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| ALLERTON  CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH |



December 2023/January 2024 Newsletter

Dear Friends

For many folk Christmas is a time of joy, celebration and love. However, this is not how everyone feels. Some people see Christmas as a time of disappointment and sorrow. This year will be our first Christmas without Danielle’s Dad, Paul, who passed away in May this year. There will be an empty place at the dinner table where he would have sat and been the life and soul of our celebrations. I am sure that many of you reading this article will have similar feelings of loss and sadness at loved ones who have died. With the ongoing economic state of our country, and many others, a lot of families are having to scale back on their Christmas decorations, presents and more. Undoubtedly some children will feel disappointed that they will not be receiving the latest, must-have present this year. Yet other folk will look at the state of our world and ongoing violence and warfare in places such as the Ukraine, Israel, the Gaza Strip and quite possibly soon Armenia too. Despite all the progress in technology and so much else people will be disappointed that there is not worldwide peace on earth. Disappointment is a sad part of what it means to be a human being living in this fallen world. Thankfully, though, this is only passing. At Christmas we are reminded that the Lord Jesus brought hope into this world through His coming down to earth and taking on flesh. We are not simply celebrating the birth of a child into a poor family 2000 years ago. Rather, we are celebrating God setting the hope of salvation before us through faith in His Son, Jesus Christ. He was the fully human and fully divine child who was born to die for us and be raised again to life. Christmas should give us hope for the future because in Jesus God will make all things new. One of the modern hymns (written by Stuart Townend & Keith Getty) expresses some of what Christmas should truly mean to us as followers of Jesus, “Joy has dawned upon the world, promised from creation: God’s salvation now unfurled, hope for every nation. Not with fanfares from above, not with scenes of glory. But a humble gift of love: Jesus born of Mary… Son of Adam, Son of heaven, given as a ransom, Reconciling God and man, Christ our mighty Champion. What a Saviour, what a Friend, what a glorious mystery: Once a babe in Bethlehem, now the Lord of history.” Let’s try to keep that sense of hope and joy in our hearts this Christmas, even in the midst of disappointment and sorrow. May you all have a happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year!

Fred

Dates for your Diary

Secretary’s Thoughts

Janet

Treasurer’s Reflection

David

Flower Rota – flowers provided by:

January 2024

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| 8th | Mr & Mrs B Haley |
| 15th | Mrs C North |

On Sundays not listed, silk flowers will be used.

Preaching list

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| December 23 | |  | January 24 | |
| 3rd | Rev Fred Rich |  | 7th |  |
| 10th | Rev Fred Rich |  | 14th |  |
| 17th | Rev David Muschamp |  | 21st |  |
| 24th | Rev Fred Rich |  | 28th |  |
| 31st |  |  |  |  |

Finance Committee

Hopefully you will all have noticed that the oak doors to the Church no longer bind together as you go into church. The door to the choir vestry now also closes easily now, so this should help keep the Church warmer during the service.

This work was done along with repairs to the sills of three the high-level windows to the hall facing Allerton Road. These windows ideally may need replacement, but currently we are not anticipating undertaking this level of expenditure at this time.

There is a further roof leak to the disabled toilet which we hopefully will be repaired shortly.

These are just typical of the ongoing issues that an aging building like ours will have and which will all ultimately lead to more wide ranging refurbishment works being required over the next 10 to 20 years.

Work continues planning for the proposed works on the electrical services.

Coffee Rota

As we have returned to having coffee after services, it would be really helpful if those on the rota could come a little earlier to set things up. You will not need to bring milk.

The coffee rota is on the notice board in the vestibule and will be on the table in the hall on Sundays.

Bible Reading Rota

If you would like to offer to read the Bible for Sunday services, the Bible reading rota is on the notice board in the vestibule and will be on the table in the hall on Sundays.

Note from the Editor

The next newsletter is due on 27th January 2024 – please let me have any items for inclusion by 20th January 2024.

Thank you – Carole

Sundays - Services at 10.30 am.

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