

Diary Dates

February 2018

- 1st Communion Service at St Stephen's Court 2.15pm.
- 5th Communion Service at Pendruccombe 2.15pm.
- 6th Communion Service with prayers for healing. Dingley Hall 10.15am.
- 7th Communion Service at Pen Inney 11am.
- 8th Service at Cedar Grange 2.15pm.
- 26th Circuit Leadership Team meeting 9.30am at Lifton.

SPOTLIGHT

*The Magazine of the
Launceston Area
Methodist Church
February 2018
Edition 176*



Editorial Team: Viv and Evelyn Sandercock, Mary Cole, Marion Allen, Catherine Jones-Bastard and Pauline Daniel.

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Production & Distribution Assistance: David & Joanna Harley, Leighton Penhale and Sally Harvey.

*All articles for the March issue to the Circuit Office
no later than 15th February 2018.*

*Items submitted after this date may be withheld or used in a subsequent edition.
Please ensure items are clearly marked for Spotlight and include contact details.*

*Whilst every effort is made to print forwarded material, its inclusion cannot be
guaranteed. All items are printed at editorial team discretion.*

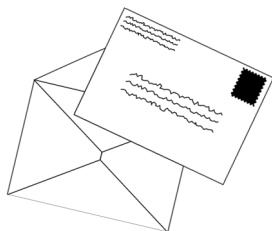
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Pastoral Letter



Dear Friends,

I don't remember going through the rebellious stage that is often said to be part of being a teenager - perhaps this is because part of me was born middle-aged (and still is!). However, there has always been a little non-conformist bit of me which has resisted automatically going along with something just because most people think it's a good idea (don't worry, this little contribution to Spotlight has nothing to do with climate change!). This has led to me being, from time to time, the person who says, "Yes, but what if ..." when some scheme is proposed. Scheme proposers might view this as putting a spanner into the works; I see it as trying to foresee possible problems so that they can be dealt with if and when they arise.

What has led to these somewhat generalised comments and musings? Well, in part they come from something which came out of the last Methodist Conference. I first saw it in the Methodist Recorder, and then in the Conference Business Digest, which some of you may have seen.

The Digest reported on a Notice of Motion as follows: "Each year, every Church Council was encouraged to address and answer the question 'do you have a growth plan or an end of life plan?', with the answer to be presented to the Circuit Meeting in order to aid its wider, strategic, oversight of mission and ministry. This Notice of Motion was also referred for further consideration to the Methodist Council which will report back to the 2018 Conference."

Such Notices of Motion sometimes arise from someone having a 'bright idea' in the middle of Conference, and there is rarely time to consider them to any depth - and they can end up being accepted (or rejected) very quickly.

As far as this particular Notice of Motion is concerned, I have to admit that the question was not asked at the Church Councils I was involved with, though some of the things involved were certainly touched upon (but the answer which could have been presented to the Circuit Meeting would have been a simple 'No!').

I am, in fact, somewhat uneasy with the suggested question, insofar as it seems to be suggesting that every chapel should have a definite plan for

LITTLE RED BUS EXCURSIONS



February 2018

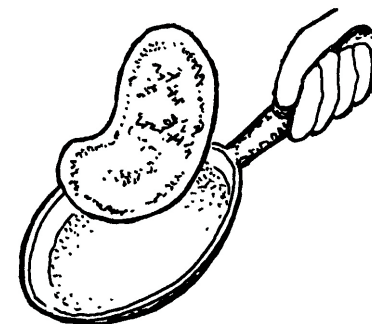
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| Mon 5th | The Weir Bistro Marhamchurch (cuppa & cake) | £8 |
| Wed 7th | Shopping Trip to Truro | £14 |
| Tues 13th | Bow Garden & Aquatic Centre & café Crediton | £10 |
| Thur 15th | Saltram House NT Plymouth | £10 |
| Wed 21st | Lunch at Kings Head, Five Lanes | £5 |
| Mon 26th | Bodmin Gaol (exhibition, tea room & shop) | £8 |

Phone 01566 777960 10am to 12noon Mon to Fri. or leave message.

Tuesday morning at Central Methodist Church Hall 9.30-11.30am.

Email: launcestonredbus@gmail.com

Facebook: Little Red Bus Launceston



COFFEE MORNINGS FEBRUARY 2018



| | |
|------|---|
| 6th | Central 10am-12noon hosted by Amnesty International |
| 7th | Lifton 10.30am |
| 7th | Trebullett 10.30-12 noon |
| 10th | South Petherwin 10.30-12 noon |
| 13th | Central 10am-12noon hosted by Action for Children |
| 14th | Polyphant with Book Club 10.00-11.30am. |
| 20th | Central 10am-12noon hosted by Memory Cafe |
| 27th | Central 10am-12noon hosted by Bible Society |

AH SUMMER!

I'm sure we've all noticed what a wet winter we are having, with the fields and probably our lawns too, sodden. This was confirmed the other morning when I looked out of the window to see something white in the field. I was puzzled – puffballs sometimes grow here but take several days to reach that size, besides such fungi generally appear in the autumn. I then saw it move, and it was a Little Egret, a pure white, heron-like bird with a long black beak. It is a wading bird that has increased in population in the UK over the past twenty years, found in estuaries and coastal waterways, mainly of Southern England though more commonly wintering on the Mediterranean. It generally feeds on small fish and crustaceans, but perhaps in our field it was looking out for insects or small frogs? Its yellow feet were hidden in the mud.

Is this colonisation a sign of global warming, or wetter winters, or perhaps the bird was just blown inland by rough weather – who knows? Well actually God knows, as he knows all things. He's omniscient!

My computer files tell me that a little egret caused a stir by the lake at Homeleigh Garden Centre in 2006, and my Graham has fond memories of them roosting at sunset in trees lining the banks of the Helford River when he was rowing in a gig one distant summer evening . . .

Ah summer! Believe me, once February has passed we can look to better things and already the evenings have begun drawing out – by three minutes each day, so I'm told. Summer will be with us before we know it!

Sandra Smale

CHARITY COFFEE AND CAKE MORNING FOR LAUNCESTON LEAGUE OF FRIENDS WHO SUPPORT THE WORK OF LAUNCESTON HOSPITAL AND THE COMMUNITY.

SATURDAY 3rd MARCH 2018 -10.30 TO 12 NOON AT TREBULLETT HALL

Launceston Hospital League of Friends was formed in 1971, to provide extras for patients. When the Medical Centre moved to Landlake Road we changed our constitution to include the community, allowing us to provide equipment for the Surgery and Community Nurses. We have spent many thousands of pounds over the years on equipment for the hospital ensuring we have one of the best in the area. We give Birthday, Christmas, Easter, cards and Gifts to all patients in the hospital. We provide money for doctors and medical staff to purchase equipment, to benefit us, the patients, who use the surgery and the many departments at the hospital. A few of the departments which have benefited from our work are Ward Day Rooms, Wards, Physiotherapy, Out-patients, Consultants rooms, Midwives and Community Nurses, Occupational Therapy Department, Bereavement Counselling Room and all departments at the Medical Centre. Money for all our projects is achieved by fund raising, donations from groups and individuals in our area, and the many people who give donations in lieu of flowers. Our thanks and appreciation to all who support us in this valuable work.

either growth or closure, and I doubt if this is possible or desirable.

When a chapel has decided, for whatever reason, that it has to close, then certain practical plans obviously have to be made, and provision needs to be made for the ongoing pastoral care of the people.

When, however, it is clear that a chapel is going to have a sustainable congregation for the foreseeable future, I do wonder if it is possible to have a 'plan for growth'. Partly this is because I am mindful of Paul's words to the Christians at Corinth, "I planted the seed, Apollos watered the plant, but it was God who made the plant grow." (1 Cor. 3:6, GNB). In other words - we cannot make the church grow (although, we can sometimes make growth less likely!)

Whether a church grows or declines is sometimes determined by things totally beyond our control. I remember one little chapel I used to go to on Sunday evenings more than 50 years ago - it had been on the point of closure when a family of four moved into the village and joined the congregation. Just four people gave it a new lease of life - it was still a fairly small congregation but it was the place I most liked going to as a young Local Preacher.

We know the things we should be doing - making our worship the best we can, caring for one another, being open to and taking the opportunities for serving the communities in which we live. Whether these things will lead to growth is in the hands of God. The question we should ask is not, I think, 'Do we have a plan?', but 'How can we best serve the communities in which we live?' Anything we do which is an expression of the love of God is worth doing, regardless of whether or not it increases church numbers (or 'bums on seats', as some put it.)

A good many years ago, in discussions about church unity, I often heard mention of 'the coming great church'. The word 'great' grated on me, as to me the calling of the church has nothing to do with greatness, and everything to do with service:

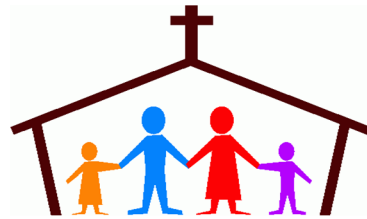
"We have no mission but to serve
In full obedience to our Lord
To care for all, without reserve,
And spread his liberating Word." (F Pratt Green)

Howard Curnow

www.lamc.org.uk Your Circuit website - have you checked it out recently?

The circuit website at www.lamc.org.uk is a great way for the Launceston area to keep up to date with everything that is going on in the circuit's churches and chapels. To take advantage of the site please send items to David Rogerson, Glebe House, Lezant, Launceston PL15 9PP (01579 370412). Better still, if you have access to email please send them to david@lamc.org.uk

Around the Churches



SOUTH PETHERWIN

Parish Carol Service

The Parish Carol Service was held at the Methodist Chapel on Sunday 10th December which had been beautifully decorated to include a Christmas tree, window decorations and a nativity scene. Dr Brian Davis led the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols. The readings were given by representatives of various groups within the parish. Tony Stephens, Launceston Street Pastors: Barbara Cobbledick, St Paternus Church Warden: Teresa Mills, Head Teacher, South Petherwin School: Rebecca Frame, Clerk to Parish Council: Clare Beecham, Church bell Ringer: Roger Parsons, Methodist Chapel : Sue Vernon, Parish magazine secretary: John Whale, Methodist Chapel : Dr Brian Davis read the final lesson and gave the blessing. Mrs Mary Stoneman was the organist. The retiring collection raised £174 and was shared between Launceston Street Pastors and St Petroc's Society for the Homeless. This well attended and very popular traditional service was followed by tea/coffee, mince pies and cream served by members of the chapel.

Christingle Service

On Tuesday 19th December, Head teacher Teresa Mills led the South Petherwin Primary School's Christingle Service held in chapel on the last day of term. Rev Jo Smart gave a Christmas message and concluded the service with a blessing. This was a very well supported event and the chapel was full to capacity to watch the delightful programme given by the pupils and to share in their service.

Chapel Lunch Club

On Monday 18th December, following a long break everyone was pleased to return to the newly decorated Sunday Schoolroom and continue with the lunch club event. Members sat down to enjoy their Christmas lunch and tucked into roast turkey and all the trimmings, followed by a choice of Christmas pudding, fresh fruit salad or trifle, tea/coffee and stollen bites. All prepared and served by our willing band of helpers.

Methodist Church Launceston, when we welcome Jill Stone the Christian Aid Co-ordinator for Cornwall and Devon to share with us challenging issues, facing some of the world's poorest people, and help us create a relevant programme of practical response.

You will be most welcome to join us and "Make a Difference"

Trevor A Cook



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

A heartfelt thankyou to everyone who helped in any way to send 201 shoe boxes from the collection point at Central Church. These have gone with 156 from Shoe Zone, and many donations, to children living in extreme circumstances in Eastern Europe. Many of these boxes are destined to reach very remote areas and may end their journey by truck boat or bicycle! We pray that these small tokens of God's love may change lives by showing that there really is someone who cares.

Irene Stanbury



TRIP TO GWENNAP PIT FOR PENTECOST SUNDAY

Following the success of our trip to Coventry for Revd Jo's Ordination Service, it was suggested that a trip be organised to go by coach to Gwennap Pit for the Pentecost Service on 20th May 2018, starting at about 2.15pm, the week before our Wesley Day celebrations. This has been approved in principle by the circuit stewards and the date confirmed by Jenny, the administrator at Gwennap Pit.

The coach would be from Tilleys Coaches, who provided such wonderful service to us on our trip to Coventry. The cost will, of course, depend on the cost of the coach and how many want to go. Those of us who went to Coventry all enjoyed our day and I am sure the majority will want to take the opportunity of attending the Pentecost Service at the Pit without having to drive. And, of course, Launceston to Gwennap is not as far as Launceston to Coventry!

Just so I can get an idea of the number of people who would like a trip to Gwennap Pit to be there for this inspirational service, would you please contact me and register your interest. Once I have a rough idea of numbers, I can book a coach.

Jill Price
01579 370835

DISCOVERING MORE ABOUT WHAT GOES 'UNDER THE BONNET' A REVIEW BY JOHN LAMPARD

I am one of the 1 billion or more owners of an iPhone and I am not the only user who wanted to know what goes on 'under the bonnet'. In *The One Device: The Secret History of the iPhone* (Bantam) Brian Merchant provides a fascinating if not worrying account of how it was developed and is manufactured. The cost of all the materials (including some very rare and exotic elements) in a phone come to just \$1.50, half of which is the cost of the gold in the phone. It was not invented by Steve Jobs, but by a talented team which he kept hidden in the background. It was manufactured by hand in "boiler-house" factories with a high suicide rate among the staff. To reduce this, the manufacturer slung nets below the dormitory windows to catch potential suicides.

Yet it is an invention which has changed the world. Perhaps, surprisingly, when Merchant interviewed members of the team which invented it they were far from enthusiastic about the effects it has had on humanity. *The One Device* is a fascinating, if disturbing read. I am grateful for my iPhone but I cannot claim to be a proud owner.

The Reverend John Lampard is a supernumerary minister in the City Road circuit. Reproduced here with permission of the Methodist recorder

CHRISTIAN AID NEWS

Unity is a challenging theme from the Christian Aid Prayer Manual that provides us with relevant worship material and practical ideas following on from the theme of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity celebrated from Jan 18th -25th.

We pray that the Go and Do action points provided by Christian Aid each year will help to build unity in communities across Britain and Ireland, and also bring positive change to communities across the world.

For more information, visit ctbi.org.ukgoanddo

We give thanks for the work of the Launceston Refugee Support Group as they work to provide practical help to refugees in France and Greece and raise funds to provide local housing for two refugee families in the coming year.

Pray for unity between communities in Myanmar for Christian Aid partners helping refugee families from Myanmar now living in huge camps in Bangladesh following the appalling ethnic cleansing of the Rohingya community. We pray for peace and justice be restored through the action of courageous people prepared to speak out in the face of arrest and persecution.

The next meeting of the Launceston Area Christian Aid Action group takes place on Monday February 5th from 7pm - 9pm in the porch of Central

Rev Jo Smart led a short carol service when members chose their favourite carols to sing and which was accompanied by Mary Stoneman on the keyboard. A hearty rendition of 'We Wish You A Merry Christmas, concluded the afternoon. All had enjoyed a good chat and catch up after the long break. Donations were invited for the Cornwall Air Ambulance and Launceston Town Band and a total of £120.00 was collected and shared between each charity.

Christmas Eve Service

This service took the form of a Holy Communion Service and was led by Rev Jo Smart. The Advent Candle ring was lit by Julie Mitchell and the lesson was read by Mary Stoneman. John Whale was the organist.

The monthly prayer meetings led by Rev Jo Smart will now take place on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month (excluding Bank Holidays) at a new time of 4.00 pm. These will be reflecting on the Methodist Church 'A Discipling Presence' book as we continue to pray for the life and work of the church and the community it serves. All are welcome.

The major building works are almost completed and we are now pleased to be able to welcome back at the beginning of the New Year 2018 all the groups who regularly use our facilities for their various activities.

Mary Stoneman

LIFTON

Family, friends and church members gathered to celebrate the baptism of Kane Ronny, son of Gareth Williams and Louise James, on the 26th November. Kane was presented with a lighted candle and book from the Junior Church. There was a reading by Grace, and Grace and Joe took Kane around the chapel to show everyone. The service was conducted by Rev Anne Curnow.

At the December Coffee Morning books and toys were collected for the food bank to distribute at Christmas - thanks to all those who gave so generously.

Our Christmas celebrations commenced with an Advent Family Service on December 3rd and was led by Gill Taylor and Becky Martin with music and the children playing a great part in the service. The Advent reading and candle was lit by Jasmine and Melissa. Jessica Maynard and Becky Martin played a piano duet 'Jingle Bells', and a Jazz version was played by Becky on the flute. The 'Mums and Daughters' Jo Maynard, Becky Martin and Gill Taylor sang 'Little Donkey' with their daughters Jessica and Katie, Jemma and Anna, and Primrose and Florence, and the first two verses of 'Silent Night' were beautifully sung by Gill and Primrose. Prayers were read by Jessica, Florence, Primrose, Jemma, Davina, Izzy and Ruby - all the children attending were invited to sing 'Away in a Manger', and they all received presents from under the Christmas tree. Denise Gribble was the organist, and the morning's collection was for Action for Children which amounted to £92.55.

In the evening we had a return visit by the Valley Voices who gave a wonderful Carol Concert at the chapel with the congregation joining in many carols with the choir under the conductorship of Elizabeth Saudek, and organist Richard Patt. A vote of thanks was given by Rev Anne Curnow. A collection was taken for Crisis at Christmas and this raised £198.45.

On December 20th a Concert for Christmas was arranged by Sue Batten, and was chaired by Oliver Stephens. There was a great variety of music, Christmas songs and carols and thanks goes to all those who performed – The Mums and Daughters, Becky and Jessica for the piano duet, and Jo Maynard – piano, Becky Martin on the flute, the Launceston YFC Choir, and some members from the older YFC Choir, the Lifton Singers, the Homeleigh Quartet, Leslie and Mary Mazur-Park - oboe and piano duet, Dan Batten and Oliver Stephens, poems by Charlotte Batten, Sue Batten and Gill Taylor and the accompanying pianists – Denise Gribble, Nicola Hosking, Mary Mazur-Park and Valerie Hosking. A vote of thanks was given by Rev Howard Curnow. A collection was taken for the Salvation Army Christmas Work which raised £357.65.

On December 24th a traditional carol service was led by Rev Anne Curnow. The Advent reading was by Diane Northey and Jemma, Anna, Jessica and Katie lit the candles. Sue Batten and family sang the first two verses of Once in Royal David's City, and Away in a Manger by the Mums and Daughters attending. Tess Stone read a poem 'Jesus is the Heart of Christmas', and readings were by Hilda Pengelly, Cathy Arscott, Jemma Martin, Elaine Shillaber, Andrew Tunbridge and Sera Blewitt-Gilbert. Roy Goodson gave a chat about CHICKS before a collection was taken which raised £201.20 for this charity. The organist for the morning was Denise Gribble accompanied by Becky Martin on flute and Frank Arscott on trumpet. Coffee and tea, mince pies and cream were greatly enjoyed after all the concerts and services which were all very well attended.

The Christmas Day Service was led by Rev Howard Curnow. The collection and donations in lieu of Christmas cards which was for St Petroc's Society for the homeless amounted to £189.83.

New Year Family Social

A great time was had at the New Year Family Social held on Saturday January 13th. Many thanks to Tess Stone, Gill Taylor and Becky Martin for organising the crafts and games, which was followed by a delicious tea.

Coffee Mornings:

Wednesday February 7th – 10.30am at the chapel with Anne Rowe

Wednesday March 7th – with David Gynn. All are welcome.

Diane Northey

HISTORY OF FOLK SONGS A REVIEW BY NORMAN WALLWORK

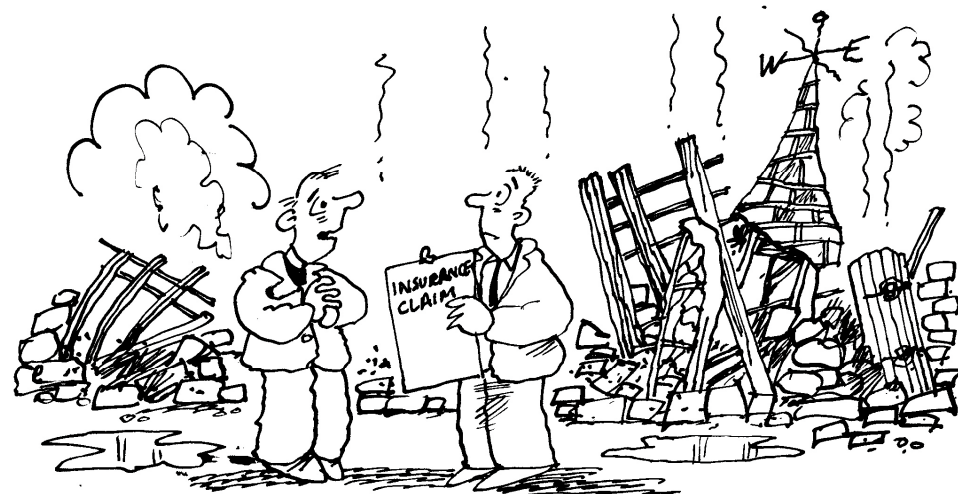
It has been a delight to read *As I Walked Out: Sabine Baring-Gould and the Search for the Folk Songs of Devon and Cornwall* by Martin Graebe (Signal Books), the fascinating story of Sabine Baring-Gould's "principal achievement" – his collecting of Devon and Cornish folk songs. From 1888 the hymn-writer, novelist and Devon archaeologist collected the lyrics and music of local folk songs.

Beginning by obtaining the many versions of "Widcombe Fair", the oldest sources of other folk songs were sought through newspapers. Dozens of versions of hundreds of songs flowed in. More than 180 locals were enlisted in the region, to sing from memory – almost half farmers and farm labourers.

At Lewtrenchard Manor, Baring-Gould offered James Parsons "a seat in the settle by the fire, while the squire sat down in an armchair on the other side of the hearth. There was a little table beside the settle with a glass on it and the butler brought in a jug of hot, spiced wine and filled the glass before leaving the two men alone ...before long James was asked to sing one of his songs".

At inn after country inn, Baring-Gould and the young Frederick Bussell noted down "with extreme accuracy" every twist and flourish of each singer. Results were published in the classic "Songs and Ballads of the West".

The Reverend Norman Wallwork is a supernumerary minister in the Exeter, Coast and County circuit. The review is reproduced here with the permission of the Methodist Recorder.



...er... apart from this little hiccup... it was an excellent church pancake supper...

WESLEY COTTAGE STUDY AND QUIET DAYS FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2018

Places are limited on these days so advance booking is essential
telephone: 01566 880265 or email: wesleycottage@live.co.uk

Although there is no set charge to attend donations are welcome and a buffet lunch is provided unless indicated otherwise.

Thursday 1st February 10am-3pm Study Day: 'The Lord's Prayer in New Testament Greek' with Mr Tony Carter of Wesley Cottage Management Committee.

Saturday 10th February 10am-3pm Study Day: 'Discipling Presence' with Rev Elizabeth Clark. Wesley Cottage is delighted to welcome Elizabeth our National Rural Officer as she introduces us to a new resource for those working in rural situations.

Tuesday 13th March 10am-3pm Quiet Day: 'Enjoying God' with Rev Sandy Osgerby. Following our excellent day in the autumn Sandy returns to lead us in another of our popular quiet days.

Thursday March 22nd 10am-3pm Study Day: 'Some Methodist Cornish Saints' with Rev Ian Haile. Wesley Cottage welcomes Ian, a former District Chair, to lead a study day where he will share a little of his immense knowledge of Historic Cornish Methodism by unpacking the stories of some famous names from the past.

Advance Notice: The President is Preaching from the Porch.

Wesley Cottage Wesley Day Celebrations 2018

Our Wesley Day Celebrations this year will take place on Sunday 27th May.

4pm Preach from the Porch.

5pm Tea at Altarnun Parish Church Hall.

6.30pm Worship at Altarnun Parish Church.

Our Preacher for both services will be the President of Conference Revd Lorraine Mellor. Worship will be led by Cornwall District Chair Revd Steve Wild. The account of Wesley's Conversion will be read by Methodist Youth President Mr Michael Pryke.

John Hogarth

TRAIN TO BE NAMED AFTER JOHN WESLEY

The Connexion reports that a new train on the Great Western Railway is to be named after John Wesley. The report states that the announcement comes following a competition to find the "100 Greatest Westerners of all Time" by the Bristol Post and the Great Western Railway. David Worthington, manager of The New Room, Bristol is credited with suggesting Wesley.

CENTRAL

Christmas and New Year will be over by the time we read this, but it's good to look back and remember the many wonderful events which took place at this special time of year.

In common with many other chapels, we enjoyed Christingle in the morning and a very thought provoking evening Carol Service on the weekend before Christmas. The Twelve Days of Christmas was a theme carried through several services culminating on Christmas Eve morning when the tree, made by the friends at Elmslea, was used to link the well-known carol with the basics of our faith. The crib service and late night service were also well attended and many joined the children on Christmas morning to find out what they had brought to show.

New Year saw Central filled with friends from most of the other chapels as we rededicated ourselves to the Lord and his service at the annual Covenant Service.

Activities and groups start again in the coming weeks, including house groups and the church prayer meeting. The New Year Fellowship lunch took place on January 14th, kindly arranged by Margaret Baker, Evelyn Sandercock and helpers.

The church AGM is on Sunday February 4th at 3.30pm followed by our monthly Traditional Evening Service, led by Malcolm and including the celebration of Holy Communion.

Pat White

BOYTON

Everyone was delighted to hear that our organist Ruth Allin has passed her grade 8 piano exam. She took her exam three days after celebrating her 75th birthday!!

New puppets have been purchased and the children and young people have been performing their puppeteering skills at various services and in Sunday School. We have discovered there is no other ministry quite like puppet ministry for reaching, teaching and entertaining congregations of all ages.

In late November we held a pre Christmas community lunch, when over 50 sat down to a roast beef dinner followed by Christmas pudding or fruit, tea and Agnes' homemade biscuits.

Janet Barriball truly inspired us as she led our family Christmas service. After watching the Bible Society's video 'The Greatest Journey' Janet retold the story and all the children present acted it out. Janet also told the Christmas story with her Chocolate Advent Banner, with each bar of chocolate representing part of the Christmas story.

The chapel was full to capacity for the community carol service which was ably

led by Rev Malcolm Jones. Readings and poems were read by members of the various organisations in the village and everyone was in fine voice for the carols. This was followed by afternoon tea when a true feeling of community and Christmas spirit was present. The collection was sent to the St Petroc's Society.

Philip Parsons blessed us on Christmas eve with a very special service when he involved the children in all parts of the service, prayers with candles, pass the parcel, puppets and a jigsaw explaining the true meaning of the Christmas story.

We have valued Malcolm's support throughout the past year and look forward to 2018 with hope and anticipation.

From Friends at Boyton Chapel

YEOLMBRIDGE

It was the turn of Yeolmbridge Chapel to host the Annual Werrington Parish Carol Service which was held the week before Christmas. It took the form of a Virtual Nativity with Herod's scribe constantly on his laptop trying to trace the whereabouts of the promised Messiah. Online he found a praying Zechariah and saw the Angel Gabriel reassuring him about the birth of John. Three scholars were at a Cybercafé checking they were on the right route to find the baby and also looking at their emails. Elizabeth and Mary met and exchanged news about their babies. After the birth in a stable, the shepherds seeing the Angel chorus rushed to the stable booking their rooms online by mobile phone. Later Herod and the three scholars chatted online and when the scholars realised Herod's intentions they travelled home by a different route. Finally the Angel Gabriel declared that "All this took place to fulfil what God has said through the Prophet. A Saviour has been born to you today in Bethlehem."

Many people from the 2 churches and from within the parish took part with Janet Barriball as leader and narrator. Nine carols were interspersed at relevant intervals with Carol Baker as organist. A collection amounting to £160 was given to St.Petroc's Society.

Ladies of the chapel served a light afternoon tea in the Hall afterwards.

Just before the end of term pupils and staff of Werrington Primary School trooped across the road to take part in a Christingle service led by Revd Malcolm.

The Chapel had been beautifully decorated, the children particularly liked the illuminated crib with the figures and animals gathered around the baby Jesus. A large Christmas tree with bright twinkling lights added to the Christmassy atmosphere. With help from their teachers and some ladies from the Chapel the children made their Christingles which they proudly took home together with a bag of goodies each as a gift from the Chapel.

Mary Cole

FORK HANDLES OR FOUR CANDLES??

A salutary nativity story. Just imagine the scene—the church all complete with its decorations, ivy, holly, flowers, a stable scene and much, much, more including candles. This is where a divergence of duties came into being. As is usual practice, the ladies, because of their particular artistic abilities, are totally responsible for all of the arrangements. On the other hand when it comes to the actual work with them on the day, it does become the men's job.

Two grown up men are also involved-whom we will call the 'Flower-pot men' --not that either should be allowed to get near neither flowers nor pots'

Enter the scene right as you might say comes 'Bill'. No problem- he knows what he has to do!! Light all the candles. Still no problem, matches in hand- and away he goes-- all successfully lit. He stands back and admires his handiwork-- all looking fine. And so on with the service-that all went well-then mince pies coffee/teas after-then it comes to tidying after the event.

Candles to be 'made out'. Again, enter the scene right, as you might say, comes our 'Bill'. Two of the candles have already gone out. Our 'Bill' examines them to find out why- and discovers they are battery operated!! The plastic 'make believe' flame had totally burnt off, leaving a hole. O dear!! He did own up to the lady who supplied them!!

End of story?? Not a bit of it!! Enter the scene left as you might say comes 'Ben'. He was fully aware of what had happened-so decided it was his responsibility to take over the job. There were other candles to be dealt with. So picking up the next one from a high window he turns it upside down to get to the switch-only to find there was no switch-he suddenly realises this was a proper candle - and there was about a tablespoonful of wax gone down on an upholstered chair and the carpet!!!

Conclusion-if any-Two candles, which were not candles, but everyone thought were, were not-and one candle which everyone thought was a candle, and one thought it was not, was a candle!! - no-one touched the fourth candle- and it was blown out from a distance!!!

(based on fact!!!)

Next year?- we may have FORK HANDLES!! You can't go wrong with them- or can you??

Thought for the Month

For the Christian thankfulness pervades the whole of life.

"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances....."

1Thessalonians 5:16-18.

A NEW YEAR FOR THE LEAGUE OF PRAYER

Meetings begin again on February 13th at 7.30pm in the Dingley Hall. We look forward to meeting again with regular members and would be delighted to see anyone else who would like to join us.

Under the new leadership of Mike Stern, known to many as the Manager of the Christian Bookshop, each month will include the regular Bible Teaching session, led by our visiting speakers. Now we also plan to place a renewed emphasis on prayer within the meeting and on fellowship.

Close links continue with the Faith Mission. George and Henry Clayson, currently working with Alistair and Yvette Park, the local missionaries, will speak at the March meeting.

At the February meeting we are looking forward to the ministry of Alan Libby, both in spoken word and in song.

Please join us for a warm welcome and a time of great Christian fellowship.

Pat White

The North Hill section of the Women's World Day of Prayer is to be held on Friday 2nd March at St. Nonnas church Altarnun. Time to be arranged. Preacher is Revd Deryn Roberts.

CHURCHES TOGETHER CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Christmas Lunch at Central Methodist Church

After concerns that a Christmas Day Lunch might not happen it all came together in December. Excellent organisation resulted in some food preparation and cooking on Christmas Eve, lots more work on Christmas morning and a delicious Christmas lunch was served to about 40 people in the Sunday School Hall. Transport was provided for those who needed it, hot or cold drinks were served when people arrived, games were available to help to break the ice and lots of chat, laughter and friendliness made for a great atmosphere. Several local businesses made generous donations of food and other items and many people gave time and expertise to create a successful Christmas lunch. Everyone took a further meal home to enjoy the next day and chocolates were a lovely surprise too. I believe that many people benefited from the Christmas Lunch, both those who would otherwise have been on their own and those who helped in any way too. Roll on next Christmas – volunteers always required.

Sue Howe

COADS GREEN

On Sunday 3rd December, our Sunday School and Young People presented two faultless performances. Leading the morning service were Alison and Keith Gribble. Keith was pleased with the button holes (yellow roses) given to him and Alison. Keith remarked the only time he normally wears a button hole is at a wedding! He then introduced the youngsters: on the platform were Sarah, Josie and Alice who were having cups of drinking chocolate and talking about Christmas. Also on the platform was a large box covered in red paper with a small door on the front. They queried with each other as to what this could be.

The door slowly opened and out came carol singers complete with bobble hats and gloves, together with little ones between the ages of three and five. We were then treated to little ones with shopping bags rushing around to get their shopping before Christmas. Then out came Postman Pat with his bag and Jess the cat. The theme music from the programme played while he handed out letters to most of the congregation.

Then a flock of sheep caused mayhem in the church. The music for this was Shaun the Sheep. All these sheep must have been squashed in the box! A handful of grown-ups had been roped in too, including Graham Tucker, complete with a sheep mask and he was making authentic sheep "bah bahs" - well seeing he breeds prize winning sheep he ought to be able to!

Three older girls dressed as angels came out of the box and sang a carol.

Last of all out of the box came Joseph and Mary with the baby Jesus.

This was a nativity story with a difference!

A sketch followed this presentation, where Theo came onto the platform dressed as a shepherd. He was having a conversation with two members of the public. At first, they just laughed when he told them that an angel had been to see him and told him a child had been born in a stable. Then one of them decided he would like to know more about Jesus.

Congratulations to the Sunday School teachers for getting the children to a high standard and presenting the congregation with a most entertaining and enjoyable morning and evening.

The evening service was led by Richard and Marilyn Butter. They spoke about the Advent Road and the Journey of Life. They showed various road signs to the children and asked who could identify them correctly; quite a few could!

The first Advent candle was lit by Anna Parsons.

Marina Pridham

Our Christmas preparations got under way in November when the Young people & Sunday School were preparing for their Christmas Production which was on December 3rd (see Marina's report).

At the start of each service throughout Advent, candles were lit on the advent wreath, with the final candle being lit at the Christmas Eve service.

The morning worship on December 17th was led by Revd Jo Smart, while the Sunday School & Young people were in the parlour busy making cardboard doves which were made to hang on a tree & baking mince pies, which were later given and served with coffee to the congregation after the service. In the evening, people from the village and the surrounding area joined us for our Candlelit service.

On the morning of December 24th, Mike Stephens led our Christmas Special when once again we had plenty of opportunity to have a good sing of both traditional and modern carols, while the children enjoyed Messy Sunday School. In the evening, Revd Jo Smart led an uplifting Christmas Eve Communion Service.

With the Christmas tree in the vestibule and Nativity characters and colourful spotlights in the chapel, our place of worship was made to look warm, bright and welcoming.

All the services were well presented with a good attendance at each one. Our thanks go to everyone who led, prepared, took part, supported, attended & gave, making the celebration of our Saviour's birth a memorable time.

Action For Children was the chosen charity for two of our services and as a result £195 was raised.

Margaret Venning

PIPERS POOL

Once again the ladies involved with the monthly parish lunch exceeded themselves with the wonderful Christmas Lunch and all the trimmings when about fifty lunches were prepared. The tables were beautifully decorated and each person had a gift. Between the meal and talking there were a couple of Christmas quizzes to solve and we exchanged Christmas cards. Everyone went home feeling rather full and all had smiles on their faces. A gift of money was presented to the ladies for all their hard work over the past year.

Jean Humber

On 17th December members, families and friends from the chapel attended a pop up nativity at Gospenheale Farm in a decorated shed belonging to the Jones family. More than 70 people came with many dressed as characters from the Christmas story in the style of the children's book "We're Going on a Bear Hunt". There were lots of Marys, Josephs, King Herods, wise men, shepherds and animals, even a real baby! Emma Uglow narrated the story and Christine Tratt played the keyboard. Afterwards there was a hot dog and cup cake lunch with drinks, all supplied by the ladies from the chapel.

Verity Jones (age 10).

LENT – ASH WEDNESDAY TO EASTER SUNDAY

If we had to hold a survey on the High Street asking the question 'what is the meaning of Lent' you would have various answers. One, I have no idea what you are talking about. Two I seem to remember something about it from school. Three I am giving up chocolate, or some luxury, for Lent.

Lent is one of the major events in the Christian calendar. It is a time when Jesus went forty days and nights in the desert to prepare for his ministry. This showed his humanity, that he was willing to test himself. It is difficult to understand what it would be like in the middle of the desert without food for that length of time. You can imagine the difficulties he had with turning down the temptations offered to him by the devil.

Firstly the turning stones into bread, he would have been at his most vulnerable and to turn it down would have been very difficult.

Secondly he was taken to the Holy City and had him stand on the highest point of the temple and again Jesus declined the temptation to throw himself off.

Thirdly the devil took him to the highest mountain and offered him the entire world if he would worship him. Again Jesus declined.

Temptations in themselves are not a sin, it is when we succumb to them that we sin.

Each and every day we are tempted to do many things that we know are wrong. We are tempted in many different ways in the modern world though consumerism, social media and advertising. Initially it looks very attractive and fulfilling. But when looked at carefully it is very misleading.

It is at the time when we are most vulnerable when tempted that it becomes very difficult not to accept.

Today the devil offers us the world by trying to entice us with materialism and power. We can resist temptations the same way that Jesus did. We can use the words that Jesus said to the devil 'worship the Lord your God and serve him only'.

Why not take the opportunity of Lent to reaffirm our faith and worship the Lord our God and serve him only.

Neville Helme

Tregadillett will be hosting the Ecumenical Study Group for Lent 2018 Mondays - February 26th. to March 26th. inclusive from 7.30- to 9.00pm.

Theme - On the Third Day - the Resurrection Then and Now.

You are warmly invited to join us for any or all of the above sessions

house of one of the team members for Coffee, lunch and fellowship.

Please pray for all of the groups as we present a different story each week, always ending with a thought and an invitation for the children to join in a prayer.

Lewtrenchard school has expressed an interest in having a group visit them so we are going there to give them a 'taster'. Please pray that a new group will be formed and trained, to take on both Lewtrenchard and possibly Lifton schools- several people have expressed an interest in doing so.

We would value your prayers for the children that they will remember the stories as they progress through their education and that will want to know more. Also for the teachers as they hear God's word.

Rosemary Paxman

TRULY RURAL – A TEMPERANCE MEETING AT ALTARNUN

For those readers interested in local Methodism Truly Rural is a gem. Written by the Reverend Herbert Bolitho in 1947 it documents the events and "personalalia" of the North Hill Circuit during the period 1743 to 1946. Many of the places within the then North Hill Circuit are now of course within the Launceston Area Methodist Circuit. The book has three sections which the Rev Bolitho heads - The General Story, Personalalia and Grave and Gay. At the end there is a comprehensive appendix of statistics.

One of the subjects which is dealt with is the temperance question and the evils of drink where vigorous efforts were made to stop the traffic in alcohol. In Altarnun a Mrs James Clymo bought the "Ring of Bells" and immediately closed it down. Similar action was taken by concerned Methodists in relation to public houses at Congdon's Shop, Lewannick and Stoke Climsland.

In the drive to curb the evils of drink it was common for temperance lectures to be held in the various villages of the circuit. The Reverend Bolitho describes one such lecture held at Altarnun old chapel in 1864 which ultimately turned out to be remembered as a comedy but could well have had tragic results. The lecture was being given by a converted clown (Reverend Bolitho's own words) to a full audience – too full for as the audience was departing the floor by the exit gave way and some of the audience fell down through the floor among the startled horses in the stables below. A panic ensued and another clown (my words) shouted 'fire' whereupon people started exiting via broken windows. There was little damage to the building and fortunately only minor injuries to persons. However, Reverend Bolitho records the fate of one good soul who had fallen among the horses and had grasped the stout legs of one of the animals thinking it was one of her relatives! Luckily for her the amazed horse did not kick or resent her embraces. No doubt quite serious at the time, the experience was later considered, in hindsight, to be a huge joke!

Viv Sandercock

There was almost a full chapel on Christmas Eve for the Community Carol Service. It was led by Revd Malcolm Jones and many well known carols were sung. A Pop-up choir sang some Cornish carols—The St Day Carol and The Seven Joys of Mary— and led the congregation in singing While Shepherds Watched to the tune Lyngham. A new carol, Love Shone Down, which is found in Singing the Faith, was also sung as a piece by the choir which was made up of three ladies who sing in a local choir, two daughters visiting for Christmas together with members of Pipers Pool chapel and Trewen Church. David Pett conducted the choir and the accompanist was Sue Jones and for the carols, Christine Tratt. The choir only had three practices and not one with everybody present so it was indeed a "pop-up"!

Keira, Freya and Verity gave the Bible readings and Linda and Jamie Pett read two poems. Malcolm gave a short address on what we think Christmas is all about!

It was good to have many visitors present and all enjoyed tea and mince pies at the end of the service. The chapel had been beautifully decorated by the ladies who had included candles which were lit for the service. An advent ring was prepared and given by Joy Grigg.

The money from both services amounted to £275 which has been given to St. Petroc's Society.

Maureen Jones

TREGADILLET

Christmas ---and all that!!

Concert---We started the season early, at the end of November. No problem with that. Johnny Cowling's concert saw a house full of people and great entertainment. This time we had decided to give a large portion of the proceeds to charities. So, League or Friends of Launceston Hospital, St. Petrocs [for the homeless in Cornwall], Alzheimers Society, and Motor Neurone Disease all benefited by £250 each. The cheques were later presented at our Christmas Community Carol service. A large raffle, well supported locally, helped to swell the proceeds. Pasties and cups of tea/coffee were served in the interval. Based on its success a repeat performance is booked for Christmas 2019.

Brownies/Guides. Again nearly a `full house`. This year because the guides had decided to join in the occasion it meant a lot more friends and parents came too. A mixture of songs, poems and readings were brought to a conclusion by a prayer by Rev Teresa Folland. The whole event was led by Sara Fuge of the Brownies. The traditional coffee and mince pies followed.

Community Carol service—again nearly a `full house`. This year it was led by our own Sarah Vinson. Launceston Town Band provided the music. Special this year was the central theme presented by the Church Of England `Open

the Book` team. Written especially for the occasion by one of them John Timbury, the Nativity story was relayed by him and Gloria Lasenby, Chris Smale and Rosemary Russell. Clive Vinson read a seasonal poem by John Betjeman.

Midnight service—About 20 gathered for this led by Rev. George Darby. It does seem to be a perfect way to actually begin Christmas Day.

**RIDING LIGHTS
THEATRE Company**

Monday 19th February,
St. Martins Lower Hall, Liskeard.

'Where Adventure Begins'
Theatre for the whole Church.
(Entry £10)

*Saturday 24th February,
Exeter Cathedral.
(Free entry)*

"Faith in the Questions"

How faith can inform our scientific understanding.

For more details please contact Ken Scoble on 01566 782478
Or visit the Riding Lights website: ridinglights.org

Looking for a rewarding volunteer role?

St Giles-on-the-Heath Primary School are looking for Co-opted Governors to join their friendly Governing Body.

A Governor can be anyone from the community who wishes to be involved in ensuring the best possible education for children. Our Governors bring a variety of skills and experience from a wide range of backgrounds. We would love to hear from anyone who feels they could help our school as we recognise everyone has lots to offer. We would be especially interested in anyone with any financial / accounting experience past or present as we have identified this as a skills gap currently.

No prior governance experience is necessary, full support and FREE training is supplied - all you need to bring is enthusiasm! For more information on this rewarding, fulfilling role and an application form, please contact the school's office on (01566) 772191.

News and Views



OPEN THE BOOK

There are three groups working in and around Launceston, meaning that all the town primary schools hear a Bible story every week.

Our group go to St.Catherines and Egloskerry, the second group cover Windmill and St.Stephens and a third group visit five village schools. These are Coads Green, South Petherwin, Trekenner, Lewannick and Lewannick nursery and they are visited twice a term.

Each group has a mix of people from different churches and it's lovely to have fellowship together.

The group I am part of goes to St. Catherines every Wednesday at 9.15am and then on to Egloskerry at 10.15. The schools have a copy of our programme and know exactly what we are going to say. Quite often children from different classes take part in the drama.

After that it's back to a team member's house for coffee, prayer and practise for the following week. At the end of each term we treat ourselves to coffee and cake at Cowslip Workshops.

The group who visit Windmill and St.Stephens were also asked to do a presentation at Tregadillet Brownies at Christmas. They asked the children how many of them had heard of 'Open the Book' and were very pleased to see that more than two thirds of them put their hands up.

Our group took part in the story telling at the Bridge Church at Christmas, which was part of three days of their Christmas exhibition.

The group visiting the village schools do this over 2 days each half term. Wednesday they go to Coads Green and Trekenner, and Thursday they go to South Petherwin, Lewannick and Lewannick nursery. Each day they go to the