



**Saltire Methodist Church**  
[saltiremethodistchurch.org.uk](http://saltiremethodistchurch.org.uk)

**NEWSLETTER**

**November and December 2009**

Dear Friends,

I am in a panic! It's a few weeks to Christmas and I haven't given some thoughts on what I will buy family and friends, let alone done any shopping yet. Christmas comes too quickly and too often. It's a chore sometimes, buying presents I mean. However, there is a little compensation in knowing you will also receive. There is a Zimbabwean saying which literally translated would be, "A bowl of food given always attracts another in return". Is that what Christmas is about?

Already the Christmas glitter is all around us, bright and colourful lights, Christmas bargains advertised, attractive shop windows and interesting shop displays. There is an excitement in the air; some call it the Christmas spirit. Unfortunately, it is all geared to make you part with a bob or two. Christmas, if nothing else, is certainly expensive. Is that £20 turkey really necessary? That elaborate Christmas tree really essential? Imagine the number of items you will be given as Christmas presents all wrapped up in glittering wrapping. How many of the items will you really, really need and make use of? I know I will be given lots of pairs of socks, ONCE AGAIN. Quite often we receive an awful amount of unwanted gifts, don't we? Well, we might say that it is the Christmas spirit, giving and receiving. There is a commercialised side to Christmas. It's not all gold that glitters!

I dread the day somebody, out of political correctness, will demand that Christmas be called something else. It has sort of started already anyway. I hope it won't go further. To me, Christmas will always be Christmas not Xmas or whatever else. It should always be a period set aside to remember Christ. If you take Christ out of Christmas then it won't be Christmas. Of course, it is a time to give and to receive, a time of fellowship with friends and family, a time of laughter and happiness to many people and yet it can also be a difficult time for some. Imagine the feelings of those who lost loved ones during some Christmas festivities of the past, or those too poor to feed themselves, let alone give gifts. We can think of the frustration of those who receive handouts but cannot give in return. Imagine those who do not have anyone to share with or talk to during this period. There are some indeed who look to Christmas with trepidation, who dread it, those who find it lonely and miserable and those who have a downright loathing for it. It is often because they associate it with unhappy situations perhaps encountered before. Think of them this Christmas.

As Christians we are very good at giving. We give money, we give clothes and many other material things. How good are we at giving TIME to others, giving TIME to causes, simply giving TIME? Certainly we do give time to family and friends, the question is could we give some to strangers?

Join me this Christmas in a challenge! In the true spirit of Christmas, give TIME to strangers. Out there are lonely people, desperate ones, even suicidal ones, some at the end of their tether, just waiting for someone to share with, talk to, confide in – the list is long. So, whenever you think of giving this Christmas, think in terms of giving TIME.

Shalom  
Freddy



*Rev'd T M Morrow, Prof E Gordon Rupp, Mrs D R Evans, Mr A Robertshaw (architect), Mr W Allan Heap and the Rev'd D R Evans*

### **DO YOU REMEMBER?**

Do you remember the opening and dedication of the present building on Saturday 12th February, 1972. A Stone-laying ceremony had taken place on the 11th September the year before, performed by Allan Heap who was treasurer of the building fund.

The service was conducted by the Superintendent Minister, the Rev'd D R Evans MA, assisted by the Chairman of the West Yorkshire District, the Rev'd T M Morrow MA. The sermon was preached by the Rev'd Professor E Gordon Rupp FBA, MA, DD, D Theol. Principal of Wesley House, Cambridge.

The church doors were opened by Mrs Evans. About 300 people attended the service – there was seating for 200! The collection amounted to £150 which left about £600 still to be raised to cover the building costs of £42,000. By Sunday 1st September 1974, the rest of the money had been raised and a special Thanksgiving Service was held at 6.00pm.

### **WORDS TO THINK ABOUT**

Happiness keeps you Sweet,  
 Trials keep you Strong,  
 Sorrows keep you Human,  
 Failures keep you Humble,  
 Success keeps you Glowing ,  
 But Only Friends Keep You Going!

~~~~~  
 Do all the good you can,  
 By all the means you can,  
 In all the ways you can,  
 In all the places you can.  
 At all the times you can,  
 To all the people you can,  
 As long as ever you can.

*John Wesley*

## **NEWS ABOUT SARAH**

The Rev'd Geoff Reid was an Honorary Ecumenical Canon at Bradford Cathedral. When he retired this summer, he also retired from the Cathedral. In recognition of her work at Christchurch, Windhill Methodist Anglican LEP, Sarah has been invited to take his place. This is a great accolade and she has accepted the role. She will be installed at Evensong at 4.00pm on 22nd November. As this is a public service, anyone may attend. Sarah would love to see you there.

## **NEWS ABOUT FRANK OKAI SAM**

Frank is to be ordained at the 2010 Conference in Portsmouth. He will, therefore, be having a Testimony Service in the summer. It is to be at Sprotborough Methodist Church at 7.30pm on Wednesday 19th May. He'd love to see you there! Instructions on how to get to Sprotborough nearer the time.

## **WHY I LOVE MOM**

*This may be American, but it's just as true over here!*

Mom and Dad were watching TV when Mom said, 'I'm tired, and it's getting late. I think I'll go to bed'.

She went to the kitchen to make sandwiches for the next day's lunches, rinsed out the popcorn bowls, took meat out of the freezer for supper the following evening, checked the cereal box levels, filled the sugar container, put spoons and bowls on the table and started the coffee pot for brewing the next morning. She then put some wet clothes in the dryer, put a load of clothes into the washer, ironed a shirt and secured a loose button. She picked up the game pieces left on the table, put the phone back on the charger and put the telephone book into the drawer. She watered the plants, emptied a wastebasket and hung up a towel to dry.

She yawned and stretched and headed for the bedroom. She stopped by the desk, wrote a note to the teacher, counted out some cash for the field trip, and pulled a text book out from hiding under the chair

She signed a birthday card for a friend, addressed and stamped the envelope and wrote a quick note for the grocery store. She put both near her purse.

Mom then washed her face with 3 in 1 cleanser, put on her Night solution & age fighting moisturizer, brushed and flossed her teeth and filed her nails.

Dad called out, 'I thought you were going to bed.'

'I'm on my way,' she said

She looked in on each of the kids and turned out their bedside lamps and TV's, hung up a shirt, threw some dirty socks into the hamper, and had a brief conversation with the one up still doing homework. In her own room, she set the alarm; laid out clothing for the next day, straightened up the shoe rack. She added three things to her 6 most important things to do list. She said her prayers, and visualized the accomplishment of her goals.

About that time, Dad turned off the TV and announced to no one in particular. 'I'm going to bed'

And he did, without another thought.



## AC TION FOR CHILDREN

Action for Children's ethos is deeply rooted in Methodist principles. The famous words of John Wesley to 'go not only to those who need you but to those who need you most' eloquently and simply describe its vision and values today. Close links with the Methodist Church in Britain are maintained. The Council of trustees is appointed by the Methodist Conference – to which an annual report is given. A number of Methodists are trustees and all of our national committees in England, Scotland and Wales have at least one Methodist representative.

Action for Children has recently celebrated its 140th Anniversary. It was in 1869 that the Rev'd Dr Thomas Bowman Stephenson opened the first children's home in a former stable in London. The home, which came at a time of social reform and evangelical revival, offered an alternative to the notorious workhouse and was an attempt to create a place where children would be treated with respect and affection and given the opportunity to fulfil their full potential. Within two years, the home went from accommodating two young boys to being a home for 29 children. Today Action for Children operates across the whole of the UK and supports over 156,000 children, young people and their families.

Children who are neglected can lack care, food, security and love. In recent years the scale of the problem has grown to such an extent that neglect is by far the largest reason for a child to be the subject of a child protection plan.

In the weeks running up to Christmas they are launching a major appeal – the first for many years – that will highlight the hidden and often unspoken problem of neglect that affects literally thousands of children across the UK every single day. The television adverts have already started.

**Do you collect on their behalf? If so, please could you give your box to Lesley or Dorothy so it can be emptied. If not, please consider whether you could next year and ask Lesley or Dorothy for a box.**

## LIVING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

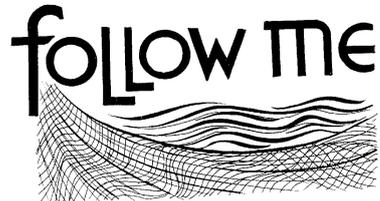
"The Church expects that each one of us, young and old,  
will grow and develop in our Christian discipleship."

*Methodist Conference 2001*

Living as a Christian means much more than going to church. It involves a life-long journey to follow in Jesus' steps. This will mean trying to apply what we know of God through Jesus to all the different aspects of our life, and make choices in life based on this rather than just our self-interest.

- **We should read the Bible**  
The Methodist founding documents emphasise a call to 'scriptural holiness'.
- **We should pray daily**  
Spending time with God in prayer is vital. Every year, a Methodist Prayer Handbook is produced.
- **We should take Holy Communion regularly**  
The simple feast in which we encounter Christ with us in the present moment.
- **We should think about our calling**  
Find out how to explore with others what shape your life with God might take

- **We should live a holy life**  
Methodists are asked to surrender our lives to God's will. 'Social holiness' is important.
- **We should struggle to achieve a fairer world**  
Methodists have always taken a stand about key areas of public life.
- **We should learn to forgive and accept forgiveness**
- **We should share our faith with others**



## POSADA

Do you remember last year?



This year's social evening to launch Posada will be on 28 November 2009



The knitted figures of Mary and Joseph with their donkey will again be looking for homes where they can spend a night during Advent.



If you would like to host them, see Mags Thakker.

She needs to know your name, address and telephone number and any nights you cannot manage.

She will then arrange this year's itinerary.

## A WINTER QUIZ

*Decide whether the sentences below are true or false.  
Answers are at the back of the Newsletter.*

1. If you lick a metal pole when the temperature is below freezing, your tongue will stick to it.
2. It's colder in the wintertime because Earth is farther from the sun.
3. A falling icicle can kill a person.
4. Eskimos have nearly 100 words for "snow," while in English we only have one.
5. Burning wood in a fireplace can make it colder in the house.
6. No two snowflakes are exactly alike.
7. The suicide rate increases significantly around the winter holidays.
8. You will get sick if you go outside in the cold with wet hair.
9. An avalanche is usually triggered by a loud noise.
10. Improvements in all-season tyres have rendered winter tyres obsolete.



## ANSWERS TO WINTER QUIZ

1. **True** - When you touch freezing cold metal with your tongue, your saliva freezes instantly, essentially gluing your tongue to the metal object. Unless you have a cup of warm water handy to unstick yourself, it's best not to test this on your own - even if someone triple-dog-dares you - as you could cause serious damage to your tongue.
2. **False** - Earth is actually closer to the sun in January, and farthest from the sun in July. It's not the distance from the sun that causes the seasons, but Earth's position relative to the sun. The planet is tilted on its axis at a 23.5-degree angle. In the winter, even though we're slightly closer to the sun, the Northern Hemisphere is tilted so the sun's rays hit it less directly than they do in the summertime, resulting in colder temperatures. The planet's tilt is also why the seasons are reversed in the Southern Hemisphere.
3. **True** - If the icicle is big enough and falls from a great enough height, it can kill a person. Each winter, roughly 100 people are killed or injured by falling icicles in Russia ? particularly in Moscow, which has a deadly combination of long, cold winters and tall buildings.
4. **False** - While it depends on how you define a word (and how you define an Eskimo), the native peoples of the Arctic do have a multitude of ways to describe snow. But then, so do we: snow, sleet, slush, blizzard, flurry, dusting, avalanche, powder and drift - to name a few. In fact, there are at least 40 words describing snow in the English language, so it's not all that remarkable that people who spend much of their lives in the snow have many different ways to refer to it as well.
5. **True** - A fire in the fireplace may evoke feelings of warmth and coziness, but in actuality it is an extremely inefficient way to heat your home. The design of most traditional masonry fireplaces creates a draft that pulls air out

of the room to fuel the fire and causes the majority of the heat generated by the fire to go up the chimney. This, in turn, can draw cold air in through other leaks in your home, making it colder rather than warmer.

6. True - Most snowflakes look pretty much the same as you watch them fall from the sky, but it's a different ball game under the microscope. The size, shape and texture of a snowflake is determined by a variety of factors, including temperature, humidity and other atmospheric conditions at the time it is formed. At a molecular level, the number of possible variations is nearly infinite, so the probability that two snowflakes would be exactly alike, even when formed under similar conditions, is almost zero.

7. False - We may imagine that being alone or depressed during the holidays drives more people to suicide, but there is no actual evidence to support this popularly held belief. In fact, several studies have shown that suicide rates around the holidays are average or even below average.

8. False - This is just an old wives' tale. You may feel cold, but you can't catch a cold just from going outdoors with wet hair

9. False - Most avalanches are caused by people, but not because they're making a racket. While it is possible for an explosion or a gunshot to trigger an avalanche, it is far more likely to be the result of someone being in the wrong place at the wrong time. The pressure of someone stepping, skiing or snowmobiling across a weak spot is what generally causes a huge slab of snow to cleave away and tumble down the slope.

10. **False** - While all-season tyres are certainly adequate for areas with mild winters, they do not perform as well on snow and ice as winter tyres. Winter tyres have a different kind of tread designed to expel water and provide 25 percent to 50 percent more traction, and are made of a rubber compound that is more flexible and does not harden at below-freezing temperatures.

## CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS AROUND THE WORLD

- **POLAND**  
Poles lay an extra place at the table for an unexpected guest at the Christmas table, reminding them that Mary and Joseph were looking for shelter.
- **LEBANON**  
A fortnight before Christmas they plant seeds so on Christmas Day they have small green plants bringing signs of new life. Children leave water and grain on their doorsteps for the Christmas camel which brings gifts.
- **CHINA**  
Chinese Christians light paper lanterns, hang up muslin stockings and wait for Father Christmas who is called Dun Che Lao Ren.
- **INDIA**  
Indian Christians decorate their homes with mango or banana leaves. In some areas they light small clay lamps or use red poinsettia flowers as decorations.
- **VENEZUELA**  
In Caracas, it is traditional on the 16th and 24th December to roller skate to early morning church services. The night before, children tie long lengths of string to their toes then hang the string out of the window. The next morning the roller skaters tug on any strings they see hanging.
- **ETHIOPIA**  
Ethiopians do not give each other gifts at Christmas. They celebrate by going to Genna matches – a hockey like game only played at Christmas.
- **CZECH REPUBLIC**  
Father Christmas is called Svaty Mikulos and he climbs down down from Heaven on a golden rope accompanied by an angel and a dev



## OUTCRY!

*What sort of country sends a dozen uniformed officers to haul innocent children out of their beds; gives them just a few minutes to pack what belongings they can grab; pushes them into stinking caged vans; drives them for hours while refusing them the chance to go to the lavatory so that they wet themselves and locks them up sometimes for weeks or months without the prospect of release and without adequate health services? My country apparently.*

This is the BBC's Home Editor, Mark Easton, describing an all too common experience for children entering the immigration system.

Every year around 2,000 children in the UK are locked up in immigration detention. Children in detention are either the sons or daughters of asylum seekers or migrants, detained with their families, or they are detained because the government wrongly believes they are over 18. They are the only children in the UK who can be locked up indefinitely without having committed a crime.

The Children's Society is working with Bail for Immigration Detainees and over the next three years will be raising awareness to put a stop to this unfair Government policy. The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund supports this work and is funding the campaign – Outcry!

### **We believe detention damages children**

Children we have worked with experience insomnia, weight loss, bedwetting, depression and self-harm while in detention.

### **We believe the detention of children is a waste of money**

It costs £130 every day to keep a child in immigration detention and we regularly work with children who are detained for over six weeks. To keep a family of four in detention for six weeks costs over £20,000.

### **We believe the detention of children is unnecessary**

The Government believes that families will run away from the authorities if they are not detained. There is simply no evidence for this. As anyone with children will know, their education and health needs, friendship ties and the desire to be settled in the UK all prevent families 'disappearing'.

If you think detaining children is unacceptable, please keep in touch with the campaign on [www.childrensociety.org.uk/outcry](http://www.childrensociety.org.uk/outcry)

*From The Children's Society Magazine Summer 2009*

## HAPPY RUBY WEDDING, CHRISTINE AND EDGAR!



Having met on holiday in Ireland in 1968, Christine and Edgar were married on 1 November 1969 so celebrate their ruby wedding this year. They were married at Hall Royd Church because Saltaire was due to be demolished. (In the event it was still standing after the wedding!).

Their first married home was in Beverley as Edgar worked in Hull and both their daughters were born there. They are a very close family and see their daughters and four grand daughters often.

Edgar became a Chartered Engineer working mainly in conveying systems for the bottling and packaging industry. He was made a Freeman of the Borough of Beverley as were his father, grandfather and great grandfather before him. One of his hobbies is genealogy and he has traced his family back to the 16th century. He is a member of the church men's group, taking

part in the memorable "ballet rhubarb" at Sarah's leaving do. With the other men, he has raised hundreds of pounds from the bacon butties they make at their coffee mornings. His main interest is the Rotary movement with which he has been involved for 15 years both at local and now District level. He also enjoys walking and using his "geriatric bus pass". Both Christine and Edgar enjoy travel, theatre and visiting stately homes.

Christine worked in banking, leaving to work for nine years as secretary to the Diocesan Secretary of Bradford in offices adjacent to the Cathedral. She subsequently went back to banking before retirement.

At church she has been cradle roll secretary, steward on two separate occasions and member of the choir. For four years she was church treasurer. She has always been active in the Wives' Group, being president on several occasions and for many years taking part in the Christmas entertainment. She is on the Bingley Committee of Yorkshire Cancer Research and helps with various fund raising events for them.

She has been a magistrate on the Bradford Bench for 10 years and chairs courts, is a Rota Chairman and member of the Bench Training and Development Committee. She is now also on the Bench Management Group so all together is heavily committed at court.

### O PERFECT LOVE

#### Hymns and Psalms 370

Christine has many favourite hymns but chose one they had at their wedding to be printed here.

O perfect Love, all human thought transcending,  
Lowly we kneel in prayer before your throne,  
That theirs may be the love which knows no ending  
Who in your love for evermore are one.

O perfect Life, be now their full assurance  
Of tender charity and steadfast faith,  
Of patient hope, and quiet brave endurance,  
With childlike trust that fears not pain or death.

Grant them the joy which brightens earthly sorrow,  
Grant them the peace which calms all earthly strife;  
And to life's day the glorious unknown morrow  
That dawns upon eternal love and life.

*Dorothy Frances Gurney (1858 – 1932)*



2009 – Christine helps to prepare food for Sarah's leaving do and Edgar helps with the entertainment.

