



Helga's Editorial

Dear Friends,

We have again arrived at this very special season. The celebration of the time when God broke through the sin and darkness of our world and sent His only Son to be born as a baby so that He would grow in wisdom and stature, in favour with God and Man. Just as God intends us to grow.

Let us for a moment cast off the cares and worries we have at this point in history and marvel at the scene.

The angel Gabriel comes to prepare Jesus' Mother for His conception. She was specially chosen for this tremendous honour. Joseph, a special person, has a dream and accepts these strange circumstances. He becomes the earthly Father to the Son of God.

A census causes them to travel to Bethlehem, the City of David. A special place to the Jewish people and one which both longed for, and expected, the birth of the Messiah.

No kingly palace for Jesus but a stable for His birth because there was no room for them at the inn.

The shepherds went about their business tending the sheep. It is thought that these fields belonged to the temple and the sheep were specially prepared for sacrifice, needing to be perfect in every way.

When a baby boy was born in Israel, male neighbours would come and sing songs of praise to God and welcome the new born. Because they were away from their village God sent a heavenly throng of angels who praised God and the glory of the Lord shone around them. He also sent an angel who prophesied, **Luke 2:11 "Be not afraid; for behold I bring you news of a great**

joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour who is Christ the Lord.

When they returned to Jerusalem they went up to the Temple for the time of purification as every family in Israel would do. They were not rich because they offered a poor man's sacrifice. There the prophetess Anna gave thanks to God and spoke of him to all who were looking for the redemption of Israel.

These events actually occurred. We take pilgrimages to Israel and have seen the sights and have learned about the customs and the importance of the prophecies concerning Jesus.

May we at this season let God touch our spiritual eyes. Maybe we do not have a lot of money; yet God has given us a pearl of greatest worth in Jesus. Maybe we are sad because we remember at this time the people we have lost and miss them; yet God gives us eternal life and a promise to forgive our sins because Jesus lived and died. Maybe we are lonely and do not have a family to celebrate and share with on Christmas day; yet God has given us brothers, sisters, Fathers and Mothers because we are part of a worldwide family. Maybe we have few gifts to open and little sign of the love of others; yet God loves us and has graven us into the palms of His hands.

God has given to us His gift of Jesus. The gift beyond price. He is our friend, companion, guide, protector, provider, strength, hope and peace.

May we all know the joy of a heart loved by God; the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. May we meditate on all that happened when God gave to us at Bethlehem, the gift of His Son.

Thank you for all your prayers, love and support during this very stretching and demanding year. Together may we journey through 2012.

All at UCHM wish you a peaceful and blessed Christmas and a God filled New Year.

Love
Helga

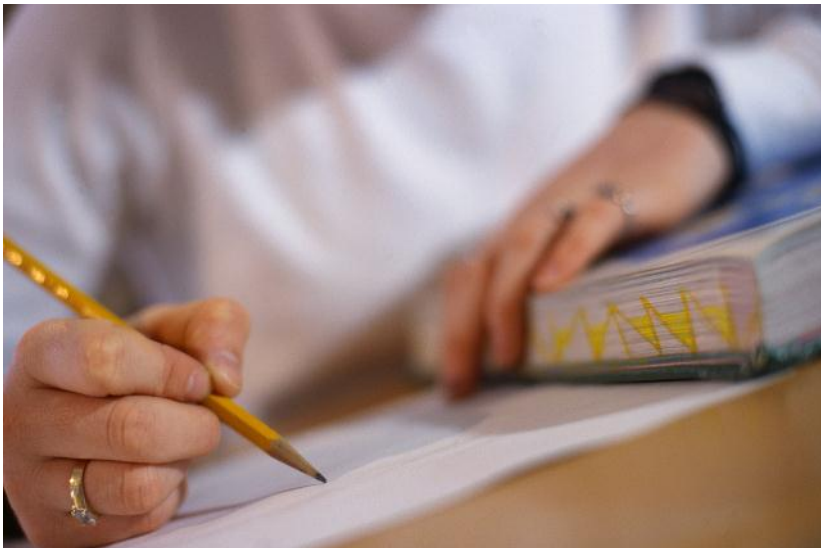
UCHM DIPLOMA IN PASTORAL CARE

UCHM offer their own Diploma in Pastoral Care when a student has satisfactorily completed the Introduction to Christian Counselling Level 2 and the Advanced Counselling Skills Level 3 courses.

Both these courses are recognised by the Association of Christian Counsellors and carry an Open College Network accreditation.

Helga trains one Level 2 course per year, which is always held on a Friday evening and all day Saturday, for one weekend a month for four months.

The next course starts in January and you can find further information regarding this course in the Healing Leaves Magazine.



LAST CALL
**INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIAN
COUNSELLING
LEVEL 2**

Helga Taylor

Starting JANUARY 2012

20, 21 January

24, 25 February

16, 17 March

20, 21 April

This Course is booking up fast so if you are involved in Pastoral Care and feel you need some useful, vital training to be EVEN BETTER, or if you are wanting to take the first step towards counsellor training then...



**Get your skates on and call us
on 01484 461098
or**

Email : training@uchm.org



ADVANCED COUNSELLING SKILLS

ACC Recognised, 27 credits at OCN level 3

Commencing SEPTEMBER 2012.

**Exploring Counselling Skills and Theory from a Christian
Perspective**

This 15 month, part-time course is for anyone with a heart for people; has achieved the Introduction to Christian Counselling Level 2; and who is involved in pastoral care.

It is also the second level of Christian Counsellor Training and progresses to the Advanced Diploma in Christian Counselling.

UCHM ADVANCED DIPLOMA IN COUNSELLING

ACC Recognised, 60 credits at OCN level 4

Commencing JUNE 2012

A distinctive, integrative Counsellor Training Programme for Christians and all who wish to work with the spiritual dimension of counselling.

A substantial core counselling course containing supervised placement and all the elements necessary for counsellor accreditation.

**For further details: training@uchm.org
01484 461098**

Upcoming Training -
As part of UCHM's
Continuing Professional Development
Training Programme:

EGAN SKILLED HELPER MODEL

Fri 3rd February 2012 9.00 - 17.30

Sat 4th February 2012 9.00 - 17.30

Trainer: Barbara Joyce

Cost £90

For booking forms or more information please contact the centre on 01484 461098, email training@uchm.org, or visit our website - www.uchm.org - where booking forms can be downloaded to print out

UCHM is a charity providing accessible counselling services throughout the region. Your contribution will be used to sustain the work of the Charity.

The Story of Papa Panov

An old shoemaker, Papa Panov was working very hard in his shop getting ready for Christmas. It was really hard work, he was old, lonely and nearly too blind to see what he was doing.

He sat daydreaming and had a dream that Jesus was going to visit him. He got up very excited and thought to himself... "Now what can I give to Jesus for a present?" He looked all around his little shop and he saw a tiny box on the top shelf. He remembered what was in it...some very tiny shoes, the best that he had ever made. He would give those to Jesus.

Papa Panov awoke early on Christmas morning. He was very excited at the thought of a visit from Jesus. He looked impatiently out of his door and down the road. There was a road sweeper, blue with cold and looking very hungry. Papa Panov invited him in and made him rest by the fire. Papa Panov gave the road sweeper his coat and a little of the soup that he had made. There was still enough left for Jesus when he came so it was alright. The road sweeper went away very happy.

A little while later Papa Panov looked out of his door again. He saw a tramp walking down the road. Nobody should spend Christmas like that thought Papa Panov so he invited the tramp in. The tramp got warm by the fire, had a little of the soup and Papa Panov gave him all of the money that he had. The tramp went away very happy.

It was getting late when Papa Panov looked out of his window again. He was very worried that Jesus was not going to come after all. There was a woman with a small baby passing. They were very cold, tired and hungry. Papa Panov invited them in to rest. He gave them the rest of his soup. "Oh dear," he thought.

"Now there won't be any for Jesus." He looked at the baby with nothing on its feet in the icy cold weather. He remembered the little shoes and fetched the box down. The shoes fitted just right. Papa Panov gave the baby the shoes but was very upset at the thought of having nothing to give Jesus.

Night came. Papa Panov had not had a visit from Jesus. He went to bed feeling rather unhappy and very foolish.

That night Papa Panov had another dream. He dreamed that he met Jesus and asked him why he did not visit during the day. Jesus said, "But I did. I came as a road sweeper and you warmed, fed and clothed me. I came as a tramp and you fed me and gave me your money. I came as a baby, you looked after me and gave me shoes. By making all those people happy you have made me happy."



Prayer Diary

December

5th	Advanced Counselling Skills Level Three
6th	4.00 Healing Service Group Supervision UCHM Monthly Worship Time
7th	Helga at ACC Board, Coventry
12th	Advanced Counselling Skills Level Three (New)
13th	Placement Meeting
20th	UCHM Managers Meeting
21st -	UCHM closed for Christmas Holidays
2nd Jan 2012	

January

3rd	4.00 Healing Service Group Supervision UCHM Monthly Worship Time
9th	Advanced Counselling Skills Level Three
16th	Advanced Counselling Skills Level Three (New)
17th	UCHM Finance Committee Meeting
20th—21st	Introduction to Christian Counselling Level Two
23rd	Advanced Counselling Skills Level Three
26th	UCHM Trustees Meeting
30th	Advanced Counselling Skills Level Three (New)
31st	UCHM Managers Meeting

February

3rd—4th	Egan Skilled Helper Conference
7th	4.00 Healing Service Group Supervision UCHM Monthly Worship Time
12th	UCHM Healing Service, Scapegoat Hill Baptist Church
13th—17th	Centre closed for half term
20th	Advanced Counselling Skills Level Three
24th—25th	Introduction to Christian Counselling Level Two
27th	Advanced Counselling Skills Level Three (New)
28th	UCHM Managers Meeting

A Warm Witty Christmas Story

It was the day after Christmas at St Peter and St Paul's church in Borden, Kent, England. Father John, the vicar, was looking at the nativity scene outside when he noticed the baby Jesus was missing from the figures.

Immediately, Father John's thoughts turned to calling in the local policeman but as he was about to do so, he saw little Nathan with a red wagon, and in the wagon was the figure of the little infant, Jesus.

Father John approached Nathan and asked him, 'Well, Nathan, where did you get the little infant?'

Nathan looked up, smiled and replied, 'I took him from the church.'

'And why did you take him?'

With a sheepish grin, Nathan said, 'Well, Father John, about a week before Christmas I prayed to Lord Jesus. I told him if he would bring me a red wagon for Christmas, I would give him a ride around the block in it.'



Quotes at Christmas time

'Christmas is the keeping-place for memories of our innocence.' **Joan Mills**

'Peace on earth will come to stay, when we live Christmas every day.' **Helen Steiner Rice**

'The best of all gifts around any Christmas tree: the presence of a happy family all wrapped up in each other.'
'I wish we could put up some of the Christmas spirit in jars and open a jar of it every month.' **Harlan Miller**

'Remember, if Christmas isn't found in your heart, you won't find it under a tree.' **Charlotte Carpenter**

'There has been only one Christmas - the rest are anniversaries.' **W.J. Cameron.**

'A Christmas candle is a lovely thing; It makes no noise at all, But softly gives itself away; While quite unselfish, it grows small.' **Eva K. Logue**

'I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet the words repeat
Of peace on earth, goodwill to men! - **Longfellow**

'I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year.' **Charles Dickens**

'He who has no Christmas in his heart will never find Christmas under a tree.' **Roy L. Smith**

UCHM Israel Pilgrimage

“Come See His Land”

25 April ~ 9 May 2013

Thursday: Flying Jet2 from Manchester to Tel Aviv
Transfer to Knights Palace, Jerusalem

Friday: Bethlehem and Western Wall

Saturday: Caesarea, Jezreel Valley to Maagan
We are based here for 7 nights, visiting sites around the Lake and Northern Galilee. This will include worship services on the Lakeside, Mount of Beatitudes, possibly others; and a visit to the baptismal site at Yardenit, a sail on the lake and many other fascinating museums and sites

Saturday: We travel through the Jordan Valley, past Jericho to the Wilderness and Masada. We return to Jerusalem for 5 more nights. Here, we will visit the Old City, Bethany, Mount of Olives, Gethsemane, Via Dolorosa etc

Thursday: On our final day we visit the Garden Tomb and then the Church of the Ascension before we journey to the airport for our flights back to Manchester

We are still awaiting confirmation of bookings and prices but we expect that this year the price will be in the region of £1850. The price will include flights, half-board accommodation, travel in air-conditioned coaches, all entrances and for simplicity the final price this year will include all gratuities. We will be setting up a saving scheme to help with budgeting – please ask for details when we have the final prices.

At the end of the pilgrimage there will be the option of flying down to Eilat for a week to experience the Red Sea's Coral Reef

Please be aware that places on the pilgrimage are limited to 30. If you are interested please contact us. Further information will follow when we receive confirmation from the Israel hotels.

URGENT INFORMATION

We are making different arrangements for UCHM's Healing Service which currently meets 1st Tuesday of each month



We are making changes regarding this service. In future UCHM will have a Healing Service every three months which will be advertised in the Healing Leaves magazine.

If you wish to have a one to one session for healing prayer please ring UCHM reception, leave your name and number and someone will call you back and arrange a time when you can meet together.

We hope that we have heard the mind of God and that we walk together into the future with trust and commitment.

God Bless
Helga, Pauline and Madeline

UNITED CHURCHES HEALING MINISTRY

HEALING SERVICE

A photograph of a field of red poppies with green stems and leaves, set against a soft, out-of-focus background. A white rectangular text box is centered in the upper portion of the image.

A special service of
**Healing, Hope
and
Remembrance**

SUNDAY
19TH FEBRUARY 2012
6PM

**SCAPEGOPAT HILL BAPTIST CHURCH,
SCHOOL ROAD, SCAPEGOAT HILL, HD7 4NU**

The Smallest Snowflake

Christiana was the smallest of all the snowflakes. It seemed she and her family, along with many other snowflake families, had been floating always through the long day as she tumbled delightfully about with her friends. But their journey took them as well through seemingly endless freezing cold and darkness. Sometimes the north wind blew them along their way so hard she could scarcely breathe. At these times, as much as the bracing wind would permit, Christiana huddled close to her parents, Celeste and Chaucer, completely unaware that they were as uncomfortable as she.

At other times they were assailed by a gust of warmer air up in the atmosphere that threatened their very lives. Afraid, the little crystalline beauty would bow her minuscule head and cry. Celeste and Chaucer tried to shield and protect their little progeny as best they could.

Sometimes however, it was all they could do to hold on themselves. The beloved but naive little snowflake was oblivious to everything but observances from her youthful perspective and her own unreliable emotions and feelings. Life seemed to her a series of events: those that made her feel good, the ones she relished with great glee, and those that were so traumatic they drove her to despair. These ups and downs were punctuated with exasperating periods of sheer boredom.

Between the frigid wind that blew them, forcing them along in their descent to the earth, and their greatest foe, the warm counter-winds that swished by occasionally and threatened to dissolve them, the snowflake life was much more treacherous than observers might perceive it to be.

On their flight to the earth, the snowflake highs were very high indeed. It was almost like a symphony as they floated along together when none of their enemies were nearby. The sound of snowflake laughter and singing were delightful to the ear. But, as quickly as they had begun, these delightful times became a memory, as worries and trials became their portion once more.

Each time these difficult periods came 'round again, the music ceased and tension, fear, and strife shoved aside the joy and began to rule. Christiana and her peers lived only for the times of joy, pouting and resisting those that kept them from their fun. At one particularly dark and trying hour, Celeste and Chaucer, who had been on this flight much longer and had learned to take things more in stride, hovered near their lovely and delicate daughter. "How do you manage to remain so calm when our enemies are near?" Christiana asked.

"My dear", said her father, "When we began this journey, before you were born, the father of snowflakes, the one who formed us, spoke a promise for us to hold close to our hearts along the way."

"Long ago," he said, "because the snowflake journey is fraught with enemies, I sent my perfect snowflake to the earth. He made the same journey that all snowflakes make, but because of who he is, he defeated the foe of the snowflakes and took away his power. And, if you will but trust in him and in me, and keep us at the centre of your hearts, and if you will remember that we are with you at all times, a special wind you haven't known will keep you safe, guiding you, teaching you, and giving you peace along your way. Then, no matter what tactic your enemy may use to try to destroy you, when your traveling days are done, you will make your landing in a new and better world. I myself will be there to welcome you. At that point your life here will be at an end, but you will have fulfilled your purpose and you will have joy, for from the clouds I will lift you up to myself once more as I did the perfect snowflake."

by Daphne Harrington

Small Office for Let

We have a small office space available for hiring on an ongoing basis.

Facilities include:

Telephone and Internet access

Access to Kitchen and Toilet facilities

Use of the Centre's car park

For more information or to come and view please contact UCHM on 01484 461098



UCHM News

- **Team News**

We welcome James Carrie as a CPD Counsellor and Ian Harrison and Diana Stockford as placement counsellors. We also welcome Cheryl Hyliger as an Admin Support Worker, and she is helping with the reception and admin in the main office.

Jackie Hesketh finished her counselling at UCHM in September to take up her new role as Head of Counselling at our affiliated organisation, St Marys Counselling Centre in Todmorden. We thank her for her contribution to UCHM and wish her every blessing in her new role.

Tandiwe Dziya is taking time out from her counselling placement until the UCHM Diploma Course begins. We also say goodbye to Vicky Valentine whose placement has ended due to personal reasons.



A Politically Correct Christmas Story

Author Unknown

T'was the night before Christmas and Santa's a wreck...

How to live in a world that's politically correct?

His workers no longer would answer to "Elves".

"Vertically Challenged" they were calling themselves.

And labour conditions at the North Pole
were alleged by the union to stifle the soul.

Four reindeer had vanished, without much propriety,

Released to the wilds by the Humane Society.

And equal employment had made it quite clear

That Santa had better not use just reindeer.

So Dancer and Donner, Comet and Cupid

Were replaced with 4 pigs, and you know that looked stupid!

The runners had been removed from his sleigh;

The ruts were termed dangerous by the E.P.A.

And people had started to call for the cops

When they heard sled noises on their rooftops.

Second-hand smoke from his pipe had his workers quite
frightened.

His fur trimmed red suit was called "Unenlightened."

And to show you the strangeness of life's ebbs and flows,

Rudolf was suing over unauthorised use of his nose

And had gone on Geraldo, in front of the nation,

Demanding millions in over-due compensation.

So, half of the reindeer were gone; and his wife,

Who suddenly said she'd enough of this life,
Joined a self-help group, packed, and left in a whiz,
Demanding from now on her title was Ms.
And as for the gifts, why, he'd never had a notion
That making a choice could cause so much commotion.
Nothing of leather, nothing of fur,
Which meant nothing for him. And nothing for her.

Nothing that might be construed to pollute.
Nothing to aim, Nothing to shoot.
Nothing that clamoured or made lots of noise.
Nothing for just girls, or just for the boys.
Nothing that claimed to be gender specific.
Nothing that's warlike or non-pacifistic.

No candy or sweets...they were bad for the tooth.
Nothing that seemed to embellish a truth.
And fairy tales, while not yet forbidden,
Were like Ken and Barbie, better off hidden.
For they raised the hackles of those psychological
Who claimed the only good gift was one ecological.

No baseball, no football...someone could get hurt;
Besides, playing sports exposed kids to dirt.
Dolls were said to be sexist, and should be passe;
And Nintendo would rot your entire brain away.
So Santa just stood there, dishevelled, perplexed;
He just could not figure out what to do next.

He tried to be merry, tried to be gay,
But you've got to be careful with that word today.
His sack was quite empty, limp to the ground;
Nothing fully acceptable was to be found.
Something special was needed, a gift that he might
Give to all without angering the left or the right.

A gift that would satisfy, with no indecision,
Each group of people, every religion;
Every ethnicity, every hue,
Everyone, everywhere...even you.
So here is that gift, it's price beyond worth...
May you and your loved ones, enjoy peace on Earth.



Can you believe what you see?

Christmas tree made out of chocolate...



Direct Mailbox to Santa?



Following a star



Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.
Cold on His cradle the dewdrops are shining;
Low lies His head with the beasts of the stall.

Angels adore Him in slumber reclining,
Maker and Monarch and Saviour of all.
Shall we not yield Him, in costly devotion
Odours of Edom and offerings divine,
Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,
Myrrh from the forest and gold from the mine?

Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
Vainly with gifts would His favour secure.

Richer by far is the heart's adoration;
Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.
Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Reginald Heber, 1811