

Contact

December 2022 / January 2023



The Borough, Hinckley, Leicestershire LE10 1NL

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Minister

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Rev Andrew Mudharara

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Contact Information

Please take great care when sharing these contact details with other people. This information will not appear in the version of Contact on the church website.

Church Secretary	Christine Thomas	
Treasurer	Sally Leggat	
Premises	Malcolm Hooke	
Children and Youth Work	Chris Sharrock	
Pulpit Supply	David Crick	
Music	David Crick	
Notices	Christine & Tony Thomas	
Flowers	Kathy Smith	
Catering	Ann Martin	
Contact Magazine	David Crick	

Worship in December & January (10.45 am unless stated)

4 th Dec	Rev Andrew Mudharara (<i>Toy Service & Parade</i>)
11 th Dec	Rev Lesley Moseley
18 th Dec 6.00pm	Carol Service (<i>Note: no morning service</i>)
24 th Dec 7.00pm	Rev Andrew Mudharara <i>Christmas Eve Communion</i>
25 th Dec 10.00am	Rev Lesley Moseley <i>Christmas Day</i>
1 st Jan	Rev Andrew Mudharara
8 th Jan	Rev George Lea
15 th Jan	Rev Andrew Mudharara (<i>including Holy Communion</i>)
22 nd Jan	Rev Daniel Cheyne
29 th Jan	Mrs Rae Morrall

Letter From our Minister

Advent, for the Western Church begins the season for getting ready for the coming of the Messiah and celebration of Christmas with the birth of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Luke tells us that “while they were there (in Bethlehem), the time came for the baby to be born, and she (Mary) gave birth to her first born, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room available for them (in the more traditional places reserved for hospitality in the Jewish culture)”. (Luke 2:6-7). Mary and Joseph and their newborn son had to use the spaces that were available.

The birth of Jesus that we celebrate on Christmas day changed everything for all creation and made room for us in the Kingdom of God. John 3 :16 spell it out that God so loved the world that he gave His only Son that WHOSOEVER believes in Jesus Christ will not die but have eternal life (paraphrased). John tells us that there is room for us all in the Kingdom of God should we decide to be part of the Kingdom through believing in Jesus Christ. It is important for us to know that there is room for us in God’s heart through Jesus Christ.

Sometimes the trials of life challenge us and cause us to feel like we are not worthy to be part of God’s family and we can doubt God’s love for us. My encouragement to us as we face challenges and sometimes make mistakes is to know that there is room for us all in the Kingdom of God and the heart and arms of our God through Jesus Christ are open for us always. We, as God’s chosen people have a responsibility to share God ‘s message of saying to the people that we come into contact with that, “there is room for you in our God’s heart and Kingdom”. The message of Christmas is that; He who found no room at His birth came so that we can have room in in the Kingdom of God.

I hope that we would grab every opportunity that we come across during this advent period to tell people that there is room for them in our God’s heart and in our hearts too. Let us endeavour to share the love of God with our families and let them know that there is room for them in our hearts and in the heart of our BIG, BIG loving God through Jesus Christ and the Power of the Holy Spirit.

Tavonga, Candid and I wish a Merry Christmas and a happy new year
Andrew

News of the Family

As we go into the season of advent, a time of preparation we know this will be a very difficult for many folk and their families and not just those in our church.

We are sorry to record the death of Norrie Clow, a faithful member of our congregation. Funeral details to be announced.

We pray for Pat J and her family at this difficult time. We remember the family of Brian Ingram who has passed away and whose funeral is on Friday 2nd December at 1:00pm at HURC. We think of David and Sandra whose mum, Beryl Green, has just passed away so soon after the death of their father John. Her funeral is on Friday 16th December at 10:30 at HURC. We pray for Sue T and Betty H and their families.

Thankfully Ian S is now home after a short stay in hospital and Kathy's foot is recovering slowly. We give thanks that Sue R has found a new church and is settling in well.

We also think of:

Annette D, Beryl (Julie's mum), Dennis, Ethel, Jan and Brian B, Joan, Joyce, Joyce and Arthur, Keith G, Keith H, Lily S, Nanette S, Nessa, Muriel, Paddy, Ruth, Sue D and Wendy and all of the church family who are receiving medical treatment or struggling with day to day living.

Please contact me if you or someone you know is in need of prayer and would like to go on the prayer list, respecting their privacy and seeking permission first.

Contact me by email or telephone.

Sue Saunders

(And we remember Sue as she cares for her Mum)

If you have borrowed a large pan from the Church kitchen, could you please return it as it's now needed for Tuesday lunches.

Thank you, *Ann and Carole*

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Congratulations to all those celebrating birthdays in December & January:

Sue T (on the 7th Dec), Rachel (8th Dec), David C & Kathy (both 17th Dec), Betty H (21st Dec), Brian (24th Dec), Arthur (25th Dec), Joan C (2nd Jan), Isabelle H (3rd Jan), Jane C (5th Jan), Vitalina (6th Jan), Hermoine & Muriel L (both 15th Jan), Ian & Nanette (both 27th Jan)

Wedding Anniversaries

Malcolm & Jane (8th Dec)

Apologies to anyone we may have missed. Thanks to Kathy for maintaining these records. If we haven't got your information, please have a word with Kathy.

Christmas Services

The Worship Team have finalised the services for the Christmas season. Our Carol Service will be on **Sunday 18th December at 6.00pm**. (*Note this is a change of time from that previously advertised*). Please note, there will not be a morning service on that day, and there won't be a communion service on the 18th. There will be a Communion Service at 7.00pm on Christmas Eve and Family Worship at 10.00am on Christmas Day. Please support these services if you can and invite your friends and neighbours. We often get visitors attending our Christmas services so it would be good for them to experience a warm welcome and a vibrant congregation!

*Thou didst leave Thy throne
And Thy kingly crown,
When thou camest to earth for me;
But in Bethlehem's home
Was there found for room
For Thy holy nativity:
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus;
There is room in my heart for Thee*

Emily Elizabeth Steele Elliot.

News from the Vine

As we begin December we will, once again be serving our festive menu! This is a festive filling for toasties, sandwiches or rolls of turkey, stuffing and cranberry sauce. We'll also have mince pies and mulled punch, which has been very popular in previous years - and if you have all three it will be at the very special "meal deal" price of £5.00! This is served during December only, when we get properly festive with carols playing and the fairy lights switched on!

Just in are the new "Take Note" books - the selection of discounted books that we get four times a year. There are additional advent books in this range so if you haven't yet got a book to help you ponder on the real meaning of Christmas during advent, there is still time, and lots of choice (including a title for families). Also in the range of books are many titles in Christian biography and also devotional books which make great gifts or a treat for you! We also have the Christian book trade's award-winning books of the year, plus the nominees on display and, again, at discounted prices. Categories include Christian Life (won by "How to Hear God" by Pete Greig), Bible (won by the Good News Family Bible), Devotional book (won by Paula Gooder's "Journalling the Psalms"), fiction (won by Francine River's "The Lady's Mine") and many others including biography, books for children and young people, music, DVDs plus product of the year, which has gone to the new NLT Filament Enabled Bible - a Bible that, combined with an app becomes an in-depth, interactive study Bible.

We still have Christmas cards, ornaments, decorations and plenty of gift ideas in stock so do come and see us.

As ever we will close at the end of trading on December 23rd and will re-open on Tuesday 3rd January, to give all of our volunteers a good break. From everyone at The Vine, we thank you for your custom over the year and hope that you have a peaceful and blessed Christmas.

God Bless,
Jessica Harrison Manager

*Lo, within a manger lies
He who built the starry skies*

Christmas Carols

I love carols. *Away in a manger no crib for a bed; Still the night, holy the night.* I can never have too many of them. Although those who work in our shops eight hours a day must get tired of them.

One of the unique things about a carol was that it was a form of dance long before it was associated with Christmas. The chorus in a Greek theatre were dancers, not singers, and if they danced to the accompaniment of the flute, they were the *chor-aulas*. It is not difficult to see how that could be shortened to Carol. The dances became popular for celebration. When the church decided to take over the pagan winter festival of Yule to celebrate the birth of Jesus, many of these entertainments came with it. *The Holly and the Ivy* was a pagan fertility song long before it was given Christian words.

Carols came to England in the 13th century, when they were song not only at Christmas but also at Easter. Carols were banned by the puritans and returned under Charles II, but they were rarely heard in church. In the 18th century the only Carol allowed was *While shepherds watched*, because they considered this a New Testament equivalent of the metrical psalms. But *O come all ye faithful* was written for Roman Catholics, and *Hark! The herald-angels sing* for the Methodists. During the reign of Queen Victoria most carols were part of the traditional Sunday service, as well as home entertainment.

Original compositions by modern composers are included, in the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols, broadcast by the BBC from King's College in Cambridge every Christmas since 1928, which has become very popular.

So, the history of the Carol has led us from original dances, through songs used in the mediaeval plays such as the Coventry carol *Lully, lullay*. Then beggars would sing them in the streets - *Past 3 o'clock* - and when they were admitted to the homes of the well-to-do, and *We wish you a Merry Christmas*.

And since then, we have had numerous carols about the birth of Jesus, like *Good King Wenceslas*, to the Caribbean style of *The virgin Mary had a baby boy*, and even *Jingle Bells* can be heard in many of our church services.

Carols are inspirational and they remind us of the baby born at Bethlehem. It's good to sing them and even the atheist loves a good tune and a song.

(The rev. Ian Bradley Who taught at St Andrews University has written a little book on carols printed by Penguin Press, highly recommended).

Rev Daniel Cheyne

Carol Singing

There are plenty of opportunities coming up for you to take part in some carol-singing:



Saturday 10th December 10.00 - noon (or earlier if we get cold!) 'Singing on the Steps' at church

Monday 19th December 2.45-3.30 at Bethel & Bethesda Residential Home, Equity Rd, Earl Shilton, LE9 7FY

Wednesday 21st December 2.30-3.30 at Saffron House Care Home, 2A High St, Barwell, LE9 8DQ

Please come along to as many of these events as you can and lend your voice!

Toy Service Sunday 4th December

As last year, we will be happy to receive donations of toys which will be given to the Salvation Army for them to distribute to needy families in the town. They would particularly like toys for the age group 10 and over (both boys and girls) as they often struggle to find gifts for these children (but any toys would be acceptable). Ideas for suitable gifts include girls' beauty gift sets, board games, stationery, boys' smellies etc.

Tuesday Lunch Event: Tuesday 13th December 2022

The Tuesday lunch in December will be on the 13th December and will be a Christmas Lunch.

Please let me know if you would like to attend, thank you.
Sue S:

Christmas Crib

A crib, derived from the Latin *corbis*, a basket, is a container for animal fodder, and a manger equally designates a trough in a stable. It was in such a receptacle that the new-born Jesus was placed. "She wrapped him in clothes and placed him in a manger". The gospel of Luke.

A Christmas crib is a model of the manger which St Francis of Assisi is thought to have been the first to make in 1223. The term is now used in a general sense to refer not only to the manger itself but also to the entire scene including Mary and Joseph, ox and ass, and possibly shepherds and wisemen.

The number of figures can be increased, as in the Neapolitan crib on display in the church of SS Cosmas and Damian in Rome. These include a number of individuals - a fisherman, a poacher, a simpleton - who came to pay their respects to the baby in a manger. It is customary in Roman Catholic and many Anglican churches to place a crib in the building on Christmas Eve, leaving it until Epiphany, sixth of January. But many reformed churches will have their individual traditions.

Rev Daniel Cheyne

*Glory be to God on high,
And peace on earth descend:
God comes down, He bows the sky,
And shows Himself our friend!
God the invisible appears:
God the blest, the great I AM,
He sojourns in this vale of tears,
And Jesus is His name.*

*Him the angels all adored,
Their maker and their King;
Tidings of their humbled Lord
They now to mortals bring;
Emptied of His majesty,
Of His dazzling glories shorn,
Being's source begins to be,
And God Himself is born!*

*See the eternal Son of God
A mortal Son of Man;
Now dwelling in an earthly clod,
Whom Heaven cannot contain!
Stand amazed, ye heavens, at this!
See the Lord of earth and skies
Humbled to the dust He is,
And in a manger lies!*

*We, the sons of men, rejoice,
The Prince of Peace proclaim;
With Heaven's host lift up our voice,
And shout Immanuel's name:
Our knees and hearts to Him we bow;
Of our flesh, and of our bone,
Jesus is our brother now,
And God is all our own!*

Charles Wesley

Rotas for December & January *If you can help on the Door Steward rota, please see David Crick; if you can help on the Coffee rota, please see Ann Martin. If you are unable to fulfil your duty, please arrange a swap.*

	<i>Duty Elder</i>	<i>Door Steward</i>
<i>Sunday 4th Dec</i>	Sue Saunders	Kathy Smith Sue Thain
<i>Sunday 11th Dec</i>	Karen Jones	Richard Benham Sue Saunders
<i>Sunday 18th Dec (6.00pm)</i>	Christine Thomas	Paul Deeming Julie Payne
<i>Sunday 25th Dec (10.00am)</i>	David Crick	Sally Leggat Ann Martin
<i>Sunday 1st Jan</i>	Roger Moseley	Kathy Smith Sue Thain
<i>Sunday 8th Jan</i>	Sue Saunders	Jacqui Brown Heather Crick
<i>Sunday 15th Jan</i>	Karen Jones	Richard Benham Sue Saunders
<i>Sunday 22nd Jan</i>	Christine Thomas	Paul Deeming Julie Payne
<i>Sunday 29th Jan</i>	David Crick	Sally Leggat Ann Martin
<i>Sunday 5th Feb</i>	Roger Moseley	Jacqui Brown Heather Crick

Wednesday at One

7 th Dec	Rev Daniel Cheyne	Hinckley URC
14 th Dec	Father Frank Daly	St Peter's RC, Hinckley
21 st Dec	Carol Service	
28 th Dec	No service	

	Coffee	Flowers
Sunday 4th Dec	Christine Thomas Ann Martin	C Wallis
Sunday 11th Dec	Marilyn & Crawford Payne	-
Sunday 18th Dec (6.00pm)	Sylvia Ellis Chris Sharrock	M Payne
Sunday 25th Dec (10.00am)	<i>No coffee</i>	K Truslove K Smith (delivery)
Sunday 1th Jan	Carole Wallis Ruth Griffiths	-
Sunday 8th Jan	Christine Thomas Ann Martin	-
Sunday 15th Jan	Marilyn & Crawford Payne	Candid
Sunday 22nd Jan	Sylvia Ellis Chris Sharrock	R Cobb
Sunday 29th Jan	Carole Wallis Ruth Griffiths	-
Sunday 5th Feb	Christine Thomas Ann Martin	S Ellis

Rota for Warm Space Drop-in (Thursday pm)

Dec 1 st	Chris and Phillip	Jan 5 th	Ruth and Phillip
Dec 8 th	Sue and Heather	Jan 12 th	Chris and Heather
Dec 15 th	Ruth and Sylvia	Jan 19 th	Sue and Sylvia
Dec 22 nd	Chris and Kathy	Jan 25 th	Ruth and Ann
Dec 29 th	Sue and Ann		

Secretary's Report for 2022

During 2022 the country has slowly been emerging from the effects and restrictions of Covid although we have become aware that the virus will not go away in a hurry – maybe never – but scientists are now understanding more about the nature of the disease and have been able to combat the virus and its different strains with more confidence. Consequently, it is not as severe a threat as it was. However, the legacy of the outbreak has resulted in serious problems, particularly in contributing to the problems of keeping the hospitals and the care sector as a whole running due to severe staff shortages, resulting in heavy workloads and low morale. Brexit has complicated the country's problems as has the more recent war in Ukraine. The knock-on effect of all of this is the poverty and hardship that inevitable price rises will cause. Homelessness and anxiety for those who find themselves tipped over the edge is on the increase. Add to this the need to tackle climate change, and a government which is struggling to cope, and we find ourselves in a crisis situation. We might well ask ourselves 'Where is God in all of this?' 'How can we, our church fellowship, respond?' Do we see this as an opportunity to reach out to people in our community, show them God's love and help them to understand the love of God for them?

At the end of 2017 the total number of members was recorded as 74. Now it stands at 55. There are various reasons for this decline. There have been thirteen deaths of members since 2018. Some members have moved away from Hinckley during that period, one or two have not come back after Covid and others have left for different reasons. Two have transferred membership from other churches but no 'new' members have been received into membership for some time. This is a challenge for us! On a more positive note, we have welcomed several people into the church who have chosen to come and worship with us. We should not be disheartened.

Now that people are happier to mix with one another we have started serving tea and coffee again after worship on Sunday. The Tuesday fellowship lunch has re-started so has the International Friendship Centre which is finding a new role in giving support to Ukrainians. Rachel is running two groups for pre-school children, parents and carers. Wednesday-at-One has been up and running again since 22nd September 2021 and we offer Keith Griffiths our sincere thanks for the many years that he has been leading what I believe is a unique opportunity for people from different churches in the town to worship together. A 'warm space' drop-in session is being offered to the community on a Thursday and the purchase

of a house to support homeless people is being explored through Hope into Action. These all present opportunities to share God's love with people. We are anticipating employing an outreach worker very soon who will help us to move forward in reaching out to people and sharing our faith with them. It will be challenging on both sides, for him/her and for us, so keep praying for courage and for the inspiring force of the Holy Spirit to be with us all.

November is a month for remembering those we have lost. Last year a service was held, as is our custom, to honour those who have been killed in war and it was extended to include those in our congregation who had recently lost loved ones. Some did not have a funeral service in church when the Covid outbreak was at its worst. This was very much appreciated and so this year another service, separate from the Remembrance Day worship, was held for families to remember the loved ones they have lost.

On a more cheerful note, the United Reformed Church celebrated the 50th anniversary of its formation in 1972. Tony and I went to take part in the celebrations in Nottingham and it was good to meet with members of other churches in the district, particularly to share in worship with them, but a little disappointing that more churches were not represented. The Congregational Federation likewise celebrated 50 years since its formation and George Lea was presented with a certificate for 26 years of service to the church. It was a jubilee year for our queen – 70 years on the throne. Her death marked the end of an era and another major change for the country as we welcome Charles as our new king and Camilla as his queen consort. Our choir members joined with other choir members to take part in the Free Church Choirs Festival in Lichfield on 3rd May. We also celebrated the birth of Tavonga, Andrew and Candid's precious gift of a daughter, when she was dedicated to God in February. Andrew and Candid were finally able to visit their families in Zimbabwe in the three weeks just after Easter and introduce Tavonga to them – a new and exciting experience for her! We welcomed a student pastor, Johnny O'Hanlon, to work with us, and with Daventry, on a ministerial placement from Westminster College, Cambridge, for three weeks from 23rd March. He shared with us his thoughts on 'The Way of the Cross' which included a moving service on Maundy Thursday.

We have been blessed by a continued high standard of ministry from our minister Andrew. His wisdom and courage in preaching the Word with forthrightness is a gift we appreciate. So is his pastoral care – his concern for everyone. Thank you Andrew, from all of us. We have also benefited

from a high standard of ministry from others who have led worship on a Sunday and I would like to thank the worship team for making this happen. I would like to thank the elders and finance team too for their work – quite challenging at times. There are many others who do all kinds of jobs and who take care of members of our congregation with love and compassion. Thank you to all of you too.

I finish with some words from one of Andrew's letters in the 'Contact' magazine which offer us encouragement as we move into the future and what is likely to be another difficult year for the country. We may well come into contact with many people who are experiencing hardship, anxiety or despair for one reason or another and our challenge is to respond in the best way we can by showing God's love to them and sharing the Christian message with them.

"I believe God has called each and every one of us at a time such as this because He wants to partner with us and do great exploits in us, with us and through us. We have to take little steps at a time, learning to cooperate with God's Spirit as we are being led into a dance by Holy Spirit. We need to be flexible enough to allow God to teach us the dance and lead us in all the steps. We will get some steps right and some wrong but God is a patient teacher. God will wait for us till we are in tune with the dance. God wants to work with us from where we are". Andrew (Jul/Aug Contact)

May God be with us all in the power of the Holy Spirit as we move into 2023.

Christine Thomas

That there was no room in the inn was symbolic of what was to happen to Jesus. The only place where there was room for Him was on the cross. He sought an entry to the over-crowded hearts of men and women; He could not find it; and still His search – and His rejection – go on.

William Barclay

Global Justice Now

At Global Justice Now we see that the principles of social and economic justice are central to the teachings of Jesus Christ. We wish to follow his example by standing with the oppressed and marginalised, upholding principles of solidarity, equality and justice

We pray for residents of countries in the Global South facing economic crisis due to the Global North's refusal to cancel debts, such as Zambia which spends almost 50% of its national budget on foreign debt repayments. We pray for communities fighting trade deals that prioritise corporate interests and profits over human rights and public services. We pray for all of those who have lost their homes and livelihoods because of the climate crisis; who suffer through extreme weather events knowing rich countries refuse to take real action.

We pray for Black communities and people of colour who face relentless racial injustice, prejudice and hate.

We pray for those struggling to access vaccines, treatments and medications in the face of an unfair and profiteering global pharmaceutical system.

We pray that all communities and campaigners championing the causes of climate justice, debt justice, trade justice and universal access to adequate healthcare are successful in their fight.

Amen

Postman Pat's Christmas Postbox.

We have offered the postbox earlier this year, as Christmas Day is on Sunday 25th of December and the Carol Service will be held on Sunday 18th December. Some are not able to attend this service as it starts at 4.00pm with no morning service.



So please start writing those cards as the last day for posting is Friday 9th December and the cards will be distributed on Sunday 11th December before worship.

Thank you for supporting Postman Pat. God bless you all at this happy time. *Kathy and Ian*

Recalling the Ministry for October - November 2022

(As largely seen on the Church Web Site as THE WEDNESDAY WORD)

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In reflection on the message for Sunday 23rd October 2022.

Opening Sentences, 1 Peter 2, v21

To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

Extracts from 1 Peter 2, v11 to 3, v7. The apostle Simon Peter addresses Christians in various Roman provinces.

The main message of the ministry was centred on verses 20-21.

Living Godly Lives in a Pagan Society

v11: Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul.

v12: Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds

and glorify God on the day he visits us.

v13: Submit yourselves for the LORD's sake to every human authority...

v17: Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God.

v18: Slaves, in reverent fear of God submit yourselves to your masters, be they good and considerate or harsh.

v20: But how is it to your credit if you are beaten for wrongdoing and endure it?

But if you suffer for doing good and endure it, this is commendable before God.

v21: To this you are called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps...

v24: "He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross.

Ch.3 concerns family social mores which followed procedures of the times.

Ministry - **Being Like Jesus** – Do a good impression of Jesus – **v20-21:** Suffering for doing something good matches the suffering of Christ. We should follow in Jesus' steps, including praying, for matters internationally, nationally and in the home.

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In reflection on the message for Sunday 30th October 2022.

Extracts from Exodus 16, v10 - 30, **The glory of the LORD appeared.**

**v10: While Aaron was speaking to the whole Israelite community,
they looked towards the desert,**

and there was the glory of the LORD appearing in the cloud.

**v11f: The LORD said to Moses, “ I heard the grumbling of the
Israelites. Tell them.**

**‘At twilight you will eat meat, and in the morning you will be filled
with bread.**

You will know that I am the LORD your God.’”

v13f: God provided food for them from the sky. Moses told them it was the bread the LORD had given them and gave instructions on how to share it fairly. Moses explained that the seventh day was to be the day of sabbath rest.

v30: So the people rested on the seventh day.

Talk – **Where are we? – Living in wilderness** as were the Israelites in the Exodus reading.

Scarcity is the word of the moment. With the cost-of-living problems, we all feel it. And in our URC Church we also feel the scarcity – in the last 50 years, membership has dropped to a quarter.

In the last 2000 years, there have been many similar scenarios affecting the world and the churches. The message in the scripture suggests solutions to these problems. It reveals how the glory of God led the Israelites out of scarcity. Pharaoh’s materialistic regime was replaced by God’s day-by-day week and a sabbath. God’s provision produced abundance rather than scarcity. The message for modern times is live by the day in God’s way. Throughout the Millenia, Christians (“Saints”) have followed God’s way and God’s provision has provided.

They have been the examples for us to follow.

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In reflection on the message for Sunday 6th November 2022.

Thanksgiving & Memorial Service

Here are some of the key passages

(from John 14, v1 - 14, **Jesus Comforts His Disciples**)

which may also comfort those following this service.

v1f: Do not let your hearts be troubled.

You believe in God; believe also in me.

**My Father’s house has many rooms...I go and prepare a place for
you...**

I will take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

v6f: **I am the way the truth and the life.**

No one comes to the Father except through me...

I am in the Father and the Father is in me...

It is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.

Candles were lit in **Memorial and Thanksgiving**

for the lives of each of those in our church community who recently died.

An additional candle was lit for Ukraine.

For each of those for whom **Thanksgiving** was being given, tender words of remembrance were spoken by family members and friends:

Tony Wallis, George McElvoy (Tony's brother-in-law), **Doreen Dawes, Terry Yates** (Heather's Dad), **Brenda Owen, Maurice Harris**

A Poem: "You can shed tears that they have gone..."

**Jackie Hulbert, John Silverwood, Mrs Anne Stokes, Maurice Wright
Jan Davys, Candle for Ukraine**

A Poem, "Death is nothing at all..."

Address: Grief is a natural emotion. People feel it in different ways. However one feels it is acceptable. **The Scripture says, "There is a place with Jesus"** for all Christians, whether one sees it as Heaven or as Eternal Life.

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In reflection on the message for Sunday 13th November 2022.

Remembrance Service

Call to Worship: **Psalm 27** was read responsively with the congregation joining in, with alternate lines:

v1: **The LORD is my light and my salvation; who shall I fear?...**

v14: **Wait for the LORD; be strong and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD.**

A similarly responsive Prayer, relating to remembrance:

On this day of memories we gather to sing and to pray

We remember the past and look to the future...

...Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with us! Amen.

Time of Remembrance was observed:

A bugle call preceded – Silence – A bugle call announced its end.

The Poem **We will remember them** was read.

A Video “**Good Luck Everyone**” reminded of the carnage in the WW1 trenches.

Visual Reflections in the form of passages, about conflict and peace, were displayed on the screen, expressing remembrances from:-

Mahatma Gandhi; Elizabeth Tapia, The Philippines;

A Muslim Prayer; A Buddhist Prayer;

Martin Luther King; Teresa of Avila (1515-82);

Roger Grainge; Herodotus;

The Shantideva; The Dhammapadam;

President Dwight Eisenhower.

A story “**Remembering Zeist – Christmas 1944**” was read, telling what happened to a family in a town in the Netherlands. During the war the family supported The Resistance and hid a Jewish Lawyer and a political prisoner. The time after the Arnhem attempt at liberation failed (September 1944) came to be known as “**The Hunger Winter**”. On Christmas Day 1944 all the family had between them was one slice of bread which they shared together. “We had almost nothing, yet...we had everything.”

Thanks to Brian Beagley for summarising these services for us



The Jubilee Singers and Matrix Recorders
present



**An Afternoon of Music
for Christmas**
in
Barwell Methodist Church
Chapel St, Barwell LE9 8DE
in aid of the
Hinckley Area Foodbank
on
Sunday 4th December 2022 at 3pm.
Admission is free.
There will be a cash collection for the Foodbank



HARMONIC VOICES
Burbage Community Choir

**CHARITY
CHRISTMAS
CONCERT**

Wednesday 14th
December
7.30pm
St. Catherine's Church
Burbage, LE10 2AF

Tickets £5
can be ordered by contacting
angelaguppy@hotmail.com
or can be purchased on the door

Refreshments available

A collection will be taken on the night in
support of
Baby Basics-Hinckley and
Hinckley Area Foodbank



Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 7th December Christmas lights Car trail

Sunday 18th December 6.00pm Carol Service (*note change of time*)

Regular Meetings

Every **Monday** Chat and Prayer session on Zoom - log in after 6.45pm for a 7.00pm start and ending about 8.00pm

Tuesday Weekly Bible Study Group – see Richard Benham for details

Wednesday-at-One – Wednesday 1.00pm

Wednesday Monthly House Group

Next meeting Wednesday 14th December 7.30pm

Thursday – Prayer meeting for future of the church 11.00 Front Foyer

Thursday 7.30 Music group practice - all welcome

Friday Prayer Group 10.00am (in the church).

If you need any help using Zoom please contact Tony Thomas.

Please submit material for the February edition of Contact by Sunday 22nd January. Articles can be emailed. The next edition of Contact will be available by Sunday 29th January

Thank you to everybody who has submitted articles this month and throughout the year, without your articles we wouldn't have a magazine. At the AGM I indicated my desire to relinquish the role of Contact Editor, so if anyone is interested in taking over, please speak to me and I can explain what is involved.

*Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year,
David*