



December 2018/January 2019



*Christmas Greetings  
and Best wishes for the New Year  
to All Our Readers*

# *Hope Is the Thing with Feathers*

*Hope is the thing with feathers  
That perches in the soul,  
And sings the tune without the words,  
And never stops at all,*

*And sweetest in the gale is heard;  
And sore must be the storm  
That could abash the little bird  
That kept so many warm.*

*I've heard it in the chillest land,  
And on the strangest sea;  
Yet, never, in extremity,  
It asked a crumb of me.*

*Emily Dickinson, 1830 - 1886*



## *Minister's Message*

Dear friends

All the very best wishes to you and yours this Christmas time. And a special thought and prayer for those of you who will be remembering loved ones and find this time of year particularly tough.

How about a short Christmas Quiz? You might even like to share it with your visitors? I'd be interested to hear some of your answers – and just for fun I've put in some of mine.

### **What do you think of when you think of Christmas?**

I think of the difference between the warmth that arises from between people and the cold outside (I do like a cold Christmas time.) I think of being offered mince pies too many times. I think of fitting everything in – or wondering which bits to leave out!

### **Who is your favourite character in the Christmas story?**

There are all sorts of stories at Christmas of course. You might like to ask someone under 10 if they can tell you about the Christmas story of Stickman. Of course, the Christmas story that I am pointing to is the story of the Nativity that we find in the gospels – well in Matthew and Luke... We all know there's no donkey. We all know there's no inn-keeper. My favourite 'character' might be the star that points the way. The fragile starlight leading others to the light of the world.

### **What Christmas services are you going to?**

Lots – but then that goes with being a Minister! I always look forward to the Christmas Eve Holy Communion 9.15pm to 10pm at The Spire, followed the next day by celebration services at 9.30am at Upton Methodist Church and 10.30am at Poole Methodists.

## **What are you looking forward to?**

Fir trees – and a bit of conservation volunteering over at RSPB Arne. Food – well, some of it. Friends and family – hearing about special times past and hopes for the year ahead. Festivities and fun – you never know, I might even just smile and let a balloon fly around the room on Christmas day!

## **What is your favourite Christmas food?**

Roast potatoes and strong English mustard (oh, yes). Liquorice Allsorts. Christmas pudding with ice-cream and cream and custard and little bits of stardust (ok, no stardust).

## **Is there anything that annoys you about Christmas time?**

Hmm. Over-priced toys and the advertisements that can lead to financial pressures on families. Over-indulgence – apart from Liquorice Allsorts of course...did I mention those before? Over-sensitive sinus' – from the central heating. And, of course, over-too-soon Christmas holidays.

## **What's the best bit about Christmas?**

- Jesus points us to a different kind of cost, a different kind of overabundance, a different approach to how we spend our time.
- Jesus, God-with-us, is part of the nativity scene - and so are we. In a special, precious, way we are all part of the Holy Family.
- Jesus is the present that stays with us through the whole of life. A true gift of light and life.

Light and life,

MARK

# Pastoral Report



Please let me know of anyone who needs our prayers at this time so that I can link them up with the minister in pastoral charge. **The names below are those who have particularly asked for our prayers.**

Heather and Ray Cornick  
Bill Detheridge  
Renee Moore  
Michael and Mary Nance  
Michael and Maureen McCabe  
Peter and Jean West

Christine Smale  
Audrey Wilkins  
Tricia Creamer  
Janet Hawes  
Mary Logan



We are grateful that June Neil is back in Maidment Court in her own home.

Grace Hudson is now in Foxholes Nursing Home.

We are pleased to report that Jill Stigwood is recovering well after her operation and we send her our love and look forward to her returning to church soon.

We are sorry that Peter West has been so poorly. He is now at home but very much needs our prayers. Please also keep Jean in your mind at this difficult time.

Mary Logan has received an emergency operation. She has now returned home but is still in need of our prayers.

It was good to see Tricia at church and we still continue to keep her in our prayers as she recovers from her operation.

It was also good to see Anita Cowe in church after her long spell in hospital. Keep well Anita. Please give your sister Janet our love as she is unwell at present.

## Death

We are sorry to announce that dear Phyllis Richardson died earlier in the month. Several of us went to her Thanksgiving service at Gateway Church on 17 November, when it was a joy to hear from her family about her earlier life. We remember with fondness her time with us. I'm sure she has blessed so many people in her long life of 101 and a half years. Her faithful service to her Lord was an inspiration to us all.

We have many new people joining us now and we are looking for extra people to assist with pastoral care. If you are interested and feel you can offer to have a small group to care for please contact either myself or Rev Mark Kimber to find out what it entails. I have found it a privilege and a pleasure to be involved in this service.

*Marian Matthews*  
*Pastoral Secretary*

## **Thank you from Jill Stigwood**



I would like to say a big 'Thank you' for all the good wishes and prayers from inside and outside the Church that have been aiding my recovery.

A very big 'Thank you' to my caring nurse Paul, to the skilful surgeon aided by the robot, and not least the wonderful Poole Hospital staff who I have encountered on my journey so far.

*Jill Stigwood*

## **Namibia Appeal**

Poole Rotary Club is appealing for warm, winter, hand washable clothes for children aged 4 –15 in Namibia where temperatures fall below freezing at night (no baby clothes please). Please bring any donations to church on 2 or 16 December only and give to **Aline and Henry Larkin. Alternatively ring Rotary club member Bev on 07767856820 for collection.**

Your donated warm clothes will be taken by Cunard free of charge to Namibia where Rotary members there will ensure they are distributed to where they are most needed. Clean hand washable, wearable jackets, pullovers, cardigans, tracksuits and fleeces would be suitable.

## **Christmas Greetings to all and an update on living in Abingdon**

After leaving Poole we are enjoying living in Abingdon. We have settled really well and enjoy being part of the Abingdon community. We attend Peachcroft Christian Centre which is only 10 minutes walk away.

Our other activities include 'Young at Heart' which is similar to Wesley Guild, 'Singing for Pleasure' (Margaret) and Abbey Brass Band (George). Both groups have had several engagements this year and we have enjoyed seeing parts of the Oxfordshire countryside at many village fetes. George is enjoying work on the garden and has recently made two beautiful garden gates even though he has challenges with his eyes which is frustrating for him.

Our daughter Gillian takes us to various hospital/medical appointments when it is too far for Margaret to drive. We have also been able to see our other daughters more often too and have just spent a few days with them. We have had a couple of special occasions this year – earlier in the year we were delighted to be together to celebrate the wedding of our eldest grand-daughter and more recently for George's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday when we had a family party and another one for local friends.

We often think of you all at 'The Spire' and look forward to a visit very soon. If you are up near Abingdon we would be very pleased to see you.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

With God's blessings to all,

*George and Margaret Wilkinson*



# A CONCERT OF CHRISTMAS SONGS, READINGS & CAROLS

IN SUPPORT OF THE SPIRE REDEVELOPMENT FUND

PERFORMED BY P&P'S INSPIRE CHOIRS  
INSPIRE DAYTIME VOICES  
AND  
INSPIRE YOUNG & YOUTH VOICES  
~ JOINED BY ~  
THE P&P PLAYERS, THE P&P SINGERS  
AND P&P MUSICAL THEATRE SOCIETY

SATURDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2018  
7:30PM

THE SPIRE, POOLE METHODIST CHURCH

POOLE HIGH STREET, BH15 1DF

TICKETS £5.00 (ON THE DOOR)

UNRESERVED SEATING

**P&P.**

[www.pandp.org.uk](http://www.pandp.org.uk)

P&P Productions  
Registered Charity No. 1112901

Find us on 

*Please do support this event if you are able as this has been arranged to support our final fundraising effort.*

## Events for your Diary in December

Every Tuesday 10.15am – 12pm at The Spire

### **InSpire Daytime Voices**

A new daytime singing group based at The Spire. A no pressure, no audition mixed voice choir for ages 18+. £4 per week. Run by Poole & Parkstone productions. Please contact Clare/Jane on 07956 996656. More info at [www.pandp.org.uk](http://www.pandp.org.uk).



Activ8 is a Christian youth group for young people aged 11+ exploring what it means to live as young disciples of Jesus Christ in the 21st Century, led by Rev Nick 'The Vic' Wood (a Methodist Minister) and his wife Suzannah, with help from Abi.

A wonderful mash-up of fun, faith and friendship every 2 weeks on Sunday night from 6.00 to 7.30 pm @ Nick & Suzannah's home in Winton. For more info please contact Nick and Suzannah: 07801 415692 or [activ8@nickthevic.co.uk](mailto:activ8@nickthevic.co.uk)

Next dates:

Sunday 2 December – Adventure

Sunday 16 December – Christmas Special!

Sunday 2 December, 6pm at St George's Methodist Church, Haviland Road, Boscombe

### **Advent by Candlelight**

A special evening service giving an opportunity for women to focus on the season of Advent. Coffee and desserts will be served.

5 December, 7.30pm in Wesley's Café at The Spire

### **Poole Methodists Church Council**

Please come along if you are interested – everyone is welcome to join in the discussions although only Church Council members are able to vote.

Friday 7 – Monday 10 December at St James' Church, Poole

### **Christmas Tree Festival** – For more details visit

[www.stjameschurchpoole.weebly.com/upcoming-events](http://www.stjameschurchpoole.weebly.com/upcoming-events).

Saturday 8 December, performances at 4pm and 6pm

### **Live Nativity Play**

Starting at Poole Quay and moving to St James' Church, Poole  
Tickets available from St James' church office 01202 677117 or  
poolequaynativity.co.uk £5 adults, £2 children, under 2s free.

Saturday 8 – 24 December, 10am to 7pm at St Aldhelm's Church,  
Branksome

### **Shining Branches Christmas Tree Festival**



Saturday 8 December, 3.30 – 5.30pm in Wesley's Café  
at The Spire

### **Family Board Game Café – Everyone welcome.**

Please come along and enjoy board games and  
supper. Suggested donation £4 per family.

Saturday 8 December and Saturday 15 December, 12pm – 4pm at  
Poole Museum

### **Museum Make and Take: Christmas cracker craft pack**

Decorate your own Christmas cracker and write some festive jokes  
in these supported craft sessions. £2 per pack. Visit  
poolemuseum.org.uk.

Sunday 9 December, during 10.30am morning worship

### **Last Posting Date – Poole Methodists Internal Christmas Post Box**



Please ensure envelopes are correctly addressed with  
first name and surname plus the first line of their  
address, if known. Please place donations in lieu of  
postage in the box. All cards will be ready to be collected  
at morning worship on 16 and 23 December.

Sunday 9 December, 4.30pm at St Ambrose Church, Westbourne  
BH4 8BE

### **Handel's MESSIAH with University Music Choir, Orchestra and Soloists**

Tickets £15: phone 01202 965018, email  
musicadmin@bournemouth.ac.uk or on the door. Students with  
current ID free. You'll see some familiar 'Spire' faces among the  
singers.

Wednesday 12 December, 7.30pm at Lighthouse, Poole

**Handel: Messiah**

Mary Bevan, Diana Moore, William Berger

Nicholas McGegan, conductor

Saturday 15 December, 10.30am and 11.30am in Wesley's Café at The Spire

**20 minutes of Carols**

Please join us to sing carols for the patrons of our café.

Saturday 15 December, 7.30pm at Wesley's Café, The Spire

**A Concert of Christmas Songs, Readings and Carols by Poole & Parkstone Players and Choirs** – a graciously offered concert in support of The Spire Redevelopment Fund. See poster on page 7 for more details.

Sunday 16 December, 10.30am in Hall 1 at The Spire

**Poole Methodists Carol Service**

Wednesday 19 December, 2pm at Lighthouse, Poole

**Dementia Friendly Screening – Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street**

**(1947)** – Tickets £5 at the ticket office, tickets booked via telephone 01202 28000 or online at [www.lighthousepoole.co.uk](http://www.lighthousepoole.co.uk) are subject to a booking fee of up to £1.75 per ticket.

Saturday 22 December, 2pm in Hall 1 at The Spire

**Carol Service for Tired Shoppers**

Saturday 22 December

**Run from Nazareth to Bethlehem**

Rev Lucy Holt (Rector of St James' Poole, Rural Dean & Routes to Roots Trustee) is inviting friends and supporters of Routes to Roots to join her this Advent in raising awareness and money for the Christmas appeal. She will be running 55km (in Poole not actually in the Middle East) over Advent to mark the journey of Mary and Joseph from Nazareth to Bethlehem. There will be a chance for others to join in this venture to make the last run of 5km on 22 December. If you are interested in running, walking or cycling these 55km over Advent please email [lucy.stjamespoole@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lucy.stjamespoole@hotmail.co.uk), or to donate go to [www.routestoroots.org](http://www.routestoroots.org).

Sunday 23 December, 10.30am in Hall 1 at The Spire  
**All Age Carol Service – Meet in Wesley’s Café at 9.30am** to make Christingles together as an all age activity.

Sunday 23 December, 7.30pm at Lighthouse, Poole  
**Celebration of Christmas Carols**  
Gavin Carr, conductor

Christmas Eve, 9.15pm-10.00pm in Hall 1 at The Spire  
**Evening Holy Communion** with Rev Dr Mark Kimber

Christmas Day, 10.30am in Hall 1 at The Spire  
**Family Celebration**, led by Rev Dr Mark Kimber

## **Future Events for your Diary**

Sunday 13 January 2019, 10.30am in Hall 1 at The Spire  
**Covenant Service**

Sunday 20 January 2019, 6.30pm  
**Annual Ecumenical Churches Together in Poole Service**  
Arranged jointly by St George's Church of England, Oakdale, St Mary's Roman Catholic Church and Longfleet Baptist Church.  
**Venue to be decided** – please check PM Weekly nearer the time.

Saturday 16 March 2019 10am – 4pm at The Spire, Poole  
**Poole Bay Circuit Music Day – Singing the Faith in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century – For both musicians and singers:**

- 🎵 Come along and learn some worship songs from the 21st century
- 🎵 Enjoy playing and singing with members from around the circuit
- 🎵 Hot and cold drinks will be provided - please bring your own lunch
- 🎵 The day will finish with a short service to share what we have learnt
- 🎵 The day is free of charge but please complete a registration form to be received by **16 Feb 2019**
- 🎵 For more information contact Sarah Badley 01202 741479 or Deacon Sarah Wickett 01202 248677



Monday to Saturday at 1pm in the Chapel at  
The Spire

For your information and prayers, here is the list  
of appointed Leaders in December

- 1 Kevin Baker
- 3 Deacon Sarah Wickett
- 4 Rev Suzie Roberts  
Longfleet Baptists
- 5 St Clement's Clergy
- 6 Poole Hospital Chaplaincy
- 7 Maureen McCabe
- 8 Deacon Nick Johnson RC
- 10 St James' Clergy
- 11 Barry Matthews
- 12 Rev Dr Mark Kimber
- 13 Joan Jackson
- 14 Tricia Knapp URC
- 15 Rev Tony Wood  
Elim Pentecostal
- 17 Eifron Hopper
- 18 Rev Paul Hockley  
Reconnect
- 19 Aline and Henry Larkin
- 20 Andrew Williams RC
- 21 Barry Matthews
- 22 Kevin Baker
- 24 Deacon Sarah Wickett
- 25 CHRISTMAS DAY  
No Together at One
- 26 BOXING DAY  
No Together at One
- 27 Geoff Goodman
- 28 Kate White
- 29 Barry Matthews
- 31 tba

*Gerald and Hilda Beddard*



## HANDMADE CARDS SALE

Edna Daniels will be at Wesley's Café selling her hand made cards on the following dates:

December 1, 15 and 22

**All proceeds from sales will go to the Development Fund**

December will be the last month I will be selling cards & bric a brac. I have been doing it on Saturdays since 2010, at Stop and Snack in the old hall and in Wesley's Café since, raising over £10,000 during this time. A big thank you to all who have supported by donating items and buying.



Many thanks, *Edna xx*

Mondays 2.30pm to 3.30pm-3.45pm, Hall 1 at The Spire

## Poole Methodists Wesley Guild

Annual Membership Fee £5 Weekly Subscription £1.50

3 December	Jeff Williams
10 December	70 Years of the NHS – Dr Julian Tawn
17 December	Childhood Christmas Memories with carols
24 December	No meeting
31 December	No meeting
7 January	New Year Lunch at Compton Acres
14 January	Deacon Sarah Wickett – My Ordination
21 January	Roy Carr – Friends of Upton Park
28 January	Embrace the Middle East – Rev Simon Evans

## **FAIRTRADE STALL WESLEY'S CAFÉ AT THE SPIRE**

We will be in the Café selling Traidcraft and other fairly traded craft items and gifts. Come and buy your last-minute Christmas Gifts! Fairtrade helps producers in developing countries to achieve a decent standard of living. Please come and support them.

**Monday 3 to Friday 7 December**

Note the dates and come and buy!

*Helen Davis and Sue Weal*



### *A Goodbye Letter from James Manlow*

Dear Poole Methodists,

As many of you know, I am this week finishing as Centre Manager at The Spire, to begin a new job at Westbourne Library – a short walk from home and close to our daughter's school. While this is the right decision for our family, I will miss you all very much. It has been my pleasure to work for you this past year at The Spire, and I wanted to thank you for your support and kindness. What The Spire has and is achieving is truly marvellous. I don't think I have yet met a group of such loving and dedicated people, so generous with their time, patient in their understanding, and courageous in their determination to fulfil their mission here whatever setbacks the world (inevitably) may throw up. I feel God's presence and work here every day and have no doubt of the continued success of The Spire community hub, and of Poole Methodists' open embrace here in the heart of Poole. You will be in my prayers, and I hope you will allow me to keep in touch, and for Moni, Eva and me to visit when we can. I would very much like that.

If anyone would like or needs to contact me, I have left our contact details with Deacon Sarah. Meanwhile, I wish you all the very best this Advent and Christmas. Sincerely, with love,

*James Manlow (Moni and Eva xxx)*

# **REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT**

## **People**

It's really good that the small group who met to consider the possibility of providing a midweek welcomers' rota has been able to move things forward. Do please consider whether you can be part of this work to make all visitors to The Spire feel at home and welcome on our premises.

We were pleased to see a 2-page article about our life at The Spire included in the Poole edition of Dorset Life in November.

Work to firm up the users of some of our upstairs spaces is ongoing and we hope to have some firm news to bring to our December Church Council.

## **Fundraising**

Some of you know that I have worked for charities for a long time. It has always been one of the most pleasurable parts of my job to express gratitude for the donations and the legacies we receive. The donations we get may be large or small. Sometimes we know who has given them, but often we don't. Because of that we often issue a general thankyou to everyone who has given a donation of any size.

Here at The Spire it has always been my practice to issue general expressions of gratitude, rather than individual thankyou's to individuals. So, as we near the end of the long road that is fundraising for the building at The Spire, let me once again say a huge "Thankyou" to everyone who has done so much to get us here. Large gifts or smaller gifts; one-off or regular gifts; sponsored events or sales (and dozens of other ways of giving) have all been inventive, generous and vitally important. Thank you.

One of the many exciting aspects of what we do here is that our friends and partners are excited about what goes on here and they

want to support us too. Poole & Parkstone productions are doing just that on 15 December at 7.30pm, when they are staging an evening of Christmas readings, songs and carols here in Wesley's Café. Tickets are £5 each and will be available on the door. Do come along to what promises to be a lovely occasion.

## **Building**

Work is continuing at a pace. Some areas which are simpler, such as the new upstairs community rooms, are now virtually complete having been decorated, had flooring laid and ceilings fitted in the last couple of weeks. The main jobs still to complete on the annex side are the installation of the sliding wall in Hall 2, finishing the electrics, and flooring in the corridors.

The staircase areas, which are the most complex in terms of the number of different tasks to complete, are lagging behind slightly and will be the last things to finish. All the stair structures are now in place, and handrails are in the latter stages of manufacture. The temporary boarding, ceilings, etc. that we had in place at the bottom of the stairs during the pause between phase 2 and phase 3 have now been removed so that everything can now be boarded and "blended in" to its final configuration.

In the Rose Hall, the stage/dais is now being constructed and floor laying will commence next week.

Once the builders have finished sometime in December, we will then move into the "furniture and fittings" phase which will involve tasks such as fitting kitchen furniture, installing the Rose Hall audio visual systems, mounting fire extinguishers and signage.

*Kate White, Eifron Hopper, Pete Smith.*  
*Redevelopment Project Leaders*

## ALL THINGS CHRISTMAS QUIZ



1. What date is St Stephen's Day?
2. In Charles Dickens' novel "A Christmas Carol", who was Scrooge's dead business partner?
3. The song "White Christmas" was first performed in which 1942 film?
4. London's Trafalgar Square Christmas tree is traditionally given by which country?
5. In the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas" my true love brought me nine...what?
6. Name the original eight reindeer from the poem "Twas the Night Before Christmas".
7. Which Christmas carol includes the lyrics "To save us all from Satan's power, when we were gone astray"?
8. The character Jack Skellington appears in which 1993 Tim Burton film?
9. What colour are the berries of the mistletoe plant?
10. In the 1946 film "It's a Wonderful Life", what is the name of George Bailey's guardian angel?
11. What are the names of the three wise men said to have brought gifts to the baby Jesus?
12. What is New Year's Eve called in Scotland?
13. What Christmas item was invented by London baker and wedding cake specialist Tom Smith in 1847?
14. In what year was Band-Aid's "Do They Know It's Christmas?" the UK Christmas chart-topping record?
15. In which modern country is St Nicholas's birthplace?
16. Who wrote "How The Grinch Stole Christmas"?
17. From which country does the poinsettia originate?
18. Who is officially credited as the author of "Auld Lang Syne"?
19. How many points does a snowflake have?
20. What is the name of the cake traditionally eaten in Italy at Christmas?

Answers page 33

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY – STIR UP SUNDAY

Yesterday, amid the rolling news coverage of the summit of European leaders about Brexit, I made my Christmas cake, reminded of the need to do this by the traditional prayer for the last Sunday of the Christian year that begins, 'stir up, we beseech thee O Lord...' Stir up Sunday in particular or the end of November in general I guess marks a shift in attention for many of us as Christmas appears undeniably on the horizon. With Christmas markets in the streets and carols in the shops, obediently we start to make lists of food and people and presents.

Stir up Sunday though is intended to focus attention on the long-distance view and not just on the short-term sprint to Christmas Day. It marks the summit of the Christian year from which the longest view should be possible... stretching not only to the next big date in the calendar, but to the end of time itself. The Sunday before Advent focuses on God's eternal kingdom and rule – a moment at which our usually more limited horizons are stretched as we climb higher in order to see further and get our human decision making into better perspective.



If you google the word summit and ask why a meeting of world leaders is called a summit you will get a range of answers... The highlighted favourite suggesting that it apparently stems from a metaphor that Winston Churchill used in 1950 when he likened a meeting of world leaders at the depth of the cold war to a "parley on the summit" (of a mountain).

The bible is littered with such conferences on mountain tops... places that take a lot of effort to get to, places of revelation where human beings are more clearly able to hear what God is saying, markers put down in the mind or in tablets of stone that shape the landscape for generations to come – the division of territory, the giving of law, the anointing of a King who knows God's heart and to

whom God instructs his people to listen...

Yesterday we witnessed such a parley on the summit as EU leaders gathered, seeking to shape the contours of the future and this morning the horizon has already shifted onto the next determining point as we await Parliament's response.

Amid all the mountain top excitement of a series of summits, all the adrenalin, all the media attention, all the awareness that here political futures will be staked and lost, my prayer is that our leaders will take the time to breathe – as you do at the top of a mountain – and look around – that their focus might honestly be on the far horizon... on the impact of decisions that will shape the landscape for generations to come, and that will shape the lives and opportunities not only of those living in these islands but across our interconnected planet on which inequality and climate change and food insecurity threaten to threaten us all...

'Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord', is not about stirring the Christmas pudding or even about stirring up deeply held political passions. It is about stirring us all to use the opportunities we have to do real good in the long term perspective of the judgement of history.

*© BBC Radio 4 Thought for the Day broadcast of  
26 November 2018 by Rev Dr Jane Leach*

## **CHRISTMAS CARDS**



Instead of seeing Christmas card-writing as a boring chore to be completed as quickly as possible, see it as a time to connect with those you don't always see as much as you would like.

Forget round robins; just a few, short words that are personal and special to that person will make a difference – whether that's a thank you for something they've done over the past year or just to tell them that you love and are thinking of them. And if you are sending cards, remember that charities rely heavily on this income – the cards we buy raise £50 million for them in the UK every year.

## THE CHRISTMAS STAR

Bright star in the sky  
shows the Lord God reigns on high.  
Wise men come from lands afar,  
they came to seek the Christmas star.



That star lit up the sky that night  
and brought some shepherds fear and fright.  
But then what joy their search did give,  
when in a stable they found a crib!  
And on the straw a baby lay,  
who'd come to man, their sin to pay.

'Tis right that we too our homage pay,  
from whom begins our 'light' of day.  
All blessings from his Heaven doth fall  
on those who own him Lord of All.

Does he reign in your heart as King and Lord of All?

*Hilary Fry*



## **James Manlow, our Centre Manager is Leaving**

With great sadness, we say au revoir to James as he leaves us at the end of November. A too-good-to-miss opportunity arose unexpectedly and quickly for him and his family – that any of us would also have taken. In the time that he has been at The Spire we have greatly appreciated his gentle and welcoming style to anything and everything that has come to him and he has been well regarded by everyone who has been in contact with him.

He will be sorely missed. As the Sea Change Management Company consider the long-term arrangement for managing The Spire, there are interim arrangements, until the end of April, to cover the various tasks viz. Wesley's Cafe, Bookings and Building Maintenance. We have been fortunate at short notice to engage: Lucy Robinson and Lorna Clark who will share the administrative tasks of the bookings and building maintenance. Lucy will work between Monday and Wednesday lunchtime and Lorna will work between Wednesday lunchtime and Friday.

There will be much learning as we go, so adjustments will inevitably happen as we discover what works and what needs to shift. Consequently, I hope you will have patience with Lucy and Lorna as they settle into their roles.

As James leaves us, we pray for God's blessing on him, on Monica and on Eva. We give thanks to God for the gift to us of James; and to James for the time that he has been with us and all that he has shared.

*Andrew Creamer*  
*Sea Change Management Company*



## ROBIN REDBREASTS

Why do we associate robins with Christmas?

Long known as the 'robin redbreast' our familiar robin gave its name to the first postmen who wore red jackets and became known as 'robins'. Some suggest this is the reason why robins appear on Christmas cards, but there is a link with Christmas which pre-dates Victorian postmen.

On that first Christmas, it is said, the night was bitterly cold. The small fire in the stable was nearly out, and the Mary worried that her baby would be cold. She turned to the animals about her and asked them for help.

"Could you blow on the embers," she asked the ox, "so the fire might continue to keep my son warm?" But the ox lay sound asleep on the stable floor and did not hear her. Next, Mary asked the donkey to breathe life back into the fire, but the sleeping donkey did not hear Mary either. Nor did the horse or sheep. She wondered what to do.

Suddenly, Mary heard a fluttering of little wings. Looking up, she saw a plain, brown-coloured little robin fly into the stall. The robin had heard Mary calling to the animals and had come to help her himself. He went over to the dying fire and flapped his wings hard. His wings were like little bellows, huffing and puffing air onto the embers, until they glowed bright red again. He continued to fan the fire, singing all the while, until the ashes began to kindle.

With his beak, the robin picked up some fresh, dry sticks and tossed them into the fire. As he did, he was so close to the fire that the heat seared the bird's feathers red. But the robin simply continued to fan the fire until it crackled brightly and warmed the entire stable. The Baby Jesus slept happily.

Mary thanked and praised the robin for all he had done. She looked tenderly at his red breast, burned by the flame, and said "From now on, let your red breast be a blessed reminder of your noble deed." And to this day, the robin's red breast covers his humble heart.

## Money Matters at The Spire (No.2 in an occasional series)



At the end of my first article, commenting on the financial position of Poole Methodists, I said "... it does look a little precarious! So what of the future and how can we improve things? Wait until the next article!"

So, here goes. If one wants to make an Income and Expenditure account look better, look at the large items in each half (i.e. income and expenditure) and see what changes might be possible.

### Income

The three largest items are:

- \* **Room lettings**, which will increase when the whole building is available, so expect a gradual build up from the Spring onwards.
- \* **Rent from Wesley's Café**. This heading is unlikely to increase for a while yet.
- \* **Normal church giving**. This one depends on us. Arguably, our giving should be prayerful, regular and proportionate to our personal income. I shall come back to that in the future.

### Expenditure

Here, the two largest headings will increase, rather than decrease:

- \* **Running the building** will inevitably cost more as the whole premises become available. Can we ensure that those increases will be more than outweighed by the higher lettings income?
- \* **Circuit assessment**. We are in discussions with the circuit to ensure that the way in which assessments are allocated to churches is equitable.

### Conclusion

The most significant thing that we as individuals can do is to review, and if possible, increase our giving to "the work of God".



Monday to Saturday at 1pm in the Chapel at  
The Spire

For your information and prayers, here is the list  
of appointed Leaders in January 2019

- |    |                              |    |   |
|----|------------------------------|----|---|
| 1  | CLOSED<br>New Year's Day     | 14 | St James' Clergy  |
| 2  | St Clements' Clergy          | 15 | Rev Paul Hockley<br>Reconnect                           |
| 3  | Poole Hospital<br>Chaplaincy | 16 | Gerald Beddard  |
| 4  | Gerald Beddard               | 17 | Andrew Williams:<br>St Mary's RC                        |
| 5  | Kevin Baker                  | 18 | Fiona Daborn<br>Dorset Rep. for Christian Aid           |
| 7  | Deacon Sarah Wickett         | 19 | Kevin Dudman MCC and URC                                |
| 8  | Barry Matthews               | 21 | Rev Paul Holmes<br>Loch Road Baptist                    |
| 9  | Clive Allen                  | 22 | Rev Peter Homden<br>Church of the Good Shepherd         |
| 10 | Joan Jackson                 | 23 | Rev Dr Mark Kimber                                      |
| 11 | Tricia Knapp URC             | 24 | tba   |
| 12 | Hilary Windridge             | 25 | tba   |
|    |                              | 26 | Deacon Sarah Wickett                                    |
|    |                              | 28 | Aline and Henry Larkin                                  |
|    |                              | 29 | Dudley Coates<br>Dorset Methodist Ecumenical<br>Officer |
|    |                              | 30 | Rev JohnMacDiarmid<br>Poole Christian Fellowship        |
|    |                              | 31 | Geoff Goodman   |

**The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** will be Friday 18  
January to Friday 25 January. It is hoped that the leaders of  
Together at One during that week will each be from a different  
denomination. It is yet to be finalised, but currently there is a

Baptist, an Anglican, a Methodist and the Christian Aid representative. Christian Aid have devised the worship materials for this week of prayer.

We are also delighted that Major Stuart Drisdale from the Salvation Army, who has led Together at One occasionally, will be leading Poole Methodists' morning worship at 10.30am on Sunday 20 January.

*Gerald and Hilda Beddard*



## **Donate Your Unwanted Winter Fuel Allowance to Save Lives This Winter**

Local resident P.L., 75, lives in sheltered accommodation and her medical conditions make her extremely vulnerable, so she needs to keep warm. Like many other older people P.L. is dreading the winter months. Last winter P.L. avoided switching the heating on because she could not afford the bill. A grant from Dorset Community Foundation's Surviving Winter Appeal helped P.L. feel warm and well, also avoiding a possible hospital admission.

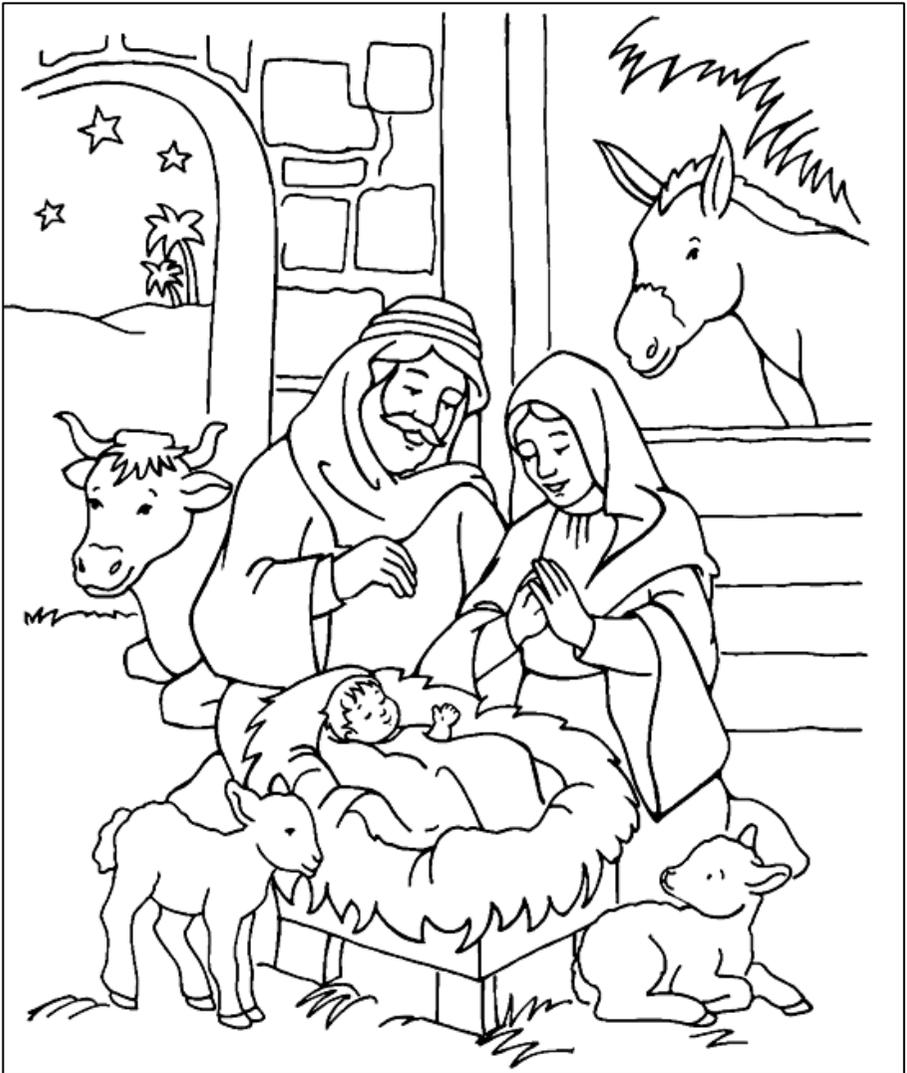
A shocking number of over 350 vulnerable people die in Dorset every winter because of the combined effects of fuel poverty and social isolation. Help us save lives this winter by making a donation to the **Surviving Winter Appeal**.

**Please send cheques (made out to the Dorset Community Foundation) to:** The Surviving Winter Appeal, Dorset Community Foundation, The Spire, High Street, Poole, BH15 1DF. Alternatively, contact DCF on 01202 670815 or donate online at [www.dorsetcommunityfoundation.org](http://www.dorsetcommunityfoundation.org).

**If you need help** Surviving winter grants of up to £200 are available along with additional help around fuel poverty. Contact your nearest Citizens Advice Bureau or ring 01929 775500.

## A Picture for You to Colour

Mary gave birth to her first son, wrapped him in cloths and laid him in a manger – there was no room for them to stay in the inn.





# **XMAS CRACKER RIDDLES**

**Q. What begins with T, ends with T and has T inside it?**

**A. A teapot.**

**Q. What do you buy for eating, but never actually eat?**

**A. Cutlery and plates.**

**Q. It occurs once in a minute, twice in a week and once in a year. What is it?**

**A. The letter 'e'.**

**Q. When I was young I was tall, but now I'm older I'm short. What am I?**

**A. A candle.**

**Q. How much dirt is there in a hole in the mud that's 1 metre deep, 2 metres wide and 3 metres long?**

**A. None – it's a hole!**

**Q. You are in a house with fantastic southern views from all four sides, and you see a bear. What colour is the bear?**

**A. White – it must be a polar bear.**

**Q. You can crack me, make me, play me and tell me. What am I?**

**A. A joke.**

**Q. It's pitch dark and you have a wooden splint, a candle and an oil lamp. There is only one match, so what do you light first?**

**A. The match!**



Transforming young  
Kenyan lives.

Registered UK Charity Number 1044872

**Karibuni Children** is a charity I keenly support.

I have been able to link PMG Schoolwear on Poole High Street with this charity, so that by contributing some stock which they are no longer able to sell, they have enabled Karibuni Children to give sports kit and uniforms to some of the children in their schools in Kenya.

Some of you may recall that in 2017 I went to Kenya with 10 others including my next-door neighbour who is a self-employed electrician, to re-roof two classrooms and modernise two other classrooms in one school, and to do electrical work and build a security fence around another school in the slums of Nairobi.

In February 2019 I will be going out to Kenya again, in another team of 10 people, which will again include my neighbour Graham. It is intended that we will build three new classrooms and facilities for a social worker (office and store room) at a school in Meru, North East Kenya. Each team member will be covering their own flight and accommodation costs but each of us is also aiming to raise £500 towards the building project.

**For Sale:** I have a small quantity of hand-made necklaces which were made by relatives of the children in the schools I went to in 2017, which are for sale at £3 each; and 2 split-straw pictures for sale at £5 each.

I have greatly appreciated your previous support, and hope that you may feel able to support me again now.

*Gerald Beddard*

*I'm sure Gerald and the Karibuni children would also appreciate any additional donations we are able to give.*

*Denise Gibbs*

## **POOLE METHODISTS' SPIRE CELEBRATIONS 2019**

Many of us have taken at least one of the various opportunities that Pete has arranged to go upstairs and be amazed as the Rose Hall, and the other rooms, take shape. Others have enjoyed seeing the photographs. Have you noticed? We're nearly there...!

How are we going to celebrate? Well, that's up to us! Here are four opportunities that you might like to look out for:

Mid-week worship – when we can (end Jan/Feb??)! A time of worship and a party celebration for the Poole Methodists church family, with a wider invitation to friends from across the Circuit, and Wesley's staff and volunteers. If you want to be involved in planning the worship, then please see Rev Mark. If you can help with the party, then please see Melanie.

Easter Sunday (I know, I know... 21 April 2019.) We're planning a great Easter Breakfast and a wonderful celebration worship. How many Easter Sundays have you shared with Poole Methodists?

In June (Thursday 13 June 2019) we'll be inviting families, from AJs, Breakfast Church families, Story Café, Board Games Café, Sunday Explorers and more, to a Family Treasure Trail. Encouraging families to explore and discover what's going on at The Spire and, of course, share a 'tea' together!

In July, after we've had a chance to make sure it's all working, we'll be ready for a more formal opening to dedicate the building and celebrate. We'll be inviting representatives from our generous grant makers (including Connexion, District and Circuit), Churches Together and Town folk. We'll confirm the date as soon as we can – for now, you might want to pencil in the first three Saturdays...

An enormous thank you to everyone who has helped, supported and prayed through this building time. Let's celebrate. Let's give thanks. And, let's continue to pray and be excited to see what God is going to build here at The Spire in the time ahead.

*Rev Mark*

## **Two Very Different Endorsements for The Spire**

**A letter from a friend of Paul Stigwood which she requested  
be printed in Noah's News:**

Dear Friends,

Having shared Christian Fellowship with Paul and Jill Stigwood in Hundon, it was a pleasure to receive Noah's News each month after their move to Poole.

It is wonderful to read how our Lord's work is reaching out to all. During the summer my husband and I visited Poole with friends and Paul showed us around The Spire. Truly amazing! When I learned the chosen name for the large hall – the Rose Hall – I thought, how apt, the rose being the symbol of love and GOD IS LOVE!

May God continue to bless you all and our thanks for your continuing prayers for "our small corner of Suffolk."

*Mrs Mary Brown*

### **Quotes from "Dorset Life in Poole" magazine Published in November 2018**

Sometimes five does go into one – just ask Poole Methodists, the new congregation created when five churches amalgamated a decade ago. Faced with dwindling numbers and an ageing flock the Connexional Methodist Church challenged local churches to be radical and brave in seeking a way forward.

The Sea Change project is the regeneration of the 1878 church, built to house a thousand worshippers, to create a community facility relevant to Poole in the 21st century. Wesley's Café opened in January 2015 and was an instant success, followed later the same year by the Chapel, the hall, and offices and community rooms on the ground floor.

Phase three will see the new first floor auditorium opened early in 2019 with a second meeting hall and further community rooms and

offices. In essence the building belongs to the people of Poole and it is there for them to make use of. It is a community hub with a church in it – the only project of its kind in the Methodist Church at the moment and something of a flagship: it could become a blueprint for other developments.

## **Methodist Prayer Handbook 2019/2020: Responding to the Gospel**

### **Would you like to contribute a prayer to the Methodist Prayer Handbook?**

The theme for the next Methodist Prayer Handbook is inspired by Our Calling. It will explore how we are called to respond to the gospel by demonstrating God's love, grace and generosity.

Our response should involve action as well as prayer and we are strengthened when we work in partnership with followers of Christ locally, nationally and internationally. The 'gospel' is understood in its broadest sense and includes the whole arc of the biblical narrative and beyond.

The Editor would also welcome prayers for the general pages at the front of the Handbook on the following themes:

- \* the integrity of creation
- \* the comforting presence of God
- \* justice
- \* adoration and thanksgiving
- \* confession
- \* times of life
- \* times of day

Prayers **should not exceed 120 words** and should be emailed to [prayerhandbook@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:prayerhandbook@methodistchurch.org.uk) by **11 January 2019**.

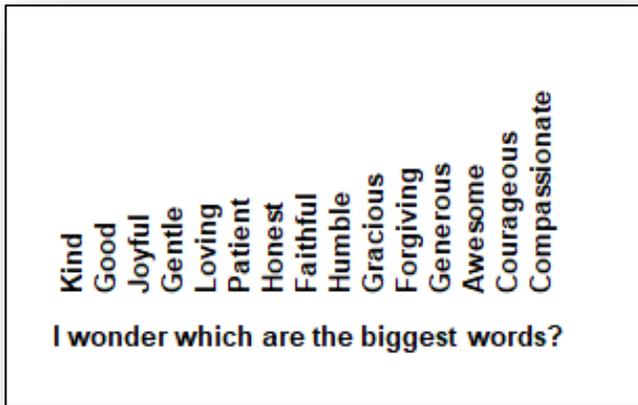
Please do send any photos (your own copyright) to help bring your prayer to life or that capture the work of the Methodist Church, either in this country or around the world. Photos should be emailed to the above address and should be sent in their original size.

## A NEW YEAR RESOLUTION?

At the All-Age Worship on the Sunday before Advent, Rev Mark took the traditional theme of Christ the King. Can you draw a better crown than him? I think you probably can!



Which of these qualities might you especially like to develop in 2019?



Kindness, generosity, awesomeness, courageousness?  
Or can you suggest some others?

### A prayer to help you:

Lord Jesus reign over me

Lord Jesus reign over:

my heart and my emotions

my thinking and my beliefs

my will and my decisions

my family and my relationships

my work and my service for you

my money, my things and my time

King Jesus reign over me.

Amen.

## SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

Please see below details of the proposed readings for the following weeks taken from the Poole Bay Circuit Plan. Unfortunately the plan for January is not yet available.

<b>2 December</b> First Sunday of Advent	Local Arrangement	Jeremiah 33:14-16 Psalm 25:1-10 1 Thessalonians 3: 9-13 Luke 21: 25-36
<b>9 December</b> Second Sunday of Advent	Rev Tony Cavanagh <b>Holy Communion</b>	Baruch 5:1-9 or Malachi 3:1-4 Canticle: Benedictus (Luke 1:68-79) Philippians 1:3-11
<b>16 December</b> Third Sunday of Advent	Mr Gerald Beddard <b>Carol Service</b>	Zephaniah 3:14-20 Canticle: Isaiah 12:2-6 Philippians 4:4-7 Luke 3:7-18
<b>23 December</b> Fourth Sunday of Advent	Deacon Sarah Wickett <b>AAW</b>	Micah 5:2-5a Canticle: Magnificat (Luke 1:46b-55) or Psalm 80:1-7 Hebrews 10:5-10
<b>30 December</b>	Mrs Janet Baker	1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 Psalm 148 Colossians 3:12-17 Luke 2:41-52

### Christmas Quiz – Answers to page 17

1. 26 December 2. Jacob Marley 3. Holiday Inn 4. Norway 5. Ladies dancing 6. Comet, Cupid, Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Donner, Blitzen (or Dunder and Blixem). Rudolph was created later in 1939 by copywriter Robert May for the Montgomery Ward department store chain, as the main character in a free Christmas promotional story, which extended the 1823 poem and was subsequently turned into the popular song "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer." 7. God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen 8. The Nightmare Before Christmas 9. White 10. Clarence (Oddbody) 11. Balthasar, Melchior, Caspar (or Gaspar) – the Bible does not state their names, nor even the number of wise men. 12. Hogmanay 13. Christmas cracker 14. 1984 15. Turkey – St Nicholas, Bishop Nikolaos of Myra (270-343 AD) was born a Greek i.e. of Greek parents in Patara, Lycia, technically provincial territory of the Roman Empire with no specific country name. Patara became ruins centuries ago. Where the ancient town of Myra stood, now stands the Turkish town/district of Demre, Antalya Province, Turkey. 16. Dr Seuss 17. Mexico 18. Robert Burns 19. Six 20. Panettone

## Who's Who and how to find them

### Church Council:

Rev Dr Mark Kimber	01202 741479
Rev Sue Gowling	07718 491363
Deacon Sarah Wickett	07801 426483
Treasurer:	Peter Cotgrove
Pastoral Secretary:	Marian Matthews
Secretary:	Melanie Smith
Circuit Steward rep:	Steve Shipton-Ashwell

### General Church Meeting Elected Stewards:

Andrew Creamer (Senior Steward)		
Hilda Beddard	Yvonne Butcher	Peter Cotgrove
Denise Gibbs	Cynthia Wall	

### General Church Meeting Elected:

Ron Balmer	Edna Daniels	Paul Dredge
Marion Le Poidevin	Barry Matthews	Paul Stigwood
Hilary Windridge		

### Church Working Groups:

Worship	Barry Matthews	01202 669427
All Things Youth	Christine Le Poidevin	01202 715829
Social	John Redwood	01202 773362
Communications	Denise Gibbs	01202 669177
Global Perspectives	Helen Davis	01202 741148
Redevelopment	Peter Smith	01202 730673

### Younger Member: Vacancy

**The Spire Centre Manager** 01202 916520

Email: spirecentremanager@gmail.com

**The Spire Room Bookings** 01202 916525

In person at The Spire (Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm)

Email: spirebookings@gmail.com, or write to:

Centre Manager, The Spire, High Street, Poole, BH15 1DF

### Pastoral Leader: contact with details of illness or concern

Marian Matthews 01202 669427

## Ministerial Team

**Rev Dr Mark Kimber**  
**Rev Sue Gowling**  
**Deacon Sarah Wickett**

**Telephone 01202 741479**  
**Telephone 07718 49136**  
**Telephone 07801 426483**



## WORSHIP

**SUNDAY** 10.30am MORNING WORSHIP Hall 1  
including 'Sunday Explorers' for young people & Crèche

**MONDAY - SATURDAY**  
1pm Together at One, Chapel

## ACTIVITIES

### MONDAY

**Create, Chat and Celebrate** Carrie-Anne Birch 07990975272

A group for women of all ages (babies under one welcome)

9am-12 pm (term-time) Community Room 2

**Poole Methodists Wesley Guild** Janet Cockram 01202 735365  
2.30pm (Oct – Apr) Hall 1

### TUESDAY

**Celtic Colours** Tricia Creamer 01202 603373

10am-12pm (term-time) Community Room 2

**AJ's Funtime** Racheal Peck 07766 885612

Parent/carer and child group

1pm-2.30pm Hall 1 (term-time)

### WEDNESDAY

**Friendship Club** Heather Cornick 01202 748548

12.45pm St John's Church, Ashley Road

### THURSDAY

**Women's Network** Janet Cockram 01202 735365

2.30pm (fortnightly) Buckland Road Baptist Church

## COMMUNITY CAFÉ

### Wesley's

10am-3pm Monday – Saturday

## Editorial & Production

Editorial Team: Denise Gibbs, Helen Davis, Hilda Beddard  
Printing and collation: LA Digital Mail and Printing  
Front cover: Photograph by David Beddard  
Back cover: Poster design David Beddard and Mark Kimber

### Subscriptions

Would you like to receive a copy of Noah's News delivered to your door or as a gift for someone you know?

**Annual subscription for 10 issues is only £17.50**

Please contact Helen Davis.  
Email: helen4reg@outlook.com;  
Telephone: 01202 741148

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If you would like to promote your business or event in Noah's News please contact Denise Gibbs for further details.

Email:  
denise.gibbs24@yahoo.com;  
Telephone: 01202 669177

### Noah's News welcomes YOUR contributions

Please send your ideas, comments, articles, artwork, poetry, prayers and photos to be included in future issues.

**Deadline date for February 2019 is 20 January**

Please send all contributions to:  
Denise Gibbs,  
73 Lander Close,  
Poole, Dorset BH15 1UL  
Email:  
denise.gibbs24@yahoo.com;  
Telephone: 01202 669177



*Thank you to all our contributors to Noah's News - we are always pleased and thankful to have your items.*

### Poole Methodists Mission Statement:

Our calling is to worship and serve God in the power of the Holy Spirit, and to invite people to lead lives inspired by Jesus Christ through our acts of worship, service, care, social action and ministry.

Website: [www.poolemethodists.org.uk](http://www.poolemethodists.org.uk)

Twitter: @poolemethodists

Facebook: <https://m.facebook.com/PooleMethodists/>

† Poole  
Methodists



*Worship together at Christmas*

Christmas café – a welcome space  
*Enjoy some time with family & friends in Wesley's*  
10am – 3pm (except 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> December)

**Together at One**

*A pause for prayer in the chapel*  
1pm-1.20pm Monday – Saturday

**Saturday 15th December**

*20 minutes of Carols in Wesley's*  
10.30am & 11.30am

*... and join us 'round the back', in Hall 1, for any of the following:*

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December**

*Carol service*  
10.30am

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> December**

*Christmas Service for Tired Shoppers*  
2pm

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> December**

*9.30am Meet in Wesley's to make Christingles*  
*10.30am All-age Carol Service with Deacon Sarah*

**Christmas Eve**

*Evening Holy Communion with Rev. Mark*  
9.15pm – 10.00pm

**Christmas Day**

*Family Celebration with Rev. Mark*  
10.30am

2018

*the*  
**Spire**  
High Street, Poole, BH15 1DF