

Victoria Road Congregational Church

December Newsletter



Planned Preachers

for December

December 3rd	Dr David George	<i>including Communion</i>
December 10th	Mr Andrew Howes	
December 17th	Dr David George	<i>Carol Service 10.30am</i>
<i>Christmas Eve</i>		
December 24th	Jackie, Gez & Daphne	<i>Christingle Service 10.30am</i>
<i>Christmas Day Service</i>		
December 25th	Miss Jenny Ilett	<i>10.30am</i>
December 31st	Miss Jenny Ilett	
January 7th	Dr David George	<i>including Communion</i>

Family News . . .



Pray for **Ruth Lowe** and her family. Shes passed away suddenly on Sunday, November 12th, peacefully with all her family around her.

Pray for **Dr David George** as he slowly recovers from his recent cancer operation. He is recovering well and please continue to pray for him and his family.

Please keep **Joan & Fred Ager** in your prayers. Visiting the couple recently they both looked in the best of health but still need your thoughts.

Pray for our church's Growth – please pray at home for our church's growth – John

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John's thoughts . . .

CHRISTMAS SYMBOLS

TODAY, SOME PEOPLE are trying to remove any public mention of Christ at Christmas, while others seem bent on secularising it completely.

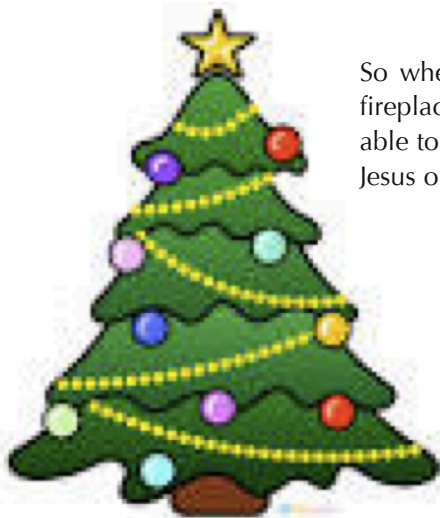
So lets look at the meaning of some of the Christmas symbols.

The small holly berries are thought to have originally reminded Christians of the drops of Christ's blood caused by the crown of thorns He wore on calvary.

The evergreen trees speak of the promise of never-ending life resulting from His resurrection.

The Celtic cross has a circle surrounding the intersection of the vertical and horizontal axis of the cross. Some believe it originated with St Patrick, who, upon seeing a round symbol of the moon goddess, drew a Christian cross over it – changing a druid symbol into a new symbol for Irish Christianity.

In the same way that St Patrick adopted a pagan circle and gave it a new meaning, so other Christians adopted the evergreen wreath and gave it a new meaning. When early Christians changed the Roman winter solstice of the re-birth of the sun (originally on December 21) to a celebration of the birth of 'Son of Righteousness', the evergreen wreath was adopted. Instead of simply being a garland, the round Christmas wreath now speaks of the never-ending unity and fellowship we have with God through Christ.



So when you hang a wreath on your door or over your fireplace this Christmas, remind yourself nothing 'shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8,39).



Pray that the Christmas symbols you see this year would remind you of Jesus.



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Future planning . . .

CHRISTMAS TREES COFFEE MORNING – **Saturday, 2nd December**, 11am to 2pm. Numerous lit and Decorated Christmas Trees, with various Christmas stalls – Gifts, Games and Tombola. Refreshments to include Mince Pies and Bacon Butties.

DEACONS MEETING – **Thursday, 7th December** 10.30am in the Lecture Room. Planning meeting for Victoria Road, please let any of the Deacons know of any items you think we should be discussing.

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE – **Sunday, 17th December, 10.30am.** Our traditional Readings and familiar Carols, telling the wonderful story of Jesus' Bethlehem birth. Invite all your friends and family.

COFFEE MORNING – **Thursday, 21st December**, 10am to 12 noon. Coffee or Tea and Biscuits plus the usual bric-a-brac and book stalls. Let your friends know and come along and drop in for a chat and a cuppa. Raising money for our Charity giving.

CHRISTINGLE CAROL SERVICE – **Christmas Eve, Sunday 24th December, 10.30am.** (This went so well last year we are doing it again!!) Readings and Carols, as we make our own Christingles to remind us of the wonderful time of Christmas. Invite all your friends and family to come along and enjoy making their own Christingles which we light for the singing of our final Carol.

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE – **Sunday, 25th December, 10.30am.** A short service with readings and Carols. We worship at this wonderful time of Christ's birthday

COFFEE MORNING – **Saturday, 6th January**, 10am to 12 noon. Coffee or Tea and Biscuits plus the usual bric-a-brac and book stalls. Let your friends know and come along and drop in for a chat and a cuppa. Raising money for our Church Funds.

CHURCH MEETING – **Thursday, 11th January** 10.30am in the Lecture Room. Agendas will be available prior to the meeting. Planning meeting for Victoria Road, please can all members try to attend. We will need to give our thoughts as to how we plan going forward.

CHURCH FLOWERS: Contact Mrs Jackie Matthews to choose a Sunday that you would like to give flowers to Victoria Road.



COMMUNION SERVERS ROTA:

Dec 3rd, Gez Matthews & Nigel Hanna – Jan 7th, Daphne Denton & John Evans

Contact:

CHURCH SECRETARY: **Mr John Evans**

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