



A very happy Christmas to all our readers!



Changing roles for changing times

After 18 years Christine Beacham has retired as our Secretary and **Rob Derry** is stepping into the job. More senior readers will recall that Christine's late mother, Mrs Mary Lee, served in both Secretary and Treasurer roles. At our Members' meeting in November thanks were expressed to Christine as we welcomed Rob. He is very technically savvy and that is needed in our increasingly online world. The bulk of our contact with visiting preachers, other churches, and organisations has shifted from letters and phone calls to email and Messenger. Great to have your help, Rob, and thanks for bringing us your experience and knowledge.



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A breath of fresh air

As reported before we have had work done on the Chapel windows. These were installed when the building was erected in 1846 and the four opening panels had not been operable for some years. The team from J H Stained glass have restored these to working order and original beauty so we can open them to comply with COVID-19 guidelines which require good ventilation. It was a bit chilly with the main doors open! Having these fixed will be good in Summer too.



Verse for the month

Jesus - He will save His people from their sins.

Matthew 1:21

A basic Christmas?

A recent picture on the internet reminded us that the first Christmas was pretty basic – with a Baby, a manger, a few animals and some local shepherds! Maybe we would do well to remember that the layers of tradition and commercialisation that have been added could have taken us away from the real meaning - that God sent His Son into the world to save sinners. We need to know that because the Bible says we are **all** sinners. As we come out of 'Lockdown 2' and reopen the Chapel again it is our prayer that the everlasting Light that shone in the dark streets of the 'Little Town of Bethlehem' will shine brighter against the darkness of a sad year in the streets of Langford and beyond. We want to share the love and joy of the real meaning of Christmas in the Chapel and, by the use of online means, to those who can't be there in person.

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A favourite carol

by Christine Beacham

“This carol reminds me of God’s amazing love in sending His Son into the world to be our Saviour and the amazing sacrifice that Jesus made. ”

Thou who wast rich beyond all splendour,
all for love's sake becamest poor;
thrones for a manger didst surrender,
sapphire-paved courts for stable floor.
Thou who wast rich beyond all splendour,
all for love's sake becomes poor.

Thou who art God beyond all praising,
all for love's sake becamest man;
stooping so low, but sinners raising,
heavenward by Thine eternal plan.
Thou who art God beyond all praising,
all for love's sake becamest man.

Thou who art love beyond all telling,
Saviour and King, we worship Thee.
Emmanuel, within us dwelling,
make us what Thou wouldst have us be.
Thou who art love beyond all telling,
Saviour and King, we worship Thee.

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Prayer requests

Remember those who are **lonely** this Christmas.
Pray for those who are suffering from **stress**, some through being overworked, others due to these abnormal times.
Give thanks that there is hope of a solution to COVID-19 with the new **vaccines**.
Praise God that he is the **faithful** and **unchanging** One.
Ask the Lord to give **faith** in His Son Jesus who came to save.
Remember **K.C.**, a lady who is very unwell at this time.

A ton of Twitter followers!



We were pleased to see that our social media pages are getting more interest. Good to find that 103 of the “Twitterati” people are following us. The Facebook page isn’t far behind at 97 - come on folks, find us and make it to 100: <https://www.facebook.com/LangfordEvangelicalChurch> and let’s go for 150 on Twitter: https://twitter.com/Langford_Chapel

For your diary

The last month of this strange year brings us to the time when, notwithstanding the present difficulties, we can praise the Lord for the original and greatest gift - Christ the Lord. Although the restrictions mean we can’t get you all into the Chapel for the **Carols** at **6.30** on Sunday the **20th**, we will put them up on YouTube and our website. Then there is the Christmas morning service at **10.30** as usual.