

**Minister: Rev. Glen Graham 01884 34077    Church Secretary: Marilyn Bidmead 07749 086976**

**Hello, and welcome to our magazine. I hope you find something to inspire you this month.**

We have finally begun our Christmas shopping so the preparations are underway.

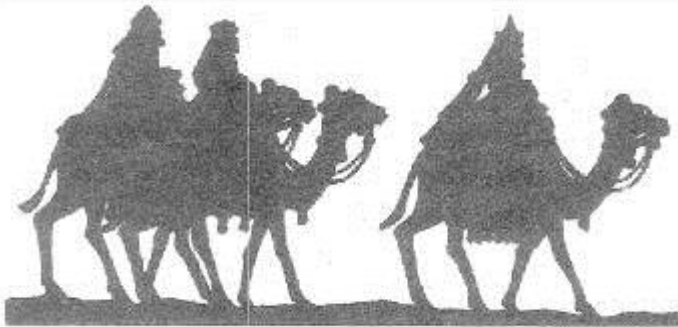
Advent is our much needed period of Spiritual preparation before we meet Christ on Christmas Day. This period is marked by three words.

**Waiting.** Israel were in a desperate state. They were under Roman rule which meant they were at odds with their new masters who believed Caesar was Lord. We live in a world where a variety of idols seek to get our attention. At this time of year consumerism is a huge temptation, enticing us into getting things we want, but we certainly don't need. The Israelites were waiting for the coming of the Messiah (or Saviour) who would restore their fortunes. Who do we trust to restore our fortunes? If this year has taught us anything it has taught us that politicians are powerless and ill-equipped to sort out the needs of this world. We wait once again for the one who comes with "*Healing in His wings*".

**Watching.** The shepherds may have just been doing what they always did, watching their flocks. God turned up in the form of a vulnerable baby, born in a cattle stall with a heavenly choir to announce his arrival. This would certainly have been a surprise to those shepherds who, upon hearing the news, left their sheep to see the King. God is at work all the time if we have eyes to see. You can see his face in the poor. We can see him at work in every act of kindness that comes our way. We can see him in the beauty of nature or through the pages of the Bible. Watch and see where God is working in your life.

**Hoping.** As folks gathered to adore the new baby boy in Bethlehem, great hope arose in each and every heart that beheld him. As we hear the familiar stories and sing familiar carols, may we behold him in new ways as we adore him. May hope arise in our hearts too.

You will see elsewhere in our magazine the time for all the events we are holding this Christmas time. It would be wonderful to see you during this period. If we don't see you may God bless you and yours this Christmas time.



Finally, I want to thank you for your love, support and friendship over the past year. We are a family of faith who love and sustain one another and I am greatly blessed to be a part of you.

May the Peace, Joy and Love of Christmas be with you all.

**Glen and Rowan Graham.**

### **Meeting Point.**

This has been the Friday coffee morning for a number of years. I can remember in the early days needing two people on duty, but then there were virtually no other places in the town to have a cup of coffee (or tea). Now the town is full of cafes and our numbers have dwindled to a few stalwarts. So from January 2017 there will be no Friday coffee morning. Perhaps we could support the Fairtrade morning—the second Saturday—when coffee is served, but no other Saturday.



### **Christmas Cards—Freda & Norman.**

For several years we have cut down the number of cards we send. We even email our Christmas message to friends around the world. We don't give cards to people we see over the Christmas time, instead we give a donation to Spurgeons for their young Child Carers work. So we say to you all have a Joyous, peaceful Christmas.

On behalf of us all I would like to thank Laurie for all he does to find lovely pictures and texts for the screen on Sunday. We were especially moved by the poppies and flowers for Remembrance Day, also the quiet, reflective music. Thank you, Laurie, we do appreciate it all. Also Angie deserves a thank you as she is there so early in the morning and often prepares the hall, the coffee machine and even the communion wine when necessary.

We look forward to more coffee mornings in their home which are usually on a Saturday. Watch for future dates.

Freda.

## Church Diary *Welcome!*

You are welcome to join in any of our activities. Newcomers to the town and holiday visitors are particularly welcome.



### House Group

Monday group, 10.30 am  
Tuesday group, 7.00 pm,  
venues to be given on Sunday  
previous.

### SUNDAY WORSHIP

Services are at 10.30 on a Sunday morning. We have a regular Morning Sunday School. Children take part in the 10.30 service before going to their own activity. Please join us after the service for coffee in the Hall.

4<sup>th</sup> am *Family Christmas Service*  
11<sup>th</sup> am Rev. Glen Graham  
—*Communion Service*  
18<sup>th</sup> pm **16.00** *Candlelit Carol Service*  
25<sup>th</sup> am **10.00** *Short Christmas Day Service*

January  
1<sup>st</sup> am **10.00** *Mince Pie Cafe Service*  
in Schoolroom

### Noah's Ark Nativity

Wed. 14 Dec. 14.15  
—all welcome

### Christmas Party

Fri. 16 Dec. 19.00

3<sup>rd</sup> Sat  
of month Prayer Meeting

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December,  
9.30 am in vestry.

### Meeting Point Coffee Morning

Fridays 10 to 11.30 am  
in schoolroom. Pastor Glen  
will be there to listen, advise or  
discuss any problem privately  
during coffee time.

Last Fri  
of month Computer  
Drop in

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> December during  
coffee morning. For help or  
advice. Bring your laptop or  
tablet.

### Christmas Lunch Club

12.30 pm Friday 9<sup>th</sup> Dec.  
To book phone Joan 32443.

2<sup>nd</sup> Sat  
of month Fairtrade  
Coffee

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December  
morning, in schoolroom.

Sat. 3 Dec.  
at Angie and Laurie's,  
10-12 a.m.

### Christmas Service

Tue. 6 Dec. 10.30  
at Clarks Court  
(please meet at church at 10.15  
if you are going)

### Culm Valley Crusade Choir Concert

Thu. 8 and Fri. 9 Dec. at 19.30