

# Pivot



The Magazine of

Broadstone Methodist Church



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## EDITORIAL

Welcome to this Christmas *Pivot*.

We have received a very wide range of contributions for this edition, and we hope that you will enjoy both looking back and looking to the future, while reflecting on the Christmas message amidst the fun and celebrations. Ray Cornick reminds us movingly of the challenge of Christmas to each of us, in the need to love – really love – our neighbour, and what this means. At a time when there is so much conflict in the world, so much poverty and hardship, our prayers are vitally important.

We include the stories of two members of our congregation. Rosemary Hill describes her Christian journey and gives us all food for thought about our own journeys. We thank Brian Tucknott for his tremendous contributions to the Methodist Church over many years. Brian continues to give great support from his armchair and Rosemary gives growing support with her contributions to our services.

We particularly welcome the contributions from young people and hope that you enjoyed the thoughtful poem from Florence, the Christmas jokes from Ioan, and early thoughts about Christmas from Thirsty Thursday members.

With a fascinating article about a Methodist foundation in the US, by David Endicott, and a piece about the likely disintegration of the grand piano in the Sanctuary, by David Spracklen, there is, as always, a wide range of reading in this edition of *Pivot*.

We hope you enjoy it and wish all our readers a very happy Christmas.

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# Advertising Love and Light

Rev Karen James



We have now entered into the Christmas advert season, and I've been fascinated by the themes or styles of the adverts. Many are 'fairytale-esque' in their approach – magical creatures bringing together a wonderful spread and cheer, or rescuing the Christmas spirit. There is even a *who-dunnit* that has left us with a cliff hanger.

Others have acknowledged the fact that Christmas is a difficult time for some people.

They are all aiming to be wholesome and inclusive and to reassure us that Christmas is more than just buying food and presents – although it would seem it can help to pave the way!

I admit, I enjoy these adverts. They are mostly well-crafted stories. I like the glitz and playfulness of them. I even appreciate how they are trying to tell a more rounded story around the Christmas season, cutting through the idea that it's all about material things- that you can buy the Christmas 'dream'.

They are part of the established run up to Christmas in our modern day, along with Carol singing, school nativities, Christingles, the Coca-Cola lorry, the constant weather reports anticipating a white Christmas, and, the fetching out of the emergency chairs for the big family Christmas dinner.



Yet in our churches this preparation for Christmas has a name, Advent. Here, we are encouraged to set aside time and space to listen to God. To acknowledge our need for God and to step out of the expectations of world just for a moment. To focus on the incredible gift God has sent for us in love, God's son Jesus, a baby lying in a manger.

Because Christmas is more than presents and food and festivities – it is about God's presence coming to earth. Not with great riches and power but born to an ordinary family, a vulnerable baby in a manger. Thus interrupting the expectations and challenges of the day and bringing hope and joy beyond that we can create for ourselves.



The thing is this wonderful event did have a range of adverts anticipating it. We find them in the words of the prophets. For instance,

*The people who have walked in darkness have seen a great light. They lived in a land of shadows, but now the light is shining on them... A child is born to us! A son is given to us! And he will be our ruler. He will be called, 'Wonderful Counsellor', 'Mighty God', 'Eternal Father', 'Prince of Peace'.*

(Isaiah 9:2,6 [Good News Version])

However you spend this time of the year, may you know the peace, love and joy of Christ.

Every blessing

*Rev Karen*

# My Christian Journey

Rosemary Hill



*Some people have a 'Damascus Road' moment in their lives; others are brought up in a particular denomination and stay in it for life, but my path in faith has been somewhat different.*

My Christian journey started, as it did for so many children in the 1950s, through weekly attendance at Sunday School, in my case in the Anglican Church. The highlight of the Christian calendar in our town was 'Walking-round Day' at the end of July. Young people from every denomination met in the Market Place, still in their particular church groups, to engage in hymn singing accompanied by the Salvation Army, before processing round the town, with the banner for each Church held aloft. It was a great honour to 'walk under the banner', and even more so to hold one of the ropes which steadied it, a much-coveted role for which the girls had special dresses. Surprisingly, at no time did the different churches mingle and, at the end of this brief display of Christian witness we all repaired to our own particular church for tea and sports. Even as a child, I found this a rather strange conclusion to the proceedings. The day could have afforded a great opportunity to make friends with those from other denominations, but *Churches Together* was a long way off at that time.

I was confirmed at the age of 14, the preparations for which were a source of great anxiety for me. Looking back, I wonder if it was because I was being bounced down a path for which I wasn't ready. It was certainly a moment of turmoil in my Christian journey, but the pleasure I got at that time from teaching in the Sunday School persuaded me to stick with it.

After I moved on to university to study languages, my church attendance dwindled significantly, mainly because of a group in Hall who were always wanting to 'talk about Jesus' and whom we labelled 'The God Squad'. They even got down to pray at parties, which I found

weird and made me feel extremely uneasy. As a result of this experience, I have always fought shy of holding forth about my faith except in church circles in case, like me at that time, people find it off-putting. I feel there are more effective ways of conveying the Christian message.

My first teaching post was in a Catholic convent grammar school, which was seen by family and friends at the time as a curious, and even somewhat perverse, choice for an Anglican. I, however, had seen it as perfectly natural to attend the Catholic church during my time in France, so to me it was in no way strange. All senior management were nuns and most of the staff were Roman Catholic, but I was never made to feel an outsider, except when my head of department - an excellent woman - remarked that, although my classes knew their foreign language work very well, they were unsure of the words of the 'Hail Mary' in French. I had to come clean and admit that I didn't know them either. She soon put me right! The priest with whom I taught Italian even said he was happy to give me communion if I so wished, which sadly is still far from the norm in England more than 50 years later.

After marriage, a move to Humberside and the birth of my daughter, I still hadn't gone back to regular church. I had the difficult decision to make about whether or not to have her christened, as I wasn't prepared to make promises which I wouldn't keep. I dithered for two months, an inordinate amount of time in that area. Here, babies were baptised as a matter of course, as soon as the mother returned from the maternity hospital, whether or not either parent was a church-goer: The common thinking was "Well, you have them done against polio, diphtheria, etc. so....!" However finally, after much deliberation, we decided that Penelope should be baptised, but it was with no great conviction that I returned to church,

although I did my best to fulfil what I had promised.

When we moved to Cheshire, the decision as to which church we should attend was taken out of our hands, as the Humberside rector had already contacted the incumbent in Lymm to say that we were on our way, and we were welcomed to our new home by him within a couple of days of our arrival. I stayed at this church until both our children went off to university themselves. During this time I taught in Sunday School, ran the church library, was on the PCC (which I hated – I'm not a committee person!) and generally got fully involved in the life of the church. I also enrolled on the Bishop's Courses 1&2, 'Faith & Life', which gave me the confidence to take school assemblies in Years 10&11. As the years went on, however, I didn't feel I was receiving the spiritual nourishment I craved and so, reluctantly, decided to move to another church, in whose parish we actually lived. When I told others of my decision, they always replied with the caveat: "It's high Anglican, you know!", as though it were some sort of weird sect, but I can honestly say it was one of the best moves I've ever made. I never looked back; I used to come out on air on Sunday morning - although the incense may have been a contributory factor here! I joined and took my turn in leading a weekly Bible Study group and enrolled on the "Foundations for Ministry" course, run by Chester Cathedral, as a follow-up to the two courses I had attended previously. This gave me increased confidence, and the Rector was extremely supportive in allowing me to take morning and evening prayer during the week, and to join the worship team on their planning days at St Deiniol's library in North Wales. On one occasion, I was asked to deputise for him at a clergy meeting which I found most instructive, and on another to read the prayers for a television service at Manchester Cathedral. We went on pilgrimage to Walsingham several times, which was great fun, but regrettably the women clergy in our group were not allowed to celebrate communion in the shrine itself. As a result, our rector was forced to 'borrow' a neighbouring church so that they could take a full part in our services, the nonsense of which I made plain to a senior member of the clergy attached to the shrine: he took it in good part, having apparently heard the same complaint on many occasions from his sister who just happened to be a vicar! In all ways, I found 'High Church' altogether much more liberal and inclusive than what I had been used to elsewhere, and much more conducive to spiritual growth. Our church consistently

reached out to other congregations. We had a monthly 'Prayer and Praise' service with the local Methodists, very much like the Shoppers' Service I encountered when we moved to Broadstone in 2006.

I saw the Shopper's Service notice during the first week we were here, went along and kept going until the service's demise when Covid struck. On Sundays, we initially attended the Minster, but after a few years I didn't seem to be moving forward in my faith, and so the Friday service became my only service, unless we were away on holiday where we always sought out a local church. At this time also, I felt increasingly called to volunteer as a Service Leader, and so I approached Reverend Sue, gave her a list of my training and previous inputs to church services, and the name of my former rector for a reference. I really enjoyed taking the services and listening to others when they were officiating, and it was good for my spiritual development to have to research and assemble the necessary material. After Covid however, I found myself at yet another crossroads in my Christian life. When St. John's opened up first for private prayer and Wednesday communion, I started going there but kept thinking about the fellowship I'd enjoyed on Fridays. I discussed my dilemma with my former rector who advised me to "go where the manna is." My prayer was always: "Put me where you want me, Lord."; and now the Sunday service here has for me replaced the one I so much missed on Fridays, and through the grace of God I have been able to contribute to these services. I still on occasions seek out other formats of worship, being particularly drawn to those of the Celtic tradition which I find especially inspiring. Thus my journey continues.

So for me, my Christian progress has not been a straight line; there have been highs and lows, and several crossroads needing decisions for the way ahead. I am greatly indebted to all those, some of whom are no longer with us, for their guidance and encouragement which has done much to help me move forward in faith.

When I look at the times I've been tempted to walk away from Church, this hymn always comes to mind:

*O love that will not let me go,  
I rest my weary soul in thee;  
I give thee back the life I owe,  
that in thy ocean depths its flow  
may richer, fuller be.*

# Bethlehem, Galilee, ...and Beyond

Ray Cornick

Our reflection this time is based on a prayer in the Methodist Prayer handbook, page 4, 2023/24, and is written by Sue Jones, local preacher, Exeter Coast and Country circuit, and is reprinted with permission.

*When humble shepherds kneel before you, we see that everyone is important and has something to offer.*

*Forgive us when we chose who is important and who is not.*

*When visitors from the east kneel before you, we see that wisdom comes in unfamiliar viewpoints.*

*Forgive us when we prefer what we already know, to new revelations of love.*

*When disciples leave nets to follow you we see how extraordinary the ordinary can be.*

*Forgive us when we place limits on what love can do.*

*When a carpenter offers abundant life, we see the beyond, in the midst of life.*

*Forgive us when we miss the sacred in the everyday.*

*'Give us new eyes that catch glimpses of glory.'*

## **SHEPHERDS AND WISEMEN**

By the time you read this it will be Advent. A time for repentance, reflection and preparation on our spiritual state. Shepherds and wisemen seem to be more to do with Christmas than Advent so what has this to do with our opening thoughts? Sue James takes these old familiar stories and uses them to point to things we might miss in our lifestyles. Shepherds were marginalised in 1st century Palestine. They did a dirty job. They were semi nomads. They dealt with blood and muck, birth and death. Nor what you wanted if you were a respectable Jew.

The story to my mind has beginnings long before it was written down and thus may well have been embroidered, over the years, around the camp fire and in the market places. But, the important thing is the poorest of the poor, the marginalised, the rough and ready of this world

went down to Bethlehem one night and found and worshipped the new born king – Jesus. And with whom did Jesus mix with and preach to when he ministered in Palestine? Let us then repent and accept all who cross our path on their way to Jesus.

'Forgive us when we chose who is important and who is not'.

The present conflict in the Middle East has had and will have far reaching consequences. It is way beyond our understanding and now Iran is involved - men from the east? There seems to be no easy answer and we must pray for peace, a just peace, let's hope it will come about by the time this reflection is printed. Pray too for the hostages, the families of those affected and of service personnel. For the bereaved on all sides.

Wisdom comes in unfamiliar view points. The news that the wise men imparted to Herod the king was damaging. A new king? No never! It's my job! I'll do it my way, we've always done it like that! How often have we heard those words, in church and outside? Matthew was writing many years later to the Jews. What he is saying is, Jesus came for all people. East and West. Black and white. Rich and poor.

'Forgive us when we prefer what we already know, to new revelations of love.'



## FISHERMEN AND A CARPENTER

Having said the above, I'm not keen on the English translations which talk of fishers of people, they miss the point. Jesus said 'I will make you fishers of men.' And so those busy fishermen left their nets, their boats, their homes and followed this itinerant preacher.

In this Advent season as we prepare for Christmas let's leave our nets and follow Jesus. May we see what we can contribute to the growth of the church by fishing for men (& women). What a Christmas present if we could all say on 25 December – by my words, by my lifestyle, by my love I have introduced someone to Jesus. And as St Paul says 'the greatest of these is love'. Our loving and living say so much of our lives and we may never know whom we have influenced. 'Forgive us when we place limits on what love can do.'



What I can I give him, give my heart. Thirty years in a carpenter's home and as the carpenter, Jesus would have been just the man we all need from time to time. Doing the jobs around the home. Making, mending fixing. But here Sue talks of abundant life, and this is what Advent and the coming Christmas are all about. Repentance, forgiveness, preparation and then celebration. 2000 years on, God in Jesus still loves us. He loves the Jew, the Palestinian, the Iranian, the person in Broadstone, and in Jesus he comes to us, not as a baby, but as One who can make, mend and fix our broken lives and our broken world. Offering abundant life in this dark world. Offering to make the everyday sacred. Offering us a glimpse of glory.

'Give us new eyes that catch glimpses of glory.' In Advent, as we prepare, we see the Son of God, in Wesley's words, as 'our God contracted to a span, incomprehensibly made man.'

# Knit and Natter Group

Terry Millard

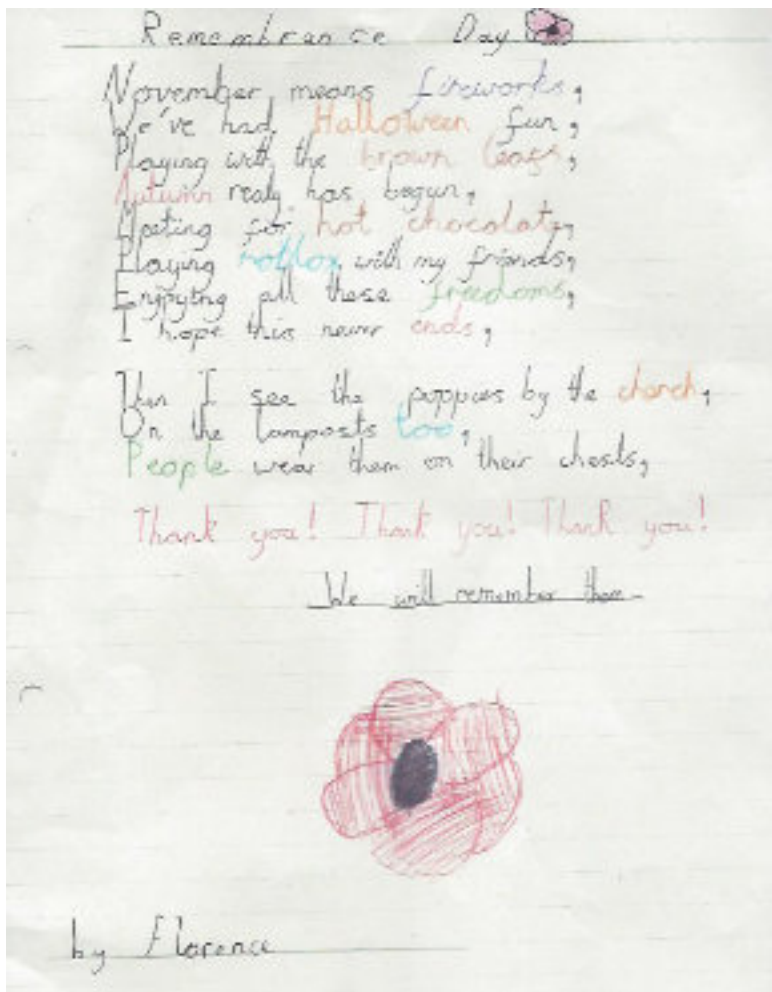
I have just returned from the Broadstone Remembrance Day parade and it was so lovely to see how many people, young and old came along to pay their respects. It was very heart warming to see many people wearing their poppies. I felt very proud of the Knit and Natter ladies who had produced many of the knitted and crochet poppies.

Apart from poppies we have also been busy knitting/crocheting matching sets of hats, scarves and gloves for the Wardrobe Foundation - supplying clothes for women in need. We also make Twiddle mitts, for dementia homes in our local area, and soft toys for MOSAIC, who work with bereaved children. This is along with the many lap blankets that we make for local care homes.

The group will be having a stall, selling a selection of handcrafted items inside Broadstone Methodist church on Saturday 7 December, the day of the Broadstone Christmas Parade. Please pop along and say hello!

*The Broadstone Methodist Church Knit and Natter Group meet in a relaxed friendly atmosphere over a cup of tea or coffee (kindly sponsored by Lesley Shand Funeral Directors) every Monday at 10am – 12 noon (term time only) in the Sanctuary at Broadstone Methodist Church. You can bring your own project or you can join in one of the charity projects, where wool and needles are provided. All skills welcome.*

# Remembrance in Broadstone





# Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

18-25 January 2025

Annette Brooke

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is an ecumenical Christian observance that is celebrated internationally.

It began in 1908 as the Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity and is focused on prayer for church unity. It is an octave, an observance lasting eight days.

Traditionally the week of prayer is celebrated between 18-25 January, between the feasts of St Peter and St Paul. In the southern hemisphere, churches often find other days to celebrate it, for example around Pentecost, which is also a symbolic date for unity.

Christians are reminded of Jesus' prayer for his disciples that "they may be one so that the world may believe" (John 17:21). Hearts are touched and Christians come together to pray for their unity. Congregations and parishes all over the world exchange preachers or arrange special ecumenical celebrations and prayer services.' (World Council of Churches)

Here in Broadstone, Churches Together – CTiB, Broadstone United Reformed Church, Broadstone Methodist Church, St John's Church and St Anthony's Church work together throughout the year and always come together for events in Christian Unity Week. In 2025, planned ecumenical events for Christian Unity Week are: Café Breakfast Church, St John's parish hall, Saturday 18 January, 10am to 11am, with a more formal service midweek at the United Reformed Church on 23 January at 11am.

*All are welcome.*

## A Methodist Way of Life

If you have attended any of Rev Karen's Morning services or Cafe Church sessions where she has spoken of *A Methodist Way of Life*, you will be familiar with the diagram below.



It is presented as a route map, rather like the familiar London Underground map, with inter-connected 'stations' and 'journeys', offering Challenges and Stops for Reflection on our Christian Journey.

Naturally, the first challenge is to get a ticket and board a train.

Where are you going to start from and where will you journey to?

You can spend as much time as you like or need at any station, you can revisit a station as often as you wish but the hope is that you will visit every station at least once.

**Are you on your journey or when will you set out?**

# The Sad Story of Our Grand Piano

David Spracklen



The grand piano in the Sanctuary was generously donated to the church soon after it was built in 2003, and has been a fixture ever since, accompanying services, choir practices and concerts. I imagine that most of us, if we thought about it at all, expected the piano to last for at least 50 years and probably much longer.

So, it was quite a shock when, after the piano tuner had been in October, he rang me to say that there were some problems with it, and that the metal frame had a number of cracks in it, photos of some of which accompany this article. He told me that this would result in it losing its tuning quite quickly, and also that individual strings of the piano, which are under very high tension, might come loose suddenly. This meant, in his view that we should be planning to get another piano.

I was reluctant to accept his diagnosis, so I talked to a few people who know a bit about pianos, including Will Venables, who runs a piano company in Ringwood. Their views were all the same – that we should replace or repair our piano within a year or so.

The repair option seems the most sensible initially, but it transpires that the piano we have was made by the Pearl River Company

in China, a large manufacturer of pianos of relatively low quality. The rough estimate of repair cost is £6,000, and we would end up with an instrument worth only about £2,000 or less. On that basis, it appears that a better option would be to buy a new piano, either brand new or second-hand.

My initial investigations suggest that we should be able to buy a reasonable quality second-hand piano for around £6,000 or less, or an acceptable new piano for about £7,000 plus. So the Church Council have agreed that we can spend up to £6,000 on a replacement piano, and have asked me to look into the possibilities, and make a proposal. They have also suggested that we should start a fundraising campaign to help fund the cost.

So, I have two requests to readers of this article. First, if you are prepared to pledge financial support for the new piano, that would be greatly appreciated, and please contact me. Second, and this could well prove to be the cheaper option, there may be someone you know looking to sell or dispose of an unwanted piano. If it's a good quality small grand piano, we would be very pleased to consider providing a happy home for it, so do let me know.



# Christmas Snippets

Rev Elizabeth Rundle



## Probably the smallest ever Christmas Card

Probably the smallest Christmas Card ever sent was a grain of rice starch on a paste board 3.5 x 2 ins. It was sent in 1929 to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales (later King Edward VIII).

The text written in Indian ink on the actual grain of rice:

*To His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales,  
Sincere Christmas Greetings  
From the Joseph G Gillott Pen Co  
London, England  
Season 1929*

This unique 'card' is preserved in Queen Mary's Collection at Windsor Castle.

\*\*\*\*\*

## St Barbara

Barbara was born in the ancient Syrian city of Hierapolis (now modern Manbij) in 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD. By all accounts she was a great beauty and her father thought he could marry her into an influential family to increase his own fortune. However, Barbara became a Christian which enraged her father to such an extent he tortured his only daughter finally beheading her for her refusal to deny the Christ she loved. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> century Christian Church, Barbara became The Holy Great Martyr.

For hundreds of years, her venerated relics were kept in Constantinople but in the 12<sup>th</sup> century her remains were transferred to Kyiv, Ukraine. Her Feast Day is 4 December.

How amazing the memory of one young woman has inspired over the centuries and this December takes our focus to a city in the forefront of courage.

\*\*\*\*\*

## A Christmas Fast!!

England's Puritan Parliament of 1644 was so disgusted with the feasts and orgies of the Christmas season, they decreed 25<sup>th</sup> December should be a fast. A few years later they 'abolished' any Christmas

celebrations for people to concentrate on the birth of the Messiah. The majority of the population was not impressed.

But in 1660 along came the Merry Monarch, Charles II and feasting returned.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Christmas Weddings

In the Victorian era it was common for labourers and servants to marry on Christmas Day – about the only time they had for themselves.

In 1859, the West Yorkshire newspaper for Holmfirth (Last of the Summer Wine) stated:  
*...several instances in which men and women, contrary to all the rules of decency and propriety, have gone to church unwashed, and in their working clothes....If any parties should again betray the folly of presenting themselves to be married under such circumstances, we have authority for stating that the ministers of several churches in the district will object to marry them.*

Christmas Day 1900 a church in the London area saw the vicar and curate performing the ceremony for half a dozen couples at a time, in 8 and 9 batches through the day.

\*\*\*\*\*

## What would you like for Christmas?

This was a question a loving father asked his daughter, Dolly. He was surprised and pleased when Dolly asked not for the latest Barbie Doll, leather crossbody bag, Joligrace Girls Makeup Box or personalized soft blanket, her request was for a poem. This was for Christmas 1749 and Dolly was fortunate her father was a very clever man.

At breakfast on Christmas Morning she found a beautifully written poem. It was just for her and yet there can hardly have been a Christmas since that Christmas congregations have not sung: Christians Awake, salute the happy morn on which the Saviour of the world was born.

John Byrom was educated at Trinity College, Cambridge, studied medicine in France and taught shorthand to John and Charles Wesley.  
*This carol is in Singing the Faith 195*

# Broadstone's Christmas Parade and the Methodist Church

Joan Jackson and Annette Brooke

The Broadstone Community has been coming together since 1969 on the first Saturday in December to an event organised for many years by the Broadstone Chamber of Trade. Broadstone Methodist Church has always been at the centre of these early Christmas celebrations.

Broadstone Methodist Youth Club was an active participant with walking entries. A special one, Joan remembers, involved making large teddy bear heads from papier mâché, dressing as teddy bears, and on the back of our youth club banner the words 'God's love the ultimate hug'. Lots of hugs were shared along the route, which was much longer than the present day. After the Youth Club ceased to meet, the Church entry centred on the Nativity scene and for a number of years featured a real live baby as Jesus. Most of the years, the characters were arranged on a flatbed trailer pulled by a tractor. Recent years have seen walking entries again with many of the church family dressing up as Mary, Joseph, angels, shepherds and wise men not forgetting the donkey! This has been one way of reminding the community of the real message of Christmas.

For many years the princesses accompanying Father Christmas in the Parade were members of BMC Youth Club. The princesses were also able to go out with Santa around Broadstone during the weeks leading up to Christmas.



For the 40th Anniversary of the Parade, it was decided to include past princesses on a float and the picture below includes Helen Newton and Caroline Brooke, we are not too sure they appreciated displaying the year they were princesses on their cloaks!



For a few years the church offered a showing of a family film followed by pizza with some craft activities between the parade and the showing of the film.

Father Christmas used to have a castle outside the Methodist Church and children brought presents to Father Christmas to be distributed to those families in need, which was a very nice role reversal.

Thanks to new volunteers, as Broadstone Chamber of Trade no longer exists, the parade continues, and all the main community groups continue to participate - with plenty of beavers, cubs, brownies, scouts and guides..... Father Christmas now receives items for Corfe Mullen Foodbank outside the Methodist Church. Bacon butties in the morning and mince pies in



the afternoon are available at the Methodist Church with tea or coffee.

Donations of new unwrapped gifts (including chocolate selection packs) for children can be left at the Liberal Hall to be distributed by Social Services.



It may be a little different these days but it is great that Christmas Parade Day continues involving so many people in our community.



# A Magical Place

## Wesley Grove, Martha's Vineyard, USA

David Endicott



Christmas in Wesleyan Grove in Oak Bluffs, on the island of Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts would be quite enchanting. We visited this unique place during a tour of New England in October 2017. It is a National Historic Landmark named after John Wesley and is also known as the Martha's Vineyard Camp Meeting Association. The Grove was the first of many summer religious camps in the United States. Although the first camp meeting was held in 1835, it started to be developed after the American Civil War which ended in 1865.

The Tabernacle is at the centre of the Grove and has seating for over 2000 although originally it would accommodate as many as 4000 people. When we were there in 2017 it was in the course of being renovated. The work was completed in 2019 to renovate the structure to its original design. The cost of the renovation was funded by a major fund raising campaign. The current iron Tabernacle was erected in 1979, prior to which a huge tent was erected over the Grove to protect the worshippers from the heat and the rain. IT consists of iron arches and supports, dozens of coloured glass windows and an octagonal cupola.

Services are held in the open air Tabernacle on Sundays in the summer, as well as cultural events, and although Wesleyan Grove had Methodist origins, the services are inter-denominational. Preachers visit from around the United States.

A highlight in the summer is the Grand Illumination where residents and guests gather in the Tabernacle for a twilight sing song, followed by a ceremonial lighting of a

The Tabernacle in the course of being renovated in 2017





lantern. They then light their own lanterns until the whole village is illuminated.

The campers were housed in tents which were replaced by permanent wooden cottages which became known as the Gingerbread Cottages. 500 cottages were built by 1880 but there are just 319 remaining. The area of the Grove with its multi coloured cottages is quite magical. It has been described as a dolls house village and one cannot help but feel as if one is getting caught up in a time warp.

Next to the Tabernacle is situated Trinity Methodist Church which serves the year round Methodist community on Oak Bluffs. It is a towered Victorian Gothic wooden

structure designed by Edward Hyde, a Methodist minister with architectural skills.

If you are on a visit to Massachusetts, Wesleyan Grove is not to be missed!



# Children's Pages

## CHRISTMAS JOKES

From Ioan



What is it called when Santa takes a break?

Santa pause.

Why did Rudolph stop the traffic?

Because he had a red nose.

What do Elves do after school?

Their Gnome work.

What is the first thing Elves learn at school?

Their Elf-a-bet.

Why are Christmas Trees so bad at sewing?

They always drop their needles.

What is a Christmas tree's favourite candy?

Orna-mints.

Where does Santa spend his holidays?

In a Ho-Ho-Ho-tel.

What do snowmen eat for breakfast?

Frosted Flakes.

How good is Santa at Ju-jitsu?

Well, he has a Black Belt!



# WHAT CHRISTMAS MEANS TO ME !

by Members of Thirsty Thursday



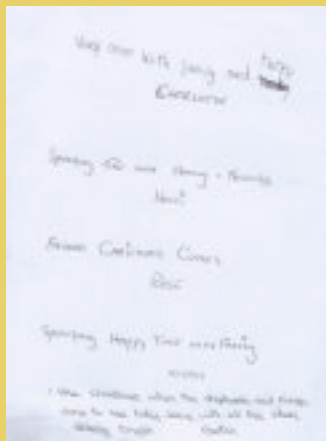
**George Cordall**

I love Christmas because it's so great and we get presents

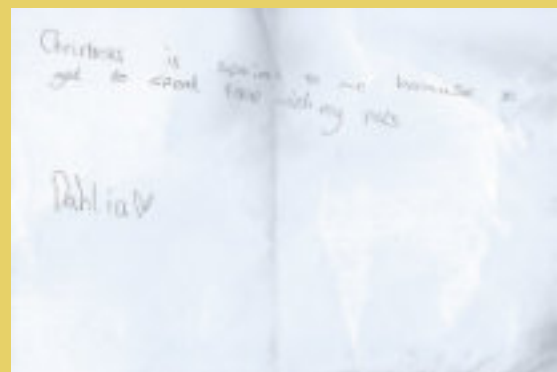


**Florence**

Crate your chest  
Holly hanging on the door  
Reindeer flying high  
Icy days  
Smiles on people's faces  
Tall trees  
Mince pies in tummies  
Amazing food  
Stockings filled with gifts



Sleepover with family and turkey.  
Spending time with family and friends.  
Father Christmas comes.  
Spending happy time with family.  
I like Christmas when the shepherds and kings come to see the baby Jesus, with all the stars shining bright.



Christmas is special to me because I get time to spend with my pets.

# The Life of Brian Tucknott

## and his contribution to Methodism



Brian Tucknott has in recent times been very active in our local Poole Bay Circuit, as a circuit steward and as a local preacher.

Ill health has meant that Brian has had to retire from many activities, and it seems timely to celebrate and give thanks for his enormous contributions to Methodism.

Brian was born in 1944, into a family with strong links to Methodism. Indeed, his great grandfather was a Sunday School Superintendent. Brian's Methodist journey started with baptism at a few months old at Newhaven Methodist Church. He became a Junior Member of the Church and went on to become a Sunday School teacher and Youth Club Leader. He participated in many youth committees and was a delegate way back in 1968 to the British Methodist Youth Conference in Edinburgh.

He had left school at 15 and started a long career in the printing industry enhanced with evening classes, day release study at Brighton College of Art and Crafts and a six-year apprenticeship with Lewes Press. He moved to Wisbech as Estimator at Balding and Mansell, a world leader in Fine Art Printing.

He transferred his church membership to Wisbech Methodist Church and continued as a Youth Club Leader, became a Church Steward and became a member of the Leadership Team and Church Council. He undertook training to become a local preacher and after 6 years gained this accreditation whilst, at the same time, preaching almost every Sunday. In 1990 Brian married Margarete but sadly was made redundant in the same year.

This led to the move to Poole in 1991. Since then, he has been a member at Punshon Memorial Methodist Church, Bournemouth and subsequently Broadstone Methodist Church. Whilst at Broadstone Methodist Church, Brian has been a Member of Church Council, Church Steward, Church representative to Circuit meetings, Secretary to

Preachers' Meetings, Circuit Steward, Southampton District Synod Member, and delegate to Methodist Conference 2021. Many members of the congregation may not be aware that Brian has performed all of these roles. This represents an enormous commitment of time and energy and of course he was in employment for much of this time. We have, of course, listened to Brian on numerous occasions when he has taken services at Broadstone Methodist Church. It must be remembered that he has been engaged on many Sunday preaching across the whole circuit. Brian's sermons will be remembered as challenging, reflective and thought provoking.

He continues to support Broadstone Methodist Church in many ways including the all-important artwork for Pivot, albeit from the comfort of a chair!

Thank you, Brian.

Brian says:

*My Christian journey has never stood still for long and has been a constant catalyst for change.*

*How I see my understanding of what we believe has moved a long way in these years of travelling with Jesus. For many years now I have confined what I have preached to those aspects of traditional theology and Methodist doctrine that I can hold to in order to abide by my undertaking to the church to 'preach nothing contrary to Methodist doctrine'.*

*I continue to explore my faith with a focus on Progressive Christianity and know I am far from alone in my understandings. My view is that, in a fast changing world, the church needs to take courage and consider new ways of thinking and approaching our understanding of faith.*

# **CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS**

**at Broadstone Methodist Church**

**Friday 20 December at 11.00am**

**CAROLS AND CAKES** in the Coffee Lounge

**Sunday 22 December at 10.30am**

**CELEBRATION SERVICE** in the Sanctuary

**Sunday 22 December at 6.30pm**

**CAROL SERVICE** in the Sanctuary  
followed by Refreshments in the Coffee Lounge

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

**Tuesday 24 December at 11.30pm**

**SHARED CHRISTMAS COMMUNION**

in the Sanctuary with the United Reformed Church

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

**Wednesday 25 December at 10.30am**

**SHARED CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE**

at the United Reformed Church

Broadway Methodist



The Broadstone Choir; Charity number 1107077; <https://the-broadstone-choir.malchimpsites.com>

**THE BROADSTONE CHOIR**



joined by **CANZONA BRASS**

# **CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

*Gloria & Kyrie* from

**WEBER: MASS IN E $\flat$**

+ a selection of Christmas Carols

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2024 7.30pm**

**Broadstone Methodist Church**

**Musical Director: Ivy Tan**

**Organ & Piano: John Radford**

**£15; under 18s £8**

including refreshments

Tickets available from

[broadstonechoir@gmail.com](mailto:broadstonechoir@gmail.com)

or 07887-997476

or on the door



# ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES



## JUNIOR CHURCH

Children are welcome to our Sunday morning services.

They join in the first part of the service and then go out to their own sessions where they take part in activities related to a Bible passage.

## WENDY HOUSE

Our popular Wendy House toddler group (for babies and toddlers up to 3+ and their parent or carer) meets every Thursday in term time from 10am to 11.30am



Story Time

## THIRSTY THURSDAY

For school age children with a parent or carer, every Thursday in term time, after school until 4.15pm.

*Refreshments, football, crafts, Godly play, and recently, bird feeding and bulb planting.*



Meets once during each school holiday

All ages welcome with an accompanying parent or carer

The next is on **Thursday 2 January 2025**  
and then on **Thursday 20 February 2025**

**10am to 12.30pm** Light lunch included

Do come and join us at the Church for crafts and related activities

For Wendy House, Thirsty Thursday, and Messy Church, please enter by the back entrance of the Church from the car park. For the other events please use either entrance.

# SUNDAY WORSHIP

Weekly at 10.30am

(Holy Communion as announced)

with Junior Church and  
Crèche at the same time

All are welcome

Tea and Coffee served after the Service

We also offer  
Evening Worship  
on Zoom

or a

Written and  
Recorded Service  
each week

Contact the Church Office for details

Tel: 01202 600696

Email: [methodistchurch1@btinternet.com](mailto:methodistchurch1@btinternet.com)

Broadstone Methodist Church

## COFFEE LOUNGE

for Fellowship and Refreshments

**Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday,  
Friday and Saturday each week**  
apart from Bank Holidays

**10.00am–12.00 noon**

We look forward to seeing you and enjoying  
chatting over a cuppa!



**Sunday 9 February 2025 at 4.00pm**

**Professor John Evens**

will be talking about

**The Environment and  
Eco-Church**

## Badminton Group

Mondays from 7.30–9.30pm  
in the Bradbury Hall

## Knit & Natter

Mondays 10.00am – 12 noon  
in the Sanctuary

## STEPPING STONES DROP-IN

Second Friday of every month  
2.30 – 4pm  
in the Coffee Lounge

The next issue of



is planned to be published on  
**Sunday 6 April 2025**

Articles, photographs and other contributions  
should be submitted to the editors by

**Sunday 2 March 2025**

## CARERS' GROUP

Second Thursday of every month  
2.00 – 4pm  
in the Coffee Lounge

