

# Salisbury Park URC

Minister - Rev. Brian Matthews

She will give birth  
to a son, and you are  
to give him the name  
Jesus, because he  
will save his people  
from their sins.

MATTHEW  
1:21



The  
United  
Reformed  
Church



December '18 and January '19  
Newsletter

# Our Church Your Church

Salisbury Park United Reformed Church

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## Elders

Mrs Michelle Berry – 01978 361320

Mrs Shirley Devaney – 01978 366262

Mrs Judith Dolben – 01978 363955

Mr John Houghton – 01978 750778

Mrs Barbara Jones – 01978 755548

Mrs Yvonne Owen – 01978 513421

Mr Mark Rodgers – 07899 301530



*Regular morning worship  
every Sunday at 10.45am  
A church for everyone*

# *Minister Matters*

## **Advent, Christmas and New Year**

For Beryl and me this year, Advent is going to be very different indeed. Instead of the usual, trying not to get caught up in the wrong Christmas, but failing miserably because of family expectations, we shall be spending a good part of the season in a far away country with a very different culture indeed. We are off to the General Assembly of the Mizoram Synod of the Presbyterian Church of India. Welsh missionaries were very successful in the 19th century in north east India and the state of Mizoram is 93% Christian with the vast majority being Presbyterian. We anticipate things being very different from this country. We assume that there will not be the pre-Christmas frenzy which we have in the United Kingdom and elsewhere in the western world. We do not even know if Advent is celebrated at all, it after all it is only in recent decades that non-Conformity has embraced the church calendar.

We may gain insight as to how they will celebrate Christmas but maybe new year will still be too far off as we return from there on December 10th.

I am hoping that we shall find a different spirituality from ours rooted perhaps in a society not as materially rich as ours and hopefully much more aware of dependence upon God.

A few weeks ago I visited a Presbyterian and URC Church in Newport which I knew very well but which has changed dramatically from the time I knew it best in 1970s and 80s. Then it was very middle class and money rich. Today it is a beacon of light reaching out to the homeless and poor around that area. One of the Elders who is very busy there, Mathias, is from Cameroon and his main theme is to get people to understand their total reliance on God by reconnecting them to the land and awareness of important food, and its production, is for us.

We think of the west teaching the rest of the world but the rest of the world has so much more to teach us. At this Christmas time we may well ponder how much our wealth has separated us from God and look again to the simplicity of the birth narratives and put our faith and trust simply in God and in His Incarnate Son, Jesus. May you all have a truly blessed Christmas,

Brian.

# What When Who?

## Leading Service

December 2nd Rev Chris Howard  
December 9th Mr Bryn Williams  
December 16th Junior Church  
December 23rd Barbara Jones readings and Carols  
December 30th Rev Brian Matthews **Communion Service**

January 6th Rev Chris Howard  
January 13th Rev Brian Matthews **Communion Service**  
January 20th rev Colin Richards  
January 27th Rev Brian Holroyd

## Duty Elders

December Shirley Devaney  
January Judith Dolben

## Flower Rota

December  
2nd Advent  
9th Advent  
16th Advent  
23rd Advent  
30<sup>th</sup> Advent

January  
6th Mrs Pat Taylor  
13th Mrs Jean Jones  
20th Mrs Susan Rowlands  
27th Mrs Sheila Cherrett



# What When Who?



## Morning Tea

### December

2nd

Yvonne Owen

9th

Gordon Burgess

16th

Mark Rodgers

23rd

Glenys and Merfyn

30th

Christine and Michelle

### January

6th

Mark Rodgers

13th

Shirley and Thelma

20th

Sharon and Terry

27th

Susan Rowlands

## Door Stewards

December

Gordon Burgess

January

Merfyn Jones

*If anyone would like to volunteer for any of the rotas please contact Barbara Jones. If there is anything you would like included in the newsletter please contact me*

*[markrodgers73@outlook.com](mailto:markrodgers73@outlook.com) Cheers*

# What When Who?

## Readings

December

- 2nd – OT Reading: Jeremiah 33.14-16 **Yvonne Owen**  
NT Reading: Luke 21.25-36 **Yvonne Owen**  
Epistle Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3.9-13  
Psalm: Psalm 25, 1-10
- 9<sup>th</sup> – OT Reading: Malachi 3.1-4 **Sharon Langford**  
NT Reading: Luke 3.1-6 **Sharon Langford**  
Epistle Reading: Philippians 1.3-11  
Benedictus: Luke 1.68-79
- 16<sup>th</sup> – OT Reading: Zephaniah 3.14-20  
NT Reading: **Luke 3.7-18**  
Epistle Reading: Philippians 4.4-7  
Canticle: Isaiah 12.2-6
- 23<sup>rd</sup> – OT Reading: Micah 5.2-5a  
NT Reading: **Luke 1.39-45(46-55)**  
Epistle Reading: Hebrews 10.5-10  
Magnificant: Luke 1.46b-55
- 30<sup>th</sup> - OT Reading: 1 Samuel 2.18-20,26 **Carole Blackwell**  
NT Reading: Luke 2.41-52 **Carole Blackwell**  
Epistle Reading: Colossians 3.12-17  
Psalm: Psalm 148

# What When Who?

## Readings

January 2019

- 6th – OT Reading: Isaiah 60.1-6 **Mark Rodgers**  
NT Reading: Matthew 2.1-12 **Mark Rodgers**  
Epistle Reading: Ephesians 3.1-12  
Psalm: Psalm 72.1-7,10-14
- 13th – OT Reading: Isaiah 43.1-7 **Glenys Jones**  
NT Reading: Luke 3.15-17,21-22 **Glenys Jones**  
Epistle Reading: Acts 8.14-17  
Psalm: Psalm 29
- 20th – OT Reading: Isaiah 62.1-5 **John Houghton**  
NT Reading: John 2.1-11 **John Houghton**  
Epistle Reading: 1 Corinthians 12.12-31a  
Psalm: Psalm 36, 5-10
- 27th – OT Reading: Nehemiah 8.1-3, 5-6, 8-10 **Merfyn Jones**  
NT Reading: Luke 4.14-21 **Merfyn Jones**  
Epistle Reading: 1 Corinthians 12.12-31a  
Psalm: Psalm 19

*Due to a shortage of readers to fill both months we are asking that readers read both readings for the week. If you are unable to attend or need a hand with one of the readings just ask, we'll be more than happy to help out.*

# Diary Dates



**1st December** – Christmas Fair 1pm – 3pm

Lots to see and do this year, including Prize Draw, Bottle Tombola, Pamper Stall, Candles and Cakes, Books, Fairtrade goods, Toys and Guess the weight of the cake

**19th January** – New Year Church Lunch 1.30pm

This year is a chicken dinner. Please complete separate order form

## Coffee Mornings

2<sup>nd</sup> Feb, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mar, 6<sup>th</sup> Apr, 4<sup>th</sup> May, 1<sup>st</sup> Jun, 6<sup>th</sup> Jul, 3<sup>rd</sup> Aug, 7<sup>th</sup> Sep, 5<sup>th</sup> Oct, 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb we will be presenting the cheques to our nominated charities of 2018.

## Charities 2019

Marie Curie, Dynamic, Diabetic Research, Riding for the Disabled

## TBA

We are hoping to have more events in the 2019 calendar including a concert by Choral Variations and a One man show by Peter Read. More to follow closer to the time.



# Ridde Me This

**HO HO HO**

**or**

**OH OH OH NO!**

Tis the season to be jolly and I love the Christmas Crackers on the table on Christmas Day.

I especially like the jokes in the Crackers, especially the ones that make me groan as well as laugh.

So here are a few of my favourites



Q1. What did the dirt say when it started to rain?

Q2 What happens when you throw a white rock into the Red Sea?

Q3. What gets wet when it dries?

Q4. Why did the turtle cross the road?

Q5. What building has a lot of stories?

***Thank you Judith, answers on the back page!***

**From the Church Treasurer**

Every taxpayer who has Weekly Envelopes for their collection contributes to church funds via the Inland Revenue Gift Aid scheme and the Elders are very grateful for those who help in this way.

The New Envelopes will be available on the 8th December for 2019, so please ask Judith Dolben if you have not had envelopes and would like to put your collection on the plate in this way. In previous years we have had at least a thousand pounds and this is a great help to fund our Church activities.

**Judith Dolben**

Elsewhere in the edition are the dates of our coffee mornings but the first one in February will be when we distribute monies to our four chosen charities and that is always a very special and enjoyable occasion..... which have you enjoyed during the year? The Saturday with fresh hot toast? or Crumpets? or Toasted teacakes.... any other favourites?

# Food For Thought

I was walking down life's highway a long time ago.  
One day, I saw a sign that said "Heaven's Grocery Store,"  
As I got a little closer, the door came open wide  
And when I came to myself, I was standing inside.  
I saw a host of Angels. They were standing everywhere.  
One handed me a basket and said, "My child shop with care."  
Everything a Christian needed was in the grocery store,  
And all you couldn't carry, you could come back the next day for more.  
First I got some Patience, Love was in the same row.  
Further down was Understanding, you need that wherever you go.  
I got a box or two of Wisdom, a bag or two of Faith.  
I couldn't miss the Holy Ghost for it was all over the place.  
I stopped to get some Strength and Courage to help me run this race.  
By then, my basket was getting full, but I remembered some Grace.  
I didn't forget Salvation for Salvation is free.  
So I tried to get enough of that to save both you and me.  
Then I started up the counter to pay my grocery bill,  
For I thought I had everything to do my Master's will.  
As I went up the aisle I saw Prayer and just had to put it in,  
For I know when it's tough outside, I would run right into sin.  
Peace and Joy were plentiful, they were on the last shelf.  
Songs and Praises were hanging near so I helped myself.  
And then I said to the Angel, "Now how much do I owe?"  
He just smiled and said, "Just take them wherever you go."  
Again I said, "How much do I really owe?"  
He smiled again and said, "My Child, Jesus paid your bill a long, long time ago!"

**Judith Dolben**



# Carole's

# Corner

On a dark, dark night, shone a star so bright  
That it lit up the Eastern sky.  
In those days of old, there was joy to behold  
Angel voices were singing on high.  
Rock his cradle and sing, here lay Jesus the King  
That babe in a manger oh so bare  
God's own Son sent here, little child so dear,  
Mary knew of the love He would bring.

Shepherds saw Him there, in that stable bare  
And they fell to their knees in praise,  
Wise men came from far, led by that bright star  
Bringing gifts for the holy child.  
Here lay Love Divine, precious Saviour mine  
Sleeping there, among the hay  
Came the Lord to earth, giving us new birth  
Child descended of David's line

Grant Your light to shine, in this world of Thine  
Let each soul hear Your gentle call  
We so welcome you, King forever true  
Gracious Lord, blessed Father divine  
Sing throughout the earth, of the Saviours birth  
He came to dwell from Heaven above  
Celebrate and sing, you our Glorious King  
He has come with His lasting love.

All our earthly days we will sing your praise  
For your humble nativity  
Hearts and voices lift, for Your wondrous gift  
Holy Babe born for you and me  
At this Christmas tide, speak out far ad wide  
Jesus Christ the Lord is born  
Bring goodwill and peace, that will never cease  
Lord who came on that first Christmas morn



# Leslie Neary



**Last month we paid our respects to our friend and long time member of Salisbury Park, Les Neary who died in October. Les will be remembered by all who knew him, and we pray for his family, especially Averil, who looked after Les in his latter years.**

## **Riddle me this answers:**

1. If this keeps up, my name will be mud.
2. It sinks
3. A towel
4. To get to the shell station
5. A library