

Wavelength

December 2019 - January 2020

edited for website



In the bleak midwinter

What can I give Him,
poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd,
I would bring a lamb;

if I were a wise man,
I would do my part;

yet what I can, I give Him -
give my heart.

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The Christmas Bells Chime Hope by Rory McClure

The colourful lights of Christmas are one of the things that make the darkness of winter a bit more bearable but the joys of Christmas can sometimes cast darker shadows. It has always been like this. The gospels contrast the joyful adoration of the wise men and the shepherds with the murderous rage of Herod, but this sorrow was relieved by the hope of escape to Egypt.

In pop music, Wizzard's "I Wish It Could Be Christmas Everyday" was contrasted by Band Aid's "Do they know its Christmas?" which reminded the world of the 1983-1985 Ethiopian famine, yet the same single was used to raise funds to end the famine.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow was one of America's most loved poets in the 19th Century and his poem "Christmas Bells" reflected his own

experience of joy, sorrow and hope at Christmas. On Christmas morning, 1863, Longfellow sat down to write these words –

I heard the bells on
Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols
play,
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth,
goodwill to men!

And thought how, as the
day had come,
The belfries of all
Christendom
Had rolled along
The unbroken song
Of peace on earth,
goodwill to men!

Till ringing, singing on
its way,
The world revolved from
night to day,
A voice, a chime,
A chant sublime
Of peace on earth,
goodwill to men!

Most of us, for most of our lives, have enjoyed the long peace after World War II and so our years have ended with more memories of another Christmas like this. And while that is true of most of Longfellow's life, he knew more than his fair share of tragedy.

On 9 July 1861 Longfellow was awoken suddenly from a nap by the cries of his wife Fanny. Her billowing Victorian dress had accidentally caught alight and was engulfed in flames. He tried to extinguish the fire as best he could, first by trying to smother the dress with a rug and then with his own body. In the process he ended up burning his own face, but it was all to no avail. Fanny died the following morning.

Longfellow's personal tragedy reflected America's national

tragedy. In the previous decades America had become more and more divided between the progressive industrial North and the conservative agricultural South.

The Southern States started to protest at the unwanted intrusions of Washington and felt that they were losing their sovereignty to the federal government, that the tariffs being imposed on them were designed to crush their own attempts to industrialise.

Meanwhile the Northern States had outlawed slavery in their own states and became increasingly infuriated by the South's sloth in doing likewise. In April 1861 the South tried to secede from the Union but the North refused to let them and fought to preserve the Union and end slavery in the South.

On 21 July the first major battle of the American Civil War was fought at the Battle of Bull Run and soon much of the South was

engulfed in flames. This was less than two weeks after Fanny Longfellow died.

Longfellow's teenage son, Charles enlisted as a private with the 1st Massachusetts Artillery to fight against the South. His courage and leadership skills impressed his superiors and on 27 March 1863, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the 1st Massachusetts Cavalry, assigned to Company "G." In summer 1863 Charley fell ill with typhoid fever and was sent home to Cambridge, Massachusetts to recover. He was able to rejoin his unit in August and returned to the front lines.

On 27 November 1863 Charles was shot through the left shoulder during a battle in the "Mine Run Campaign". The bullet passed through his right shoulder blade and narrowly missed his spine. Another inch or two and it would have paralysed him. By early

December he had been transported first to Washington and finally back home to Cambridge. At that stage it was unclear whether or not he would ever walk again and a slow recovery of many months lay ahead.

A couple of weeks later, on Christmas Day, Longfellow sat down to write Christmas Bells. So, while we can be comforted by the first three verses of the poem we read above, perhaps we can be all the more sympathetic with the next three verses he wrote –

Then from each black,
accursed mouth
The cannon thundered
in the South,
And with the sound
The carols drowned
Of peace on earth,
goodwill to men!

It was as if an
earthquake rent
The hearth-stones of a
continent,
And made forlorn

The households born
Of peace on earth,
goodwill to men!

And in despair I bowed
my head;
“There is no peace on
earth,” I said;
“For hate is strong,
And mocks the song
Of peace on earth,
goodwill to men!”

Yet the poet knew too
much of the Christmas
story to fully give way to
despair. Perhaps he
remembered Herod's
murderous rage that
Mary and Joseph had to
rescue Jesus from.
Perhaps he remembered
that the purpose of
Christmas is Easter and

the whole reason the
Prince of Peace came
into this world was to die
for our sins on the cross
so that He could conquer
the greatest enemy of all
– death. So Longfellow
ended his poem with this
final verse –

Then pealed the bells
more loud and deep:
“God is not dead, nor
doth He sleep;
The Wrong shall fail,
The Right prevail,
With peace on earth,
goodwill to men.”

The American Civil War
ended a little over a year
later, on 9 April 1865.
Later that year, on 9
December the Thirteenth
Amendment to the
American Bill of Rights

abolishing slavery was
ratified. Terrible though
the Civil War was, God
was not dead, nor did He
sleep. Wrong failed and
right prevailed. Peace
was restored on earth
and goodwill came to
more men than had
received it before.

I hope and pray that God
will fill you again with
joy this Christmas, but if
your joy is cast with
shadows of sorrow,
remember the hope of
Christmas. Remember
the Son of God chose to
come into this sorrow-
filled world. He chose to
experience your sorrows
and your losses and so
He understands. Find in
Him your peace on earth,
goodwill to men. Find in
Him your joy and your
hope.

Coffee Morning by Romaine Brett

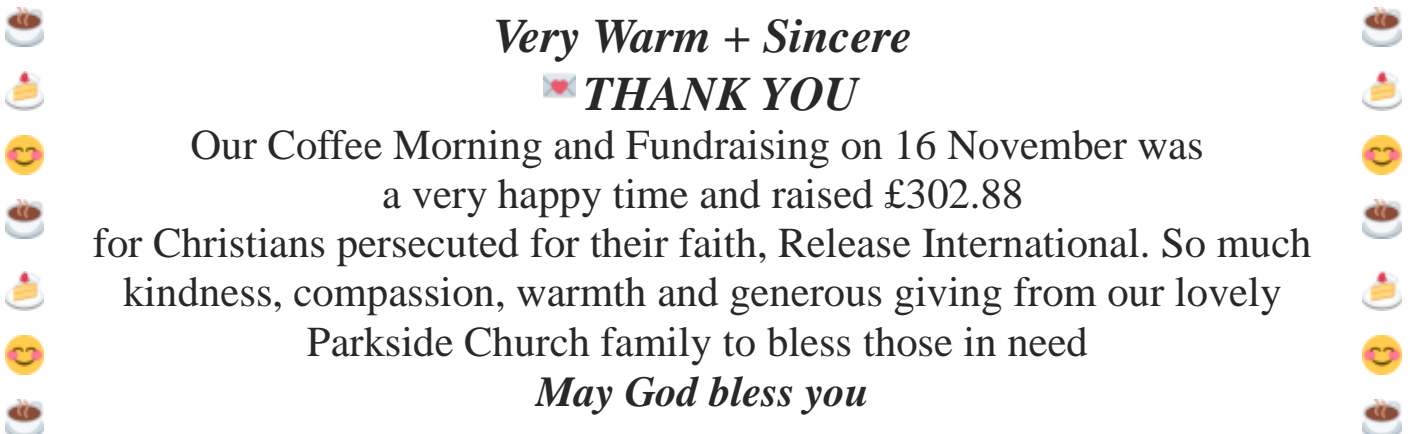
Very Warm + Sincere

❤️ **THANK YOU**

Our Coffee Morning and Fundraising on 16 November was
a very happy time and raised £302.88

for Christians persecuted for their faith, Release International. So much
kindness, compassion, warmth and generous giving from our lovely
Parkside Church family to bless those in need

May God bless you



Neon Light Party a report by Sue Oldfield

The children explored the theme of light in the dark at our Neon Light Party. Lisa explained in a lively talk how Jesus is the Light who overcomes any darkness we might be going through. The children saw beautiful images of a nebula and got to make a (cold) cup of tea in the darkness of being blindfolded, as well as a very active learning of the evening's memory verse:

“Even though I go through the deepest darkness, I will not be afraid, Lord, for you are with me.” Psalm 23:4

We transformed the

small hall into a neon room, lighting it with a solitary ultraviolet lamp. We did not allow the children to enter until they had decorated their white T-shirts with fluorescent markers and put on glow stick necklaces and optional neon body paint. With this they lit up the darkness and enjoyed playing games, including neon skittles.

They tucked into a pizza supper with great enjoyment, and afterwards carried on

playing games, while the parents waited, happily chatting.



One mum texted Val the same evening-

“Thank you for letting me know about the light party event, my daughter had a lovely time. Please pass on a massive thank you...” Numbers were not great, but meant we could give lots of attention and still have enough children for the games to go well. Jesus the Light was present and promising that not a single sparrow will fall to the ground outside of His care.



R and R - a report by Julia Blanchett

It was a very wet and windy Saturday afternoon in early November when our first R and R event took place. A good number of ladies braved the weather and spent a very enjoyable afternoon in each other's company - some doing things they'd never done before!

One of those was Val, who was our speaker. She had never spoken to a group of ladies before about her love for God and all the things He has brought her through during her life, feeling

and knowing His love in the most dire and bitter circumstances. It was an awe-inspiring talk which drew us to thank God for all His many blessings to us. Val also blessed us with a song that she had written especially for us which she sang beautifully. How good it is to recognize our gifts and to use them to bless others!



After the talk we went into smaller groups:

- * a hand massage
- * nails made pretty
- * flower arranging
- * saishiko embroidery
- * card making

A lot of chatting went on while we were being pampered or creative and it was good to get to





was rounded off with singing God’s praises together and everyone was given a booklet, “An Even Better Christmas, joy and peace that lasts all year” to

and Joyce Smith for organising this, and for the great team of helpers who inspired with their creative skills. Hopefully there will be another event next year!

know ladies that maybe we only said ‘hello’ to on a Sunday morning!

Tea and cakes were served mid-afternoon before a changeover of workshop. The afternoon

take home and read.

Our thanks go to Sue Hawkins, Sue Oldfield, Val McClure



Thank You From Littlehampton Foodbank

Dear Friends,

24 October 2019

Harvest Foodbank Collection 2019

We are writing to thank you for your generous donation this Harvest.

So far in 2019 we have given three days' emergency food to 1455 people from our local community, a 58% rise on this time last year. The most common reasons for referral are low income or benefits delays, but we also see people who are disabled or ill, in debt, homeless or fleeing domestic abuse. Your kind donation will help us to aid even more individuals and families in these situations; it will also enable us to help those who have been managing but who will begin to struggle as the winter months push fuel bills ever higher.

Without the support of churches such as Parkside Evangelical Church many people in Littlehampton, Rustington, East Preston, Angmering and Arundel would be going hungry. Thank you once again for your help and generosity; it's truly appreciated.

Regards, *Hazel Lodge* (Foodbank Coordinator)

Thank You From The Prison Fellowship

31 October 2019

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for making positive ripples through your gift of £412.00 towards Angel Tree - HMP Ford! You are standing with men and women across England and Wales as they do the challenging but important work of facing up to their crime and turning their lives around!

Our Sycamore Tree learners are not used to having people care about them. Much of the social narrative about prisoners is "lock them up and throw away the key". Thank you for believing with us that no one is beyond hope, for offering your support as they seek to leave their crimes behind and create those positive ripples in their families and communities.

Read what two Sycamore Tree learners wrote at the end of their course:

"The course has made me think about the meaning of restitution and that it is important to be able to forgive yourself. Knowing how to give something back can truly help someone move on."

"It has made me change as a person and made me think about others and realise my mistakes and never sell drugs again. I want to make my community proud as I am a changed man."

Thank you once again. We are humbled and incredibly grateful for your generosity. We could not do this without you!

With heartfelt thanks,

Kerry Taylor

Supporter Care

Thank You from the Gideons

Dear Charlotte,

11 November 2019

It was a real joy and privilege to be able to share a little about the Gideon ministry with the folk at Parkside on 27 October. Our guests enjoyed the welcome that they received, and commented on the warmth of the fellowship. I would further like to express our appreciation for your generous donation of £200, for which our formal receipt is enclosed.

We always tell our prospective supporters that if they ask to be kept informed of "what is happening" by receipt of the magazine and newsletter, unlike most charities, we will not ask for their money!!! "Oh," they ask, "where does it come from then?" The reply is that instead, we DO ask for theirs prayers, and that the Lord then responds by prompting donations in different ways. Today's gift is an example. To take extremes in this area, some people collect 2p pieces, and give us something like £5 from time to time. One lady from Parkside went to be with the Lord a while ago, and in her will, left nearly £150,000 to Gideons. Our God is a great God!! None of it is asked for, but He knows the extent of our needs, and never lets us down.



We continue to offer New Testaments to the children in Year 7 (11 and 12 years old) in our local schools, and are warmly welcomed in 13 out of the 14 schools. A few weeks ago, I joined Paul Sanderson at The Littlehampton Academy, who has approaching 200 Year 7 students this year, each one of whom will be offered a copy of the Scriptures.



One of our number referred to the Large Print New Testaments that we leave in Homes for the Elderly. This includes 3 of the Homes where Parkside regularly conduct services: St Winefride's, Oakland Grange, and Nightingale. Testaments are left in the lounge, or in the rooms of those who would like one.

Many thanks for the interest and support in the Church. Just a final reminder that full membership is open to all of the Lord's people, and if anyone would like to find out more about the implications, I would be happy to try to answer any questions.

God bless, *Trevor*

Parkside in December

Advent Sunday 1	1	10.30am 6.30pm	All Age Service with crèche United Advent Service	Christ is Coming Baptist Church
				
Monday	2	9.30am 1.30pm	Pastoral Care Team Meeting Paradise	
Tuesday	3	10.00am 2.30pm	Prayer Meeting Friendship Hour	
Wednesday	4	9.15am 7.30pm	Elders Meeting Men's Bible Study	
Thursday	5	10.00am 10.30am 7.30pm	Oasis - Ladies Bible Study Service at St Winefride's Prayer Meeting	
Friday	6			
Saturday	7	2.00pm	Arcade Knitters	
Advent Sunday 2	8	10.30am 6.30pm	Morning Service with Communion with crèche and children's groups Evening Service	Greater than Solomon Worship Made in Heaven
				
Monday	9	9.30am 1.30pm	Pastoral Care Team Meeting Paradise	
Tuesday	10	12.00nn 7.30pm	Home Group Meeting Men's Bible Study	
Wednesday	11	10.00am 7.00pm	Home Group Home Group Meeting	
Thursday	12	 10.00am 7.45pm	Polling Day Oasis - Ladies Bible Study Home Group	
Friday	13			
Saturday	14	2.00pm	Arcade Knitters	

Advent Sunday 3	15	10.30am	Christingle Morning Service with crèche and children's groups	The Promised Child
		6.30pm	Evening Service with Communion	The Coming King
Monday	16	9.30am 1.30pm	Pastoral Care Team Meeting Paradise	
Tuesday	17	9.30am 2.15pm	Prayer Meeting Carol Service at Nightingale Home	
Wednesday	18	2.30pm 6.30pm	Holiday at Home - American Christmas DVD Showing - "It's a Wonderful Life"	
Thursday	19	10.30am 7.30pm	Carol Service at St Winefride's Prayer Meeting	
Friday	20	10.30am 4.00pm	Carol Service at Oakland Grange Carol Singing in Parkside Avenue	
Saturday	21			
Advent Sunday 4	22	10.30am	Carol Service with crèche	Wise Men Still Follow Christ
		6.30pm	Carol Service	Nine Lessons
Monday	23	9.30am	Pastoral Care Team Meeting	
Tuesday	24		Christmas Eve	
Wednesday	25	10.00am	Christmas Day Service	Christ is Born!
Thursday	26		Boxing Day	
Friday	27			
Saturday	28			
Sunday	29	10.30am	Morning Service with crèche and children's groups followed by	God's Plans
		6.30pm	Evening Service	TBA
Monday	30			
Tuesday	31		New Year's Eve	

Parkside in January

Wednesday	1		New Year's Day	
Thursday	2	10.30am 7.30pm	Service at St Winefride's Prayer Meeting	
Friday	3			
Saturday	4	2.00pm	Arcade Knitters	
Sunday	5	10.30am 6.30pm	All Age Service with crèche Evening Service with Communion	Facing the Fire The Four Horsemen
Monday	6	9.30am 1.30pm 7.30pm	Pastoral Care Team Meeting Paradise Elders & Deacons Meeting	
Tuesday	7	2.30pm 7.30pm	Home Group Meeting Men's Bible Study	
Wednesday	8	10.00am 7.00pm	Home Group Meeting Home Group Meeting	
Thursday	9	10.00am 7.45pm	Oasis - Ladies Bible Study Home Group	
Friday	10			
Saturday	11			
Sunday	12	10.30am 6.30pm	Morning Service with Communion with crèche and children's groups followed by Evening Service	The Parable of the Sower The 5th & 6th Seals
Monday	13	9.30am 1.30pm	Pastoral Care Team Meeting Paradise	
Tuesday	14	9.30am 2.30pm	Prayer Meeting Friendship Hour	
Wednesday	15	7.30pm	Men's Bible Study	

Thursday	16	10.00am 7.30pm	Oasis - Ladies Bible Study Prayer Meeting	
Friday	17			
Saturday	18	2.00pm	Arcade Knitters	
Sunday	19	10.30am 1.00pm 6.30pm	Morning Service with crèche and children's groups Fellowship Meal Evening Service with Communion	In the Family The Multitudes of Heaven
Monday	20	9.30am 1.30pm	Pastoral Care Team Meeting Paradise	
Tuesday	21	2.30pm 7.30pm	Home Group Meeting Men's Bible Study	
Wednesday	22	10.00am 7.00pm	Home Group Meeting Home Group Meeting	
Thursday	23	10.00am 7.45pm	Oasis - Ladies Bible Study Home Group	
Friday	24	11.00am	Service at Oakland Grange	
Saturday	25			
Sunday	26	10.30am 6.30pm	Morning Service with Communion with crèche and children's groups Evening Service	The Parable of the Weeds The Joy of Heaven
Monday	27	9.30am 1.30pm	Pastoral Care Team Meeting Paradise	
Tuesday	28	9.30am 2.30pm	Prayer Meeting Friendship Hour	
Wednesday	29	7.30pm	Men's Bible Study	
Thursday	30	10.00am 7.30pm	Oasis - Ladies Bible Study Prayer Meeting	
Friday	31			

Thank You from Count Everyone In

Dear Charlotte,

12 November 2019

It was a joy and a privilege to be with the church family at Parkside on Sunday 20 October. We were warmly welcomed and people seemed receptive to what we had to share.

Please convey our thanks to everyone for the generous gift of £50 which will help us to continue equipping churches to share the love of the Lord Jesus with adults with learning disabilities so that they have the opportunity to make their own decision, in their own way, to put their faith in Christ. We are passionate about seeing marginalised people finding their place within our churches, being disciplined in their faith and using their gifts to strengthen the church of Jesus Christ.

If anyone at Parkside would like to receive our monthly e-newsletter we should be pleased to add them to mailing list, if you would like to receive a copy for the church notice board, just let us know an email address to which it can be sent.

Thank you for your fellowship in the Gospel and may God continue to bless you as you bless others.

In Jesus,

Pete & Christine Winmill

Carol Singing

We will be Carol Singing in Parkside Avenue
this year on Friday, 20 December.
Meet at Parkside Church at 4.00pm

Come and sing out the Good News!





An American Christmas



Holiday at Home

Everyone Welcome

at

Parkside Evangelical Church

Wednesday 18th December 2019



2.30 - 4.30 pm



Carols, Craft & Cake

Come and hear a talk on our American friends.

Parkside Evangelical Church

1 St. Flora's Road, Littlehampton. BN17 6BD

Contact no for info: Church Office 01903 714670

The Message of Christmas by David Nickless

The digital age has changed the way we read, learn and acquire information. We have become slick and casual in the way we communicate. I overheard a conversation on a train as a mum was giving instructions to her

child who had just come home from school: *“Yes it’s in the fridge, behind the pack of yoghurts near the milk. Can you see it - That’s right it’s got a gold lid and it is in a plastic container; that’s margarine. The bread is in the cupboard beside the sink, and the lemon curd is on the middle shelf next to the jars of marmalade and strawberry jam.”* There were ten passengers all listening to this riveting conversation!



It’s amazing what you hear on mobile phones; it seems that nothing is private. On one occasion I was guided through an unplanned shopping tour in a supermarket.

How about a Christmas mobile phone call, *“Hi Gemma, the streamers and baubles are in a brown cardboard box on the bottom shelf of the white cupboard in the dining room. Have you found them yet Gemma - get Ian to help you put them on the tree. See you*

soon darling.”

We also use slick text messages - CU 2NGT. How does this relate to Christmas? The coming of Jesus was prophesied 800 years before he came. This was no afterthought, and it wasn’t a quick email, text or

twitter message. God planned and communicated clearly where Jesus would be born; angels announced his birth; and a star guided the wise men to Bethlehem. There was even a census that compelled Joseph and Mary to return to Bethlehem their ancestral town to register. What better way could God demonstrate His love for us than through the miraculous birth of

Jesus: “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.” John 1:14. God communicated to us through a perfect human life lived out in a sinful world.

We praise God for Christmas carols, such as “Hark the Herald Angels Sing”, and “It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”, which clearly describe the wonder of Jesus’ birth; they are theology in a nutshell, simple but profound in communicating the Christmas message.

The service of Nine Lessons and Carols from Kings College Cambridge unfolds in a clear and simple way the message of Christmas. The Bible speaks for itself, and the Holy Spirit is able to take the Word and make it relevant to

its hearers.

Do we sometimes doubt the power of God’s word and think it needs thorough examination in order to be understood? Those nuggets of truth revealed in the message of Christmas can stir the heart and change a life. For others it is just the beginning of a journey towards faith; a dawning of a new day.

As God’s word is read and communicated through drama, music,

art, and the media pray that in these times of uncertainty Jesus the Light of the World will shine through the darkness to enlighten, and bring hope and salvation to all who receive Him into their lives.

We rejoice that Jesus is Emmanuel – God with us in all circumstances, and it is this revelation that give us confidence as we face the future and another New Year.



Notice Board

Church Lunch

You may remember that a couple of years ago we organised a very successful Christmas meal bringing together church members and families referred to us by CAP. We have decided to organise another meal along similar lines on Sunday 19 January 2020 starting at about 1.00pm after the morning service. This time the meal will take the form of a cold buffet and Chris Blanchett will be contacting many of you to do some simple preparation of food for the occasion.

This is also an opportunity to reach out into the community that God has given us. Please be prepared to help in practical ways if you can but if not please support the venture with your prayers and your presence!



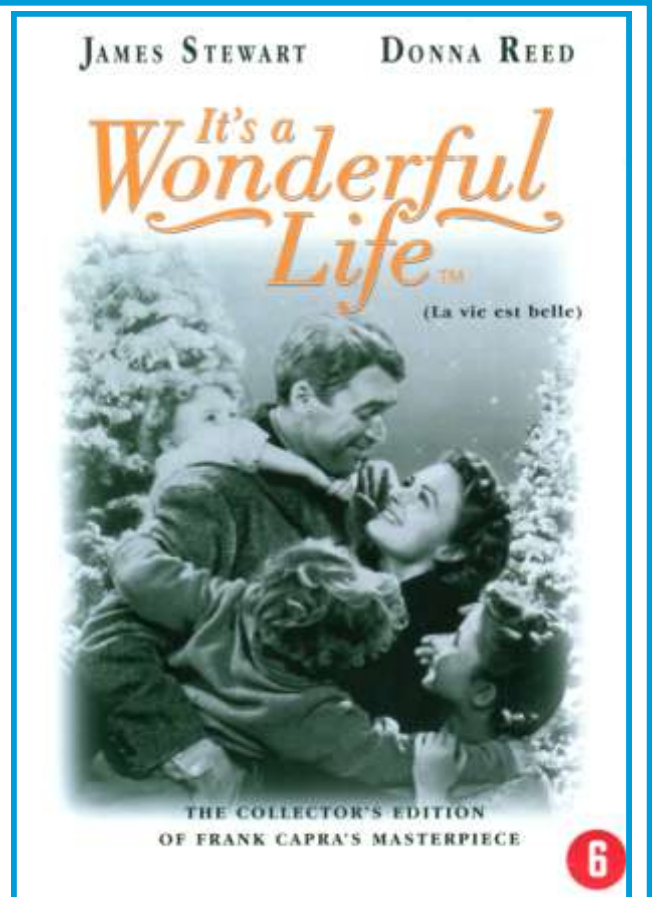
You are invited to bring your friends to a showing of

“It’s a Wonderful Life”

at Rory & Val’s home

on Wednesday 18 December

at 6.30pm



The Hobby Shop by Chris Blanchett

Many of the folks in our church have amazing hobbies and interests and would love to share their enthusiasm and skills with others! THE HOBBY SHOP is intended to be an opportunity to get together and share exciting new possibilities and make

new friends in and outside our church circle.

Beginning in the New Year, we hope to arrange a monthly meeting on a weeknight evening, sometimes at the church and occasionally in a home where we can share our skills, interests

and the gospel! If you feel that you could lead or host such a meeting, please contact Chris Blanchett who is co-ordinating this venture and we will endeavour to put a program together. Chris will also be on hand to advise and help you with presentation etc if necessary.

writing cycling woodwork collecting
painting squash walking gardening
photography reading horses tennis
cooking singing cars films
computers football trains crosswords
music
swimming

We wish you a merry Christmas
and a happy New Year

Future Dates For Your Diary



Further details will be available nearer the time and please note that these events may be subject to change!

Items not included in previous issues or changed in some way are in bold.

2019

- 15 December.....Christingle Service
- 18 December.....Holiday at Home - American Christmas
- 18 December.....DVD Showing - It's a Wonderful Life**
- 20 December.....Local Carol Singing
- 21 December.....Carol Singing in the High Street
- 22 December.....Carol Services and refreshments
- 25 December.....Christmas Day Celebration

2020

- 19 January.....Fellowship Meal
- 20 February.....Children's Workshop**
- 25 March.....Holiday at Home
- 9 April.....Maundy Thursday Communion**
- 10 April.....Good Friday**
- 12 April.....Easter Sunday**
- 17 June.....Holiday at Home
- 24 June.....Prayer Retreat
- 11 July.....Parkside Church Day Out

Meditation into the New Year

“Therefore, since Christ suffered in His body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because whoever suffers in the body has finished with sin. As a result, they do not live the rest of their earthly lives for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God...

“The end of all things is near. Therefore, be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray. Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”

1 Peter 4:1-2, 7-10

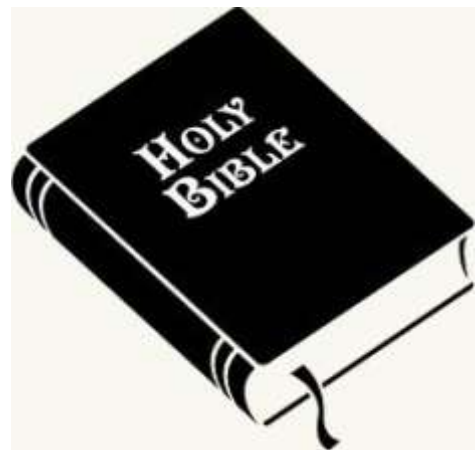


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Quote of the Month

Honesty in prayer
leads to intimacy
with God

The Irish Franciscans