The **Methodist** Church

Thirsk and Northallerton Circuit Magazine



Winter 2018

magazine@northallertonmethodistchurch.org.uk

Dear Friends

Advent and Christmas greetings to you all!

At our recent circuit meeting it was suggested that I use this letter to share a little information about our new 'Pastoral and Development Worker with Older People'. You may recall that this post came about because of our very successful Circuit Mission Project for MHA dementia care. We decided to employ someone because we felt that the church



could set a gold standard in offering care for older people with dementia and other vulnerabilities. With the blessing of the circuit meeting, we advertised the post in the spring of this year. Unfortunately, our first attempt to appoint was unsuccessful, however a more positive result came about in the autumn when we re-advertised, interviewed and appointed Helen McCormack to the role.

Helen is presently a probation officer who lives in the south of our circuit, but who works in Northallerton. In her present role she is used to dealing with vulnerable adults and to working across many statutory and voluntary agencies. She has a strong Christian faith and attends St Oswald's church in Sowerby. Helen has agreed to take up her new post with us on 2nd January 2019. Helen says she is looking forward to getting to know the churches and to meeting key people within them. We have suggested that she has a circuit commissioning at our circuit service on 3rd February 2019, so please put this date in your diaries and come along to Romanby Methodist Church at 10:30am to meet her.

It is important to mention at this stage, that while the Methodist Church is the formal employer of Helen, our friends at Zion URC have been instrumental in forming this post with us, and are buying into Helen's time as well. We view this as a joint appointment with the URC. Helen will therefore divide her time fairly between the whole circuit, Zion URC and the wider community outside the church.

To give you an idea of the scope of this appointment, the objectives declared in the job description are as follows:

To develop and build, in a Christian context, on the pastoral care of an increasingly ageing church membership with particular awareness of the need to become dementia allies to those who live with this disability.

To be committed to ensuring that vulnerable adults are valued within the wider community and enabled to play a full part in the life of the church.

To build links between churches, wider communities, statutory and voluntary organisations.

To nurture and encourage the development of Christian spirituality in older people.

We look forward to welcoming Helen in the new year when she will begin to make contact with the churches and with other agencies. Please remember her in your prayers as her present employment draws to a close and as she begins to prepare for this new role.

May I end by commending to you the Advent and Christmas services and events in all our churches and wishing you all a peaceful and happy Christmas.

Revd. David Godfrey



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 21 December 2018 at 7.00 p.m.

Collection for ACTION FOR CHILDREN

Due to popularity this event has to be <u>ticket only</u>. Tickets are FREE but please get yours <u>early</u> 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

Ann Eggleton

My name is Ann Eggleton. I have been a part of the Methodist Church my entire life and have been asked to share my story with you.

As a three month old baby, my mother an unmarried mother, (sin of sin in those days) put me into foster care. My foster mother was Miss Becky Kirby of West End House, Thornton —Le — Beans. Aunty as I always called her was 60 years old and disabled, she spent her entire life at ground level. Her sister lived with her and she did all the housework etc., but she died when I was 11 years old so I have been running a home ever since. I had a wonderful childhood. There was very little money but so much love and kindness so as a child I didn't miss having a real Mum, it was only later that I queried why I had an aunty when all my friend had a mum. I attended the village school until I was eleven then went to Northallerton Grammar school and the Methodist Sunday School and took an active part in church life as I grew older. As Aunty got older and more infirm and as she had always been my mum



I became her carer at a very early age. After her death I did try to find my mother but only had her name and that she came from Barnard Castle, I didn't succeed. However earlier this year my granddaughter Helen, with my permission and her diligence and modern technology found that I had a sister called Margaret who lives in Wakefield. Helen got in touch and very tactfully told her about me and that we both had the same mother. She was in shock! My mother had never mentioned me.

Margaret who is 5 years younger than me was born after my mother married. I also had a brother John who died a few years ago. Margaret invited us to her home. I'll never forget the journey, I was excited and nervous wondering how we would feel when we met. I needn't have worried, she made us so welcome, hugs and lots of tears. I now know some things about my mother and that she was happily married. Margaret has been to visit us, we took her to Thornton-Le-Beans, showed he the house where I grew up, the school and of course the Methodist Church. We still have a lot of catching up to do, our lives have been so different. We are certainly going to keep in touch. I cannot believe that after 86 years I have found a sister and my daughter has a "real" aunty, although no one can take the place of my Aunty Becky, the most wonderful person I have ever known. This is an added blessing and to have photographs of the mother I never knew means so much.





St. James' Green Methodist Church

Invites you to join us to celebrate Christmas.

Please join us for

Coffee and Chat on Saturday 22nd December 10am -12noon

Meet friends and neighbours and leave a message on our new Christmas Memory Tree. P.T.O

Carols on Sunday 23rd December at 10.30 -11.30am

Traditional Carols and the Christmas Story

Christmas Celebration Service on Sunday 30th December at 10.30 -11.30am

Rediscovering "The 12 Days of Christmas" song.

All Welcome.



The Christmas Memory Tree



We invite you to leave a prayer or memory of someone on the Christmas Tree which is in the Foyer of the church. There is no charge.

Christmas can be a very difficult or sad time for many people who have suffered a loss in their lives or who are having a tough time this year.

The simply decorated Memory Tree is an opportunity to remember someone or to offer a prayer for someone.

Simply write your message or prayer or the name of a loved one on the label. Please do not add any personal details.

The labels will be attached to a tree bauble and hung on the tree by members of the church.

During our Sunday Worship Services in December we will offer the prayers and the people named to God.

The church is open every Sunday in December between 10am and 12noon to enable you to write a message. Worship takes place between 10.30am and 11.30am each Sunday.

On Saturday 22nd December the church is holding a Coffee Morning from 10am - 12noon and you can also write a message/prayer for the Memory Tree.

JMA



JMA has had another outstanding year and a grand total of £1338.69 has been collected across the circuit which is an increase of

£57.69 from last year. This fantastic result is primarily due to Elise and Annie Reed who have raised £327.50 each, the Kitching Family who have collected £180 and Appleton Wiske Chapel who have increased their donation to £100 this year.

Across the Circuit there are 6 collectors at Sowerby, 8 at Northallerton, 2 at Brompton and envelope collections take place at Maunby (£23.50) and Romanby (£28). Tom Eynon from Northallerton has stopped collecting. Medals and certificates have been distributed to all the Churches for presentation at an appropriate service including long service certificates (7 years) for Elise Reed and Abigail Warren. The Rainbow Magazine is distributed to all collectors and includes interesting articles on projects that are supported by JMA money.

Grateful thanks are expressed to the individual Church JMA representatives who liaise with the children and help with collecting and counting the money. I would also like to say a very big thank you to all the children, their parents and to all the generous and kind contributors. It is so encouraging to witness the enthusiasm and dedication to JMA and to be part of the increasingly successful collections for mission work. Thanks again to everyone involved with JMA.

Best Wishes
Catherine Woods



CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH





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> BELLS CANDLES CANDYCANE CARDS CELEBRATE CHIMNEY CHRISTMAS

RUDOLPH SANTA SEASON SLEIGH STOCKING TREE WREATH

ELVES FROSTY GIFT GIVING GREETINGS HOLIDAY JOLLY JOY MERRY MISTLETOE NOEL NORTHPOLE REINDEER



HAPPINESS IS HOMEMADE.COM

WORD SEARCH CREATED AT ATOZTEACHERSTUFF COM







Stan Everington

Stan was born in Netherfield, an industrial suburb of Nottingham on 20th May 1924,

and was the second youngest of eight children. His father, a railway guard, worked long hours and extra shifts in order to feed the family. His mother worked equally long hours at home and all the children were allocated daily jobs. As soon as he was old enough to pull a small cart, Stan's main job was looking after the family's pigs on the nearby allotment. Twice a week he ran up and down steep hills, collecting food waste from relatives and friends before making the pig mash in the allotment boiler. From the age of 5 he attended Ashwell Street Primitive Methodist Church and received his Sunday School book prize each year for excellent attendance. He can still remember some of the poems he recited at the Sunday School Anniversaries!

At the age of 14 he left school and started working for the Cooperative Society as an errand boy; weighing out groceries, sweeping the floor and making deliveries by bike. The manager recognised his potential and he was transferred to the office and sent to night classes, to study book keeping and accounts, in the city centre. WWII had started by this stage so journeys into the city centre were often hazardous and were always undertaken with a gas mask in hand. Air raid warnings would sound, and people had to dash to the nearest shelter for safety, only to find when they emerged that transport wasn't running, and it was a long walk home through unlit streets. Stan acted as a fire warden and after work used to take turns to sit up all night to ensure that if the Co-op building caught fire, they were able to tackle the blaze quickly. There was no air raid shelter, so they hid under the stairs when the bombs were landing nearby.

When Stan was 'called up' he was determined to be different from all his friends and brothers. He had been to Skegness and Cleethorpes and liked the seaside, so he thought it would be fun to join the Navy! Despite having lost three fingers on his left hand in a childhood accident, he was determined that he wouldn't be seen as 'unfit for service'. After training as a coder, he was dispatched to Gibraltar and worked in the navy quarters. Life was good; nice weather, plentiful food and lots of Wrens! But after four months he was assigned to HMS Wanderer, a veteran frigate from WW1, nicknamed the 'rust bucket'. There were insufficient quarters for all the crew so Stan's billet was the floor under the mess room table, with his life jacket as a pillow. Arduous journeys across the North Atlantic in winter storms, protecting merchant ships from German U-boats, soon became the norm. But these harsh conditions soon paled into insignificance when they were assigned to Arctic Convoys from Scapa Flow to Murmansk. A ship that constantly iced up resulted in many so called 'off-duty hours' being spent chipping ice off the deck and guns, to prevent the ship from 'turning turtle'. Violent seas, inadequate Arctic clothing, and the constant threat of attack were frightening, but everyone got on with the job in hand and dared not think of the consequences. However, morale was shattered when their sister ship, HMS Mahratta was torpedoed on the largest ever convoy to Russia. They were patrolling at the rear with Mahratta and watched in horror as she sank within seconds and only a few lives were saved. Reality struck it could have been them.

Stan's ship was then involved in the D-Day landings, protecting USA troops as they crossed the Channel from Plymouth, making numerous return trips over the space of a few weeks.

After a brief spell in Germany, Stan, was finally de-mobbed and returned to Netherfield Cooperative. He then worked at Ruddington Cooperative Society before moving to Northallerton & District Cooperative Society in 1954. Stan, like so many men, never spoke about his experiences during the war. He put it all behind him and got on with life. It was only when his eldest grandson asked him about his time in the Navy that the family heard his story.

It took many years before the Arctic Convoy veterans were awarded a medal by the government in recognition of their bravery, and when Stan received a phone call from the Russian Embassy in August 2016 saying they wanted to send a diplomat to present him with The Ushakov Medal from Vladimir Putin for his service in the Arctic Convoys, he thought it was a hoax! He duly received it a few days later. To mark the 70th anniversary of D-Day in June 2014, the French President announced that the Legion d'Honneur would be awarded to all British veterans who fought for the liberation of France during WWII and Stan received this medal earlier this year on June 16th 2018.



Minden, Germany May 1945

Legion d'Honneur June 2018



CIRCUIT MISSION PROJECTS

We have received an informative and encouraging newsletter from the Friends of Khashdobir, for which we raised £7555.60 as last year's special project. In it, our contribution is acknowledged and work it helped to fund is described. A copy of the newsletter will shortly be available in every church.

After the success of last year's project, we are off to a great start with the new one – supporting Action for Children's work with young carers in Harrogate and Craven. So far the circuit has raised £2156.65! Local churches are holding events and making donations and in March there will be a circuit event – a concert by Alverton Brass. Thank you to everyone whose generosity has helped.

At the next meeting of the Circuit Missions Committee we shall be thinking about what project to recommend to the Circuit Meeting for next year. It will be one for overseas work. If you would like to suggest something, please send details to the circuit office by 19th February.

The

Thirsk and Northallerton Methodist Church Circuit Missions committee

needs a secretary. There are only two meetings a year, usually February and October, and having email makes the job much simpler. If you think you might like to try, please contact Reverend Michael Webster



UNDER THE MANGO TREE

www.underthemangotree.org.uk

We are aware that there are many demands on our



charítable gíving, especially in the run up to Christmas but we are wondering if you could spare a little for the children at Kambetímboní School please.



- Consider giving a gift of textbooks at £10, or a desk and chair at £50 (or a smaller amount towards this) in lieu of Christmas presents for your friends and relatives who have everything!
- 2. During the long Christmas school holiday the children miss out on their daily meal which puts a strain on the family budget. This particularly applies to families who have taken in orphans and we are again appealing for funds to provide 30 orphans with a parcel at Christmas. This will not be packed with presents but will include daily staples of maize flour, rice, sugar, olive oil, kidney beans and salt. A T-shirt will also be included as a present. These parcels will cost £12 per child but any contribution will be gratefully received.

Also at this time of year you will be planning your holidays for 2019. Don't forget that if you book a holiday with Riviera Travel and mention UTMT 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 Smith UTMT Charity Trustee, and Iris Smith, supporter.
Tel 01609 774060. Email: derekirissmith@googlemail.com
"Highroyd", Sandy Bank, Northallerton, North Yorkshire.
Please make cheques payable to "Under the Mango Tree"

Thailand and Cambodia

ON TO CAMBODIA

BY Lesley Hansen

After leaving our lovely host family in Thailand, we started the long bus journey over the border into Cambodia, a country we had been warned was even poorer than Thailand. The noisy Siem Reap area has an active tourist industry; clothes and souvenirs cost very few US dollars in the rowdy smelly market. The local transport, the Tuk Tuk, is everywhere. However, the village school nearby where we were to help was in a much quieter area.

Before we started work, we had a wonderful though long and tiring day visiting the temple at Angkor Wot and watching the sun rise and set over the lake next to the floating city where the oldest established fishing community live in poverty.

Our project was to build a small toilet block for the use of the community that people can safely use at night without fear of attack. In five days, our team of six women built this block. One man who had been a builder before retiring early with a heart problem gave us invaluable help and advice. His wife worked in the local market and gave us fruit, drinking water and coconut milk, despite her own poverty. We used the coconut shells as paint pots! It was hard, dusty work but so rewarding for us to have answered a real need.

The Cambodian people have suffered hugely under various oppressive regimes but they are so uncritical, generous and grateful. They are always busy, trying to learn English, to work their land and to sell the produce at market. Throughout all this, they have to cope with dirt, dust and polluted streams. Besides helping with the land work, the women often augmented their income by taking in laundry. When the children were not at school, they loved playing in the building sand we were using!

I hope we made a small difference to the lives of the people we met in Thailand and Cambodia. The experience has made a difference to me. In our busy lives, where money and possessions seem so important, we may have lost sight of what is really valuable. We live in a beautiful, rich world and my experiences in Thailand and Cambodia have made me so grateful for this.

O, Little Town of Bethlehem (or Bethlehem Now)

Singing the traditional carol 'While shepherds watched their flocks by night' in The Shepherds' Field Church in Bethlehem, on a hot June day this summer was a strange experience. Our 'not very musical voices' were absorbed by the 15 other much better tones of the rest of the group with whom we were visiting Palestine & Israel on a 'meet the people' pilgrimage.

As we were based in Bethlehem for 5 nights we gained some insight into what life is like now for its various residents. No longer a 'little town' but a city the size of Durham, Bethlehem is in reality a Palestinian suburb of East Jerusalem separated from Israeli Jerusalem by the West Bank Wall. The West Bank refers to the Palestinian Territories that Israel occupied after the Six-Day War in 1969 and The Separation Barrier/Wall now extends for 440 miles, twice the length of the original prewar demarcation 'Green line'. There are many thousands of Palestinian refugees or Internally Displaced Persons in Israel itself and in the Territories and on the hillsides where the shepherds grazed their flocks in Jesus' time are many illegal Israeli Settlements.

As tourists staying in Palestine we were free to travel between Bethlehem and Jerusalem via the checkpoints in the Barrier Wall. Our bus was never stopped for inspection but for Palestinians who work in Jerusalem a daily early morning queue, on foot, at the checkpoints can last hours. Security is everywhere. Usually in the hands of the IDF – Israeli Defence Force staffed largely by the heavily armed conscripted youth – girls aged 18 serve for 2 years the boys for 3 - who will stop and search on a whim. (see cartoon) Right up against one of the crossing points in the Separation Wall is the now famous 'Walled Off Hotel' belonging to Banksy, the well-known graffiti artist. It is a major tourist attraction as it houses a small museum describing the reality of life for so many Palestinians today. Above this is a gallery featuring local artists. Outside on the Wall itself is one mass of street art stretching as far as the eye can see. Adjoining the hotel is a shop selling post cards, posters and other souvenirs mostly by Banksy to further his support for the beleaguered Palestinians.

Our visit was a 'Meet the People' Pilgrimage led by an Irish Methodist Minister who is chaplain at Trinity College Dublin and a member of the Corrymeela Community. Reconciliation and Peace are the focus of this Community and a couple who volunteer there were also members of the group along with people associated with Trinity College. We were a mixture of Catholics, Protestants and some of no specific faith. Our leader had good contacts with Palestinians both Christian and Muslim and with Jewish Rabbis in Israel. We also had an official guide who was a Palestinian Lutheran Pastor. We stayed at the Christian owned Holy Family Hotel which was very near to Manger Square. On the very first morning we looked out from our 5th floor room to see sheep in a very scruffy field behind the bus station. By breakfast time this small flock had been rounded up and moved away. We never saw sheep again! Our daughter, Ruth, was part of the group as her Church of England Junior school in Barrow in Furness has a link with 'The School of Joy' – a special needs school in Bethlehem and she had made arrangements to visit it. Following a morning at the school, the head, Father Mamdouh Abu Sa'da, a Melkite Christian, came to our hotel that evening to tell us about the difficulties his school faces.

'Bethlehem' translates as 'house of bread' and there had been a Canaanite town on this site since at least 1,500 years BC. Years later it was the where David was crowned king and of course it's where Jesus was born. In the second century the city was destroyed by Emperor Hadrian but in the next century restoration began on the instructions of Empress Helena, mother of Constantine The Great, who declared in 313AD Christianity was to be the religion of the Roman Empire. It was Helena who devel-

oped the huge Church of the Nativity in Manger Square. Bethlehem flourished as a 'well to do' pilgrimage town with many monasteries and churches



Two centuries later Bethlehem came under Muslim rule but a treaty was signed quaranteeing Christians property rights and religious freedom. When the Crusaders arrived in 1099 they exchanged many resident Greek Orthodox clergy with Latin (Roman) Catholic ones and Bethlehem continued to prosper even under Ottoman rule. Britain took control of the region at the end of World War 1 and then in 1948 came the creation of the State of Israel followed by the Arab-Israeli War and the population swelled when Palestinian refugees poured into town. Many continue to live with their descendants in 3 refugee camps on the edge of the city. Over the years the percentage of Christians in Bethlehem has declined steadily to about ten percent today. Tourism is still important and the crafting of olive wood nativity figures and Christmas tree decorations is part of this but the economy of the Palestinian Authority is not good and some feel side -lined by the dominant Muslim local councils. Many of the better educated people have left for better prospects in North America and Western Europe. As Christmas comes around this year I can reflect in a different way on the familiar story. It was a dangerous undertaking in many respects for Mary and Joseph to make that ninety mile journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem. They were living in a land under occupation by a foreign power. Access to some areas may have been forbidden to them just as it is forbidden for many in Israel and Palestine today. The terrain was difficult too, some desert, some dense woodlands inhabited by wild animals in those days in the Jordan Valley and then the rocky tracks up into the hills where bandits could surprise weary travelers. Of course the rains would be starting to fall and it would have been freezing cold at night! They were compelled to fulfil an order of the civil authority but Mary was particularly aware of another compulsion - a prophetic message to fulfil! In the Church of the Nativity, below ground level down winding steps is the little grotto with a star set in the stone floor. It is claimed to be the actual site of

Christ birth. I knelt down and put my hand on that star and thought that hazardous journey with all its dangers and pain was worthwhile,

Thank you, Mary,





The Call is a worship event with worship leader, Matt Beckingham. Celebrating the Methodist Church's Our Calling, the event focuses on the four key ways we can live out our lives as Christians and Methodists. The Call will feature new songs including songs based around Our Calling, and the themes presented by the President and Vice President of Conference in recent years. These are sung alongside some wonderful, but less well-known songs from 'Singing the Faith', and new arrangements of all-time favourite hymns. The Call invites all members of the Circuit to come together and sing in worship.

Thursday March 7th 6.30 – 9.30pm at Saint James Green, Thirsk.

People from around the Circuit (from teens to retirees) are invited to a **choral / music workshop**. Those attending the workshop will then form a choir, taking part in The Call. The workshop is a fun & engaging session, open to anyone with an interest in singing, regardless of experience. Participants will learn choral arrangements of some of the songs, and leave the session with a good knowledge of what they will be singing on the night. Participants will also receive a CD with the songs, and a copy of the music.

Sunday March 24th 6.30pm at Northallerton Methodist Church. "The Call" – a Circuit Celebration Come together as a circuit for a great evening of worship and celebration, as we sing and consider Our Calling. How we serve. How we learn and care. How we worship. And how we share the good news.

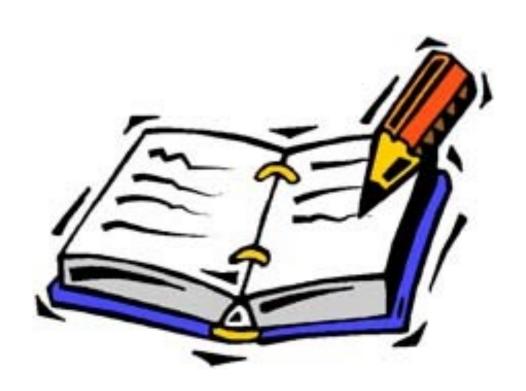
Further details and booking information will be circulated in the New Year. In the meantime if you need any further information please contact Rev Denise Williamson or Derek & Iris Smith derekirissmith@googlemail.com tel 01609 774060

For information, Matt Beckingham is a worship leader and conductor. As a Chorus Master he has worked with London Philharmonic Choir, London Symphony Chorus, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, BBC Proms Youth Choir, and Opera North, amongst others. As a worship leader, Matt leads at his local Methodist Church, and has been involved in leading worship at conferences and events including Greenbelt Festival, 3gen-

Circuit Diary

			December 2018	
Tuesday	11th	2.15pm	Northallerton Churches Ladies Together Advent Service at Thornton-Le-Beans Methodist Church	
Tuesday	18th	7pm	Carols around the Tree at Sowerby.	
Wednes- day	19th	11am	Carols in the Market Place Northallerton for Christian Aid	
Friday	21st	7рт	Sing Carols with Us at Northallerton Methodist Church. Admission by ticket only available at Coffee Pot	
Christmas Eve	24th	2.30pm	Christingle service at Northallerton Methodist Church	
Christmas Eve	24th	11pm	United Christmas Eve Communion service at St Oswald's Sowerby	
Christmas Eve	24th	11.15pm	Christmas Eve Midnight Communion service at Northallerton Methodist Church	
Christmas Day	25th	9am	Christmas Day Family service at Appleton Wiske Methodist Church	
Christmas Day	25th	9.30am	United Christmas Day Family service at Sowerby Methodist Church	
Christmas Day	25th	10am	Christmas Day Family service at Brompton Methodist Church	
Christmas Day	25th	11am	Christmas Day Family service at Romanby Methodist Church.	
Christmas Day	25th	11am	Christmas Day Family service at Northallerton Methodist Church.	

			January 2019
			February 2019
			March
Thursday	7th	Eve	"The Call" workshop at St James Green.
Sunday	24th	6.30pm	Circuit Celebration "The Call" at Northallerton.



Thirsk and Northallerton Circuit

from the Registers

Unfortunately due to the recent changes in GDPR rules we can no longer list any Deaths,

Baptisms and Marriages.

Sorry.

Items for the next edition are needed by 1st February 2019

magazine@northallertonmethodistchurch.org.uk

Please can you ensure that you have persimmon of all people mentioned in articles before sending to us. As without it we can not publish it.