



The **Methodist** Church

Thirsk and Northallerton Circuit Magazine



Christmas 2017

magazine@northallertonmethodistchurch.org.uk

Dear friends,

It is often said that 'Christmas gets earlier each year' and there is plenty of evidence to suggest this is true. Shops play carols, Christmas decorations go up in our High Streets, mince pies are consumed and all manner of festivities are encouraged well before the 25th December as businesses seek to maximise the commercial potential of the festive season. The result of all this can be a kind of Christmas fatigue, or disappointment when the day finally comes. Advent, when it is recognised at all, is usually seen as little more than a countdown to Christmas.

I cannot help but think that we are all missing something important if Christmas is our only focus in the several weeks before the 25th. The value of Advent is that it puts Christmas into context. Christmas is not just a celebration of the good life. It is not just a piece of hedonism set in the midst of a life which is pretty good anyway. Christmas is about good news set in the middle of struggle. This is what we see in the birth of Jesus, when the son of God is born in abject poverty to a couple who are caught up in a desperate struggle for survival. It is wonderful to see that God's plan is revealed in the middle of all the worst that human life can offer.

Advent is a more sombre season than Christmas. In Advent we explore themes of hope, judgement, expectation, longing and love. We see the evil in the world around us with open eyes and long for a time when there may be justice and change for all. Advent is about finding the light of hope in a dark world. Through Advent we pray that we may be transformed so that we can carry the light of hope to others.



Unless we step away from the celebrations for a time we miss all this. At the heart of Christmas is considerable pain. Indeed for some people in our congregations Christmas is unbearably painful. Advent gives us the opportunity to wrestle with that and wonder how we might respond.

It is only when we see the darkness, we begin to truly appreciate the light of Christ. May our observance of Advent and our celebration of Christmas this year fill us with hope for ourselves and for our world.



Revd. David Godfrey

Ainderby Steeple, 13th August 2017

Dear Dianne and other 'knitters',

I am writing on behalf of Liz Mortimer, I am Joyce Gregg, one of her carers. I have known Liz for over 4 years now and so feel I know her well, almost as if she were a family member. Garry Mortimer, Liz's eldest son, brought a fidget muff for Liz from yourselves. We named it 'Mr Fidgett' and it was a complete success.

So much so that when my granddaughter visited (6 months old) and took hold of Mr Fidgett, Liz said firmly "That's not yours, it's mine." Garry has now brought Mrs Fidgett to join our 'family' here. Liz really enjoys the different textures and sleeps with it on her right arm during the night.

Thank you so much and God bless,

Joyce



Circuit Project

This year's project made a good start at the Circuit Service in September. Since then the total raised for the Friends of Khasodibir for their work in Bangladesh, one of the poorest countries in the world, has reached £1,244.12. Many of you will be trying to find answers to Mary Edward's quiz, and other events are coming up. Please continue supporting this worthy cause .



It seems as though no sooner have we started on one year's Project than we have to start thinking about the next one. In 2018/19 it will be supporting work in this country. At its meeting on February 6 the Circuit Missions Committee will decide which project to recommend to the Circuit for approval. If there is something you would like to suggest please send a description to our secretary:

Annie Rothenberger

65 South Parade

Northallerton

DL7 8SL

by Sunday January 21, so that it can be circulated to the Committee in good time.

Meanwhile we continue to focus on the work of the Friends of Khasodibir.

Michael Webster

JMA Report

JMA has had an outstanding year and a grand total of £1281 has been raised which is the highest amount ever collected in the Circuit according to my records. This is primarily a result of the fantastic efforts of Elise and Annie Reed who collected £313 each and the Kitching Family who have raised £170. Thanks are also expressed to Jill Harker who is the local JMA representative at Northallerton and has supported and encouraged the children during the year.



Across the Circuit there are 6 collectors at Sowerby, 9 at Northallerton, 2 at Brompton, Appleton Wiske make a £50 donation and envelope collections take place at Maunby (£31) and Romanby (£28). We are pleased to have Chris Rouse and Margaret Stevenson as new collectors at Sowerby and Mary Ewin at Northallerton. Medals and certificates have been distributed to the Churches for presentation at an appropriate service. The collectors also receive the Rainbow magazine quarterly which describes the projects that JMA funds are supporting.

Huge thanks are expressed to the children's parents and their contributors for their ongoing financial commitment to the work of JMA supporting Methodist children's projects and making a positive difference to lives. Grateful thanks also to the children for their interest, tireless enthusiasm and dedication to JMA during the year. It is a privilege to be involved in such a well-supported successful part of mission work.

Catherine Woods, JMA Secretary



Northallerton Methodist Church

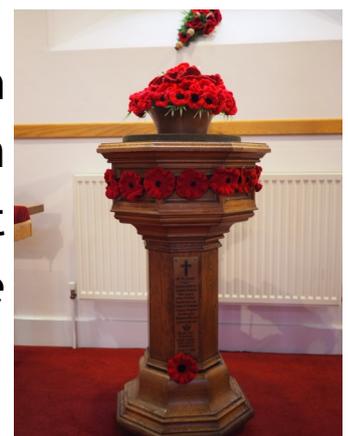
“Lest We Forget 1914 - 1918”

As we approach the Centenary of the ending of World War I, next year, Northallerton Methodist Church held a Festival of Remembrance which included a display of Poppies and an audio visual presentation. There were over 3000 poppies in the display which were knitted or crocheted by members and friends of the church. The Chapel was open each morning from the 1st to the 15th November for a daily meditation and the opportunity to reflect on and pray for peace in our troubled world.



During the period of the Festival a large number of people visited the chapel. They expressed their appreciation at being able to come into church at this time of year when we remember those who have been lost in conflicts over the years. Many of the visitors said how moved they had been by the Festival. There were also a number of people who, having visited themselves, returned for further visits bringing friends with them.

Thanks to all those who helped in any way with the Festival, Poppy Makers, Stewards, Mediation Leaders, Audio Visual Designer, etc, but especially to all the visitors who came to share in the Festival.



Noah



Have you ever watched the 2014 film Noah, with Russell Crowe, Emma Watson and Anthony Hopkins? I saw it recently and it was certainly very different to my childhood memories of Noah!

It begins with a brief outline of Noah's ancestry focussing particularly on the story of Cain and Abel, during which we are introduced to the 'Fallen Angels' or 'Watchers'. They came to earth to help Cain and his descendants after the murder of Abel, and so had fallen out of favour with 'The Creator.' The Watchers appear as light encased in rock, and are feared by humans. The film divides humans into two tribes, one descended from Cain who plunder creation and ignore The Creator, and the other descended from Cain's brother Seth, who live in harmony with and protect creation. Noah is the last of the Sethite tribe. He and his family live as vegans, determined to protect all wildlife. He has a dream in which he is told to build the ark and save creation from destruction. The film follows his determination to build the ark, his battle with the Cainites who also want to be saved, and his struggles to understand the will of The Creator.

I found the film very dark, both visually and in content. I would describe it as 'Noah meets Lord of the Rings' because there were battles on an epic scale between the two tribes who represented the good and evil in human



Nature, mythical beings with supernatural power in the Watchers and a Gandalf figure in the mystical patriarch who was Noah's grandfather, Methuselah.

Noah and his family travel to Methuselah's mountain for help to understand the dream. He gives them a seed from the Garden of Eden which they plant and suddenly they have a forest which provides plenty of wood with which to build the ark. The Cainites come to find out what is going on, and attack Noah and his family. The Watchers defended Noah, moving their loyalties from evil to good, and so lost their stone casings and were taken back up to heaven as pure light.



I was puzzled by the shape of the ark, as it resembled a box rather than a traditional boat shape. I suspect it would struggle to float.

The creatures arrive at the ark in great numbers, and are somehow all found space. Once they are all aboard, Noah lights some incense, another gift from Methuselah, which sends them all to sleep. That's one way of solving the problem of feeding them!



While his family make last-minute preparations, Noah visits a nearby city to find wives for Ham and Japheth, but is shocked at how wicked the world is. He decides that his family will be the last of the human race as all humans contain some wickedness and this must not be allowed to continue.

As the rains start to fall, Noah returns to the ark, and makes sure his family are all safely aboard. The Cainite King manages to board the ark and hide. He is discovered by Ham, who initially sympathises with him and is persuaded to kill Noah. He eventually has second thoughts and fights with and kills the King.

Other than the factual ancestry and the building of the ark, the story so far bears very little similarity with the story in Genesis 6. We now pick up that story when first a raven and then a dove are released from the ark. The dove returns with an olive branch and eventually the ark lands safely. Despite being told in Genesis that Noah, his wife, their sons and their wives are on the ark, in the film only Shem has a wife, who gives birth to twin daughters. At first Noah thinks that the Creator wants him to kill off the human race, but later Noah tells God that he cannot kill these children, changes his mind about the end of civilisation, and the family are re-united.

The main themes running through this story are that God does not abandon us, and we should always have hope. These are shown through the new creation after the flood, the Watchers being taken up to heaven, Noah deciding not to kill his grandchildren and the end of the evil Cainite tribe.

I found the additional material frustrating and irritating at times, but also thought-provoking. However, to someone who does not know the Biblical story it could give a very confusing message about the way God deals with the human race.

These are my thoughts - perhaps you have seen the film and have a very different view of it.

Val Heward

Toilet Twinning

You've heard of twinned towns, but what about twinned toilets?!

Toilet Twinning is a great way to support the work of international relief and development agency Tearfund. By donating £60 to twin your toilet, you help those in desperate poverty to have access to a proper latrine, clean water and the information they need to be healthy.

Did you know? . . .

2.3 billion people don't have somewhere safe and hygienic to go to the toilet. (WHO/Unicef)

663 million people live without safe clean water. (Unicef)

Almost 1,000 children die every day from preventable diseases linked to dirty water and unsafe toilets. (UN)

Children worldwide miss 443 million school days each year because of dirty water and poor sanitation. (UN)

The lack of a loo makes women and girls vulnerable to attack as they go to the toilet in the open, late at night.

Your Toilet Twinning donation will be used to provide clean water, basic sanitation, and hygiene education, through Tearfund's sustainable approach of 'community led total sanitation'. The resulting health improvements have wide-ranging and long-lasting beneficial effects, eg. increasing school attendance and ability to work, therefore enabling people to break out of the vicious cycle of poverty, so it is very cost-effective.





For a £60 donation, you can twin your loo with an impoverished family's household latrine, in a country of your choosing. Or, if you're feeling 'flush' (sorry!), for a £240 donation you can twin with a school block or a block of toilets in

a displacement camp. Your smallest room becomes the proud owner of a certificate, complete with a colour photo of its twin and GPS coordinates so you can look it up on Google Maps. So every time you use your own loo the certificate reminds you of the wonderful difference you've made to a family's life.

Twin your toilet(s) at home, at church, school, work or wherever. Our loo at home is twinned with a latrine in the Democratic Republic of Congo, while many churches, including Sowerby and Northallerton Methodist Churches have twinned their toilets with a variety of countries in the developing world. Why not give, or ask for, toilet twinning as a Christmas or birthday present?

To twin your toilet or find out more, visit www.toilettwinning.org.uk or phone 0300 321 3217.



Just a reminder that you can still order a rose in memory of Wendy Reed. See last quarter's circuit magazine.



Contact Derek & Iris Smith.

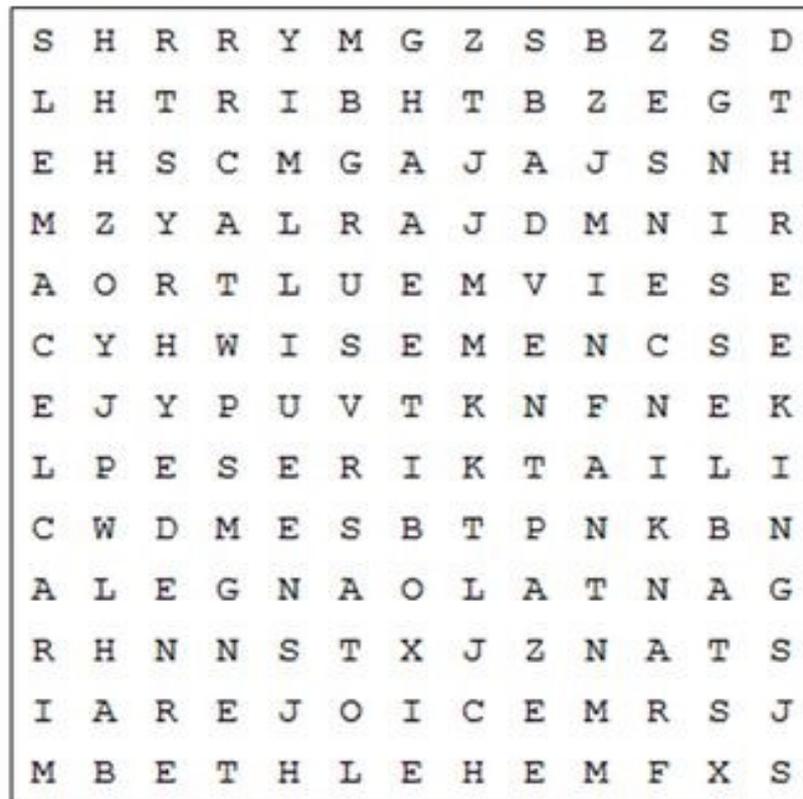
Tel 01609 774060. Email derekirissmith@googlemail.com

Or Caroline Kitching

Tel 01609 761237. Email cekitching@googlemail.com



Joy to the World



ADVENT
ANGEL
BETHLEHEM
BIRTH
BLESSINGS
CAMELS
FRANKINCENSE

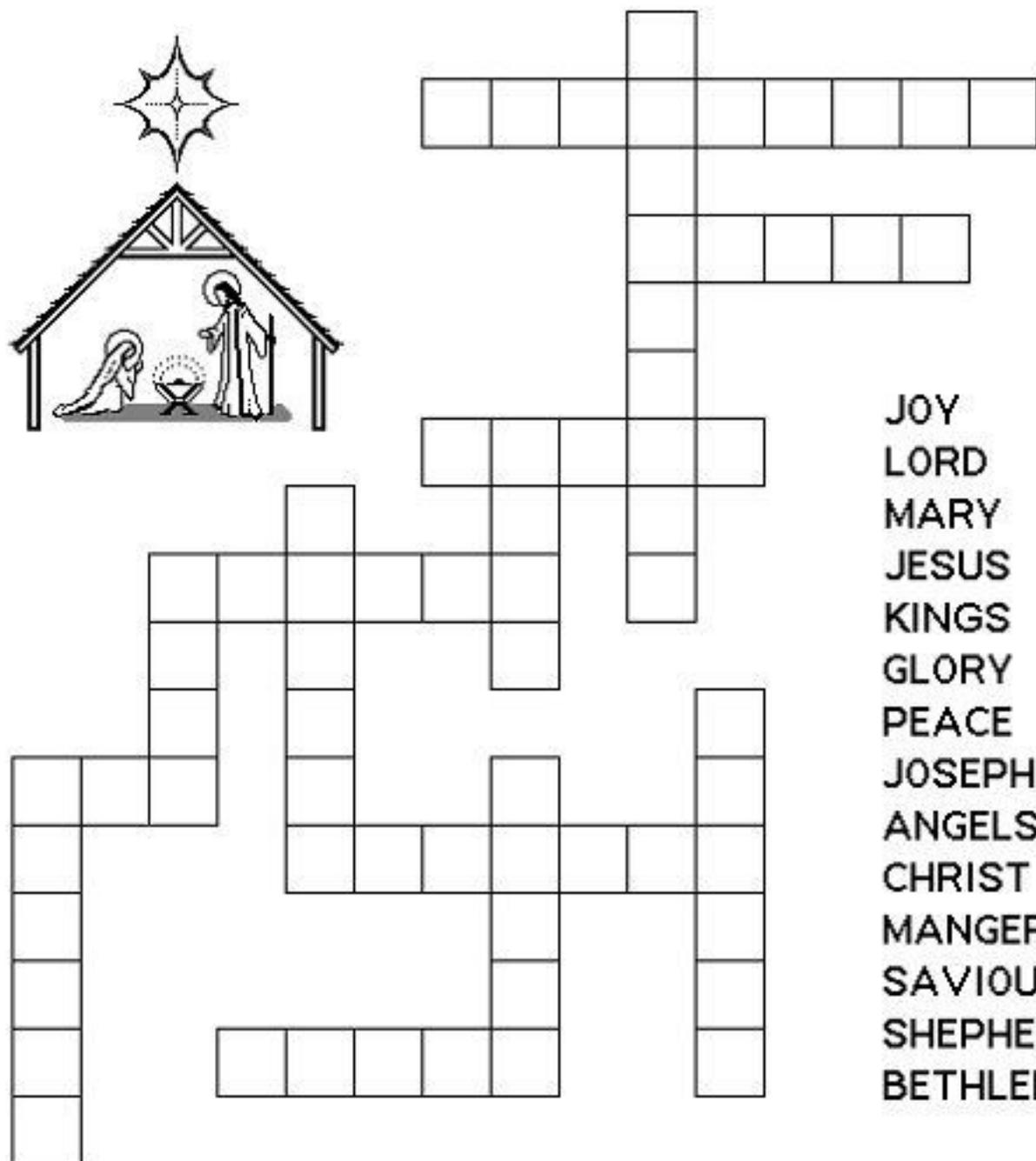
INFANT
JESUS
JOSEPH
MAGI
MANGER
MARY
MIRACLE

MYRRH
NATIVITY
REJOICE
STABLE
STAR
THREE KINGS
WISE MEN



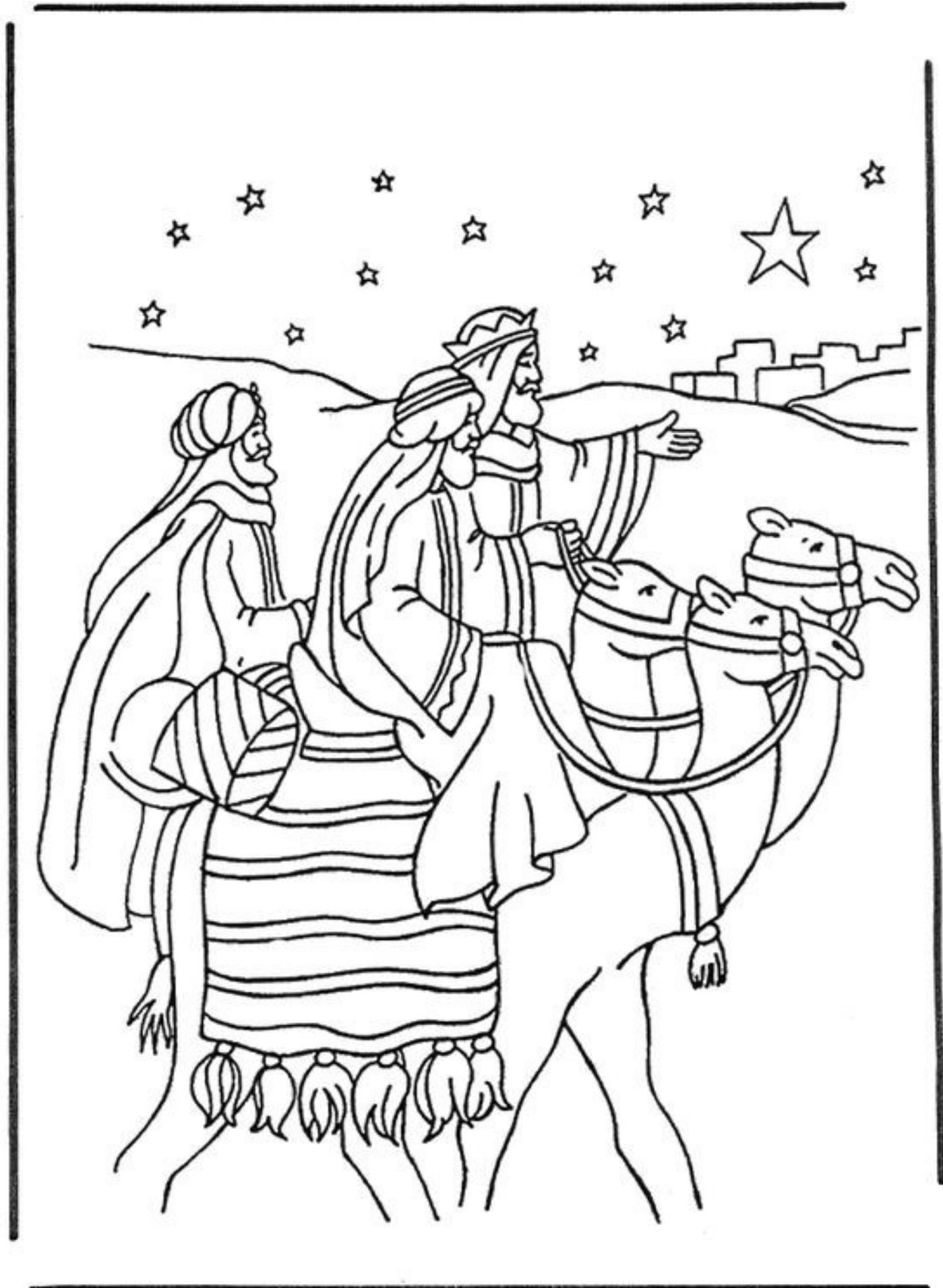
Christmas Crossword

Make all the words fit into this crossword.
Each word is only used once.



JOY
LORD
MARY
JESUS
KINGS
GLORY
PEACE
JOSEPH
ANGELS
CHRIST
MANGER
SAVIOUR
SHEPHERDS
BETHLEHEM

The three Magi follow the star to Bethlehem





The event that gets
CHRISTMAS really going!

SING CAROLS WITH US

at

Northallerton Methodist Church

featuring the Choir, Music Group
and the 1st Northallerton Girls Brigade

Friday 22 December 2017 at 7.00 p.m.

Collection for ACTION FOR CHILDREN

Due to popularity this event has to be ticket only. Tickets are FREE but please get yours early from Church members, from Church Coffee Pot on Wednesday and Saturday mornings, or by telephoning 01609 776590.

AND PLEASE RETURN ANY TICKETS
YOU FIND YOU CANNOT USE

Action for Children Charity Number
1097940



Yorkshire North and East District invite you to our annual

LAY SYNOD

Saturday 10th March 2018
at Haxby Methodist Church
10.30am to 4.00pm

Morning Worship at 10.30am

Followed by an introductory session and lunch which will be
provided

Our keynote speaker will be

Mr Doug Swanney

Connexional Secretary

‘Living out Our Calling, together’

And an opportunity for
Group Discussion

The opportunity for you to raise your own concerns



This day will be of interest to all Lay People whether or not you hold office in the Church. Please come and worship with us and join in the discussion

If you would like to be present please let Siân Henderson at the District Office know ASAP giving your name and letting us know if you would like lunch.

admin@yorkshirenemethodist.org Tel 01904 786275

David Chambers, a member of Northallerton who died recently, was an inveterate letter writer to newspapers. What follows is an example of his letter-writing and of his sense of humour. Many of us can relate to what he describes.

In the eyes of my daughter I am a vague old buffer who is never inclined to raise a fuss.

With a touching concern over my age and cardiac history she has given me a nearly new mobile telephone, a tiny object devoid of any form of mouth piece, and ordered me always to have it by me in the car or away from home. I gather that it is very much a “bread and butter” model. “It doesn’t take photos”, she said, which I thought was a strange thing to say. However, she recorded several appropriate numbers in its phone book, which is carried somewhere within its casing.



After she returned to her home in France, I spent a session trying to “access” the phone book, without success. Since then I have devoted several more sessions to this end, sometimes assisted by friends and relatives, and only once succeeding. How this came about I cannot remember.

I shall certainly follow my daughter’s good advice, and can only hope that in the event of a sticky situation there will be on hand a knowledgeable person, a school child perhaps, who can persuade my “mobile” to perform its function. More likely I will prevail upon the ward sister to put me through on the hospital’s electric telephone. But I wouldn’t want to raise a fuss.

David Chambers

February 2012

Christmas Cribs Festival at Romanby Methodist Church

SATURDAY 16th DECEMBER 2017 from 10am to 4pm

There is a marvellous variety of depictions of the Stable and Manger with Figures, from ancient to modern and large to tiny, some heirlooms and some recently bought.

This year the COGs Nativity Service is on Sunday 17th December and children from Romanby Primary School will visit the church on Monday 18th and Wednesday 20th. These dates have fixed the weekend timing of our planned Christmas Cribs Festival.

We are asking all members of Romanby and other Chapels to find their boxes of decorations early, dig out and bring in any and all kinds of Nativity Scene showing the crib with Jesus and the Holy Family, with or without Magi, shepherds, angels, animals and building or cave. These could be solid or cut-out figures in various materials, bas-reliefs or pictures, etc.

You may like to include a written description of its source and what it means to you, such as it being a childhood memento. These would be typed and mounted for the public exhibition, similar to the displays in previous flower and Bible festivals and open for all visitors.





It would be most helpful if your cribs could be brought to the church or to John Parkinson, 14 Grange Close, 774557, early in December so that suitable space and sequence can be arranged.

Please ensure that all packaging is protective, secure and address labelled for identification. Items will be returned immediately after 20th December for your home decoration.

We trust that from Saturday to Wednesday this will be an attractive occasion for a joyous demonstration of the Real Christmas, so please contribute and enjoy them all.

The President's Partnership Day

On Tuesday 24th October the newly formed Yorkshire North and East District of Methodist Women in Britain held the President's Partnership Day at Sowerby Methodist Church.



In spite of the dreadful weather that morning, 30 people had travelled from as far away as Leeds and Sherburn in Elmet to be there.

The new president, Sandra Goodwin, has chosen Cricket Without Boundaries and IDAS as her charities and was introducing them.



Our morning session was led by a volunteer with Cricket Without Boundaries. She was a very enthusiastic speaker who had experienced first hand the success of the project in Uganda. The charity is primarily a health care charity working to promote awareness of the causes of HIV/Aids and methods of prevention. This is done by way of links with the game of cricket.

After a well stocked bring and share lunch, where we were able to socialise and eat our fill, we watched quite a moving film, following The Masai Warriors cricket team as they prepared to visit England and Lord's Cricket Ground. We saw just how much the experience meant to them, even though, sadly, they lost every match they played.

The president then introduced us to her second charity, IDAS (Independent Domestic Abuse Services) which covers North Yorkshire, York and Beverley. The speaker spoke very frankly about the many kinds of abuse that goes on in this area and the very great need for everyone to be aware of the seriousness of this and that there is help available.

The day was challenging and informative. It was good to meet the new President and to enjoy a time of fellowship with others from across the District.



HOW

**ACTION FOR
CHILDREN**

WORKS

Sincere thanks to Audrey Powell from Sowerby for doing a Sponsored Swim. The sum of £440 was raised by her wonderful effort.



UNDER THE MANGO TREE

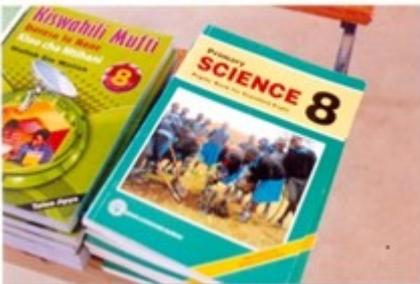
www.underthemangotree.org.uk



- Good things are still happening -
- Another classroom completed.
 - Another being built.
 - Nursery children fully funded.
 - School certificate exams now taken by older children.

And much more....

We are aware that there are many demands on our charitable giving but we are asking you to consider two easy ways of helping us -



1. Consider giving a gift of textbooks at £10, or a desk and chair at £57 (or a smaller amount towards this) in lieu of Christmas presents for your friends and relatives who have everything!

2. Book a holiday with Riviera Travel and mention UTMT. We are affinity partners with them and they give us 10% of the cost of your holiday - at no cost to you! They offer cruises, worldwide travel and city breaks and are highly recommended.



Have a look at their website. www.rivieratravel.co.uk

Thank you again for your support

Derek and Iris Smith. UTMT Charity Trustees

Tel 01609 774060. Email: derekirissmith@googlemail.com

Circuit Diary

December			
Saturday	16th	10am— 4pm	Nativity Crib Festival at Romanby Methodist Church Exhibitions and personal stories about family Christmas scenes of all types. Bring yours for display and enjoy all those on show - details from John Parkinson.
			
Tuesday	19th	6.30pm	Carol singing around Appleton Wiske village starting at the Methodist chapel.
Tuesday	19th	7pm	Carols around the
			
Friday	22nd	7pm	Sing Carols at Northallerton Methodist Church. Admission by ticket only available from church.
Saturday	23rd	2.30pm	Christingle at Northallerton Methodist Church.
			
Christmas Eve	24th	11pm	Ecumenical Holy Communion for Christmas Eve at St Oswald's Church.
			

Christmas Day	25th	9am	All Age Communion for Christmas at St Columba's Church, Topcliffe.
Christmas Day	25th	9am	Christmas Morning service at Appleton Wiske Methodist Church.
Christmas Day	25th	10am	Christmas Morning service at Brompton Methodist Church.
Christmas Day	25th	10.30am	Christmas Day service at Northallerton Methodist Church.
Christmas Day	25th	10.30am	All Age Worship for Christmas at Sowerby Methodist Church.
Christmas Day	25th	11am	Christmas Day service at Romanby Methodist Church.
January			
February			
Tuesday	19th	Tbc	Soup and Pancakes at Northallerton Methodist Church.



Thirsk and Northallerton Circuit

from the Registers

Baptisms

Peighton Sheila Bradley at Northallerton Methodist Church on 3rd September 2017

Rebecca Ann Durham at Northallerton Methodist Church on 1st October 2017

Henry Philip Green at Northallerton Methodist Church on 22nd October 2017

Aurora-Lee Brown at Northallerton Methodist Church on 29th October 2017

Charlotte Janet Jackson at Northallerton Methodist Church on 5th November 2017

Jaxon Allen John Whitwell at Northallerton Methodist Church on 26th November 2017



Weddings

There were no weddings September–November 2017



Funerals for the late:

✝ Mr David Chambers on Monday 21st August at Northallerton Methodist Church

✝ Mrs Betty Sadler on Wednesday 13th September at Northallerton Methodist Church

✝ Mrs Beatrice Hardcastle on Thursday 19th October at Northallerton Methodist Church

✝ Mr Robert Reeves on Wednesday 25th October at Northallerton Methodist Church

Items for the next edition are needed by 1st February 2018

magazine@northallertonmethodistchurch.org.uk