

December 2025, January, February 2026

Dean Row Chapel, Wilmslow SK9 2BX

website: [www. deanrowunitarianchapel.co.uk](http://www.deanrowunitarianchapel.co.uk)



Services at Dean Row every Sunday at 11.15 a.m.

Meditations – Wednesday 11.00am – 11.30am

Hale Chapel, Hale Barns, WA15 0AQ

Hale Chapel website: www.halechapel.co.uk



Services at Hale Chapel every Sunday at 9.30 a.m.

Minister Rev Jeff Gould Mob 07989858963

jeffreylanegould1959@talktalk.net

**"God grant you the light of Christmas,
which is faith;
the warmth of Christmas,
which is purity;
the righteousness of Christmas,
which is justice;
the belief in Christmas,
which is truth;
the all of Christmas,
which is Christ."**

The Year Ahead

**May God make your year a happy one!
Not by shielding us from all sorrows and pain,
But by strengthening us to bear it, as it comes;
Not by making our path easy,
But by making us sturdy to travel any path;
Not by taking hardships from us,
But by taking fear from our heart;
Not by granting us unbroken sunshine,
But by keeping our face bright, even in the shadows;
Not by making our life always pleasant,
But by showing us when people and their causes need
us most,
and by making us anxious to be there to help.
God's love, peace, hope and joy to us
for the year ahead.**

Worship services at Hale Chapel and Dean Row Chapel
Services will be conducted by the Minister
unless otherwise indicated

	Hale Chapel 9.30am	Dean Row Chapel 11.15am
December 7th	Toy Service	Toy Service
Dec 14th	Third Sunday In Advent	Third Sunday In Advent
Dec 21st	Christmas Carol Service	Christmas Carol Service
Dec 24th	Christmas Eve 6pm	Christmas Eve 4pm
De 28th	The Holy Innocents	The Holy Innocents
January 4th	The Epiphany, with Holy Communion	The Epiphany, with Holy Communion
Jan 11th	The Baptism of Jesus	The Baptism of Jesus
Jan 18th	Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday	Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday
Jan 25th	Holocaust Memorial Sunday	Holocaust Memorial Sunday
February 1st	St. Brigid's Day	St. Brigid's Day
Feb 8th	Sunday Services	Sunday Services
Feb 18	Sunday before Lent	Sunday before Lent
Feb 22nd	First Sunday in Lent	First Sunday in Lent

THE MINISTER'S LETTER

This letter is being written on the eve of my departure to South Africa for a two-week-long holiday. I am keenly aware that I will be travelling to a different hemisphere, where the season of Spring is drawing to an end and the Summer is just around the corner. It requires me to consider what the Advent/Christmas season would be like in warmer weather, with longer days and no threat of ice and snow affecting journeys by car, train or aeroplane.

Of course, the celebration of the birth of Jesus of Nazareth does not depend on a particular type of climate or even a specific form of worship. It is a universal event that claims the allegiance of 2.3 billion Christians, is of relevance to people holding the Islamic faith and is marked by countless numbers who do not subscribe to any faith tradition.

Christmas takes on the meaning that each person gives it. The American Unitarian, Sophia Lyon Fahs, famously wrote: 'Each night a child is born is a holy night.' Indeed, everywhere and every time Christmas is celebrated is an event whose potential for transformation is tremendous. May it be so for you this year.

JEFF

DEAN ROW CHAPEL

Dean Row Chairman's Newsletter

Dear friends,

Yet again Christmas and the New Year have crept up on us. We should all realize that once the children are back to school there are only about 11 shopping days to Christmas!

However, we can all think about the great events that we have had this year. Apart from the Chapels Summer Lunch and Harvest Lunch, we have had quite a few things to keep us entertained.

Hale Chapel held two concerts, Supertonic and the Sale Male Voice Choir. Our Dean Row Social Group had a lovely day out in Bowness on Windermere and a visit to Gordon Riggs in Todmorden and it was topped with our amazing Christmas Coffee Morning.

And then to round it off we held the first Multi Faith Pride Service in Wilmslow with a splendid exhibition of Alan Turing's life and achievements and the Unitarian Pride Exhibition – what a day! Hopefully to be repeated next year (2026).

At this point I must thank all our lovely volunteers. Without them we would not be able to continue with our Chapel events. They make it possible for us not just to raise money, but to emphasize that we are a happy Chapel family where we

join together in worship.

Please note our wonderful Christmas celebrations –

Sunday 10th December Toy Service

Please bring new unwrapped toys suitable for children 0-14y. Christmas wrapping paper, gift tags, sticky-tape, and selection boxes are welcome. To be distributed by Wood Street Mission to vulnerable children.

Sunday 17th December Christmas Carol Service

Sunday 24th December Christmas Eve Service 6pm at Hale Chapel, 4pm at Dean Row Chapel

Last year we were not able to celebrate 12th Night as it was on Sunday, but I hope that you will be able to join us on Monday 5th January 7.00 – 8.30 To celebrate with us the close of the twelve days of Christmas, the New Year and the arrival of the Three Kings with ‘Wine, Hymns and Recitations’ We also take this opportunity to take down the last of our Christmas decorations. All this and a glass of mulled wine and nibbles.

Well, of course you want to hear about Nellie and Florrie. Flo has suddenly realised that cold weather is not just once in a lifetime. She is not too happy about having her outings curtailed because despite her fur coat she feels the cold. Nell couldn't care less what the weather does – she is not very keen on going out. You could miss a meal if you are not in the

house! We lost Flo one day. Searched high and low, looked in all the wardrobes and the airing cupboard, (a favourite hiding place for cats), and after a few hours of searching indoors and out we found her in the downstairs loo. Looking very pathetic!

Derek and I decided that we were turning into old stay at homes, so have been to the theatre, with more visits to come and having meals out with friends. New Indian Restaurant in Edgeley - The Savanna, can recommend it.

I have finally joined the Dean Row exercise class!

Have a Wonderful Christmas and New Year with your family and your Church family

Love to you all
Chrissie

WARDEN'S REPORT

Another change in the seasons and Christmas nearly upon us.

We have tried to keep the paving clear and power hosed. Not easy with the leaves coming down constantly.

More daffodil bulbs have been planted and should give us a lovely show next Spring.

A rose (Rosa Penelope) has been planted in memory of the late Rev. Penny Johnson and our gardener, Ian Barber, will tend it carefully.

The work on the bell cote progresses and will hopefully be completed by Christmas. Please form an orderly queue to ring the bell!!

I've been to the top of the scaffolding with the architect and builder and it's a long way up but a beautiful view.

Wishing everyone a Peaceful Christmas

Ian and Beryl Booth Chapel Warden

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### **Dean Row Chapel Social Group**

On the 5<sup>th</sup> October, we held our Harvest lunch following the Harvest Festival

Our outing on the 16<sup>th</sup> October to Gordon Riggs Home and Leisure at Todmorden was enjoyed by everyone. There was plenty of retain therapy followed by happy groups getting together for lunch in their excellent café.

This year has passed quickly, we have already had our Christmas Coffee Morning and Fair, but we have further events to look forward to in 2026. Thank you all once again for your support.



I wish everyone a happy and peaceful Christmas and my love for a very good new year.

**Anne Smith, Social Group Co-Ordinator**

### **Christmas Coffee Morning and Fair**

We held our Christmas Coffee Morning and Fair on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November, and once again had an excellent turnout. The hall was buzzing with family and friends of chapel members.

I am happy to report that (so far) the total amounts to **£1,218. 00p!** (We have one or two more donations still to come in). The amount raised will be put towards the bell cote restoration fund, work on which has just begun.

Once again, thank you all for supporting your Social Group organisers, in helping to make this event such a success.

On behalf of your Social Group Team – Beryl Booth, Anne Gemmell, Anne Smith and Chrissie Wilkie, I would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

**Anne Gemmell Social Group Co-Ordinator**



**Dean Row Unitarian Chapel,**  
**Adlington Road, Wilmslow SK9 2BX**

## **Christmas Events**

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December Toy**  
**Service 11.15am**

If you are able please bring new unwrapped toys  
suitable for children

0-14y. Christmas wrapping paper, gift tags, sticky-  
tape, and selection boxes are welcome. To be  
distributed by Wood Street Mission to vulnerable  
children.

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December Christmas**  
**Carol Service**

**11.15 am at Dean Row Chapel**

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December Christmas**  
**Eve Service**

**4pm at Dean Row Chapel**

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 7.00 – 8.30**

**Welcome to the close of the Twelve Days  
of Christmas,  
the New Year and the arrival of the Three  
Kings  
with 'Mulled Wine, Hymns and  
Recitations'**



## **Dean Row Events**

### **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December Toy Service**

Please bring new unwrapped toys suitable for children 0-14y. Christmas wrapping paper, gift tags, sticky-tape, and selection boxes are welcome. To be distributed by Wood Street Mission to vulnerable children.

### **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Carol Service**

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Eve Service 6pm at Hale Chapel, 4pm at Dean Row Chapel**

### **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 7.00 – 8.30**

Welcome to the close of the twelve days of Christmas, the New Year and the arrival of the Three Kings with 'Wine, Hymns and Recitations'

**Exercise classes** Monday mornings 11.00 in the Chapel Hall

**Stroke Club** Wednesday Mornings in the Chapel Hall.

**Meditation** Wednesday 11.00 in the Chapel Vestry

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## **The Bell Cote Restoration Update**

### **Project Progress**

Significant progress has been achieved in the restoration of the Bell Cote since our previous update. During the past month, work commenced on the installation of scaffolding, which marked a major milestone for the project. Once the scaffolding was safely erected, certified, and handed over to the contractor, a detailed inspection was carried out. Ian, our dedicated warden, ascended to the top alongside both architects and contractors, enabling a

close examination of the bell cote's condition. It became evident from this inspection that the state of the bell cote is likely worse than it appears from ground level. Attached to this update are a couple of photographs illustrating its current condition.

Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances, the restoration work will not be completed before Christmas. However, provided the weather remains favourable, the project is expected to be finished by the end of January. This will be approximately two years since the commencement of the restoration efforts.

### **Financial Update**

On the financial front, as of the end of October, the funding for the project had increased to £41,500. This sum includes two generous legacies and a grant from the Manchester District Association. More recently, two members have each kindly contributed £500 to the fund, and the John Gregson Trust has pledged an additional £5,000. Furthermore, the Social Group has donated the entire proceeds from the Christmas Coffee Morning and Fayre, amounting to £1,155. These collective efforts have brought the total funds raised to over £48,500.

Looking ahead, we are optimistic about receiving a grant from the National Churches Trust, potentially amounting to £10,000. In addition, an application will be made to reclaim VAT costs through the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme, a government incentive designed to support such projects.

The overall projected cost for the restoration now stands at approximately £85,000, which includes an additional requirement for an Asbestos Survey. (Thankfully passed with flying colours!) With the contributions received and those anticipated, we are currently £13,000 short of our target.

## **Appeal for Further Support**

The Trustees and Committee remain sincerely grateful for all donations received to date, which are vital in preserving our cherished historic building. Any further contributions will be greatly appreciated. For those wishing to support the restoration, please use the bank details below:

- Dean Row Chapel
- Sort Code: 20-53-77
- Account Number: 80326143

## **Peter Shaw, Treasurer**

**You can see from the picture below that much work needs to be done on the Bell Cote, but you can rest assured we have good people on the job.**







**Dean Row Chapel Rotas, December 25, January, February, March 2026**

If you need to change your dates on the list, please contact a substitute from the list or for Chapel Opening Ian Booth 01625 262819,

Coffee Rota, Anne Gemmell 0161 637 5347, Chrissie Wilkie 0161 439 8262

| DATE 2025  | OPENING      | SIDESMAN DUTY                    | COFFEE DUTY                      |
|------------|--------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| December 7 | Mr P Weigh   | Mrs B Robinson<br>Mrs S McFadyen | Mrs J Boys<br>Mrs B Berry        |
| Dec. 14    | Mr K Dennell | Mrs A Gemmell<br>Mrs M Craven    | Mr K Dennell<br>Mrs S Dennell    |
| Dec. 21    | Mrs C Wilkie | Mrs A Smith                      | Mrs C Wilkie<br>Mrs J Davies     |
| Dec. 28    | Mr P Shaw    | Mrs J Boys<br>Mrs B Berry        | Mrs B Robinson<br>Mrs S McFadyen |
| January 4  | Mr P Shaw    | Mrs E Godfrey<br>Mrs E Taylor    | Mrs C Wilkie<br>Mrs J Davies     |
| Jan 11     | Mr P Weigh   | Mrs B Robinson<br>Mrs S McFadyen | Mrs J Boys<br>Mrs B Berry        |
| Jan 18     | Mr I Booth   | Mrs A Gemmell<br>Mrs M Craven    | Mr I Booth<br>Mrs B Booth        |
| Jan 25     | Mrs C Wilkie | Mrs A Smith                      | Mrs B Robinson<br>Mrs S McFadyen |
| February 1 | Mr K Dennell | Mrs A Gemmell<br>Mrs M Craven    | Mr K Dennell<br>Mrs S Dennell    |
| Feb 8      | Mrs C Wilkie | Mrs C Wilkie<br>Mrs J Davies     | Mrs A Gemmell<br>Mrs M Craven    |
| Feb 15     | Mr I Booth   | Mrs E Godfrey<br>Mrs E Taylor    | Mr J Wenham<br>Mrs B Wenham      |
| Feb 22     | Mr P Weigh   | Mrs J Boys<br>Mrs B Berry        | Mrs B Robinson<br>Mrs S McFadyen |
| March 1    | Mr P Shaw    | Mr I Booth<br>Mrs B Booth        | Mrs C Wilkie<br>Mrs J Davies     |
| Mar 8      | Mr K Dennell | Mrs A Smith                      | Mr K Dennell<br>Mrs S Dennell    |
| Mar 15     | Mr P Weigh   | Mr P Weigh<br>Mrs M Weigh        | Mrs A Gemmell<br>Mrs M Craven    |
| Mar 22     | Mr I Booth   | Mrs C Wilkie<br>Mrs J Davies     | Mr J Wenham<br>Mrs B Wenham      |
| Mar 29     | Mr P Shaw    | Mrs E Godfrey<br>Mrs E Taylor    | Mr I Booth<br>Mrs B Booth        |



# **HALE CHAPEL**

## **HALE CHAPEL - Chairman's Newsletter**

### **Winter 2025**

‘Deck the Halls with boughs of holly’ – Christmas is fast approaching. Can it be nearly a year ago when my wife and I were carefully packing our faithful artificial Christmas tree and putting it away back into the attic? Well – as I write this Christmas Day is just over five weeks away. Amazing!

One place where it is always Christmas, even in mid-summer, is around my ankles. Like most men, I usually receive Christmas socks as a present, to the extent that half my socks have a Christmas theme. Right now I am wearing an odd pair with one having ‘Deck the halls and a picture of a dachshund wearing a Christmas jumper on it and the other with “dachshunds through the snow” printed on it. So it’s pretty well always Winter around my ankles.

Talking of dachshunds, you may recall that we have two, Harriet and Betty. Alex, my eldest daughter, has two, Pepper (a terror!) and Polly (good as gold). You may think that’s enough for one family but oh no! Two weeks ago Georgina, my youngest daughter, and her husband Louis knocked on our door holding a tiny dachshund puppy now named Ruby. So that’s five! Sounds like we are going for a family record! I’ll keep you posted.

Back to Christmas – this year we are all going to sit down

together and collectively watch “It’s a Wonderful Life”, my favourite Christmas film. This time I’m hoping to avoid shedding a quiet tear during the final scene – but I’m not confident.

By the way, James Stewart is my favourite film actor, jointly with Cary Grant.

My favourite day of Christmas is undoubtedly Christmas Eve. All the shopping is done; there is literally no more you can do but de-stress and relax. The highlight for me is the wonderful Chapel carol service at 6.00 when I can sing those melodic and nostalgic carols before returning home to mince pies and a glass (or two) of wine. All is peaceful, all is calm. And then Christmas Day dawns and stress returns.....

Happy Christmas everyone! – and all the best for 2026

**Alastair**

~~~~~

Hale Chapel Secretary Helen Wilson

Just Mercy

A few weeks ago I started watching a film called Just Mercy. I wasn’t going to watch it as it was rather late but I got hooked. It was the powerful true story about equal justice and the lawyer Bryan Stevenson. It takes us inside America’s justice system and compels us to confront inequality and injustice. It is also a bestselling book which presents the story of Bryan

Stevenson and the case of Walter McMillian who was convicted and sentenced to death for killing a white woman, a crime he did not commit.

Bryan Stevenson is the founder and executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative a non-profit law office in Montgomery, Alabama. A widely acclaimed public interest lawyer who has dedicated his career to helping the poor, the incarcerated and the condemned.

Due to Bryan Stevenson's diligence Walter McMillian was released from prison in 1993 after spending six years on Alabama's death row.

Bryan Stevenson is a professor of law at the New York University Law School. He has won relief for dozens of condemned prisoners, argued five times before the Supreme Court, and won acclaim for his work challenging bias against the poor and people of colour.

He attends the Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church in Pittsburgh. He gave the Ware Lecture at the UU General Assembly in 2017 in New Orleans.

He said Oppressors justify oppression with a narrative of fear and anger which leads to a culture that tolerates injustice. He urged Unitarians to resist fear and anger and to stay hopeful about creating racial justice. Our hopefulness is the one thing we cannot compromise. You are either hopeful or you are part of the problem

The opposite of poverty isn't wealth- it is justice.

In the UK the Unitarians have a Social Justice Network which share innovative ideas on how congregations and individuals can act to make a difference. Ann Howell is the GA Social Action Officer working with the Penal and Social Affairs Panel

Mercy is compassion or forbearance shown especially to an offender or to one subject to one's power and also a blessing that is an act of divine favour or compassion.

Let us hope as we go into 2026 a New Year we see more Mercy and Compassion around us.

**Wishing everyone a Happy Christmas and a
Peaceful New Year**

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Hale Events December 2025, January, February 2026

Coffee Mornings in the vestry

Thursday 4th December - Christmas coffee morning 10 30 am

No coffee morning in January 2026

Thursday 5th February 10. 30 am

Thursday 5th March 10.30 am All friends are welcome

Toy Service

Sunday 7th December 9.30 am – Please bring new unwrapped toys for children 0-14yrs, selection boxes, wrapping paper for Wood Street Mission M/c

Carol Service

Sunday 21st December 9.30 am

Candlelight Service- Christmas Eve 6pm

Sunday 28th December – last service of 2025

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Dean Row Chapel Officers:

Chair

**Chrissie Wilkie Tel. 0161 439 8262;
Email chrissie@wilkie.me.uk**

Treasurer:

**Peter Shaw Tel. 01625 584881
Email pgshaw@aol.com**

Secretary

**Anne Gemmell Tel. 0161 637 5347
annegemmell@yahoo.co.uk**

Warden: Ian Booth 01625 262819

Chapel Social Group Co-ordinator:

Anne Smith Tel. 0161 439 1125

Flower Secretary:

Bridget Wenham Tel 01625 820772

Items for Newsletter to Chrissie Wilkie

Hale Chapel Officers and Executive Committee

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335 Hale Road, Hale Barns WA15 8SS

Sharon Kupusarevic Tel: 07801 140809

Email: halechapelhall@btinternet.com



Blessed Christmas

*May the Light of the World find a home in
your heart, and bring you and yours hope,
joy, and health this Christmas
and in the year to come*

<<<< STORIES AND JOLLY JAPES >>>>

1st Corinthians 13 A Christmas Version

If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny balls, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of cookies, preparing gourmet meals and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtimes, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love to my family, it profits me nothing.

If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties and sing in the choir's cantata, but do not focus on those I love most, I have missed the point.

....In other words,

Love stops the cooking to hug a child

Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the spouse.

Love is kind, though harried and tired.

Love doesn't envy another's home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens.

Love doesn't yell at the children to get out of the way, but is thankful they are there to be in the way.

Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return but rejoices in those who can't.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails.

Video games will break, pearl necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust.

But the gift of love will endure.

~~~~~

**Lying around - originally submitted by Rev Penny Johnson, but passed on by Elizabeth Taylor**

Lying around, pondering the problems of the world, I realised that at my age I don't really give a rats anymore.

If walking is good for your health, the postman would be immortal.

A whale swims all day, only eats fish, drinks water, but is still fat.

A rabbit runs and hops and only lives 15 years, while a tortoise doesn't run and does mostly nothing yet it lives for 150 years yep.

And they tell us to exercise? I don't think so.

Now that I'm older, here's what I've discovered -

1. I started out with nothing and still have most of it.
2. My wild oats are mostly enjoyed with prunes and all-bran.
3. Funny, I don't remember being absent minded.
4. Funny, I don't remember being absent minded.
5. Funny I don't remember being absent minded.
6. If all is not lost, then where the heck is it?
7. It was a whole lot easier to get older than it was to get wiser.
8. Some days you're the top dog; some days you're the hydrant.
9. I wish the buck really did stop here. I sure could use a few of them.
10. Kids in the back seat cause accidents.
11. Accidents in the back seat cause kids.
12. It's hard to make a comeback when you haven't been anywhere.
13. The world only beats a path to your door when you're in the bathroom.
14. If God wanted me to touch my toes, he'd have put them on my knees.
15. When I'm finally holding all the right cards, everyone wants to play chess.
16. It's not hard to meet expenses ... they are everywhere.
17. The only difference between a rut and a grave is the depth.
18. These days, I spend a lot of time thinking about the hereafter, I go somewhere to get something and then wonder what I'm here after.
19. Funny, I don't remember being absent minded.
20. Have I sent this message to you before or did I get it from you?

## **Beggars by Annie Harrop**

I was walking down High Street the other day. Have you noticed, or is it just me, that there seem to be a lot more beggars. I don't just mean those that sit with a hat in front of them, obviously on drugs, and frequently with a dog. But those who have what seems to be all their worldly goods with them, often in a supermarket trolley. It isn't that I think they should be swept away by the council, but some of them are a bit frightening don't you think?

I know that they are not all scavengers and layabouts. But I think that over the last few years there have been so many more of them. Since Covid, so many things have happened to disrupt our world. Businesses have closed down right left and centre; although some people were furloughed and working from home. But they had a lot less money and got themselves into terrible debt, because we all live up to our means don't we? And then the banks and building societies began to foreclose on the mortgages and that left them homeless. But there is nothing we can do is there?

I give what I can when I can to the homeless shelters and soup kitchens and there are plenty of those locally. The Sally Ann is always a good bet and the Booth Centre. And everywhere you look there are food banks. I do try to remember to put something in the supermarket charity bin when I go.

I feel so sorry for these poor beggars, and I am not using that word in a bad way, but a sorrowful way. No one wants to be a beggar. Many people who are beggars are also homeless, so let us hope that we can give a little, or a lot when we are able.

## The Balloons – Author Unknown

A professor gave a balloon to every student, who had to inflate it, write their name on it and throw it in the hallway. After the professor mixed all the balloons up, the students were given 5 minutes to find their own balloon. Despite a hectic search, no one found their balloon.

At that point, the professor told the students to pick up a balloon and hand it to the person whose name was written on it. Within 5 minutes, everyone had their own balloon.

The professor said to the students: "These balloons are like happiness. We will never find it if everyone is just looking for their own. But if we care about other people's happiness, we'll find ours too."

~~~~~

We know that when you do nothing, nothing happens.
But when you do something, something happens.

~~~~~

**"You know what the issue is with this world?  
Everyone wants some magical solution for  
their problem and everyone refuses to believe  
in magic." - *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland***

# << PRAYER AND POETRY CORNER >>

## In the Midst of Winter

Lord:

In the midst of Winter, when the days are cold and wind can  
pierce remind us of the warmth of your love.

In the midst of Winter, when days are short, dawn comes  
late, and dusk arrives early remind us that in the darkness  
your light still shines.

In the midst of Winter, when the flowers of spring still lie  
hidden in the earth, when leaves are off the trees, and the  
world can seem bleak

remind us that Easter is but a short time away.

And when in our lives we feel as if we are experiencing a  
season of winter, reach out to us with the power of your  
resurrection so that we may feel the warmth of your love  
and see your light that alone can take away the darkness of  
our soul.

- *Cal Wick*

~~~~~

We know that when you do nothing, nothing happens.

But when you do something, something happens.

And little by little, day by day, something by something,

We might just change everything.

Do something.

Change everything.

Drenched in Holiness Prayer: Prayer for a New Year

Dear God, On this day I ask You to grant this request,
May I know who I am and what I am,
Every moment of every day.
May I be a catalyst for light and love,
And bring inspiration to those whose eyes I meet.
May I have the strength to stand tall in the face of conflict,
And the courage to speak my voice, even when I'm scared.
May I have the humility to follow my heart,
And the passion to live my soul's desires.
May I seek to know the highest truth
And dismiss the gravitational pull of my lower self.
May I embrace and love the totality of myself,
My darkness as well as my light.
May I be brave enough to hear my heart,
To let it soften so that I may gracefully
Choose faith over fear.
Today is my day to surrender anything that stands
Between the sacredness of my humanity and my divinity.
May I be drenched in my Holiness
And engulfed by Your love.
May all else melt away.
And so it is.
- *Debbie Ford*

~~~~~

## **Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening**

**Robert Frost**

Whose woods these are I think I know.  
His house is in the village though;  
He will not see me stopping here  
To watch his woods fill up with snow.  
My little horse must think it queer  
To stop without a farmhouse near  
Between the woods and frozen lake  
The darkest evening of the year.  
He gives his harness bells a shake  
To ask if there is some mistake.  
The only other sound's the sweep  
Of easy wind and downy flake.  
The woods are lovely, dark and deep,  
But I have promises to keep,  
And miles to go before I sleep,  
And miles to go before I sleep.

~~~~~

A Glimpse by Walt Whitman

A Glimpse, through an interstice caught,
Of a crowd of workmen and drivers in a bar-room, around the
stove, late of a winter night—And I
unremark'd seated in a corner;
Of a youth who loves me, and whom I love, silently
approaching, and seating himself near, that he
may hold me by the hand;
A long while, amid the noises of coming and going—of drinking
and oath and smutty jest,
There we two, content, happy in being together, speaking little,
perhaps not a word.

THE PARTS OF SPEECH POEM

Every name is called a **noun**,
As **field** and **fountain**, **street** and **town**.
In place of noun the **pronoun** stands,
As **he** and **she** can clap their hands.
The **adjective** describes a thing,
As **magic** wand or **bridal** ring.
The **verb** means action, something done,
As **read** and **write** and **jump** and **run**.
How things are done the **adverbs** tell,
As **quickly**, **slowly**, **badly**, **well**.
The **preposition** shows relation,
As **in** the street or **at** the station.
Conjunctions join, in many ways,
Sentences, words, **or** phrase **and** phrase.
The **interjection** cries out, "**Hark!**"
I need an exclamation mark!"

Submitted by Diana Renko

Blow Blow Thou Winter Wind
William Shakespeare

Blow, blow, thou winter wind,
Thou art not so unkind
As man's ingratitude;
Thy tooth is not so keen,
Because thou art not seen,
Although thy breath be rude.
Heigh-ho! sing, heigh-ho! unto the green holly:
Most friendship is feigning, most loving mere folly:
Then, heigh-ho, the holly!
This life is most jolly.
Freeze, freeze, thou bitter sky,
That dost not bite so nigh
As benefits forgot:
Though thou the waters warp,
Thy sting is not so sharp
As friend remembered not.
Heigh-ho! sing, heigh-ho! unto the green holly...

~~~~~

A Man's silence is wonderful to listen to. Thomas Hardy

God of creation, thank you for the beauty of winter- for snow, icy window panes, evergreen trees, warm coats, sledding, and hot cocoa. Let us enjoy Your creation in all its glory, this winter and always.

- Author Unknown

We give thanks for life:  
For fellowship and love;  
For the songs of birds  
and the beauty of flowers;  
For the memories of people and places  
long since gone;  
For hope, bursting new each morning with the  
sun,  
and peace coming with the close of day  
and the end of a journey.  
For all that gives meaning to existence  
we give thanks  
In freedom, hope, fellowship and love.

the unitarians

## One Liners

**“Everything you can imagine is real.”**

**– Pablo Picasso**

**“Normality is a paved road: it’s comfortable to walk but no flowers grow.” – Vincent van Gogh**

**“Live as if you were to die tomorrow”**

**– Mahatma Gandhi**

**“It always seems impossible until it's done.”**

**– Nelson Mandela**

**“The time is always right to do what is right”**

**– Martin Luther King Jr.**

**“Happiness depends upon ourselves.” – Aristotle**

**“If you don't like the road you're walking, start paving another one”. – Dolly Parton.**

**“Live a simple life; you will own the most beautiful treasures of the world!” – Mehmet Murat Ildan**

**“A simple life gives birth to more clarity, inner peace and meaningful relationships.”**

**– Margo Vader**

**“Because you are alive, everything is possible.”**

**– Thich Nhat Hanh**

**“Life isn't about finding yourself. Life is about creating yourself.” – George Bernard Shaw**

## **The Snow Fairy**

*Claude McKay*

Throughout the afternoon I watched them there,  
Snow-fairies falling, falling from the sky,  
Whirling fantastic in the misty air,  
Contending fierce for space supremacy.  
And they flew down a mightier force at night,  
As though in heaven there was revolt and riot,  
And they, frail things had taken panic flight  
Down to the calm earth seeking peace and quiet.

I went to bed and rose at early dawn  
To see them huddled together in a heap,  
Each merged into the other upon the lawn,  
Worn out by the sharp struggle, fast asleep.  
The sun shone brightly on them half the day,  
By night they stealthily had stol'n away.

And suddenly my thoughts then turned to you  
Who came to me upon a winter's night,  
When snow-sprites round my attic window flew, Your hair  
disheveled, eyes aglow with light.

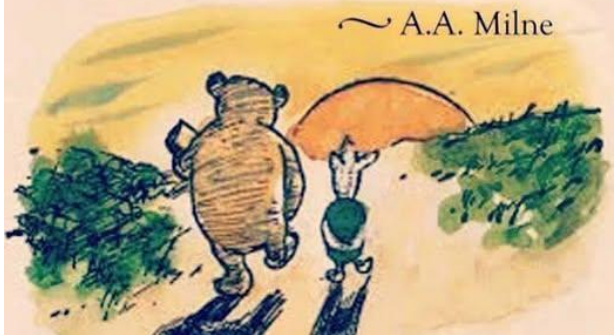
My heart was like the weather when you came,  
The wanton winds were blowing loud and long;  
But you, with joy and passion all aflame,  
You danced and sang a lilting summer song.

I made room for you in my little bed,  
Took covers from the closet fresh and warm,  
A downful pillow for your scented head,  
And lay down with you resting in my arm.  
You went with Dawn. You left me ere the day,  
The lonely actor of a dreamy play.

# <<<<<<CARTOON CORNER>>>>>>

Piglet noticed that even though  
he had a very small heart,  
it could hold a rather large  
amount of gratitude.

~ A.A. Milne

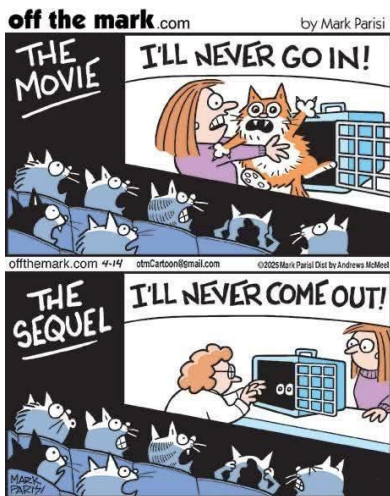
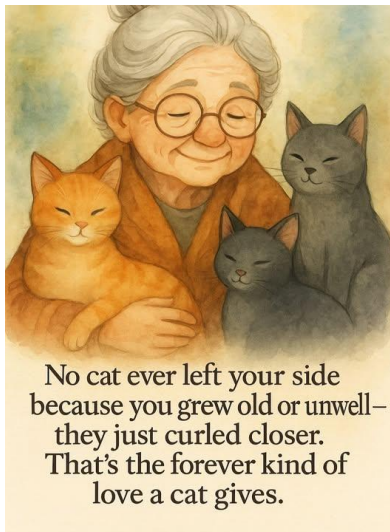


## The real Luxuries in life:

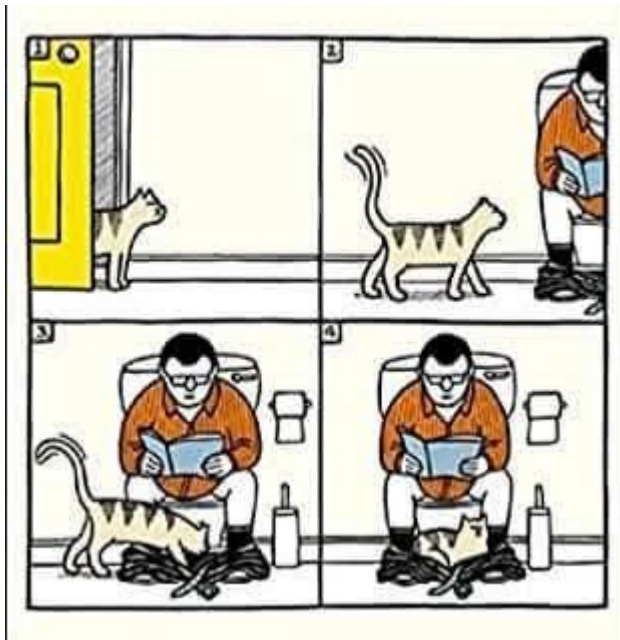
time  
health  
a quiet mind  
slow mornings  
ability to travel  
rest without guilt  
a good night's sleep  
calm and "boring" days  
meaningful conversations  
home-cooked meals  
people you love  
people who love you back



The joy a cat offers isn't taught, bought, or demanded—it arrives tenderly, with warm eyes and silent paws, and forever leaves its mark on you.









"Listen up, my Cossack brethren! We'll ride into the valley like the wind, the thunder of our horses and the lightning of our steel striking fear in the hearts of our enemies! ... And remember—stay out of Mrs. Caldwell's garden!"





## THE SOUND OF SILENCE

*Larghissimo*

J.S. Zamecnik



"The world is violent and mercurial - it will have its way with you. We are saved only by love - love for each other and the love that we pour into the art we feel compelled to share: being a parent; being a writer; being a painter; being a friend. We live in a perpetually burning building, and what we must save from it, all the time, is love."

— Tennessee Williams

WHAT DO YOU MEAN "GET DOWN"?



YOU SAID I WAS AN ANGEL

Three recently dead people are at the Pearly Gates. The angel asks the first, "What was your faith?" He says, Catholic. And did you go to confession? Oh, yes, every week. Ok, go on in. The second is Jewish. "Did you make a pilgrimage to the Wailing Wall?" "Yes, I did, just last year at last!" "Ok, enter." The last declares that they are Unitarian. The angel asks, "And did you bring a hot dish to share?"

**FOUND IT!**



If ever there is a tomorrow  
when we're not together...  
there is something you must  
always remember.



You are braver than  
you believe, stronger than  
you seem, and smarter than you think.  
But the most important thing is, even if  
we're apart... I'll always be with you.

# <<<< RECIPES >>>>

## **Just in case you haven't made your Christmas Cake – Easy Mincemeat Christmas Cake**

**Prep Time**15minutes minutes

**Cook Time**1hour

**Total Time**1hour hour 15minutes minutes

**Servings**12 slices

### **Ingredients**

#### **For the cake...**

- 150 g butter softened
- 150 g dark soft brown sugar (you can use light soft brown sugar if you prefer)
- 2 large eggs
- 411 g jar of mincemeat (I use Tesco Finest)
- 200 g glacé cherries halved (You can buy these ready halved to save time)
- 150 g self-raising flour
- 2 teaspoons mixed spice
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 30 ml cream sherry (I use Tesco Finest. Use apple juice if you don't like sherry or need this to be alcohol free.)

### **Instructions**

1. Preheat your oven to 160C / 140C fan / gas mark 3 / 325F. Grease and line a 20cm / 8inch round cake tin with baking paper.
2. In a large mixing bowl, beat together the butter and sugar thoroughly.
3. Add the eggs, one at a time, beating the mixture until smooth after each one.
4. Add the jar of mincemeat and the glacé cherries. Stir gently until the fruit is evenly distributed.
5. Gently fold in the flour, mixed spice and cinnamon until fully incorporated.
6. Next, add the cream sherry and stir gently until mixed in.
7. Tip the cake mixture into your prepared cake tin and get it straight into the oven. Bake for 50 minutes to 1 hour or until a skewer, inserted into the middle of the cake, comes out clean.
8. Leave to cool for 20 minutes in the tin (or until cool enough to handle without burning your hands!), then remove the cake from the tin and allow to fully cool on a wire cooling rack... The cake should take approximately 2 hours from the time it comes out of the oven to cool fully. Do not decorate until completely cool!
9. Decorate as you wish



## Tomato & basil soup

Prep 10mins, Cook 15 mins

### Ingredients

- 1tbsp olive oil
- 2 garlic cloves crushed
- 5 sundried tomatoes roughly chopped
- 3 x 400g cans plum tomatoes
- 500ml turkey or vegetable stock
- 1tsp sugar any type, or more to taste
- 140ml soured cream
- 1tbsp pesto
- basil leaves to serve

### Method

- **step 1**

Heat the butter or oil in a large pan, then add the garlic and soften for a few minutes over a low heat. Add the sundried tomatoes, canned tomatoes, stock, sugar and seasoning, then bring to a simmer. Let the soup bubble for 10 mins until the tomatoes have broken down a little.

- **step 2**

Whizz with a stick blender, adding half the pot of soured cream as you go. Taste and adjust the seasoning – add more sugar if you need to. Serve in bowls with 1 tbsp or so of the pesto swirled on top, a little more soured cream and scatter with basil leaves.



## **Vegan Butternut Squash Wellington**

**If you have Vegan or Vegetarian friends visiting – or if you are Vegan or Vegetarian**

Cook Time 1 hour 40 minutes mins

Total Time 3 hours 10 minutes mins

Vegan Main Course

Servings [4](#)

Calories 565 kcal

### **Ingredients**

1. 1 medium butternut squash
2. 150 g vegan sausage mix we recommend Sosmix
3. 100 ml water
4. 9 thyme sprigs
5. 50 g cranberries
6. 40 g dried onions
7. ¼ tsp nutmeg
8. ½ tsp smoked paprika
9. 1 Tbsp fresh sage (finely chopped)
10. 200 g toasted almond flakes



11. ½ tsp chilli flakes
12. 3 Tbsp garlic chopped
13. 1 small orange zested
14. ½ tsp wholegrain mustard
15. 200 g kale
16. olive oil
17. salt and pepper to taste
18. 1 garlic head

## Instructions

- Preheat the oven to gas mark 5, 190°C, fan 170°.
- Halve the butternut squash vertically and scoop out the seeds with a soup spoon. Oil a non-stick roasting tray and inside of the squash. Season with a pinch of salt, pepper and 1 tbsp spoon garlic and half the thyme. Lay both halves, cut side down, in the roasting tray and roast for 45 mins, or until just tender.
- Leave to cool for 20 minutes, then carefully turn the halves over and scoop out the insides along the length of each squash half, leaving an even 2cm border of squash all around the edge. Be careful not to rip the skin. Put the inside of the squash in a mixing bowl with mustard and orange zest.
- While the squash halves cook, mix together the [sausage mix](#), almonds, cranberries, dried onion, chilli, smoked paprika, garlic, nutmeg, fresh sage, salt, pepper, orange zest and mustard, and allow it to set in the fridge for 20 minutes.



- Meanwhile gently pull the kale leaves off the stalks, wash, dry and pack into the centre of both sides of squash once cooled.
- Now divide the sausage mix between both halves packing down tightly and evenly and then top with the remaining squash.
- Bake for 20 minutes, then add the halved garlic heads to the tin with the remaining thyme sprigs, drizzling them with 1 tbsp oil. Bake for a further 30-40 mins, until the squash is completely tender and piping hot.
- Cover the Wellington with tinfoil and allow to set for 20 min before serving.

#### Nutrition

Calories: 565kcal, Carbohydrates: 50g Protein: 10g Fat: 36g  
Fibre: 11g

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Easy sherry trifle

Prepare less than 30 mins

Serves 4

Dietary Vegetarian

By Angela Hartnett

Ingredients

- 1 packet ready-made trifle sponge fingers
- 200ml/7fl oz dry sherry
- 250g/9oz frozen raspberries
- 1 x 75g sachet custard powder
- or make homemade custard
- 275ml/10fl oz double cream
- 50g/1¾oz caster sugar
- 50g/1¾oz flaked almonds, toasted
- 150g/5½ oz fresh raspberries, to garnish

Method

1. Layer the sponges evenly across the bottom of a deep glass serving bowl. Pour over the sherry and leave to soak for a few minutes.
2. Sprinkle over the raspberries in an even layer.
3. Make the custard according to the packet instructions and pour evenly over the sponge and raspberries. Put in the fridge for 15 minutes, or until the custard has set.
4. Meanwhile, whisk the cream with the sugar to soft peaks.
5. Once the custard is set, spoon over the cream and sprinkle with the toasted almonds.
6. Refrigerate for a few hours before serving, topping with the fresh raspberries at the last minute.