



**FREEMANTLE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
*Testwood Road, Southampton*

# **In focus**

*December 2024*



IT IS December again. Another year has flown by, with its ups and downs, its joys and challenges and soon it will be Christmas Day.

For Christians this time of year is full of joy as we celebrate the birth of our Lord.

It still amazes me that Jesus would choose to leave the splendour of heaven to come to be with us, in all our chaos and mess. But love is what brought Him to us, and love is why He did so. So, sharing love is what this time of year is all about. We share love by spending time with our families and friends, by buying gifts and showing hospitality.

This time of year we also show love by giving to those who have less than us. This year the church here are collecting hats, gloves and Christmas treats to give to those in Patrick House, as well as our usual collection for the Basics Bank.

If you would like to join us in this, please come along on a Wednesday afternoon to our wellbeing cafe, with any donations and we will ensure they get there. A warm welcome and good cup of tea or coffee will be available too. We would love to see you.

As we share our love with others we will be sharing the love of Jesus, since all love comes from Him. The Bible reminds us of this, and tells us that real love is not that we love God, but that He first loved us and sent His Son Jesus to take away our sin. This is why we celebrate the coming of Jesus each year, because He brings love, and love changes everything!

*A very Merry Christmas to you all.*

Revd. Linda Hayes

# Welcome

to our **SERVICES 10.30am**

Our theme during December is 'Glory'  
and will, except for 15<sup>th</sup>, be led by Revd Linda Hayes

## Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December

Subject: **1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent**

Reading: *Isaiah 60:1-3, 19-20*

## Sunday 8<sup>th</sup>

Subject: **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent**

Reading: *John 1:1-5*

## Sunday 15<sup>th</sup>

Subject: **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent**

Reading: *Luke 2:8-20 incl. Communion*

Ian Thomson

## Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup>

Subject: **Christingle Service**

Reading: *Matthew 2:1-12*

## CHRISTMAS EVE 5.00pm

Subject: **The Night Before with carols and readings**

## CHRISTMAS DAY 10.00am

Subject: **Happy Birthday Celebration!**

## Sunday 29<sup>th</sup>

Subject: **Bring and Share Service**

Linda will be giving us more details nearer the time

Whether this is your first visit or you  
have been a regular for years, we're  
**PLEASED TO SEE YOU!**



Light refreshments  
are served after the  
Sunday Services

Previous sermons  
are on our  
Facebook page



Mon to  
Fri



Tel: (023) 8078 4969

[pp7@paintpotsnursery.co.uk](mailto:pp7@paintpotsnursery.co.uk)

## Coming up ...

Sun 1<sup>st</sup>

**Prayer  
Breakfast**

9am - 10am

Sun 1<sup>st</sup> Dec

**Church Members'  
Meeting**

After morning service  
Please bring your own lunch

Sat 7<sup>th</sup>

**Repair  
Cafe**

10.30am - 1.00pm

Wed 18<sup>th</sup>

**Lantern Parade 5pm-7pm**

Craft making, procession to  
Freemantle Lake Park to sing Carols  
and Christmas songs

**Contacts: Revd. LINDA HAYES** Mob:07963 803884 or [linda@dizzyanddaisy.plus.com](mailto:linda@dizzyanddaisy.plus.com)  
**Anita Pike** Administrator and hall bookings 07814 445929 or [calm.pike@ntlworld.com](mailto:calm.pike@ntlworld.com)

## Weekly Meetings

### TUESDAYS

**Turkish language**

**school** 5.00pm-6.30pm

in the church.

**Belong**

7.00pm-9.00pm

Fortnightly discipleship group  
exploring aspects of faith. See  
Linda for dates



### WEDNESDAYS

**Sunflower Café**

12.30pm - 3.00pm

**Livewires**

3.30pm - 4.30pm



For Key stage 1 children  
with parents +carers; older  
and younger siblings welcome.  
Last week is 11<sup>th</sup> Dec.

### FRIDAYS

**Flowerpots** 10am - noon

Baby and toddler group.



**Impact Church**

Polish Youth Group 6.00pm

### SATURDAYS

**Impact Church**

Polish church 6.00pm

### SUNDAYS

**Bethel Prayer House**

(formerly CBF)

3.00pm

# Prayer Focus



GRACIOUS Lord Jesus Christ, you came that first Christmas in weakness - unnoticed, unhonoured and scarcely known.

You will come again in royal dignity, with the armies of heaven around you, to be known, recognised and worshipped by all the people of the earth.

Stir our hearts to worship you in gratitude and awe today.

Help us to make your good news widely known, as the shepherds did.

May my faith be wholehearted and bold like that of the wise men.

Please help me to love and serve you all the days of my life or until you come again! Amen

Source: The Coming of the King

*Please pray for those in the church family during December:*

Jon, Karen, Gary, Linda, Steve, Jacqueline, Jean, Tony, Pearl, Dave, David, Anita, Les, Jann, Hayley, Edie, Ivy, Caroline, Denis, Pat, Denise, Ian, Phyllis, Angie, Joanne, Michaela.

Other friends, family and work colleagues, I would like to pray for are:

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## MEDITATION

Take your time as you say the sentence below.

***My soul glorifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.***

Luke 1 : 43

Repeat a number of times.

Ask the Lord's Spirit to open up your heart and mind as you kneel, sit or stand in your quiet space.

*For the young at heart*

Dear Lord,

Thank You for Christmas time. Thank You for the presents we receive and for the festivities and celebrations.



Help us not to get so caught up in the fun side of Christmas that we forget what Christmas is all about.

The wise men gave gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh: help us this year to give You our thanks as a gift for coming into this world. Amen



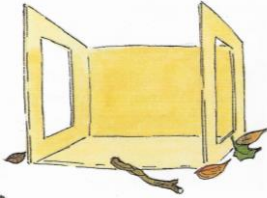
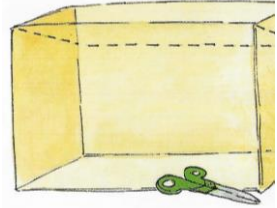
# Nativity Scene

*This model Nativity is great fun to make, and a good way to remember what happened at the very first Christmas.*

## For the stable, you will need

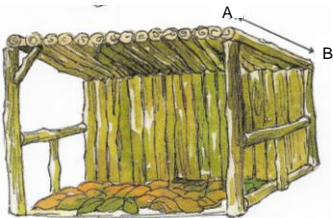
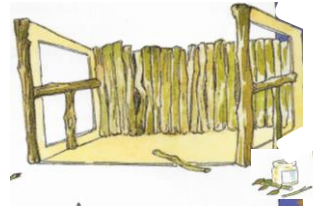
- ❖ A shoebox (or other small cardboard box).
- ❖ Scissors
- ❖ Thin twigs
- ❖ Glue
- ❖ Wool

Cut the flaps off the box. Lay the box on its side, and carefully cut off the top at an angle, as shown.



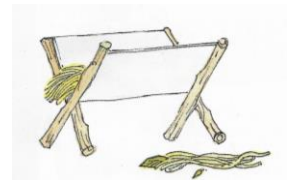
Cut square holes in the two sides, so that just a basic frame is left. Then take your twigs, pull off any leaves and wipe off any dirt.

Snap the twigs to the length you need, and glue them inside the back of the box. Then glue more twigs over the side pieces of the frame.



Measure between A and B on your box and break several twigs to this length. Glue them side by side to make the roof, and glue this onto the box when it's dry.

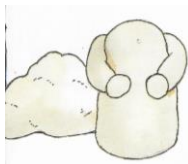
To make the manger, fold a small piece of cardboard in half, and glue two twigs in a criss-cross at each end. You could use some lengths of yellow wool to make the hay, or use real hay or straw.



# Making the Figures

To make the figures, mix up some home-made salt dough.

Bake the figures in the oven and paint them with poster paints when they are cool. A little varnish will then protect the paint.

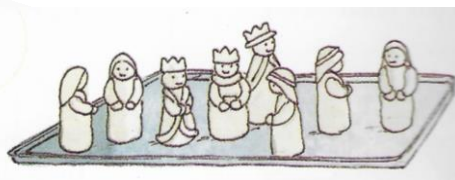
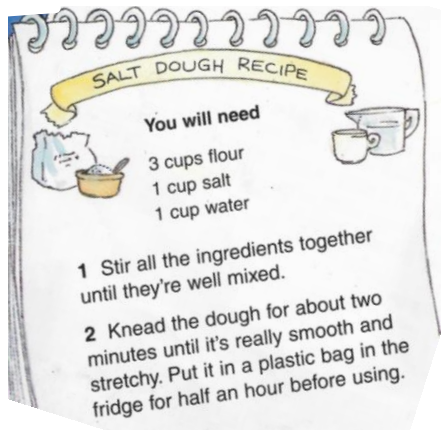


3. Roll a thick sausage of dough for the body. Roll thin sausages for the arms and use small balls for hands.



2. Roll a bigger ball for the head, and a tiny blob for the nose. Press in a pencil to make the eyes and mouth.

1. Cut a thin rectangle of dough to make the headdress. Drape it over the head and body



5. Add any extra features, then stand the figures on foil on a baking tray.

4. Put in a cool oven 120°C/Gas Mark 1. It will take them about three hours to dry out. Paint and varnish when cool.



Make hair for an angel by pushing dough through a garlic press. After baking the figure, glue on a cardboard halo and wings, and paint them gold

Make sheep from sausages and balls of dough. Make their backs fleecy by roughening with a fork before you bake them.



Make a hole through one of the shepherds' hands with a skewer before baking. Later, add a crook made from a pipe cleaner.



This king has a crown, and a beard made from dough. His gift is made from a small cube of salt dough.

The baby Jesus is made from a sausage and ball of dough



Source: Christmas Fun

Why not have a go and bring them along to our Christingle Service or Christmas Eve Service for everyone to see.

## Remembrance



ON Remembrance Sunday it was good to go outside in the church front garden to place the poppies we had made at the cross; then we observed the two-minute silence together.



Created by our youngsters during a morning service.



A rose out in all its glory in the church back garden during November

## Christmas packs

PLEASE place items for Patrick House in the box at the back of the church for the first three Sundays in December.

Woolly hats, gloves, socks and Christmas goodies will be very welcome.



## Smartened up!

The outside of the church, front and back, has had a make-over this last month which is now completed.

## New roof needed

OUR premises are kept in good working order, which of course is necessary for the amount of use they receive every week.

For quite a while now though the church roof has needed to be patched up, but heavy rain still comes through. The roofing company who carry out the repairs tell us that the time has come to replace the roof which is what we are aiming to do.

Of course this comes at a price and we have set aside a Gift Day for anyone who would like to make a contribution. Any amount, large or small, will be greatly appreciated.

Securing a new roof will mean that it will be something we don't have to think about again for a very long time!

*The Gift Day will be Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2025*



To celebrate the New Year please join us for our

## Church Lunch

on **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January,**

after the morning service.

There's no charge but we do need to know if you would like to come, so let Anita know no later than 31<sup>st</sup> December please.

## Rare Elizabethan Bible discovered in Cotswolds

A BIBLE printed during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I has been discovered in a vicarage in the Cotswolds.

Printed in Rouen, France in 1556, it is a rare survivor of this period and will be auctioned with an estimated price of between £1,000 and £1,500.

The auction from Wotton Auction Rooms in Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucester will be an internet sale, so anybody in the world can have a go at buying it.

So, if you have £1,000+ to spare for that Christmas present for the one you love the most, why not log in on 10<sup>th</sup> December and made a bid!

Source: The Times



... for **your financial giving** towards the work and witness of this church during November. The average weekly offering came to £355.90.

... to **all those** who led our services for the series on Ephesians.



**Tony and Jean Hulse**  
on their wedding day  
7<sup>th</sup> December 1974



**Jon Fisher** on 10<sup>th</sup>  
**Pat Wyles** on 22<sup>nd</sup>  
**Steve Hayes** on 23<sup>rd</sup>

### Sunflower Baptist

NOTICE BOARD

#### HEALTH WARNING

Do not eat any of our Christmas decorations as this could lead to a chronic bout of tinseltitus.

ANSWERS TO PUZZLE ON PAGE 8

1, Noel; 2, Three Wise Men; 3, Kisses under the Mistletoe; 4, Last Christmas; 5, Little Donkey; 6, Mince Pies; 7, Away in a Manger; 8, Leftover Turkey; 9, Holy Night; 10, Opening Presents; 11, North Pole; 12, Jack Frost; 13, White Christmas; 14, Seasons Greetings; 15, Peace on Earth; 16, Pigs in Blankets; 17, Donner; 18, Decorate; 19, Carols; 20, Presence over Presents.

# Christmas Dingbats

Can you solve these twenty Christmas related puzzles.

Answers on page 7.

<p>ABCDEFGHIJ KLMNOPQ RSTUVWX YZ</p>	<p>Y Y MEN Y</p>	<p>MISTLETOE XXX</p>	<p>CHRISTMAS CHRISTMAS → CHRISTMAS</p>
1	2	3	4
<p>DONKEY → DONKEY</p>	<p>CE CE CE <sup>!</sup>CE π π</p>	<p>MANAWAYGER</p>	<p>LEFT TURKEY</p>
5	6	7	8
<p>NIGHT</p>	<p>PRES ENTS</p>	<p>W ← ↑ → E ↓ 5</p>	<p>JACK</p>
9	10	11	12
<p>XMAS</p>	<p>GOOD DAY SPRING HI THERE SUMMER HEY AUTUMN HELLO WINTER</p>	<p>PPP </p>	<p>BLANPIGPIGKETS</p>
13	14	15	16
<p>D NER</p>	<p>DECOR = 8/10</p>	<p>VORDERMAN DANVERS SMILLIE KING</p>	<p>PRESENCE PRESENTS</p>
17	18	19	20

What is the most popular carol to sing in the desert? O Camel ye Faithful!  
Knock Knock. Who's there? Mary. Mary who? Mary Christmas!