

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON METHODIST CHURCH

# R E P O R T I N G

NOVEMBER 2016

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## CHRISTMAS BAZAAR



SATURDAY 19th NOVEMBER

10.30am to 3pm

STRATFORD METHODIST CENTRE  
OLD TOWN

Toys

Books

Gift Ideas

Bouncy Castle

Cakes and preserves

Tombola

Cards

Crafts

Bric-a-brac

Plants/gardening

Soup will be available for lunch, and tea and cake  
in the afternoon

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Dear Friends

Thank you to those who returned their answers to the questions about 'Passionate Worship'. As with the responses to the first questionnaire I will make available the responses for you to read in a booklet form. The answers have been most helpful to me and have given me a steer as to what would be helpful to you as a worshipping congregation.

One of the suggestions was to make available in the notices the readings for the following week. Unfortunately we rarely know what readings a preacher is to use until a few days before each Sunday service so this request can't be met. However, you can find the lectionary readings for future services printed in The Plan. Not every preacher follows the lectionary but most do. I've produced a leaflet giving a little of the background the gospel readings for the next three weeks and will produce one for Advent. The background information comes from a very useful resource produced by the Church of Scotland. For those of you who are on line you could use this resource to read about the set readings and prepare yourself for Sunday worship.

[www.churchofscotland.org.uk/worship/starters\\_for\\_sunday/november](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/worship/starters_for_sunday/november)

I think most people have now read the feedback from the 'Radical Hospitality' questions so I will send these to various groups in the church for them to consider the recommendations.

One of the suggestions from the Radical Hospitality responses from the children was to have a concert given by a choir of children. Rebecca Ledgard is a professional singer with Ex Cathedra. She has come up with the idea of buying in some professional singers to lead day for up to 150 local school children. The musicians will teach the children all day and prepare them for a concert which they will perform for their parents in the evening. The money to pay for this venture has come from a variety of sources – two anonymous donations, Singing Spirits and a grant from the District. We will ensure that those who attend the concert are made aware of the groups for children and young people held at church. I think this could be a crucial piece of work in the life of our church.

With thanks  
Audrey

Avonside  
Players



present

# A Supper Evening with Sketches, Soup, and Sweets

on

November 24th; 25th and 26th at 7.30pm

**Tickets at £10 are available NOW from Sheila Giles or Maureen Beckett. They must be booked in advance. Limited to 60 table places each evening, don't miss out on this Finale**

**If you are coming, and can offer to be a table host on your evening, please see Sheila Giles. There are special rate tickets for those who can help.**

**The evening's programme of 5 sketches/plays is**

**Panto Question Time**

**Red Hot Cinders**

**Christmas at Stratford**

**The Tea Dance**

**A Nice Cup of Tea**

**Come and share our Final production with us.**



**The last SING meeting of the year will be on Monday, November 28th at 12 in the Church. You are invited to come with a favourite Advent/Christmas hymn from Singing the Faith. All are very welcome.**

**It is a very informal relaxed hour and you can enjoy some chat and tea, soup and Christmas biscuits after, for a bit more relaxation.**

**Look forward to seeing you. Sheila**



**It has been a busy time for the local Action for Children Team.**

**On September 30th, the team together with volunteers had a 'Bucket Day' at Morrisons which raised £190.41p**

**So many thanks to all the helpers.**

**On Saturday October 15th, the Ballard Singers Choir came to give another concert which raised £473.85p.**

**Thank you for all the support and help and for the many kind donations**

***Kathleen Marriott***



## The Green Corner



To many of us now, the summer holiday months may seem a fading memory. Travelling on the motorway networks. I'm sure we have been glad to sample the delights of the Services and have been grateful for their toilet facilities. It's been good to see there, many posters promoting Toilet Twinning.

Audrey gave us here such an inspiring start to this initiative in her "toilet" service. The response has been most encouraging as you will no doubt have seen in the recent update in Reporting. The Green Group is delighted and thanks everyone who has given so generously. More information about the total raised will follow. Watch this space.

A few weeks ago you may have seen the news that another step to protect our environment has been taken when a global deal was made to cap and limit the use of HFCs, used in refrigeration and air-conditioning. Their use is more destructive to the climate than carbon-dioxide and threatens to undermine the Paris accord which we supported in the Vigil last year. The process is gradual and begins in 2019 with action by developed countries, including the U.S., the world's second worst polluter. Developing countries will be given until 2024 to give their industries time to adjust. With the U.K. now so preoccupied with Brexit, we need to keep climate change in our thoughts and in the minds of our political leaders.

*Brenda Birnie*

## **SNIPPETS**

### **CHURCH CHRISTMAS CARD**

Maureen reminds you that she will be accepting donations for the Church Family Christmas Card now that she is back from holiday. The card will be available for distribution from Sunday 4th December.

### **CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH**

Sheila Brown will be cooking lunch on Christmas Day and would welcome all the help she can get. Anyone who would be able to help with shopping, prep etc. to contact her on 01789 205246. Many thanks.

**Stratford Men's Meeting Point** on December 12th is a Coffee morning at 18, Salmon Court, Wellesbourne. Graham and Marilyn Miatt invite all members together with their LADIES from 10AM - 12 NOON

## **CIRCUIT NEWS**

### **Simeon's Watch**

The theatre company Riding Lights are performing Simeon's Watch at Evesham Methodist Church on 15 November at 7.30 pm. The play subtitled 'A puzzle in the family at Christmas' is a new engaging play about family life, growing old, discovering hope and being surprised. Tickets £12/£10 (concessions)

There is to be a Beetle Drive at Evesham on Saturday 26th November, 6.30 p.m. - in aid of Christian Aid and M.H.A. Linda Barritt and Viv Jones will be pleased to hear from anyone who would like to come - telephone numbers are shown on the poster at church. Numbers attending are required for the purpose of catering.

There will be a Circuit Craft Fair on Sat. 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 10-3 @ Broadway Church. For more details please contact Sheila Brown

Dear Church Foodbank Supporters

This year Stratford upon Avon Foodbank is hoping to provide Christmas Food Hampers to families and individuals who are in need over the festive season. This will be an additional service, on top of our usual Red Voucher scheme.

**Who will receive them?** The Foodbank Manager is hoping you can help by suggesting individuals or families who might need such a hamper and has also supplied Hamper Packing Lists for guidance. Suitable recipients are any individuals for whom a hamper would bring some additional cheer.

Examples might be; elderly, bereaved, housebound, unwell, recently unemployed etc. Our aim is to ensure these individuals know that the community of Stratford wishes them well this Christmas time, for them to know they are not forgotten and that they are held in our prayers.

### Christmas Hamper Packing Lists

<b>SINGLE BOX</b>	<b>FAMILY BOX</b>	<b>LARGE FAMILY</b>
Small Xmas Pud	Large Xmas Pud	EX.large Pud
Small Tin Ham	Large tin Ham	Tins of ham
Small Box Chocs	Large Box Chocs	Large Box Chocs
6 Mince Pies	12 Mince Pies	12 Mince Pies
Savoury items	Savoury items	Savour items
Suggestions for all groups e.g Peanuts, Crisps. Crackers		
Thank you Marion Homer		

## ANSWERS to 'Acting' Quiz

1. action
2. fraction
3. lactic
4. hyperactive
5. abstract
6. fracture
7. traction
8. practical
9. pact
10. tractor
11. extraction
12. activate
13. cactus
14. interact
15. faction
16. galactic
17. overreaction.
18. tactile
19. bacteria
20. chiroactractor
21. contract
22. character
23. factory
24. refraction
25. reaction

## ARE YOU ACTING?

**You don't think God can use you?**

**Remember this.....**

**Jacob was a cheater.**

**Peter had a temper.**

**David had an affair.**

**Noah got drunk.**

**Jonah ran from God.**

**Paul was a murderer.**

**Gideon was insecure.**

**Miriam was a gossip.**

**Martha was a worrier.**

**Thomas was a doubter.**

**Sarah was impatient.**

**Elijah was depressed.**

**Moses stuttered.**

**Zacchaeus was short.**

**Abraham was old.**

**AND**

**Lazarus was dead**

**Yet, God used them all.**

**Remember,**

**God doesn't call the qualified.**

**He qualifies the called.**

**Teach us , O Lord, to attempt what we fear we cannot attain, to ascend what we fear we cannot reach and to express what we fear we cannot utter. In adoring you whom we cannot comprehend, teach us to celebrate the faith we cannot prove; for your own love's sake. Amen.**

*Hilary of Poitiers (315-367)\_8*



*Christmas Crib Festival*  
*Stratford Methodist Church Centre*  
*Old Town*

*Saturday 3rd December*  
*2pm-6pm*

*Display of Nativity Boxes*  
*from our own community*

*Activities for all the family*

*Children's Artwork*  
*from local primary schools*

*Tea and Cakes available*  
*Christmas sing-a-long at 4pm*

*Free*  
*admission*

**STEWARDS FOR DECEMBER**

4TH GRAHAM MIATT  
GRAHAM HOLLOWELL

11TH STEVE FARMERY  
KATHLEEN MARRIOTT

18TH JAN GARDNER  
MALCOLM SMITH

25TH CHURCH STEWARDS

**FLOWER ROTA**

DECEMBER 4TH -  
BARBARA HAGGETT

DECEMBER 11TH -  
STEPHEN PEACOP

DECEMBER 18TH -  
VINCENT GLADWIN

DECEMBER 25TH -  
SHEILA GILES



**COFFEE ROTA FOR DECEMBER**

4th Gillian Loader and Shirley Dumper

11th Gillian Ledgard and Ray Childerhouse

18th Jacky May and Geraldine Smith

25th Brenda Birnie and Marilyn Shorey

**NOVEMBER OFFERTORY ROTA**

NOV 6TH	DAVID DUMPER	BARBARA HAGGETT
NOV 13TH	JOHM PARKES	BILL GILES
NOV 20TH	MARGARET SMITH	STEVE FARMERY
NOV 27TH	MARGARET FARMERY	MALCOLM SMITH



*To EVERYONE with a Birthday in  
NOVEMBER you are wished a very happy  
birthday especially*

*Margaret Newton; Jan Rowley;  
Margaret Tattersall and Malcolm*

*Smith*



This information was passed to me by Kathleen Marriott and could be useful to many church members.

**Transport for the elderly – mostly cheaper than taxis.**

**‘UBus’ Orange Mini-Bus**

This service is for residents, who are stuck for transport, to get to local destinations on weekdays between 9.30am and 2.30pm.

The UBus service can be used for a wide range of individual travel needs such as shopping, visiting friends in the locality, attending social groups etc. They do not cover any medical appointments.

I can thoroughly recommend them. Kath walks to Morrisons and the UBus then transports her home for £2.10p and the driver carries the shopping to her front door.

If anyone is interested, please see Kath as she has leaflets to distribute and she can give further information.

It operates on weekdays



**J M A . I am really sorry that I have had to cancel the Lunch. With holidays and the last production of Avonside Players following close on its heels, time has been getting shorter for me to complete all the necessary jobs involved.**

**I promise we will have one in February or March. *Sheila* 11**

## **DECEMBER 2016 DIARY DATES**

- 1st      Setting up for Crib Festival  
2nd      Crib Festival  
3rd      Crib Festival  
5th      7.30pm Avonside Players Christmas Quiz –Fun for all – All welcome  
6th      10.00 Holy Communion in the Church  
8th      7.30pm Circuit Meeting in the Church  
10th     10.00-12 noon Brunch  
11th     3.00-5.00 Youphonix!  
12th     Men's Meeting Point Christmas Coffee Morning (See page 6)  
12th     7.30 QBD  
14th     Wesleys Christmas Party  
18th     3.00-4.30 Christmas party for the Elderly  
           5.00pm Church CAROL SERVICE  
24th     4.00pm Christingle Service  
25th     11.00am Christmas Day Worship  
           followed by Lunch

## **WEEKLY MEETINGS**

- Sunday:      10.30am Morning Worship then a cuppa  
Monday:      10.00-12.00 noon Monday Makers  
                  10.00-12.00 noon Card Making  
                  2.30pm Bible Group  
Tuesday:      10.00-12.00am Knit, Stitch and Natter  
                  10.00am Prayer Group  
Wednesday:  9.30-11.30 Wesleys Baby and Toddler Group  
Thursday:    3.30 – 4.45 Singing Spirits  
Friday:       9.30-11.30 Wesleys Baby and Toddler Group  
                  2.00pm Cake and Company

**Plus the opportunity to drop in for a cuppa any morning at church**

Items for December needed by **Sunday 27th November** by Sheila Giles S/A 296789 or e.mail to [sdgreporting@mypostoffice.co.uk](mailto:sdgreporting@mypostoffice.co.uk)