The Methodist Link

inking the Methodist Churches at Elburton, Oreston, Pomphlett and Cattedown to the Community

CHRISTMAS 2018

Donations of £1 are gratefully accepted

A church near you...

ORESTON METHODIST CHURCH Plymstock Rd, Oreston PL9 7LL WORSHIP AT 10.30am Minister: Rev'd Simon Leigh Tel:335773 Secretary: Mrs Ann James Tel: 404971 Treasurer: Mrs Val Hopkin Tel:403425 Senior Steward: Mrs Dorothy Turpitt Tel: 484038

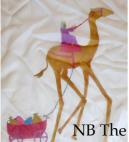
POMPHLETT METHODIST CHURCH Pomphlett Gardens, Plymouth PL9 7BL www.pomphlettchurch.org.uk. WORSHIP AT 9.30am Minister: Rev'd Andrew Day, Tel: 342519 Secretary: Mr Bert Symons, Tel: 210820 Treasurer: Mrs M Williams Tel: 493251 Senior Steward: Mrs Mary Symons Tel: 210802 Link rep: Mr Bert Symons Tel: 210820 or email: www.pomphlettchurch.org

ELBURTON METHODIST COMMUNITY CHURCH Springfield Rd, Elburton PL9 8PR WORSHIP AT 10.30am AND 6.30pm Minister: Rev'd Simon Leigh Tel: 335773 Secretary: Mrs Tricia Stringer Tel: 482532 Treasurer: Mr Robert Faulkner Tel: 482532 Treasurer: Mr Robert Faulkner Tel: 491779 Senior Steward: Mrs Pauline Raine Tel:405483 Lettings Secretary: Mrs Helen Carhart Tel: 480319 Link rep: Mr Tony Raine Tel: 405483

GATEWAY PROJECT, CATTEDOWN 3 Tresillian St, Cattedown WORSHIP AT 11.00am every 2nd Sunday of each month Minister: Rev'd David Youngs Tel (880286) Worship Leader :: Mr Roger Dodd Tel 406850

In keeping with the new regulations concerning data protection, we have the emailed permission from all of the above to publish contact details. Sorry, there are still some gaps in the following pages.

DECEMBER 2018 142



ABOUT YOUR LINK

Editor: Tony Raine. Advertising Manager: Tony Raine email: tonyraine@icloud.com

Tel: 01752 405483 mobile: 07505 286682 NB The Editor may need to amend or omit articles submitted though he will do neither without discussing it with you.

> THE FEBRUARY 2019 ISSUE DEADLINE IS SUNDAY JANUARY 13th 2019

The Link is available in printed format or online in colour, at www.elburtonmethodist.org.uk/thelink or your church web site.

Contact Tony Raine on 405483 for details. mobile: 07505 286682

2nd December Advent1 Jeremiah 33: 14-16 Psalm 25:1-10	THE LEC 23rd December Advent 4 Micah 5:2-5a	CTIONARY 13th January Isaiah 43:1-7
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13	Psalm 80:1-7	Psalm 29
Luke 21:25-36	Hebrews 10:5-10	Acts 8:14-17
9th December	Luke 1:39-45	Luke 3:15-17,21-22
Advent 2	30th December	20th January
Baruch 5:1-9	1 Samuel 2"18-20,26	Isaiah 62:1-5
Luke 1:68-79	Psalm 148	Psalm 36:5-10
Philippians 1:3-11	Colossians 3:12-17	1 Corinthians 12:1-11
Luke 3:1-6	Luke 2:41-52	John 2:1-11
16th December Advent 3 Zephaniah 3:14-20 Isaiah 12:2-6 Philippians 4:4-7 Luke 3:7-18	6th January Epiphany Isaiah 60:1-6 Psalm 72:10-14 Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12	27th January Nehemiah 8:1-3,5-6,8-10 Psalm 19 1Corinthians 12:12-31a Luke 4:14-21

The above are usually the readings used in church and are offered here for your personal use and meditation.

FRONT COVER - From a beautiful silk painting by Mike Coleman.

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Letter for Elburton and Oreston

In Flanders fields the poppies blow Between the crosses, row on row, that mark our place; and in the sky The larks, still bravely singing fly, Scarce heard beneath the guns below.

We are the dead. short days ago we lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow, Loved and were loved, and now we lie, in Flanders Fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe: To you from failing hands we throw The torch; be yours to hold it high. If ye break faith with us who die We shall not sleep, though poppies grow In Flanders fields.



(Lt. col. John McCrae)

The season of remembrance followed closely by Advent and then Christmas and not far off the shadow of Good Friday and then Easter Sunday; the liturgical year plays on our emotions and so it should.

We need to remember that Christianity is not sentimental. The Christian life knows the highs and the lows. It knows good and evil, happiness and despair. It embraces the human condition and imbues it with divine love, so that we may know, in our deepest parts, that God is there.

It is in this knowing which we may also call faith, that Christ comes. Christ is born, Christ lives, Christ dies and now lives for evermore and in him his people find joy, peace, hope and above all the knowing of love. It is in Christ's love that our faith is justified and it is in that faith we tell the story of Christianity as it is lived-out in our lives. This is what we remember, this is what we live, this is our gift in us for all; this is the torch we hold on high and it is in that light we keep the faith.

May God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless you and yours this Advent and Christmastide. May that same blessing be with you as we go into a new year with all the prospects that brings.



Every blessing,

Simon.

MISSION ALONGSIDE THE POOR

Once again you are invited to send a single Christmas card to all your church friends. The money that you save this way can be donated to Mission Alongside the Poor. The cards will be hung on a garland in the church from December 2nd 2018.







SUNDAY



SERVICES	Morning	Evening
See page 14	10.30 am	NOTE CHANGED TIMES
December 2nc ADVENT 1	Rev'd Edgar Daniel	NO SERVICE HERE - 6.30pm REFRESH at POMPHLETT
December 9th ADVENT 2	Deacon Linda Brown	4pm Rev'd Simon Leigh PARADE CAROL SERVICE
December 16t ADVENT 3	h Mrs Di SMART team NATIVITY	Rev'd Simon Leigh 6.30pm CAROL SERVICE
December 23r ADVENT 4	d Rev'd Simon Leigh SACRAMENT	Rev'd Simon Leigh & Team 3.00pm CHRISTINGLE
December 30t	h Mrs Di Smart	NO SERVICE TONIGHT
January 6th EPIPHANY	Mr Tony Kirk	Deacon Linda Brown
January 13th	Mrs Di Smart SPECIAL ANNIVERS	Rev'd Simon Leigh ARY SACRAMENT
January 20th	Rev'd Simon Leigh SACRAMENT	Mrs Di Smart
January 27th	Mrs Brenda Youngs	Rev'd Simon Leigh

MOST ACTIVITIES STOP OVER THE HOLIDAYS. PLEASE CHECK. 6

JaM (JESUS AND ME) - 10.30 a.m.	JaM is the name for our children's and youth ministry. We meet in the Moore Hall for 10.30 am.
SOUNDS ALIVE SINGERS	When we have a presentation to work towards we meet for rehearsals at 11.45 am after church on Sundays to share our love of music.
MONDAY DANCE FITNESS - 10.30 a.m.	Contact Sarah Danning, 01752 881447 or email: info@physicallyfabulous.co.uk www.physicallyfabulous.co.uk
LUNCHEON CLUB - 11 a.m.	On Mondays lunches are provided for those less able to cook for themselves. Contact June Dinner
	(407418) for 3rd Mondays, Barbara Jeffery (311100) for the other Mondays.
30 p.m. CUB SCOUTS - 6.00 - 7-30 p.m. SCOUTS - 7.30 p.m 9.00 p.m.	There are a few vacancies for boys and girls and also helpers. Contact Roger Galloway 268803 for more information.
TUESDAY METHODIST WOMEN	The Women's Network Fellowship,

IN BRITAIN - 2.30 p.m Dec 4th Circuit ADVENT service Speaker: Di Smart Dec 11th CAROL SERVICE Jan 8th Rev'd Terry Higgins Jan 15th Alan Stockdale Plymouth Special Olympics Jan 22nd Rev'd Kate Conrad Jan 29th Rev'd Tom Brassil RAINBOWS BROWNIES - 6.00 p.m. The Women's Network Fellowship, now called MWiB, meets in the Moore Hall of Elburton Methodist Church. For more information contact Carol Batchelor 491962

Contact Julie Hoskin on 481605. There is no Guides group

PLYMSTOCK & RIDGEWAY MEN'S GROUP 7.30 pm

Dec 4th at Ridgeway Police Choir Annual concert

WIVES CLUB - 7.45 pm December 4th - Christmas meal December 11th - Carol Service January 8th - Welcome back January 15th - Lorna Grainger Christmas customs around the world January 22nd - Brian Steel History of Plymstock (continued) January 29th - Diane Lawer Life & work of Mabel Lucie Attwell

HOME GROUP 1 - 7.30 p.m.

Contact Andrew Gow (341037) for more details. Half the meetings are held at Ridgeway, the others are in the Rank Hall, Elburton Methodist Community Church.

Ladies are invited to join us on Tuesday evenings at 7.45 pm in the Elburton Moore Hall. For more information contact Sylvia Harris or Carol Pike.

The Tuesday home-group is coordinated by Di Smart and is held at homes of the group. For more information contact Di (405435) or Pam Kingsland (519452).

WEDNESDAY

EXERCISE CLASS 2 p.m 3 p.m.	Contact Denise Avent (402818)
HOME GROUP 2 7.30 pm	Held at the home of Trisha Stringer and led by Maureen Richardson (407137)
HOME GROUP 4 8 p.m.	A group meets at a different home each week (helpful for the young families who attend). Contact Jon Carhart (480319).

THURSDAY

WORKING PARTY from 9,30 am 1st Thursday of month

Come and help us keep our church in a good state of repair. Contact Tony Sleep (403247) for details.

MEET AND EAT THIRD Thursdays from 10 a.m. TABLE TENNIS 3.15 - 5.15 p.m.	A good meal, tea/coffee, and good company for everyone, led by Rosemary, Barbara Jeffery (311100) and Jennifer Tomlinson (403896).
TABLE TENNIS 3.15 - 5.15 p.m.	Contact David Finemore (406372)
HOME GROUP 3 7.30 p.m.	David and Brenda Youngs (880286) lead this group on Thursday evenings at 7.30 pm at Ruth Sweetland's home.
FRIDAY LUNCHEON CLUB 11 a.m. (in term time only)	A lovely lunch provided for those less able to provide for themselves. Good food, good company.

SATURDAY

COFFEE MORNING

Last Saturday of the month 10 a.m. - noon.

MESSY CHURCH

First Saturday of month 10.30 a.m.

Held in the Moore Hall, Arranged by Margaret Passmore (404929), run by various groups. Funds go to church projects, term time only.

Contact Trisha Stringer (482532).

An informal kind of worship tailored to the needs of the whole family with lots of fun, food, activities and a Christian message.



What happened at Sidmouth

What a busy month! On 6th November, 25 of us enjoyed an afternoon of relaxation, retail therapy and refreshments at Otter Nursery. Then during the week beginning 12th November, another 25 ladies (many, but not all the same ones) visited Sidholme Hotel in Sidmouth for our annual 3 day District MWiB Conference.

This year our Speaker was Carolyn Lawrence, whose overall title was 'Chosen People Called to Proclaim'. Carolyn led 5 stimulating and thought provoking sessions, both speaking to us and using visual aids. We were challenged to examine how we think about ourselves, the way in which we treat others, what we can do with our gifts and how we can grow in our spiritual life. We also shared our thoughts and ideas in small discussion groups. Carolyn gave us many examples of inspiring people, quotes and suggested bible readings that could help us to grow in faith. One of my favourite quotes was 'The smallest good deed is better than the grandest good intention' (Duguet).

If we wished, we had the opportunity to take part in craft workshops, to learn to play the hand bells or enjoy a prayer walk (or more retail therapy!) On Wednesday evening we were entertained by the amazing Sidmouth Ukulele Band, who had everyone participating with the singing and actions and some even dancing in grass skirts!

We felt very blessed when our time of sharing wonderful fellowship concluded on Thursday morning with an uplifting communion service led by our Chair of District, Revd Graham Thompson.

To summarise, we learnt:

That we have value to God and that he loves us. That God has given us unique gifts and experiences that make us who we are and equip us for his calling on our lives.

That we are called to be salt... showing the love of God to others through our lifestyles, through serving others and through social action.

That we are called to be light... showing the love of Jesus to others and witnessing to what God has done in our lives. /continued







11 (extra for web version) /continued

This was the 6th and final Sidholme event that I have co-ordinated. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped in any way - I couldn't have done it without you and your support. *Carol Batchelor*



150 years of Elburton Methodist Church:

2019 sees us enter our 150th year of service in the kingdom of God. It will be a significant and special year, marked by various activities and with guest preachers coming to share with us throughout the year. Our January preacher is our own Di Smart. During the year we have Steve Wild, Chair of the Cornwall District and former President of the Methodist Conference, Revd Graham Thompson, Nick McKinnel, bishop of Plymouth and a number of other preachers here. Please pray for the Church, its mission and its service of Christ.

SIMON

HAPPY BIRTHDAY ELBURTON METHODIST COMMUNITY CHURCH

Rev'd Simon Leigh has convened a small group, to oversee the celebrations for this very special year. Plans are still in the early stages, but some very interesting events are under discussion, including a history of the church and surrounding area, a book of 150 new prayers hopefully to be written by members and friends (including children) to be printed. A logo and banner will be designed, the cafe will open, the Plymouth Area police choir will be in concert on March 15th and many other events will be programmed throughout the year. Plans are in hand to involve Elburton School in a project. All is looking good and further details will be announced as and when dates etc are firmed up. We look forward to a very uplifting year of working together to celebrate. JEAN

Pray for your neighbours and transform lives!

• <u>An inspiring lunch-time meeting at Salvation Army's Congress</u> <u>Hall</u> on Wednesday 10th October drew representatives from several churches across Plymouth. The warm fellowship and hospitality was greatly appreciated – many thanks to Terry and Gillian who invited us and shared their experiences with us.

 \cdot <u>A young Christian GP started her ministry in 2012</u> by encouraging other members of her church to pray for the needs of their neighbours in their street – a powerful spirit-led renewal began, which has blossomed across 541,663 streets to date – and is still growing!

• <u>Powerful testimonies were offered</u> from Christians at our lunch-time meeting – whose lives have been transformed by prayer. Teresa gave us the moving experience which motivated her commitment to become a Christian – and most recently to a preaching ministry. Colin shared his experience of being saved from all that had led him to be in prison, which has led to a new start in life – all through prayer!

• <u>Find out more about this powerful prayer ministry</u> from "Neighbours, transform your street" by Rebecca Brettle and Lyndall Bywater and on <u>www.neighbourhoodprayer.net</u> Better still, we can join in and be part of it!

There is so much need for a revival of the gift of spiritual healing which Jesus offers – here, where we are, amongst our neighbours. We will continue to pray for deeper faith and to commit to praying for them regularly. Will you join us and become part of this ministry?

Please let Terry and Gillian know if you do, or if you'd like to know more – tel: <u>01752 262600</u> or email <u>tmh.eastpark@gmail.com</u>



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BIBLE STUDY

Our first bible study will now take place during evening worship on Sunday 27th January 2019. It'll give people a taster for the Saturday Bible studies.

> Saturday 9th February. Saturday 16th March Saturday 20th April. Saturday 18th May. All at 1030.

Dear Editor,

Please help me to draw your readers' attention, to the fact that the 1st Elburton Methodist Scout group are responsible for this year's youth Christmas service on Sunday 9th Dec at 4:00pm. We take responsibility for this service, turnabout with the guides/ brownies every other year, and would like to welcome all church members to this year's service in support of the youngsters and leaders who fully appreciate the work the church undertakes in supporting us. As author of this year's service, I would hope that you'd understand that there are only so many ways that you can portray the wonderful message of the Christmas story to the youngsters. Over the years we have tried many and varied different approaches and hopefully this year, with modern technology at our disposal, we will bring the message across to you all, curtesy of the current youth mobile communication vogue(?)

Please understand that we don't have the same rehearsal time available that the local schools have, however, I think you'll find our technique used works suitably well.

For added value, we offer complementary hot drinks and warm mince pies following the service to encourage you to discuss with the children the program you've just witnessed?

Sunday 9th Dec @ 4:00pm.



SPECIAL SERVICES HERE AT ELBURTON THIS CHRISTMAS

4 pm December 9th Rev'd Simon Leigh **UNIFORMED ORGANISATIONS' CAROL SERVICE**

2.30 pm December 11th MWiB (NETWORK) CAROL SERVICE

10.30 am December 16th Mrs Di Smart and team JaM (Jesus & Me) NATIVITY SERVICE

6.30 pm also December 16th Rev'd Simon Leigh CAROL SERVICE

10.30 am December 23rd Rev'd Simon Leigh SACRAMENT

3 pm also December 23rd Rev'd Simon Leigh & Team CHRISTINGLE

10 am December 25th CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

Rev'd Simon Leigh



Map to show history of where the shoe boxes have gone so far.



A huge thank you for everyone who supported Samaritans Purse Operation Christmas Child this year. A total of 8 boxes were donated by Oreston knit and stitch group and 42 from Elburton church along with some donations which I purchased Christian literature with to send with the shoe boxes. Many thanks again.

Rachel

If you are using the on-line version, zoom in on the map.



Five-year-old Sally left the CD player running while she went off to do something else. Her mother asked her why she had left it playing to itself. "But it isn't," she replied indignantly. "God's dancing to it."

ELBURTON METHODIST COMMUNITY CHURCH

All our facilities are available for letting.

Come and see! We have large halls, meeting rooms, a stage, a well equipped kitchen, our own car park, toilets suitable for those who are less able, and all the facilities necessary for children's parties, meetings, exhibitions and indoor sports such as table tennis. The buildings are all fully disability compliant with lift access to every level and we have a performance licence. To look around or for further details of price and availability please phone Helen Carhart on 480319.

The curate's wife had just returned from the sales with a smart twopiece outfit. Her husband remonstrated with her saying they couldn't afford it. She replied that it had been a bargain and she was tempted. "You should have said "Get thee behind me Satan," the curate answered. "Oh but I did," his wife responded, "and that was when Satan said, "It's a perfect fit at the back, madam."



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Prayer Page

First Sunday in Advent

Almighty and everlasting God, who orders all things in heaven and on earth, we give you thanks and praise that you made all ages a preparation for the coming of your Son, our blest Redeemer. Prepare us for the coming of him whom you sent, and grant that we may all receive of his fullness, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN

Prayers for the Christian Year (alt) Second Sunday in Advent



Almighty God who in many and various ways did speak to your chosen people by the prophets, and has given us, in your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, the fulfilment of the hope of Israel. hasten, we beseech you, the coming of the day when all things shall be subject to him, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. AMEN *Church of South India (alt)*

Third Sunday in Advent

We pray you, Lord, for all who minister in your name in your Church. Strengthen them in time of weakness, and direct them in all their work for you. Give to them the spirit of power, and of love, and of sound mind, that they may diligently preach your Word and set forth your glory, to the building up of your Church and the salvation of souls, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prayers of the World-Wide Church (alt)

Fourth Sunday in Advent

O Lord God, who by your holy apostle has taught us always to rejoice in you, and to be anxious for nothing, grant, we beseech you, that making our requests known to you, we may be partakers of the peace that passes all understanding, which you have promised us in your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Based on Philippians 4: 4 - 7 (alt)**

Christmas Eve

O Lord, there sit apart in lonely places, on this the gladdest night of all the year, some stricken be, with sad and weary faces to whom the thought of Christmas brings no cheer: for these, O Father, our petition hear, and send the pitying Christ Child ever near. *Author Unknown*

Christmas Day

Jesus, new-born child of all time, we greet your birth with wide-eyed delight. You are precious beyond words for our world needs your presence more than ever. Let the angels' promise of your good news offering joy and peace to all the world be heard by those who lead and guide. Let kings bow down and all creation greet this holy moment as we seek to grasp its magnitude. For you are God's gift silently delivered to *every* human *heart*.

From Further Everyday Prayers

Epiphany - Sunday 6th January 2019

O God our Father who by the bright shining of a star led the wise men to the city of David, guide us by the light of your Spirit, that we too may come into the presence of Jesus and offer our gifts and worship Him, our Saviour and our Lord.

Alan Warren

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2019

We pray for those in the midst of injustice. Encourage us to lift up their voices and encourage their hope. We pray for those who continue to perpetuate injustice. May your kindness fill our hearts and make us agents of freedom and peace. We pray for every institution and person who stands for justice. Let us act justly according to your words. *Canadian Week of Prayer*

Prayers compiled by Rev'd David Youngs WILL YOU WRITE A PRAYER?

To celebrate our 150th anniversary we want to publish a book of 150 prayers written by you. Keep it short (about 150 words max) and make it about being happy, sad, angry, lonely - anything! Add your name only if we may publish it with the prayer. Talk naturally and honestly to God about your concerns - be yourself.

When you've written it, hand it to Tony Raine or Brenda Youngs.

Greetings,



Quite a lot has happened since we met in Fremington and heard Audrey Standhaft talk about her experiences in Cuba.

14 of us met at Buckfast Abbey for a Quiet Day "Journey of Discovery" when we thought about our journey of faith and people of faith – Abraham, Ruth, and Lydia - and their journeys and how they influenced and affected our journey of faith. It was a beautiful day, the chapel was cool and there was shade to be found in the Abbey grounds.

The Executive met at the end of July and the Committee in September. Our charity for the next 2 years will be the Air Ambulance service. As our District is served by 3 Trusts it was agreed that in any publicity we use to raise money we should say we're supporting "Air Ambulance Services in the South West".

During the Summer the Britain and Ireland Area of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women met in Ireland. I did try to get a speaker to tell us of their experience at this event but unfortunately all 3 were already booked for other events. In our Newsletter you will see a write up of this event.

We welcome Rev'd Jane Sperring as our Vice President and thank our outgoing Vice President, Sharon for all she has contributed to MWiB over the past four years. We also thank Deborah Kirk for all she has contributed as our Secretary and Forum Representative. A special thanks go to Carol Batchelor as Sidholme Coordinator whose hard work has helped to make the event so successful. Thank you all and may God bless you in all you do in the future.

We meet again as a District in November at Sidholme and next May in Central Hall, Plymouth and until then "May God hold you in the palm of His hand."

With blessings,

Di



THE **BIG** BREAKFAST IS COMING AGAIN!!!



Saturday 19th January Starting at 9am - 11.30 am,

(Eat a little or a lot - it's up to you)





December's Messy Church

Saturday 1st December

Bethlehem is our theme for December, a most appropriate choice, by one of our Messy Team and one I am equally excited about. All the Messy Church Team are encouraged to dress-up. We want all those attending to enjoy a traditional Market (The Shuk), with the sights, sounds, scents and tastes that go with it.

There is even the opportunity to visit Baby Jesus in the Stable with his parents and the 'Wise men' and or ladies, who will have a small gift for each child that visits them.

We look forward to seeing you there, but please watch out for the Camel Pooh!!

From Julia & the Messy Team

THE COMMUNITY DAY WAS A GREAT SUCCESS.

It was never intended to replace the Autumn Market - we knew nobody could replace Ruth's work, but it was still a great success. Much of it was free, a chance to show the community we aren't always after money, but the sale of produce actually raised £512 anyway. Thank you Jean and her helper friends for a brilliant day.

REMEMBRANCE 2018

This has been such a poignant few days in our History, reflecting on WWI and the sacrifices made by our ancestors so that we can be free to live in "a Land Fit for Heroes"!

The Ceremony illuminating the 10,000 torches at the Tower of London symbolising the lights coming on again all over Europe was breathtaking. The queues started forming two hours before dark and the crowds were subdued. A bugler appeared, playing the Last Post and was followed by Beefeaters who passed the flame to three cadet representatives of the Army, RN and RAF. They, in turn, lit the tapers of dozens of grey flame retardant siren suited volunteers who proceeded to fan out over the whole of the Tower Moat lighting the flames,

which burned for four hours, before guttering - radiating a stark symbolic act of remembrance of the ghosts of lives lost? Despite the multitude, all was quiet except for the music specially written, ironically by a German composer.

On Friday morning there was the usual gathering to attend on Burrow Hill. The weather was spiteful but how much worse was it for our men fighting, at least we won't suffer trench foot. It's heartening that the crowd grows in size each year and it is good to have Goosewell school children singing. I'm ashamed to say that I couldn't face the storm to go to the Annual Pavilions' RM Concert this year but, of course, I watched the Remembrance Service from the Royal Albert Hall. (My Dad would never let me go to Youth Club on that night and all these years on, I find it very difficult to sit down - he never did.)

Sunday and Plymouth citizens gathered in their hundreds on the Hoe. How our numbers have increased over the years. We witnessed the laying of wreaths, the Parade of Standard Bearers, listened to the Bishop of Exeter and the Roman Catholic Bishop of Plymouth and tried to sing "Oh God our Help in Ages Past" then returned in the evening to take part in the Nation's Tribute THE

24 (extra for web version)

BATTLE'S OVER which consisted of marching Pipe Band and Military Standards, Beating Retreat by RM Band and RN Guard Lower of the Ensign at Sunset. The Lord Mayor addressed the crowd and the ceremony concluded with the lighting of beacons and the bells pealing from St Andrew's Church - this continued all around our Country. A fitting tribute marking the 100th Anniversary of the Armistice.

Sue Sainsbury

The mother of three notoriously unruly teenagers was asked whether or not she'd have children if she had it to do over again.

"Yes" she replied. "But not the same ones.

Once, when a stubborn disputer seemed unconvinced, Abraham Lincoln said, "How many legs has a cow?" "Four of course," was the disgusted reply. "That's right" agreed Lincoln. "Now suppose you call the cow's tail a leg; how many legs would it have now?" Why, five, of course," was the confident reply. "Now that's where you're wrong," said Lincoln. Calling a cow's tail a leg doesn't make it a leg."

QUESTIONS AFTER READING THE STORY ON PAGE 42

How important is telling people about the Good News? Could Christianity survive without it? Do you do it?

Is there any better way to celebrate the birth of the child born to save us than what the Abbot was talking about?

How can you use Christmas to tell people (a) you're a Christian and (b) Christ died for us?

Do you always use Christian Christmas Cards?

25 (extra for web version)

Oreston Methodist Church



SUNDAY SERVICES AT 10.30 am

December 2nd	Rev'd Simon Leigh SACRAMENT
December 17th MONDAY 2 pm	A Christmas with Simon Leigh & Brian Gerry at the organ. Afternoon Tea for all. CAROL SERVICE see below
January 6th EPIPHANY	Rev'd Simon Leigh Covenant service.
January 20th	Mrs Di Smart

CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS

This year, because of various circumstances, we will not be having our Christmas Carol Service as is usual on the Sunday leading up to Christmas Day..... However, the Rev'd Simon Leigh has offered to lead a "Celebration of Christmas with Carols, Candles and Music", when Brian Gerry will be playing the organ. This will be held on Monday, 17th December, 2018, from 2pm - 3 pm in the Church, followed by a Christmas Tea in the Church Hall.

Everyone is welcome!!!!!!

Any donations received will be given to **MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE CHARITY.**

Plymouth & Exeter District

invites you to come and meet the

President & Vice-President of Conference

Rev'd Michaela Youngson & Mr. Bala Gnanapragasam

at St Thomas Methodist Church, Exeter on Saturday 8th December 2018

10.30 am - 1 pm (refreshments from 10 am) Lunch is provided for those who prebook via admin@pemd.org.uk Parking available at, and close to, the church.

KNITTED CHRISTMAS ANGELS



During the early weeks of December you may find some small knitted "Christmas Angels" appearing in the Community. If you are lucky enough to find one - then take it home. We hope it will bring a smile to your face when you are busy rushing around with all the Christmas preparations. They are a "gift of love" from the Oreston Stitch, Knit and Natter Group, who have been busy making them during the months running up to December.

.....Heavenly Father, may we spread love and all that is good and pure, wherever we go.....



John Wesley travelled 250,000 miles on horseback averaging 20 miles a day for 40 years; preached 4,000 sermons; produced 400 books, knew 10 languages. At 83 he was annoyed that he could not write more than 15 hours a day without hurting his eyes, and at 86 he was ashamed he could not preach more than twice a day. He complained in his diary that there was an increasing tendency to lie in bed until 5.30 in the morning.



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ORESTON EVENTS...

Oreston Parents and Toddlers 1.30pm -

3-15pm

The Group meets every Friday in term time, in the Church Hall



Oreston Sew Knit & Natter

The group meets every Monday from 2.00 – 4.00 pm in the Church Hall. Craft activities of many types take place and all are welcome to





2 pm to 4 pm each Tuesday (excluding School Holidays) Used to Play? Want to Learn? or just want to have some fun & exercise at the same time? Drop in any Tuesday and expect A WARM WELCOME!

THE INTERCHURCH BIBLE STUDY GROUP

The interchurch Bible Study Group now meets only once a month at Pomphlett on the 4th Friday of each month at 10am and it is led by the Rev'd Andy Day - all are welcome.

Action for Children Diaries and Christmas Cards THESE ARE AVAILABLE NOW.

Please contact Mavis Clooke or Dorothy Turpitt if you are interested.

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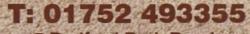




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Do you know who this person was?

We would appreciate any information readers might have about this lady and her family mentioned on this 1st World War gravestone in Oreston Cemetery. We have other gravestones with the name Wills on them.

G/847 MENRER

S.S. WILLS NOMEN'S ROVAL VAVAL SCE

> D. ROYAL AIR FORCE ATH OCTOBER 1918



COFFEE MORNING



action for **children**

Saturday, 19th January 2019 10am – 12.30pm ORESTON METHODIST CHURCH Stalls: Cakes; Gifts; Bric-a-Brac, etc. All Proceeds for Action for Children

POMPHLETT METHODIST CHURCH





PREACHERS AT POMPHLETT ON SUNDAYS AT 9.30 AM

Mr Keith Angilley	Rev'd Simon Leigh CT 6.30pm CAROL SERVICE
Rev'd Andrew Day SACRAMENT	
Mr Keith Angilley	
Mr Peter Sweeting	
Local Arrangement	
Mr Nigel Norris	
Rev'd Andrew Day COVENANT SERV	ICE
Mrs Rebecca Marsl	hall
Mr Keith Angilley	
	Rev'd Andrew Day SACRAMENT Mr Keith Angilley Mr Peter Sweeting Local Arrangement Mr Nigel Norris Rev'd Andrew Day COVENANT SERV Mrs Rebecca Marse

It has been said that Socrates and Aristotle each taught for 40 years, Plato for 50 years, but Jesus for only 3. Yey his influence far surpasses the combined 130 years of teaching by these three men who are acknowledged as the greatest philosophers of all antiquity. He painted no pictures, yet the finest paintings of Raphael. Michelangelo and Leonardo DaVinci received their illumination from him. He wrote no poetry, yet Dante, Milton and others of the world's greatest poets were inspired by him. He composed no music, yet Haydn, Handel, Beethoven and Bach reached their highest perfection in hymns, symphonies and oratorios composed in his honour. Jesus is quite simply the greatest teacher who ever lived.



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Members and Friends at Pomphlett Church want to thank everyone for their ongoing support over the last year. The Love of God has been made so obvious to one and all with what we call The Pomphlett Welcome.

As 2018 comes to a close here at Pomphlett we have so much to thank God for and trust in Him for a Peaceful 2019. We also want Wish all of you a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas and New Year and invite you to join us at any of our meetings.

God Bless









The Church in a House



To my dear Friends at Gateway

Brenda and I have just returned from a wonderful week on a canal boat. There are two things about canal trips. You either hate them or you can't wait to get on them again, there is no halfway point! We must have travelled over three-quarters of the English canals in our fifty-years of marriage. This trip was from Bur bury in Cheshire to Tardebigge in Worcestershire.

Our oldest dog, Berry, was left with a couple, the wife of whom is a veterinary assistant; we took six-year old Border collie with us. We met up with our older son Roland (who had organised this trip) and his daughter and son, the latter hoping to become a submariner) at Tardebigge. There we left our vehicles, whilst all the luggage, food and ourselves were driven by taxi to Bur bury where Anglo-welsh narrow boats have a centre.

Years previously Brenda and I plus my sister and brother-in-law had moved one of their boats from Market Harborough to Trevor on the Llangollen canal. (We were given ten days to get there and were then picked up by car and brought back to Harborough in two hours) Our boat was called Stafford, it was sixty feet long, had accommodation for six people and was centrally heated! It had two sleeping cabins, the third was also dining/living area which could be transformed into the third sleeping compartment, a four gas ring hob with oven underneath, Wi-Fi, a television as well as a radio, two toilets, a shower, bath and two wash basins. Steerage was at the rear of the boat where the diesel engine was situated. Up front was the water tank which we topped up each day, together with a locker for hose pipe, mooring pins and hammer.

We travelled some 148 miles and through 53 locks! It only rained for

a short time on the day before we arrived back at Tardebigge. One of our favourite places is at Gas Street Basin, Birmingham where we moored overnight. It is in the heart of the shopping centre and was where Roland bought Maddie a new violin! Sadly we never heard her play it whilst we were on the canals.

The second of this month heralds the countdown to Christmas with the first Sunday of Advent. In January next year we remember Tricia Mullins' birthday on the 7th of January. The Wednesday coffee morning will take a break after the 19th December until 9th January. **DAVID**

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE SUNDAY 9th DECEMBER

Sunday Celebrations at 11 am. 9th December. Rev David Youngs. Carols. 13th January. Mrs Brenda Youngs.





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SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

There was once a monk called Albert who worked in the kitchens. Do you know what his job was? No, he wasn't the chipmunk and he wasn't the fryer, he was the dish-washer. He loved his work and always did a superb job of it - until one day when the Abbot decided that, with Christmas approaching, he would get each of his monks to give a sermon in which they had to say what Christmas meant to them. And guess whose name began with 'A' so had to go first.

Albert simply couldn't think of anything to say. He worried about it all week but came to no conclusion. As the day approached he actually began to drop dishes in his nervousness. The day came and the abbot summoned Albert to the lectern.

Albert was not a big man. His head slowly rose above the lectern and what he saw drove every sane thought out of his head. Thirty of his colleagues waited patiently to be told what Christmas meant to him. He froze, then stuttered, then finally said "D...Does anyone here know what I was going to say?"

His audience, as one, shook their heads. They had no idea.

"I don't know either!" he blurted then made a dash for the door.

Later that day he was summoned by the abbot and nervously entered the abbot's small room. "that sermon you gave was..," he struggled for the appropriate word, "...abominable!" Albert was told angrily. "You must do it again next Sunday."

The week that followed was terrible. Albert's concentration had gone and he not only broke a lot of china, he actually caused five brothers to go down with tummy bugs. The monks tried to help him. They even drafted a sermon for him to read, but when the day came he was in such a turmoil that he left the notes behind. Again he was called to the front and again his wits left him. His head rose above the lectern and all he could think to say was, "Do any of you know what I'm going to say?"

This time they all said yes, because everyone of his kind friends had helped to draft the sermon that they had given him. The look on Albert's face suddenly brightened. "G..Good, then I don't need to tell you," he stammered, and again rushed for the door.

He didn't really expect to get away with it and was not surprised by the summons when it came. "that sermon you gave was abominable again!" the abbot repeated. "Do it again next Sunday!"

If the previous week was bad, this week was Albert's worst ever. He actually took three days off and stayed in bed where he was given gallons of chicken soup.

Sunday arrived, It was Christmas Eve but nobody was celebrating. Some of them had coached Albert as best they could, the others had given up and watched with a sense of deja vu as Albert was called to the lectern. It was no surprise to them when his head rose above the reading stand. It was almost expected when all he could think to say was "Do any of you.. Does any one of you know what I'm going to say?"

Those who had helped thought they knew and said "yes". Those who had given up said "No". Neither expected the reply that Albert gave as his face brightened. "Good." he exclaimed. "Let those of you who know tell those who don't". He fled for the door.

Obviously the Abbot summoned him and it was with trepidation that he entered the Abbot's office with his head bowed.

"That sermon you gave today," he began. "It was absolutely amazing. In one short sentence you summarised the work before every Christian. What better way is there to celebrate the birth of the child born to save us than that. So simple it was perfect. 'Let those of you who know tell those who don't. If only we all did that we would begin to justify this magnificent gift to us. Happy Christmas, Albert." *(see page 25) AR*

I was first told a story very similar to this one by a pantomime character actor who spoke in church at least thirty years ago. I have never forgotten it and now, I don't think you will either. Happy Christmas. AR

Elburton Methodist Church Café Hub Opening Soon!!!



We are announcing the opening of our café in the New Year 2019 In celebration of the church being built 150 years ago We are planning a grand opening in February 2019 Open to all one day a week Serving hot and cold drinks, cakes and biscuits

Child's play area Free Wi-Fi !

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