

December 2016

# The Link

**Eastwick Road Church,**  
the United Reformed Church, Bookham



[www.bookhamurc.org.uk](http://www.bookhamurc.org.uk)

Dear Friends,

A family friend, Rebecca, gave birth to a lovely little boy at the beginning of November. She knew in advance that it was going to be a boy, and his name was decided before he was born. But there, any similarities to the first Christmas cease, for she cannot know what lies ahead for her son or what he will grow up to do and be, nor was she told of his significance to the world. In the case of Jesus, he came into this world as part of God's salvation plan which had been flagged up centuries before and which the three Magi recognised. He came to establish 'the Kingdom of God' and make possible God's plan for us all. Tom Wright in his book *Simply Christian* \* says "God's future was breaking into the present. Heaven was arriving on earth." Jesus had come to turn the world the right way up.

Jesus was born to fulfil God's promises and purposes, to start a new reign of justice and peace and to show what the true God was really like. The point of Jesus work was to "bring heaven to earth and join them together for ever"\* . Unfortunately this did not go down well as Jesus' actions and words upset many, as he celebrated God's kingdom with those that society had left at the bottom of the pile - the poor, the outcasts, the disabled and even the tax-collectors- and brought them to the top of the pile. The pressure groups, such as the Pharisees, were concerned about the challenge to their power structures and considered the kingdom preaching rebellious. They felt uncomfortable as they listened to his teaching, much of it through parables, as they were compelled to put themselves in the picture that Jesus painted and see the truth about themselves and Jesus.

Christmas thus celebrates the arrival of the King of kings, and the arrival of the kingdom of God on earth, as Jesus' life gave us a glimpse of that kingdom in action.

## 2 Letter continued

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But Jesus' arrival on earth became even more glorious as the King of kings gave his life for us on that cross so that we might receive his mercy and forgiveness, enabling us to be restored to him as adopted sons and to share in his inheritance. As he lives in us and others around us we get glimpses of his kingdom. When we read the nativity account in Matthew chapter 1, we see that Jesus was the fulfilment of Isaiah's prophecy that a virgin will give birth to a son to be called 'Immanuel' which means "God with us". Under the old covenant God's address was at one time "The Tabernacle, Sinai Wilderness, Near Egypt" and then later "The Holy of Holies, The Temple, Jerusalem", but now his address is the local church and the hearts of believers.

Jesus came to establish his Kingdom, which is a glorious replacement of the damaged, hurting society that we know now. He came to show us God and help us understand the heart of God, and to see his love for us as he became the suffering servant. Tom Wright writes "The death of Jesus of Nazareth as the King of the Jews, the bearer of Israel's destiny, the fulfilment of God's promises to his people of old, is either the most stupid, senseless waste and misunderstanding the world has ever seen, or it is the fulcrum around which world history turns. Christianity is based on the belief that it was and is the latter". So let's pray that, as many around us celebrate Christmas without an understanding of its real significance and importance, they will see glimpses of Jesus in those into whom the one who came at Christmas has breathed life. Pray that we will each show love and care to those in need [especially the lonely, the homeless and the sad] so that it begins to dawn on people that Christmas celebrates a hugely significant point in

God's glorious plan for our world, and that he is actually here and alive in his kingdom people. A very Happy Christmas. With my love,

**David**

\* "Simply Christian" by Tom Wright.SPCK [2006]

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***Bookham Diary December 2016***

- 2 Friday Bible Study 10am - 11.30am
  - 3 Prayer meeting 9.30am in church
  - 4 **Early Bird service 9am led by Sean Botha**  
**Morning Worship 10.30am led by Rev Donald Finnan**
  - 6 Elders' meeting 6pm in Meeting Room
  - 7 Midweek Home Group 7.30pm 294 Lower Rd
  - 8 **Late Night Opening Bookham 6pm - 8.30pm**
  - 9 Prayer Meeting 9.30am in church.
  - 10 Selah Meeting 8.30am
  - 11 **Early Bird Service 9am led by Sean Botha**  
**Morning Worship with Communion 10.30am .**  
**Speaker: Rev. Andrew Twilley**
  - 13 Messy Church 3.15pm
  - 14 Meeting Point Christmas Lunch 1pm followed by Carols  
Midweek Home Group 7.30pm 294 Lower Rd
  - 17 Men's Breakfast 8.30am  
Prayer Meeting 9.30am
  - 18 **Early Bird Service 9am led by Sean Botha**  
**Family Morning service with readings and carols**  
**10.30am led by David Howell.**  
Followed by mince pies and coffee.
  - 25 **Christmas Day - short family service 10.30am**  
followed by mulled wine and mince pies  
**Christmas Lunch from 11.30am - 3.30pm in the hall.**
  - Jan1 **Morning Worship 10.30am led by Rev. Donald Finnan**  
Material for the **January Link** should be given to Sue  
Ferguson by **Sunday December 11<sup>th</sup>**
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## 4 Events

### **Late Night Opening in Bookham**

*A Right Royal Christmas - Thursday December 8<sup>th</sup>*

*6-8.30pm*



*Join Carol singing.*

6.30pm The Grove

7pm High St near Wishing Well card shop

7.30pm Church Rd.

At Baptist Church: Dawnay School Choir - 6.10- 6.30pm

7pm Steel Pans. Craft stalls

At St Nicolas Church/Pastoral Centre: decorated Christmas trees (including an exhibit by ERC)

Craft activities for children, Father Christmas

A children's trail.

***Messy Church at Christmas - Tuesday December 13<sup>th</sup> 3.15pm.***

**Meeting Point - Wed. December 14<sup>th</sup> 1pm - 3.45pm**

A light Christmas Lunch followed by music and carols.

**Men's Breakfast 8.30am Saturday December 17<sup>th</sup>**



**Christmas Day Lunch at the Church.**

*All welcome. Invitations are at the back of the church if you know someone who you might appreciate an invite.*

Can you find the first lines of these Carols or Christmas songs with these initial letters ?

1. G R Y M G

2. W T K

3. G. K... W

4. T. H A...T...I

5. T F N

6. O C A...Y...F

7. H T...H A S

8. A W...I A M

9. S A...T W S

10. O L T...O...B

11. O I R...D...C

12. T T D O C



## 6 Concert for the Nepal Leprosy Trust

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On November 12<sup>th</sup> we were treated to some outstanding music making from the Petrovic family and friends and pupils from Yehudi Menuhin School.

The purpose was to raise money for the continuing relief work of Nepal Leprosy Trust and Mike Houghton gave us an update on their work.

**Our thanks to Beth, Natasha, and Susi for arranging this** and to our musicians, all who helped on the night, compering the event, doing the sound, projection, catering and selling the craft work. Thank you!

Total raised from NLT sales, Susi's craft sales , ticket donations after expenses was £1300.







Christmas is coming and we have been planning the opening times for the **Coffee Shop** held at Bookham Baptist Church.

The **GOOD NEWS** is that we will be open on Saturday 31st December at the usual time of 10-12noon, with **complimentary mince pies** and other seasonal treats available! Do come along and join us for this last session of 2016.

We will not be open on Friday 23rd, Saturday 24th, Monday 26th December, or Monday 2nd January.

**2017 will see some changes** in the way we organise the **Community Hub** at Bookham Baptist Church. The Trustees have decided that we want to get out more into local venues, and we are hoping to create opportunities to take our information and signposting resources out to different places and on different days next year - for example, The Meeting Place @The Barn Hall, or maybe at a coffee shop or community gathering. In order to focus



on this outreach, we have decided to discontinue our Monday combined Coffee Shop and Community Hub sessions. We will still be at the Baptist Church, 10am-12noon on Friday and Saturday mornings, offering coffee, cake, the Community Hub information and a friendly welcome as usual. We have also decided to discontinue selling children's clothes, toys and books, but we will have a trolley with books and DVDs for adults and maybe some jigsaws available on Friday and Saturday mornings.

Appointments will still be available on a Friday with our visiting **Solicitors Wellers Hedleys** as well as other agencies such as **Sight for Surrey and the Surrey Hubs**. **Hearing Aid advisors** are now available on various Fridays and Saturdays, for help with batteries etc. For information/appointments ring the **Community Hub on 07425 133431**, or check our website. **The Citizens Advice Bureau** offers drop-in sessions on the 2nd Tuesday every month at St Nicolas Pastoral Centre. The next date 13 Dec. and 10 Jan. from 10.00-11.30am. These are held in a private room, and coffee is available if you have to wait. *Continued on p9*

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**Meeting Place Newsletter** *continued from p8.*

At the **Language Hub** the classes have been well attended this term, and will soon be finishing for the Christmas break. They will resume on 9th/10th January, so if you would like more information, or know of anyone for whom English is not their first language who would like to attend, please contact Yvonne Delahunty (07711 565366).

We continue to support the **Leatherhead Food Bank** by having purple collection crates at Bookham Baptist and St Nicolas church.

**Friends of The Meeting Place** offer practical help and/or donate financially to us. We want the work of The Meeting Place to be rooted in prayer - please remember us in your prayers as we seek new direction. Please follow us on Facebook and also look at our website (<http://themeetingplacebookham.webs.com>), or email [themeetingplacebookham@gmail.com](mailto:themeetingplacebookham@gmail.com).

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## Model show in aid of The M.N.D.A. East Surrey branch



This seemed to go well and I am not aware of any important upsets with the show itself. When organising an event of this kind, I think you have to accept that there are, almost certainly, going to be some (hopefully only a few) major 'panics'. This time, these seemed to revolve around sandwiches and locomotive transport. Regarding sandwiches, I was surprised by the lack of autonomy that seems to be given to supermarket managers. Fortunately, Annie's cafe, in Leatherhead, were our knight in shining armour, for which I am duly grateful.

Transport of the large  $7\frac{1}{4}$  inch gauge locomotive was the other 'panic'. The owner could not bring it, due to another engagement (model makers are busy people), so I agreed to do the tow with my Landrover. It should have been well within the capabilities of such a vehicle, but I had reckoned without a (fortunately small) gearbox fault that showed itself on the setting up day. This almost immobilised the Landrover and made it quite unsuitable to tow a trailer with over a ton of equipment on board. In this case, the services of another S.S.M.E. member with a suitable towing vehicle and a small group of other members made its delivery possible.

After all the 'dust' had settled and the Church furniture had been restored to its proper places, we were able to give £500 to the charity. This figure is still increasing at the moment, as I receive more donations from people who could not be there on the day. All in all, a very satisfactory result and I am most grateful to all the folk of this Church who helped in any way, or simply came to visit.

**Roger**

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*Andrea continued from p12*

As in previous years, I plan to send enough money in my next payment for small Christmas presents for Andrea and Ana-Maria in addition to the usual food parcel.

I invite you to remember the family in your prayers as they face the rigours of a Romanian winter. Please, also, do not forget to ask for healing for Arpi's mother, a caring and devout lady in whose home I have been a guest on a number of occasions.

***Roger Wakeford***



### **Shoe boxes for Romania & Eastern Europe**

Thank you to all those who supported the shoebox scheme again this year at both Eastwick Road and Gomshall U.R.C.s and in the Meeting Point group. The need for these still continues, even though the 'news machine' has long ago moved on to other places. This year we provided 16 boxes. Unfortunately, the record will only show 15, because one got to me too late to be listed on the official form that I have to submit. Not to worry, because the last one will still get there and do its good work, which is the main thing. Start saving for next year now!

***Roger***



This month's picture was taken back in the early summer and shows Andrea with two boxes of strawberries. I am not sure whether these are part of a food parcel from us or if they have been grown on her parent's land. I suspect the latter, partly because there are too many for the plastic boxes in which Andrea is holding them. Whichever, it is a nice picture of this little girl who is being greatly helped by all your kind donations.

At the moment, I do not have any very recent pictures. I think this is mainly because Arpi's mother has had a lengthy stay in hospital due to a heart problem. In his last message, he said that she needed surgery, but had an infection which had to be dealt with first. Where have I heard that before? I believe she is now home, but needs much help and assistance, and I think she has not had the operation yet.

I expect I will receive more news about Andrea and her family in due course. For the moment, I trust that you will understand the problems of Arpi, upon whom I depend for my information.

*Continued on page 11*