

NEWS ON



THE Park

**BI-Monthly
Magazine**

Issue No. 73

**December
2018
January
2019**



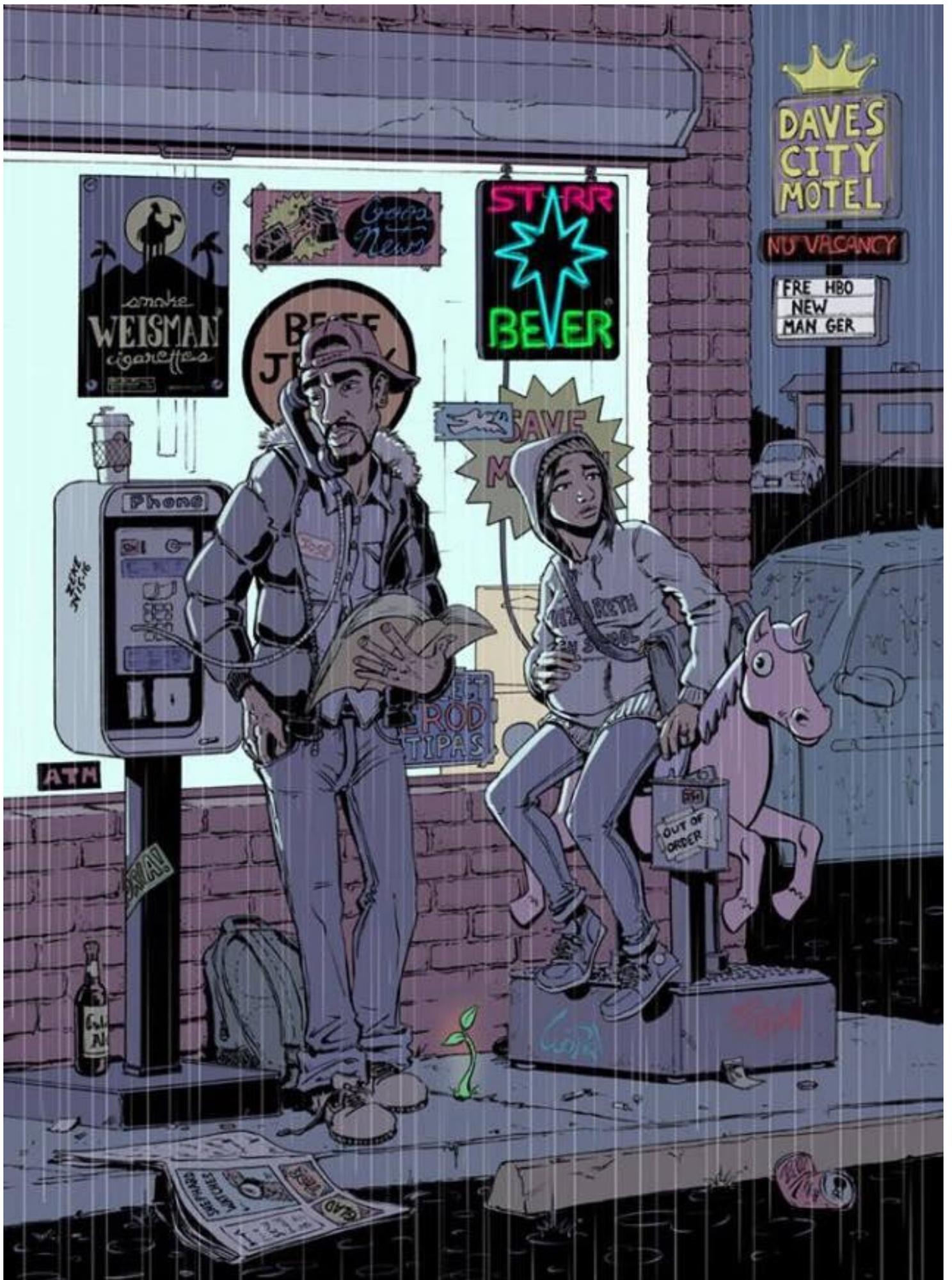
Burn Park

Methodist Church

**Donations
for Charity
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Burn Park Road, Sunderland, SR2 7JH

<http://burnparkmethodistchurch.weebly.com/>



December January



A is for his *arrival*, we are longing for

D is for the *day* that He was born

V is for *voices* – raised to Him in praise

E is for our *Eternal* God and King

N is for the *night* – that turned our world to day

T is for the Holy *Trinity*

... and so during Advent
we prepare our hearts for Him.

Letter to Mary

15th November 2018

Hi All,

I've started to write this letter at a really late hour, but, even if it's just a few lines to start it off, well, that's something.

As usual, our lives are full of things to do to get through the week. Yesterday, we went to Sainsbury's to spend our double up vouchers on some Christmas presents for the grandchildren. We had a pleasant hour looking at the boxed games and easy card games. Then we chose a winter jumper each for them and a calendar for all the family. It's going to be different this Christmas because we won't have Clare coming down the street to open presents; we'll miss that. But we will be spending the day with Clare, Manuele and Oscar (the dog) at the Wheatsheaf near Chester le Street and having a family party with about 30 people from both families. She has started to decorate the pub already and has a lovely Christmas tree in the



bar, a log burner in the fireplace and her Nativity Crib and ornaments on the window sill. A huge inflated Santa stands in the conservatory and watches over all the dining room. I can't wait because we'll be sleeping there on anything we can find to rest on – but first we've got plenty of work and preparations at the church.

18th November

Well, we're going to be very busy in the coming week because we've got the Nativity to put on boards with cloths on display in the church and the tree with lights and the grotto for Santa to put up. First come the lights and the boards for the cribs and the tree takes quite a while to assemble because the branches are all colour coded and numbered. So you have to laboriously sort out all the separate coloured piles and then fit them onto the tree. Then the tree needs to be decorated, using a stepladder to reach the higher branches. After that job is done, the tree in the grotto seems a doddle because it's only half the size

of the one in church. Once it's up, you can decorate the tree with your feet on terra firma. I love advent at church, there's a feeling of excitement in the air. Rob is helping Mel so he'll be joining in as well. Santa's coming on the fire engine to see us at the Christmas Fair. I hope there are lots of children and parents this year. You don't have to go home for lunch as there will be refreshments including bacon sarnies; mmmmm.

Park Productions start on Tuesday night, listening to the music for our next production, The Witness. It's the story of Peter's account of Jesus from his ministry up to the crucifixion. We still have three care homes to go to on 8th December, to sing carols and about 2½ hours of singing outside people's houses where we have been invited to sing carols. Then finish just off Mount Road for a hot drink and something to eat at Jane's house. We won't have our Clare with us this year; she'll be pulling pints and serving meals for her customers at the pub.

Merry Christmas everyone

Lots of love

June

xxxxx



Celebrations

Birthdays

Wedding Anniversaries

December

1st Elma Morgan

24th Margaret Metcalfe

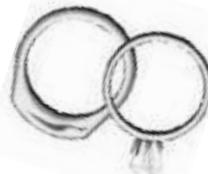
January

27th Rob Whitfield

December &

January

None known

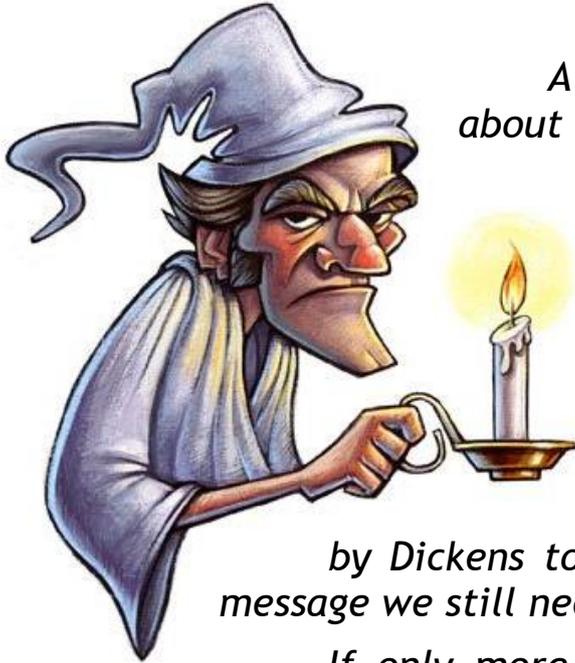


Can we celebrate your special day too? All you have to do is fill in the form and place them in the gold box at the back of the Church; spare forms to fill in are on the side of the box.



Pause for Thought ..

Ebenezer Scrooge



At this time of year, we often see or think about the classic novel “A Christmas Carol” by Charles Dickens. Nick, Katrina and I had the privilege of being part of Vane Tempest Theatre Group’s production of one of the many musical versions of the story in mid-November. Nick played the main character; the elderly Ebenezer Scrooge.

Scrooge is a great character created by Dickens to give the people of his time a message; a message we still need to hear today!

If only more people were like Scrooge! You remember what Scrooge was like, don't you?

Scrooge was stingy and mean; a real skinflint, wasn't he? Why would a Christian want to be like him?

Yes, Scrooge was all of these things, but he changed. He grew to love Christmas, and became warm and generous. Let's all change to become more like him. We don't need ghosts to tell us to change, just look to Christ, and the real message of Christmas and see many reasons to be like the new, changed Scrooge.



10 SECOND SERMONS:

We can forgive a child who is afraid of the dark; the real tragedy of life is when men are afraid of the light.

Plato

New Friends and Neighbours

Over the past few weeks, we have been privileged to welcome almost twenty new people into our fellowship on Thursday mornings. These are mainly single people who are seeking refuge in our country and who have been sent to Sunderland by our government. Many have been forced to flee their own countries because they have turned to Christianity. Initially we were able to provide for their physical needs; giving them clothes, bedding and food from supplies kept at Burn Park for the homeless. However, it was soon apparent that they were seeking spiritual support too. Some have spent quiet time in church or in the prayer corner, where they have found some peace and comfort. These are well-educated young people (two are architecture students) who are anxious about their future and their status. They are eager to be accepted and to be a part of our community and want to be able to contribute. Three of the girls helped to set up the nativity sets and one girl has helped several times in the kitchen. Thank you to those members of Burn Park who have helped to support these friends. We hope that this will continue and that we can all cooperate to achieve their aims.



What is our Focus?

A lady went to church and told the minister that she would no longer attend because of the things people were doing during the service. The minister ask her to carry a glass of water around twice in the chapel and not to spill a drop. She focus fully on that glass of water and returned it to the minister with pride, that not one drop spilled. He ask her, did you see anyone doing something wrong while you were walking around ... she said she was so focused on the glass and not spilling the water, that she did not. When we go to church, our focus should be on our relationship with the Lord and not on others.

Poetry Corner

Just One Request

(a poem for the New Year)

*Dear Master for this coming year
Just one request I bring:
I do not pray for happiness,
Or any earthly thing—
I do not ask to understand
The way Thou ledest me,
But this I ask: Teach me to do
The thing that pleaseth Thee.*

*I want to know Thy guiding voice,
To walk with Thee each day.
Dear Master make me swift to hear
And ready to obey.
And thus the year I now begin
A happy year will be—
If I am seeking just to do
The thing that pleaseth Thee.*

Unknown Author



Time for Reflection

Let us reflect, this season, on the many names for Jesus which we find in the Biblical accounts of the Christmas story:



GOD
ROCK
SAVIOR
MESSIAH
IMMANUEL
HOLY • CHILD
MIGHTY • GOD
LORD • OF • ALL
LAMB • OF • GOD
CHRIST • OF • GOD
KING • OF • KINGS
THE • WORD • OF • GOD
ALPHA • AND • OMEGA
PRINCE • OF • PEACE
LIGHT • OF • THE • WORLD
HEAD • OF • THE • CHURCH
SON • OF • THE • HIGHEST
EVERLASTING • FATHER
RESURRECTION • AND • LIFE
JESUS

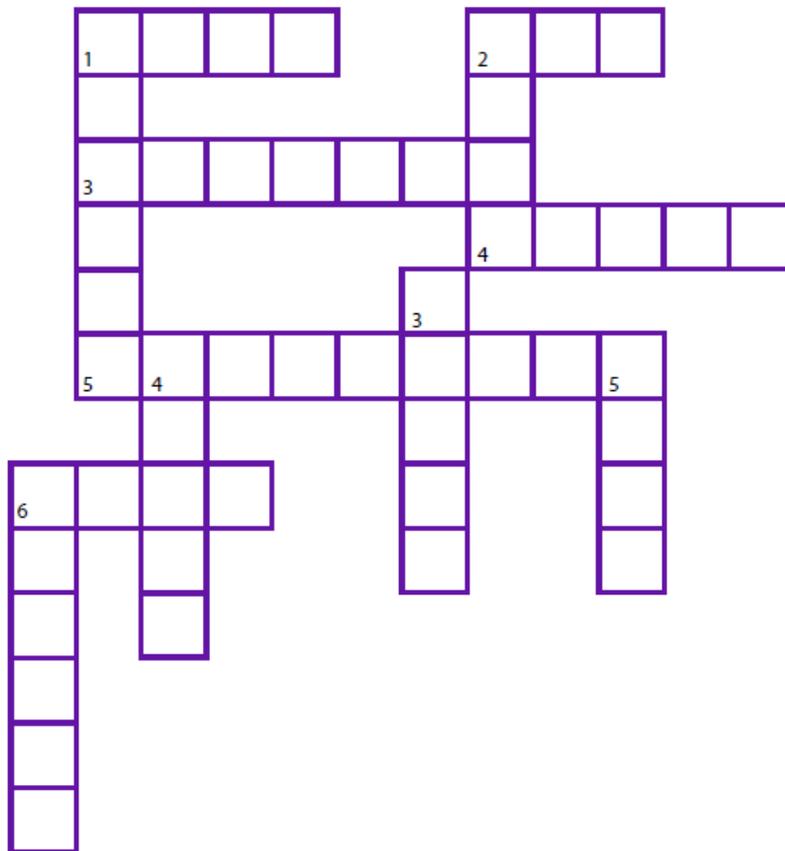
Christianity.com



Fun & Games

A Page for all the family Nativity Crossword

Read the clues below and fill in the blanks to complete this puzzle on the nativity.



ACROSS

1. Luke 2:36-38 She was a prophetess who recognized that the infant Jesus was the Messiah.
2. Luke 2:13, 14 "there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising ____, and saying Glory to ____ in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."
3. Luke 1:26,27 "in the sixth month the angel ____ was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph"
4. Matt 1:20 "Joseph, thou son of ____ fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife"
- 5 Luke 2:8 "there were in the same country ____ abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night."
- 6 Luke 2:5 Joseph's espoused wife

DOWN

1. Luke 2:15 "as the ____ were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass,"
2. Matt 2:7-12 One wise man brought _____
3. Matt 2:1 "_____ was born in Bethlehem of Judaea ...
4. Matt 2:1 "...in the days of ____ the king,"
5. Matt 2:2 "...Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his ____ in the east, and are come to worship him."
6. Luke 2:7 Mary "brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a _____,"

Prayer Time

Advent Prayer

A Prayer of approach, longing and confession for the Advent season.

God, with us,
As we enter this season of longing and waiting,
bear with us a little longer;
be patient with our impatience.

You have journeyed alongside us from the beginning of time,
yet still we miss the signs of your presence.

When we are blinded by the brashness of this season:
Open our eyes to the glimpses of your glory.

When we want simple answers:
Open our minds to the hints of incarnation.

When we are deafened by our own shouting:
Open our ears to the whispers of your grace.

May we share with you in longing for restoration and renewal
and may we be watchful for the light that breaks through
the darkness of our world.

In Christ's name. *Amen*

God says 'Be patient, watch and wait,
for the time is close at hand.'

Know that you are loved, forgiven and healed.

Amen. Thanks be to God.

The Revd Michaela Youngson, President of the Methodist Conference



I used to pray that God would feed the hungry, or do this or that, but now I pray that he will guide me to do whatever I'm supposed to do, what I can do. I used to pray for answers, but now I'm praying for strength. I used to believe that prayer changes things, but now I know that prayer changes us and we change things.

St. Mother Teresa

MindfulChristianityToday.com

A Musical Evening with Stuart Townend

On Thursday 29th November, Nick and Suzy, along with June and Norman, attended the Stuart Townend "Courage Tour" at Dunston. It was a night not to have missed; he came out with his band explaining that it wasn't just a concert it was worship. We started by singing together, followed by him teaching us a new song. He then introduced his band and it was interesting to find out that the drummer was his son and the female vocalist was his daughter. The whole thing was very moving, with some of the songs touching on personal pain & mental health, how our faith can help us, and allow us to help others through. We all suffer some sort of pain in our lives, and most of us suffer from mental health problems, and I feel he touched on this rather well, during the night. Part of that focus was on the gift of today, and living life to the full, in the moment, as God intends. We could not resist buying some CDs of Stuart's music to help us worship at home. The concert was concluded with us all joining together to sing his well-known hymn, In Christ Alone. We were so blessed by the whole thing, I hope that we will be able to attend other similar concerts soon.

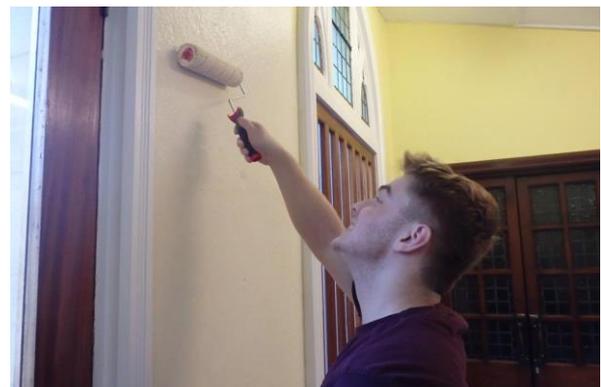
Prince's Trust Work

Each Prince's Trust group has to choose a Special Project to complete as part of their course; we were lucky to have been chosen by team 18 Farrington Prince's Trust for theirs. Back at the end of October, for a week, the team came to our church to carry out some work. They were lucky to secure a gift of £400 worth of supplies from Wilko's to help with the work, and were grateful to the church for providing lunch every day.

The team of 15 young adults painted the entrance hall and vestry inside the church as well as producing some artwork to be displayed. Outside they revamped the courtyard in between the church and kitchen into a nice seating area. A cross was also carefully restored which is now on display in the entrance of the church.



A huge thank you from us; well done to team 18. #IgniteYourPotential. Here are some photos to show some of the work being done.



The Meaning of 'The 12 Days of Christmas'



There is one particular Christmas Carol that has always baffled many people. What in the world do leaping lords, French hens, swimming swans, and especially the partridge who won't come out of the pear tree have to do with Christmas? Well, if you are one of those who wondered, here is the explanation:



From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning: the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of their church. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality which the children could remember.



1. The partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ.
2. Two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments.
3. Three French hens stood for faith, hope and love.
4. The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.
5. The five golden rings recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament.



6. The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation.
7. Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit: Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy.
8. The eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes.
9. Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self Control.



10. The ten lords a-leaping were the ten commandments.
11. The eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful disciples.
12. The twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed.



Now for some funnies ...

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



Thanks to Dad Hengeveld (See Luke 2:1-16)

12-20-2001

**SORRY FOLKS, WE'RE BOOKED SOLID ... GOD
HIMSELF COULDN'T GET A ROOM HERE TONIGHT**



It was the Sunday after Christmas at St Peter and Saint Paul's Church in Borden, Kent, England. Father John was looking at the nativity scene prior to packing away the figures when he noticed the baby Jesus was missing from the scene.

Immediately, Father John turned towards the vicarage in order to call the police. But as he was about to do so, he saw little Harry with a red wagon, and in the wagon was the figure of the little infant, Jesus. Father John walked up to Harry and said, 'Well, Harry, where did you get the little infant?'

Harry replied honestly, 'I took him from the church, Father John.'

'And why did you take him?'

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



A bright 8-year-old child was being tested by a teacher and was given analogies and asked to describe the following differences: Teacher: "What's the difference between an oak tree and a Christmas tree?" Child: "One has leaves and the other has needles." Teacher: "Very good! What's the difference between a saucer and a plate?" Child: "One flies and the other doesn't."



Young Eddie was spending Christmas with his grand-parents. On Christmas morning the family went to church. While they were waiting to go in Eddie checked all the announcements, and pictures along the walls. When he came to a group of pictures of men in uniform, he asked a nearby verger, 'Who are all those men in the pictures?'

The verger replied, 'Why, those are our boys who died in service'.

Dumbfounded, the Jonathan asked, 'Was that the carol service or the Christmas Day service?'



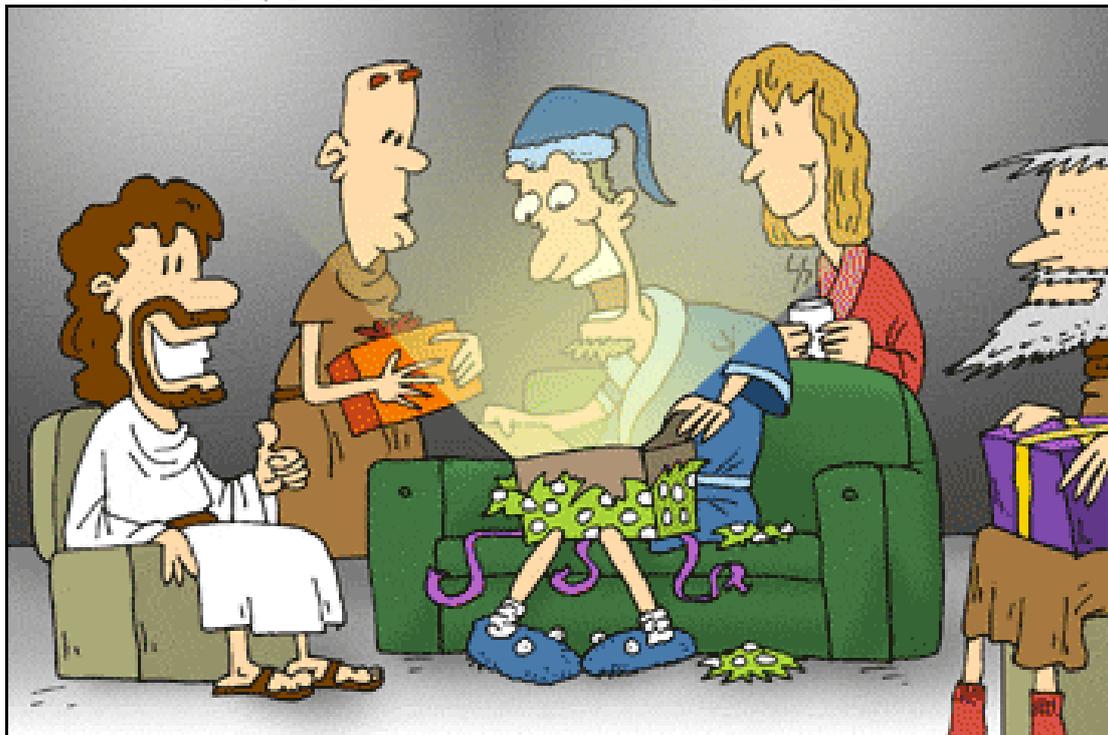
A ten-year old, who was becoming quite knowledgeable about the Bible because of her grandmother's teaching, asked her grandmother: "Which Virgin was the mother of Jesus? The Virgin Mary or the King James Virgin?"



There was an art contest held in a school one Christmas. One of the prize winners was a picture drawn by a nine year old boy showing three men, offering gifts to the baby Jesus in his manger. What made the picture unique is how the three gift presenters arrived—there was fire truck on the side of the picture.

The judge asked the boy about his decision to draw the truck and the boy, was quick to reply: "Well, the Bible says the wise men came from a-far."





Thanks to Andrew S.

12-21-2007

ETERNAL LIFE, MY FAVORITE ... THANKS
JESUS!



Diary Dates

Preachers at Burn Park for December & January:

December	January
2nd Rev Rosemary Nash <i>United service with Ewesley Road & Humbledon</i>	6th Deacon Chris Daniels
9th Rev Tom Patton <i>Gift service</i>	13th Rev Rosemary Nash <i>Covenant Service</i>
16th Rev Rosemary Nash	20th Mr Malcolm Muir
23rd Mr John Carter <i>Carol Service</i>	27th Hill
30th <i>United service at Humbledon</i> Rev Rosemary Nash 10:45	

Special Christmas Events at Burn Park:

Wednesday 12th December starting at 7 p.m.: **User Group Carol Service:** refreshments will be served afterwards

Monday 24th December at 3:30pm: **Christmas Eve Communion Service** led by Rev Rosemary Nash

On **Christmas Day:** there will be no Service at Burn Park: Rev Rosemary will lead a joint service for Burn Park, Humbledon and Ewesley Road congregations at 10 a.m. at Ewesley Road

Other **Christmas Day** Services around the Circuit are:

Castletown: 10 a.m. led by Rev Michael Holland

Whitburn: 10 a.m. led by Rev. Jane Cook

Cleadon: 10:30 a.m. led by Rev Jane Cook

Silksworth: 10:30 a.m. led by Rev Richard Bainbridge

St John's: 10:45 a.m. led by Rev Christine Kettleby

East Boldon: 11 a.m. led by Rev Jane Cook

High Southwick: 11 a.m. led by Rev Michael Holland



Important Dates to note around and about:

Sat 1 Dec: 10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.: Roker: Christmas Quiet Day led by Rev Rosemary Nash

Sat 1 Dec: 10 a.m. – 12 noon: High Southwick: Christmas Coffee Morning/Fayre

Sat 1 Dec: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.: Cleadon: Christmas Coffee Morning with stalls, visit from Santa, refreshments & lunches

Sat 1 Dec: 4 – 6 p.m.: East Boldon: Christmas Messy Church

Sun 2 Dec: 3 – 4 p.m.: Whitburn: Messy Church & Mary & Joseph's Advent Village Tour begins

Mon 3 Dec: 2 p.m.: Silksworth: Sisterhood Carol Service

Tue 4 Dec: 2:15 p.m.: Silksworth: MWiB Advent Service: speaker Mrs Sheila Holland

Wed 5 Dec: 10 a.m. – 12 noon: East Boldon: Christmas Coffee Morning

Thu 6 Dec: 10 – 11:30 a.m.: St John's: Church open for prayer & Christmas meditation

Sat 8 Dec: 12 noon: Humbledon: Christmas Lunch with Carols & Quiz - £12

Sat 8 Dec: 2:30 p.m.: Castletown: Christmas Messy Church

Sat 8 Dec: from 2:30 p.m.: Highcliffe Care Home, Keelboat Lodge & Dovecote Meadow: Carol Singing with Park Productions

Sat 8 Dec: 3 p.m.: Cleadon: Christmas Messy Church

Sat 8 Dec: 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.: Whitburn: Christmas Carol Pantomime

Wed 12 Dec: 7 p.m.: Roker: Sing-a-long-a-Carol

Fri 14 Dec: 10:45 a.m.: Whitburn: Shining Stars Crib Service
 Sat 15 Dec: 10 a.m.: Ewesley Road: Coffee and Carols
 Sat 15 Dec: 12:30 – 3:30 p.m.: Whitburn: Christmas themed workshop from
 Jesmond Flower Workshop
 Tue 18 Dec: 11 a.m.: Whitburn: Christmas story/songs with Shining Stars
 Thu 20 Dec: 2 p.m.: John Carter's house: Bible Study
 Thu 20 Dec: 5 p.m.: Cleadon: Christingle Service followed by tea
 Sat 22 Dec: 6 p.m.: Carol Singing with Park Productions
 Mon 24 Dec: 4 p.m.: Roker: Christingle
 Mon 24 Dec: 5 p.m.: Cleadon: Christmas Eve Carol Service
 Mon 24 Dec: 6 p.m.: Silksworth: Carols Around the Tree
 Mon 24 Dec: 11:15 p.m.: Fulwell: Christmas Eve service led by Rev Gareth
 Phillips
 Fri 28 Dec: 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.: Humbledon: Messy Vintage: theme "Christmas
 Past and Present": aimed at those blessed with the gift of golden years
 Mon 7 Jan: from 9:30 a.m.: Wrekenton Methodist Community Church:
 Harvest Hands Prayers, Coffee & Croissants with Rev. Michaela
 Youngson (President of Conference)
 Thu 17 Jan: 2 p.m.: John Carter's house: Bible Study
 Sat 19 Jan: 10 a.m. – 12 noon: Burn Park: monthly Coffee Morning

Advance Notice:

Sat 8 Jun: 10:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.: Chester-le-Street Methodist Church: ECG &
 Thy Kingdom Come Prayer event for all ages – workshops &
 celebrations
 Tue 2 – Fri 5 July 2019: Minsteracres Retreat Centre: MWiB Area 3 Event:
 booking form & information on notice board

*For more details about these and other events,
 please see your weekly printed notices or Circuit Plan*



*If you have any notices to be published, or articles for the next
 magazine, please contact Suzy Wake
 at Church, tel: **5226257**, by e-mail on WaSus654@aol.com,
 or at 119, Tunstall Rd, by 9 p.m. Thursday.*



To book rooms for an event,
 please contact Melvyn Morgan on Tel: 5251930.



BURN PARK CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

Burn Park Methodist Church exists to worship God,
and make the Love of Jesus known,
in our welcome, outreach, and care for all.

Minister: Rev. Rosemary Nash: Tel: 0191 5652221

93, Dunelm, SR2 7QX: revnash@hotmail.com

Circuit Safeguarding Officer: Margaret Brown 0191 5285069

brown1792003@yahoo.co.uk

Regional Child Protection Officer: Carolyn Godfrey tel: 07534346374

email ne.methodist.safeguarding@gmail.com

Regular Events at this Church:

Sunday

10:30 a.m.

Morning Worship & Sunday Club

11 a.m.

Mustard Seed Church led by Pastor Sunday Raji

1 p.m. - 3 pm

Deeper Life Church Worship

6 p.m.

Churches Together Drop-In for Homeless people

Monday

1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Ladybirds (1st Monday of month)

Tuesday

11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Lunch Club

7:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Park Productions

Wednesday

6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Deeper Life Church Bible Study

Thursday

10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Coffee@Burn Park

1 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.

Stroke Club

2 p.m.

Bible Study (3rd week of month)

6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Beavers, Cubs, & Scouts

Friday

9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Toddlers Group

4 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Ballet Classes

Saturday

10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Coffee Mornings (3rd week of month)