James who has had an operation on his Achilles tendon. We continue to remember them all in our prayers.

We remember all our housebound, elderly or frail members and friends in our prayers - they are part of the rich tapestry of our church family.

BIRTHDAYS in December & January ERIC LE ROSSIGNOL, ENID DAVIS, EUNICE LE BRETON, BETTY MOURANT, JOAN PICOT, CHARLOTTE McKERNAN, SALLY LE BROCCQ, PETER LUCE and others not mentioned here! May you be surrounded by God's love as you journey into another year.

SIMON YOUNG will be having his accreditation service as a Local Preacher on Sunday evening 5

February in Eastleigh, Hants. He, Wendy, Daniel & Becca will be in our prayers as he seeks God's leading for future Christian service.

messy church is catching on!

St Martin's Methodist church is starting a new group in March. They will be meeting on the third Friday of every month. We wish them well as they begin this exciting new venture and pray for the helpers that they will feel encouraged and supported as they share the news of God's love with the families that come.



A prayer

*Lord, I wonder,
I wonder sometimes in fear and
trepidation,
at others with courage and confidence.
I wonder what the future will hold.
Will I face adversity, or is there
joy ahead?
Will I have a good income
or will I lose my job?
Will my friends and family be
supportive?
What trials will I have to face?
Will the world situation
be more peaceful next year?
Will the Church be more united?
What of the children, what of the
elderly,
what of the vulnerable?
I wonder.
But all I know is that whatever
happens,
You will walk by my side. Amen*

Heather Shipman
From Methodist Prayer handbook

Talking of God aims to:

Enable local churches to gain confidence in speaking about their faith in Jesus.

Deepen the relationships between people within the church context.

Encourage the church to recognise the opportunities already offered to them to share the good news of Jesus Christ.

Who is Talking of God for? - Anyone of Christian faith.

Talking of God does not endorse a particular theological standpoint. Rather it offers the opportunity for each member of the group to share their faith in a manner which is appropriate to their own personality and the context in which they live and work.

It relies on people being prepared to speak openly and share their perspectives, as well as affirming one another across theological and denominational boundaries.

There is an expectation that group members will explore together ways of speaking about Jesus to the world in an honest manner without compromising the Church's foundational beliefs about Jesus and the need for all people to experience salvation in his name.

Talking of God is not an evangelistic programme for seekers, but a course designed to encourage Christians to gain confidence in conversing about their faith in the many contexts in which they find themselves.

How long will the course take?

Talking of God is made up of four sessions, which will be held over four weeks in February / March 2012.

House groups, study groups, fellowships and other networks across the Jersey Circuit will be following the Talking of God material over the coming weeks. This time of sharing and growing together will culminate in the weekend of 10/11 March when Rev Paul Smith will be coming to the island. Paul is the Superintendent of the Plymouth Mission Circuit, a renowned expounder of scripture, and a regular speaker at Easter People and, more recently, ECG.

On Saturday 10 March Paul Smith will be the speaker at a dinner to be held at The Red Rose Restaurant. The hope is that those who have been part of the Talking of God course will invite a non-Christian friend to join them at that meal, an encouragement to put into practise 'talking of God'.

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On Sunday 11 March at 10.30am Rev Smith will be the preacher at a Circuit Service to be held at SHMC when he will pick up on the theme and thoughts that have been shared during the course.

Our Friday Afternoon Bible study group will be following the course material starting on 10 February for four weeks. Please look at the Sunday notices as to when other groups may be using it. Sunday evening worship at Georgetown on 29 Jan, 5 Feb, 19 Feb and 26 Feb will also be using a condensed version of the Talking of God material.

If you don't already attend a house group or go to the evening service you are encouraged to do so for this period. With the whole Circuit being asked to reflect on where our churches will be in 5 and 10 years time this opportunity to strengthen our discipleship and journey together is part of that process of capturing God's vision for the future.



Are you sure?

Faith is not certainty,
Precluding debate, forbidding doubt.
That is faith's opposite.

Faith invites discussion,
Requires our exploration,
Embraces doubt, and
Sets all in the context of
The faithfulness of God
Known in the past.

Faith keeps us looking
Forward, takes us deeper
Into the mysteries of God,
Encourages hope.

*Ann Lewin
Watching for the Kingfisher*

Occupation memories

by Idrys Buesnel

6. Fear, Despair, Resolve and a 'wee piece of soap.'

My most frightening moment was when my husband decided to go low water fishing and took with him the profoundly deaf bottle washer from the hospital. They went down La Mare slip.

A few minutes after they had disappeared from sight, several German tanks lumbered along the coast road and turned near the white lighthouse facing out to sea. I was sitting on the beach with the children; we were allowed under the wall but not down near the rocks.

I asked my friend to keep an eye on the children and ran down to the edge of the rocks shouting as loudly as possible, "Go toward Green Island".

I heard feet approaching and a fully armed German stood beside me. He said "Come". I said, "Two men fishing."

He said, "Nix verboten".

I repeated, "Two men fishing."

He motioned me to walk ahead of him up the slip and I was soon facing the Officer in Charge.

I again said, "Two men fishing."

He said, "VERBOTEN," turned to the soldier who had brought me up the slip and ordered in German, "Clear the beach".

The soldier pushed me in front of him down the slip; I started walking toward my pram. He went along the beach shouting, "Clear the beach."

I grabbed my pram and baby and my elder son Lewis, and was up the slip as fast as my legs could carry me, with all the other women and children coming behind. I looked out to sea and saw two men making their way towards Green Island. Whether that soldier let me go purposely or not, I do not know, but they

were not all Nazi!

My husband had heard me shouting but had not known what I had said. He had then spotted the tanks and made for Green Island. Their catch was only a few winkles and limpets but still very welcome.

Food became increasingly difficult to come by. A farmer agreed to sell us a sack of potatoes so we took the pram and the children to the farm, collected the potatoes and smuggled them into the pram under the blankets. Three German soldiers passed us and made some remark looking back at the pram, we just kept walking but I let out a great sigh of relief when we arrived home.

Next morning a German knocked at our door, I thought "Potatoes", but he said, "You will tell Mrs Tirrell (my next door neighbour) I have taken her husband's motor-bike".

I said, "You will leave a note," and shut the door, finding I was shaking like a leaf!

A few days later, my husband was sent for by the Kommandeur. I again thought, "Those potatoes," but it was to tell him that the whole family were to be deported, as a German chemist would be replacing him; we were to be ready to travel at a moment's notice with what we could carry.

Lewis had outgrown his overcoat so I passed it on to Anthony; I had a very full ladies' riding skirt and a friend made it into an overcoat for Lewis. A church friend, Emma Farmer, knitted two balaclavas in twenty four hours, I made two pairs of gloves and we bartered our last quarter of tea for two pairs of wellingtons for the boys. Unfortunately, they were too big so I cut out inner soles from the carpet under the spare

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room bed. They fitted perfectly. I threaded all my reels of cotton on to knitting needles, sewed them to the top of my suitcase, pinned the sewing needles to it and stuffed skeins of wool into the pockets.

I had been so busy organising without realising what I was doing and why, that when reality dawned it was a moment of utter despair, then I pulled myself together, said a fervent prayer, and got on with the job in hand. Because we were being deported a dear friend offered us each a hot bath (she had a boiler behind her grate); I still had a small piece of Pears soap left and we all had a little lather, what a luxury! After I packed my wee piece of soap into my bath towels, we returned home.

Next morning my soap was missing. I retraced our steps down our garden, over my neighbours garden wall (where the high rise flats are built) and through the marsh, but I was unlucky, no soap! If any of you ever dig in the flat gardens and find a wee piece of pears soap, its mine!

No German chemist ever arrived but I dreaded every knock at the door for weeks.

7. Meals on Wheels?

Throughout the occupation, we tried to live as normally as conditions allowed. It was usual for me to give the New Year family party; we would be fifteen including children. We bartered for a rabbit and it came ready to cook. I cut it into fifteen pieces and put it in my pot au feu, a large black enamel pot with a mottled blue enamelled lining with two side handles. I packed every vegetable into it, plus home grown herbs; my little coffee grinder worked overtime for a week. With the last drop of my cooking oil I

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made enough pastry for an apple pie, wound left over bits round carrots to make potato flour custard horns for the children.

My clever and charming neighbour, Mr Frank Vautier, had made me, early on, a haybox on two pram wheels with a tight fitting lid; it had a shelf inside for additional cooking. I pushed it along to our communal oven at Mr Billot's farm, Samares Lane.

The family walked out to us from St Helier. On their arrival we had parsnip coffee, blackberry tea or carrot or apple juice, they settled down to card playing. I later returned to the farm for the meal; all went well pushing along the tarmac road. However, a few steps along the unmade road of the avenue, one wheel fell off! I had to balance it on my hip to the last house in avenue. This was a real ordeal but we all enjoyed our New Year meal on one wheel.

8. Bravery and Sacrifice

One of our special friends was a crane driver on the pier. He was always trying and often succeeded in, "Putting one over the Jerries," as he called it.

One day, when unloading a huge searchlight from a German barge, he decided to let it drop half way. This sunk the ship and smashed the searchlight; the crew had to be rescued from the harbour. He was sentenced to deportation but when he had let the rusty hawser go, it had torn his fingers. He contracted blood poisoning and died before his sentence took effect. My husband was extremely shocked, he was convinced if he had had the right drugs, our friend might have been saved.

The Red Cross parcels arrived on "The Vega", just in time to save many deaths. We all went berserk; the sense of gratitude, the knowledge that someone cared, was overwhelming. My husband had become painfully thin, unable to sleep, always anx-

ious over the drug situation. I thought the worst is over, now I can build him up. My children were hungry for anything other than vegetables. Our first white loaf of bread arrived, I put it in a white cloth on a silver dish, but I could not cut it, only sit and look at it. My husband took over and soon we were enjoying our first slice of bread. Not a crumb escaped, but sadly it had little taste or flavour but to us it was like something from heaven and was soon gobbled up.

After D Day we were all in a state of siege, ourselves and the Germans. My sons sat on our wall watching wave after wave of aircraft fly over. We found it difficult to understand why we were not freed immediately. Little did we realise it would be another eleven months before we were liberated.

I made a point of seeing Dr Hanna to ask if there would be anything he could do about my husband's lack of sleep and pitiful condition. He said he would do what he could.

9. Liberation

Liberation came at last and joy abounded. The Royal Square was packed to hear Mr Churchill say, "Our dear Channel Islands are also to be freed today." There was not a dry eye anywhere. A soldier gave my sons oranges and they thought they were balls!! At last we realised we were FREE.

On Liberation night, part of the hospital staff were invited to a house in St Clement's Road to meet the liberating officers. We chatted and danced to a Gramophone, then the dividing doors were opened ... we were facing a huge table with every type of delicious food we had not seen for years! We could not believe our eyes. Some one said "Horder, Black Marketeer," it was incredi-

ble. We could not imagine what our liberators were thinking. We all walked out, single file. Colonel Robertson shook hands with each person and said, "We fully understand your gallant gesture, your gaunt faces and thin bodies speak for themselves!"

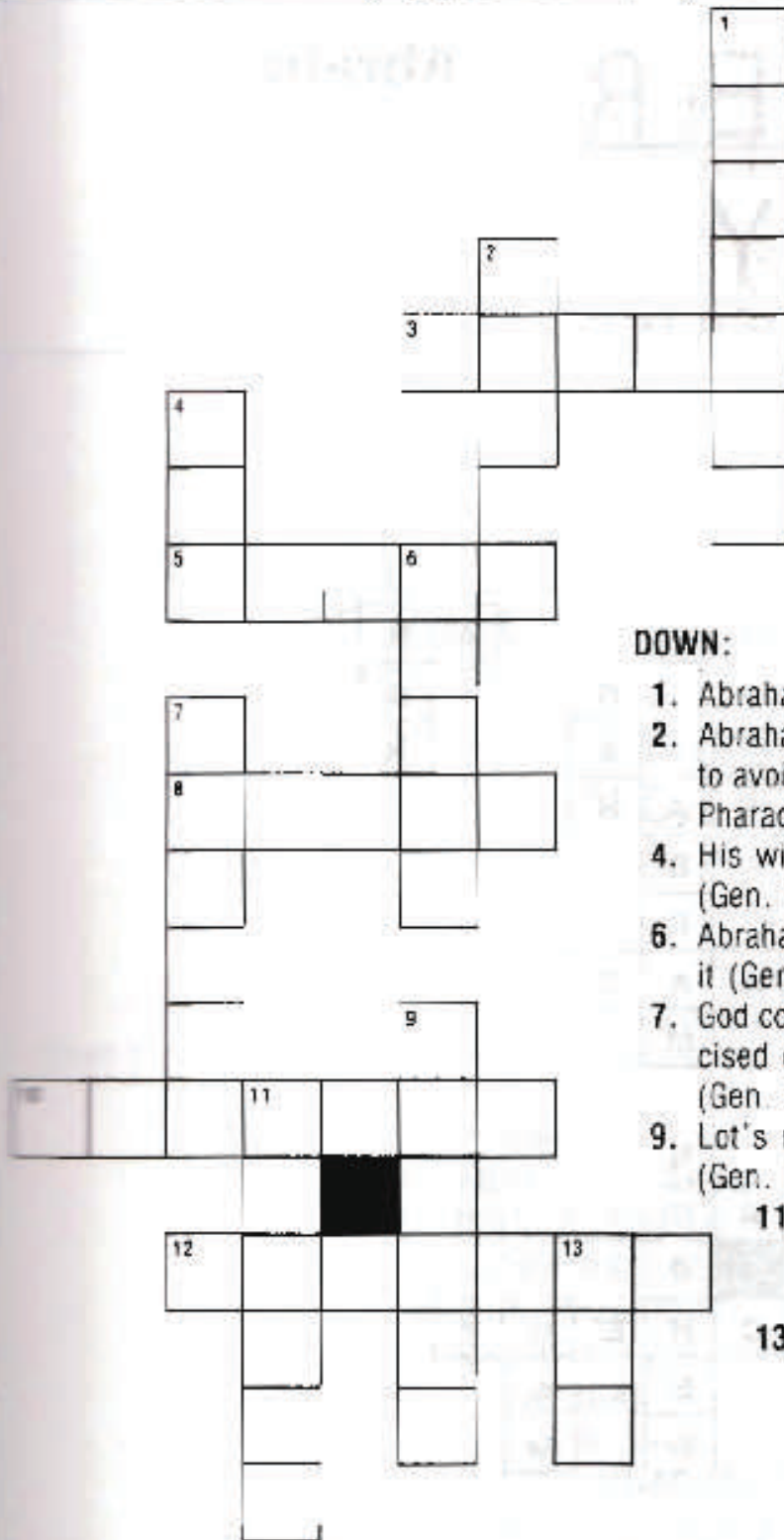
My dear husband, and the boys and I got away on the first ship to England. We looked very strange on arrival, my husband in his only suit left, plus fours and wellies, the boys with their extra large wellies and me with my filed down running shoes. It was a while before we had clothing and food coupons. My husband's family were very shocked by our appearance, neither of us could eat very much and my husband never gained any weight. The boys soon picked up, and I did gradually.

We stayed in England for six months. On our return we purchased a chemist shop which opened on 1 January, 1946, on 16 January my husband collapsed in his dispensary, unconscious and died in the General Hospital a few hours later of a cerebral haemorrhage. He never regained consciousness.

GRATITUDE

Referring to the hospital doctors McKinstry, Hanna and Darling, they all helped wherever and however possible with great discretion and self sacrifice, knowing that the full penalties would be enforced without favour. No one counted the long hours worked or the food refused by them to leave more for the patients. Deep gratitude is owed to them for their devotion at a difficult period in our Island's history.

Abraham



ACROSS:

- 3. Sarah's Egyptian Maid (Gen. 16:3)
- 5. Abraham's father (Gen. 11:26)
- 8. Abraham and Sarah's son (Gen. 17:19)
- 10. Abraham and Hagar's son (Gen. 16:15)
- 12. Ishmael's skill learned in the wilderness (Gen. 21:20)

DOWN:

- 1. Abraham's second wife (Gen. 25:1)
- 2. Abraham claimed her to be his sister to avoid being killed by the Egyptian Pharaoh. (Gen. 12:11-13)
- 4. His wife became a pillar of salt (Gen. 19:26)
- 6. Abraham's name before God changed it (Gen. 17:5)
- 7. God commanded males to be circumcised on this day after birth. (Gen. 17:12)
- 9. Lot's relationship to Abraham (Gen. 12:5)
- 11. The mountain on which Isaac was to be offered as a sacrifice (Gen. 22:2)
- 13. Offered by Abraham as the sacrifice instead of Isaac (Gen. 22:13)

Childrens's Activities:

Over Christmas the children and families who attend groups at the Church during the week, were very busy. I will try and give you a brief recap of events.

Tuesday 6th December

This was the start of the celebrations! The Little Rascal group had their impromptu Nativity. It was very sweet but unfortunately we were low on numbers that day through illness etc and we ended up with a very willing Mary, a very small Joseph 1 King no shepherds, and lots and lots of angels! But that's what happens sometimes with under 4's

Sunday 11th December

Many of you were there. It was the turn of the Junior Church children with the help of some of the Rascal children, to do their Nativity for the congregation. Although the rehearsal the day before had been characteristically chaotic, the service was well done and the Band of Angels stole the show!



Monday 12th December

The Baby Rascals group had their Christmas Afternoon. Fun and lots of party food, mostly for the mums

Tuesday 13th December

It was the Little Rascals' Christmas Party. Many of the Children had recovered by then! So games, singing and Father Christmas were all very popular. Father Christmas enjoyed his new role this year too!



(guess who it is!?)

Wednesday 14th December

Our Lunchtime children were in party mood that day. Father Christmas even managed to squeeze in another visit.

worship
february 2012

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5th	10.30am	Morning worship Ms Lorraine Wheeler
12th	10.30am	Morning worship Rev Liz Hunter
	6.30pm	Circuit service at St Martin
16th	3.30pm	Messy Church
19th	10.30am	Holy Communion & receiving of gifts Rev Liz Hunter
26th	10.30am	Family worship Rev Liz Hunter

A local priest and a rabbi were fishing by the side of the road. After some discussion they thoughtfully made a sign saying, "The End is Near! Turn yourself around now before it's too late!" and showed it to each passing car. One driver that drove by didn't appreciate the sign and shouted at them: "Leave us alone, you religious nuts!" Shortly afterwards they heard a big splash. They looked at each other and the priest said to the rabbi, "You think we should just put up a sign that says "Bridge Out" instead?"

don't forget.....

13 Feb 7.30pm Church Council
27 Feb 7.30pm Pastoral Leaders meeting
2 March Women's World Day of Prayer 12.30-1.30pm at the Town Church

Coffee bar 10am-12noon Mondays & Wednesdays

Monday **Baby Rascals** group 2-3.30pm
Tuesday **Little Rascals** Parent/toddler group 10am-12

Wednesday **Prayer time** 12noon-12.30pm
Communion service 12.30pm -1pm
Lunchtime Rascals 12.30pm-3pm

N.B. Rascals groups are 'term time' only.

Friday **Lunch and 'stay-a-while'**

House groups: Tuesdays (tel:730109) 8pm
Discovery House Group
Tuesdays (tel: 767459) 7.30pm
Fridays 2pm FAB at SHMC



Check your pigeon holes in the hall foyer for messages.
Read the church notice boards regularly - you might miss something really interesting!

the magazine
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*News and views welcomed -
advertise your planned events -
report on events you have shared*

*The next magazine is due out on
Sunday 26 february 2012
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**Monday 20 february 2012 at the
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**cake sale for Esperado after
family worship on 26 february**

