

**Kay Street
Baptist Church
Rawtenstall**

**Monthly
Newsletter**

**December
2017
No.793**

Charity No.1129330

**Christmas
at Kay Street**



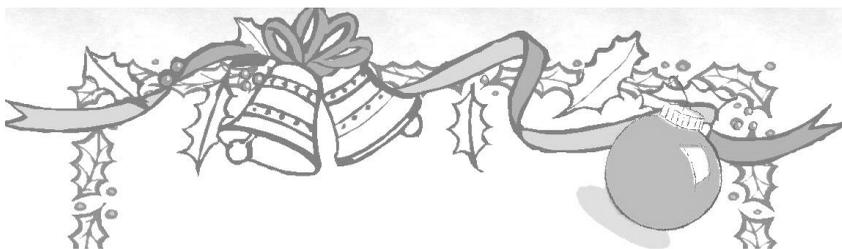
It's that time of year again.

We dash about, worrying about how we'll fit ten people around the table, where we put the Christmas cards we bought in February, why we don't have a single tea-towel fit to adorn a shepherd's head, and trying to think up the perfect gift for everyone on our list. There's the pressure to have a picture-perfect, Scandinavian-themed Christmas home, with roaring log fire, perfectly trimmed tree, and homemade stockings. Christmas can be an even more hectic time for Christians - with carol services, crib services and charitable work all keeping us busy. It can all start to feel a little bit overwhelming.

I'm reminded of Jesus' visit to Martha and Mary as told in Luke 10:38-42. Martha, 'troubled by many things', worried about being the perfect hostess, bustled about and fretted whilst her sister sat serenely at Jesus' feet. In her frustration, Martha asked Jesus to intervene - "Lord, doesn't it seem unfair to you that my sister just sits here while I do all the work? Tell her to come and help me."

When I read this passage I can just picture the busy house - not only 12 disciples to feed, but Jesus Himself! I can understand that Martha felt a bit anxious!

Jesus responded to Martha's anxiety forthrightly but tenderly: "Martha, Martha; you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed - or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her." (Luke 10:41-42, NIV.)



Martha was not wrong to want to serve, but she had her priorities wrong. She was so busy worrying about impressing her Lord with the meal that she forgot the reason He was there. In the same way, we can all too easily make the Martha mistake- we forget that Jesus asks more of us than just good works and busyness. Jesus asks that we deepen our relationship with him through contemplation, prayer, and bible study- through taking time out of our hectic lives. Mary had her priorities right- she chose what was *better*- Jesus' word. Jesus Himself tells us, 'But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.' (Matthew 6:33 NIV.)

It's hard to resist being drawn in to the trappings of Christmas, and all of the pressures that entails. But in the midst of our frantic searching for the perfect gift- let's not forget that the perfect gift, one we can never deserve, has already been given to us. And this gift will last for eternity.

Jess Goldie
on behalf of Matt and the Deacons

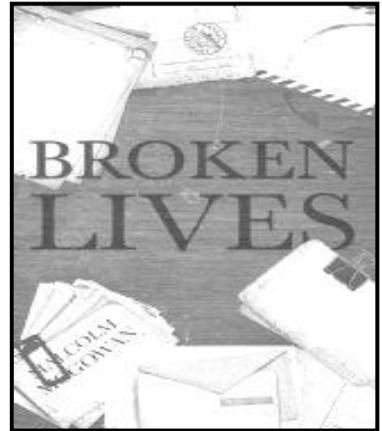
Jesus gave his followers a job to do - a difficult but very clear job! **"Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit."** (Matt 28:19). The missionary team help Kay Streeters do that job by:-

1. **Sending** people to share the good news of Jesus in other parts of the world. Only this August, George Platt went to teach in the University of Mongolia. We would love to hear from other young and not so young people thinking of gap years, short or long term service etc.
2. **Supporting** mission organisations financially; currently we send regular donations to ten different mission agencies who between them "distribute and proclaim the Word of God", "support persecuted Christians", "give relief and set up anti-poverty projects", and "develop the emerging church and local projects in the UK. (Vision via Suzie and CAP). Besides regular church giving, you can give specifically to mission; talk to Treasurer, David Isherwood.
3. **Giving** information about what is going on around the world and with our named missionaries, Claire Weddell (in Mozambique) and Joe, Lois, Connie and Reuben (the Ovenden family in Uganda). Watch the world map, ask for magazines and listen out for "mission slots" in services.
4. **Praying** for those who have gone and those yet to go! Prayer letters are available for Claire and the Owendens, (ask Di Isherwood). Other organisations have prayer requests in their magazines. 'Operation World', by Patrick Johnstone, gives an overview of the needs of every country in the world today.

Di Isherwood; Connie Mitchell; Joyce Barnes; Malcolm & Maru Cowen; Audrey Madge; Jean Goodenough; Eileen Coward

Children need to be aware of what happened in the Holocaust.

My book 'Broken Lives' tries to do this.



I have had an interest in the Holocaust for a long time. I am concerned that children understand the evil of the Holocaust and 'Broken Lives' is an exciting children's story of the difficulties faced by two families as they try to escape the German war machine during World War 2. The book is an attempt to introduce children to what happened but without being too horrific. I hope this leads children to a better insight into people groups today being treated badly just because they are different. Hopefully through reading my book children will treat those who are different in a more understanding and caring way. Perhaps these children can make a difference and be able to speak out against such evil during their lifetimes.

To purchase 'Broken Lives' go to:
www.troubador.co.uk/

I would welcome invitations from schools or outside groups to talk about my book and about the Holocaust.

Malcolm Cowen



Prayer points for December

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people - for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness ***1 Tim. 2:1-2***

The world

Pray for Zimbabwe at this time of political upheaval that the changes will come about peacefully, that there won't be reprisals and revenge attacks and that Zimbabwe will be a place of peace and prosperity for all its people.

Pray for refugees around the world, many fleeing from war and political uncertainty, others, such as the Rohingya people from Myanmar, forced to move.

Pray for the governments of the countries receiving refugees

and for the many aid agencies providing for their needs.

Pray for those dealing with the effects of natural disasters

- The recent Iran/Iraq border earthquake.
- The famines in Yemen and Central Africa.
- Other places where the effects of earthquakes, floods and famines experienced in previous years are still affecting lives.

Prayers for our nation

- Pray for government and EEC representatives as they negotiate BREXIT. Pray for wisdom, honesty and integrity on both sides of the negotiation. 

- Give thanks for the NHS and for the care we receive. Pray for those working in the many parts of the NHS as they deal with the additional pressures that winter brings.

Christmas is coming

Pray that the true message of Christmas will be proclaimed far and wide.

Pray for:

- carol services and nativity plays in schools and churches throughout the valley that as people attend they will hear the good news of Jesus
- opportunities to sing carols around the town and in local supermarkets
- the services in Holme Manor and Cherry Tree Lodge, for people to swell the numbers and for the residents as they are reminded of the Christmas story
- for the Christmas meals that will be served at FFT and on Christmas Day, for the people who will prepare and serve them and for those who will enjoy them.
- for those who are not looking forward to Christmas because they have lost loved ones throughout the year or who for other reasons find this a difficult time of the year.
- that as God's people we won't be so caught up with our own preparations and celebrations that we lose sight of the wonder of Emmanuel - God with us.



Thanks – Mary Rees would like to thank the fellowship for their prayers, visits and concern during her recent stay in hospital. She is now recovering at home.

Thanks also from **Joan Crook** for all the fellowship's prayers, cards and many other expressions of concern whilst she has been ill. Good to see her back.

Sympathy – we remember **Janet Barrie**, her sister and their families on the death of Janet's father. His funeral was on November 22 at Rakefoot Methodist Church. The Methodist church has only recently celebrated Mr Watkins many years as a lay preacher.

From **Connie Mitchell:**

Could the fellowship save stamps from their Christmas post, leaving a half inch border of envelope round each stamp and put them in the basket on the window sill by the outside door. These will go to Home Mission.

It has become our practice here at Kay Street, instead of sending Christmas Cards to each other, to display Christmas Messages from members of the fellowship on the screen before our morning services in advent.

If you would like your message to be displayed, please email David Griffith The first messages will appear on 3rd December.

Please note that items for the January newsletter should reach the editor, Joyce Barnes joyce.barnes563@btinternet.com by Dec 21 for publication on Dec 31.



Sunday / Christmas Worship

Dec 3 AM Advent 1 All Age Service

Coordinator Heather Skilling

PM Communion and Prayer Led by Rev M Hirst

Dec 10 AM Advent 2 Preacher Rev M Hirst

Coordinator David Griffith *The gift of giving Matt 2:1-12*

PM DVD led by Rev M Hirst

Dec 17 AM Advent 3 Preacher Rev M Hirst

Coordinator Allyson Jump *The gift of joy Luke 2:8-20*

*****Baptismal Service*****

PM

*****Carols by Candlelight*****

Dec 24 AM Advent 4 Preacher Mr D Isherwood

Coordinator Heather Skilling *The gift of humility Luke 1:26-38*

PM

*****Midnight Communion*****

Dec 25

*****Christmas Day 10 am.*****

Preacher Rev M Hirst

Dec 31 AM Preacher Mr J Barrie Coordinator Jane Jackson

No Evening Service

After her recent visit Claire Weddell wrote this "I am very grateful for your partnership in the Gospel. Thank you so much for your prayers, support and encouragement. The work I do could not be established and fruitful without the support and prayers of people like yourselves. Please know that God is answering your prayers and one day you will meet all those you have been praying for, when we are together in heaven.



Diary for December

Sat Dec 2	Asda Prayer Breakfast 8 am.
Sat Dec 2	Torch Fellowship 2 pm.
Mon Dec 4	Deacons' Meeting
Thurs Dec 7	Credit Union AGM using downstairs area
Sun Dec 10	Visit to Home Manor
Thurs Dec 14	Food for Thought Christmas meal
Thurs Dec 14	Swishing evening
Fri Dec 15	Mini Christmas Party
Sat Dec 16	Prayer morning 9 am.
Wed Dec 20	Memory Choir Christmas Dinner
Sat Dec 30	Striders' Monthly walk Halford, Broadley Fold, and Reddyshore approx 5 miles

Looking Back 25 Years to December 1992

The second 'Born Earlies' Tea Party was held on November 17. 'It was great' despite some absences due to illness and the inclement weather. Wendy Bainbridge sang two solos; Dan Wadsworth gave his testimony in an interview; Jean Heywood read John 14:1-6; Alan Hitch recited a poem 'Indifference'; Bill Poucher accompanied requested hymns, and a message on 'Living happily ever after' was well received.

The pastor opened with a welcome and in his closing remarks included thanks to the ladies for a super meal.

At the November Members' meeting Wilson Bury asked to reduce his commitment as Church Organist which he had been for 30 years. In future Judith Pickup was to play one Sunday morning a month and Liam Dawson on alternate Sunday evenings.

Rotas for December

Stewards

Coordinator David Pilling

	Porch	Up left	Up Right
Dec 3	Paul & Anne Webb-Sear	Michael Wells	David Pilling
Dec 10	Carol & RJ Hargreaves	Pat Coulston	Robin Coulston
Dec 17 AM	Thelma Hitch Pat Coulston	Ruth Boaden	Bill Boaden
Dec 17 PM	Peter Leonard David Pilling	Joan Crook	Tom Pickup
Dec 24 AM	David Pilling	Di Isherwood	David Isherwood
Dec 24 PM	Brian Williams		
Dec 25 10am	June Worsley Bob Crowther	Stuart Brown	Margaret Robinson
Dec 31	David Pilling Thelma Hitch	Alan Morton	Margaret Morton

Coffee

Coordinator Sandy Rushton

- Dec 3 Gill Wills, Jenny Brunskill, Janet Curtis
- Dec 10 Fred & Sheila Wild, Peter Leonard
- Dec17am. Pauline Stephenson, June Worsley, Gill Wills
- Dec17pm. Pauline Stephenson, Peter Leonard, Janet Curtis
- Dec 24 Pat and Robin Coulston, Anne Fielder
- Dec 31 Jenny Brunskill, June Worsley, Mike Wells

Crèche

Coordinator Gwen Haworth

Changes in organising the crèche and Tiddlywinks (Primary first group) are taking place. Please make enquiries re rota to Gwen or Jess.

Flowers

Coordinator Carol Hargreaves

- Dec 3 Vacant
- Dec 10 Christine Coates
- Dec 17 Anne Webb-Sear
- Dec 24 Vacant
- Dec 31 Margaret & Alan Morton