

**Happy Christmas to all our readers**

## People we see at the Chapel

**For many years** most of the visiting preachers were drawn from the ranks of retired ministers and older itinerant speakers who served us well. More recently we have had some younger men in the pulpit which is very encouraging. On Remembrance Sunday we were pleased to welcome **Matt Royle** from Buckingham Baptist Church in Bristol on his first visit. After the Silence he shared a message of hope from Lamentations with us. He works in computer software and is involved in his church's ministry.



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### Christmas Bible quiz

1. Which angel did God send to tell Mary that she was going to give birth to a son?
  2. Whose throne did the angel say was to be given to the Baby?
  3. How long did Mary stay with her cousin Elizabeth?
  4. Why did Joseph have to go to Bethlehem?
  5. What was the sign to the shepherds that they had found the right Baby?
  6. What did they do after seeing the Baby?
  7. Who took the child Jesus in his arms when Mary and Joseph took him to the temple?
  8. What was the name of the elderly widow who was also there and gave thanks to the Lord?
  9. How old was Jesus when He was left behind in Jerusalem?
- All the answers can be found in Luke's Gospel, Chapters 1 and 2.*

### Verse for the month

**A Saviour, who is Christ the Lord.**

**Luke 2 verse 11**

## An unusual 12 months

So we draw towards the close of our **175th Anniversary** year. In January we were wondering how much we would be able to do in celebration of it as another Coronavirus lockdown started. Thankfully, churches were not closed again and we were able to continue every Sunday with two services, with a smaller congregation but with the benefit of the new livestream facility. As things opened up a little and the vaccination programme continued there was a more hopeful outlook. After a month's delay we were able to proceed with our planned three-night outreach, the in-person event 'Tour of Greece', in July. The **Aroma** coffee mornings restarted in August. At the Anniversary service in September it was good to see some from other places joining us to give thanks to God. We were also able to have a Harvest Supper in October.

### In this issue

Plan ahead - Christmas diary, *inside*.

Seasonal singing from the past - a very old Christmas hymn, *inside*.

Another new face - People we see at Langford Chapel, *back page*.

## A very old Christmas hymn

Of the Fathers love begotten, ere the worlds began to be,  
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending He,  
Of the things that are, that have been,  
And that future years shall see, evermore and evermore!

At His Word the worlds were framèd; He commanded; it was done:  
Heaven and earth and depths of ocean in their threefold order one;  
All that grows beneath the shining  
Of the moon and burning sun, evermore and evermore!

O that birth forever blessèd, when the virgin, full of grace,  
By the Holy Ghost conceiving, bare the Saviour of our race;  
And the Babe, the world's Redeemer,  
First revealed His sacred face, evermore and evermore!

This is He Whom seers in old time chanted of with one accord;  
Whom the voices of the prophets promised in their faithful word;  
Now He shines, the long expected,  
Let creation praise its Lord, evermore and evermore!

O ye heights of heaven adore Him; angel hosts, His praises sing;  
Powers, dominions, bow before Him, and extol our God and King!  
Let no tongue on earth be silent,  
Every voice in concert sing, evermore and evermore!

Christ, to Thee with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to Thee,  
Hymn and chant with high thanksgiving, and unwearied praises be:  
Honour, glory, and dominion,  
And eternal victory, evermore and evermore!

*Aurelius Prudentius (Latin, 5th Century) translated by John M. Neale and Henry W. Baker (19th Century). Tune: Divinum Mysterium (11th Century).*

### Prayer requests

Remember those who feel the **loss** of loved ones this Christmas.  
Pray for those who are **persecuted** for their faith in Jesus.  
Ask God to add His blessing to **Christmas services** and to lead many to trust in His Son.  
Continue to pray for those who are in **poor health**.  
Praise the Lord for raising up younger men to **preach** the gospel of His grace.  
Pray for our **nation** and its **leaders**.

## From our Facebook page

Q. What is the greatest gift ever given?

A. Jesus.

Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!  
2 Corinthians 9:15. #Christmas

## From the Pastor's study

Last year's Christmas was very unusual and like many people the opportunity for us to have family interaction was missing. The media used phrases like "Christmas cancelled!" This year the talk has been of shortages of the things we associate with the celebration and the impression is given that it won't be quite the same as in the past. This all caused me to think about what we really expect from Christmas and which things we would really miss if any of them weren't there. Sprouts, maybe? Probably not. Cranberry sauce? Very likely. Turkey (or your veggie equivalent)? For some, definitely. Gifts? Well, it wouldn't seem right if those were lacking. Why? Because, as our recent Facebook post (above) reminded us, it is God's gift of His Son that really makes this time special. I'm thankful *that* wasn't cancelled or incomplete! (Galatians 4 verse 4.)

## Christmas diary

**Because the fourth** Saturday of this month will fall on Christmas Day there will not be the usual *Aroma* coffee morning but we are replacing it with a **Christmas Aroma** a week earlier on the **18th**. Usual start time, drop in from **10.30** on.

The traditional **Carol Service** will be at **6.30 p.m.** on Sunday the **19th**.

Don't forget that as usual the **Christmas Day** service is at the earlier time of **10.30**.

We plan to have two services on **Boxing Day** at **11** and **6.30**.