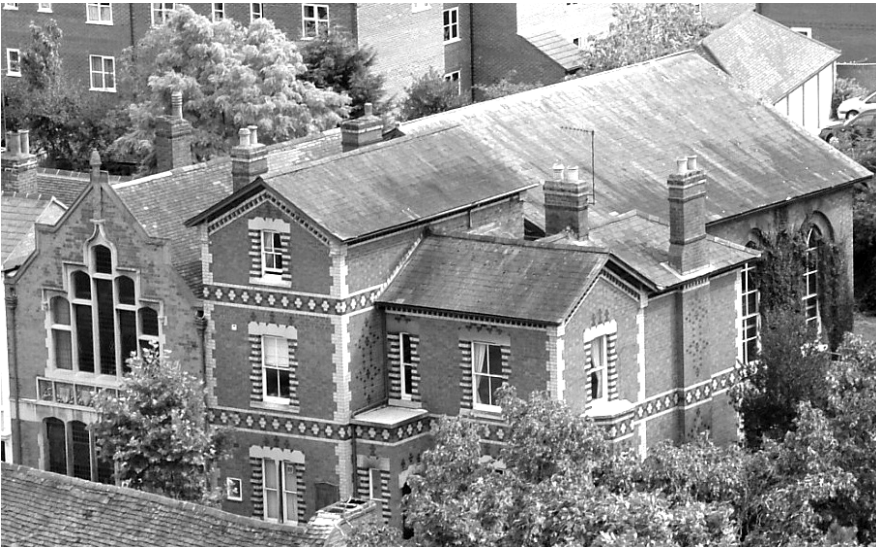


# Pershore Baptist Church



## Messenger

Broad Street, Pershore, Worcestershire

January 2008

[www.pershorebaptist.org](http://www.pershorebaptist.org)

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### Dear Friends

A very long article appeared in the Parish Pump about Jesus and Mohammed. Part 1 is here and part 2 will appear next month.

### Is Jesus to Christianity what Muhammad is to Islam?

Since New Testament times, Christians have worshipped Jesus. They believe he is the risen Lord, the Saviour of the world. They see Jesus as showing us what God himself is like, and what his purposes are for mankind. They see Jesus as God himself, incarnate on earth.

For Islam, however, Muhammad is not of fundamental importance, other than that he is the bearer of revelation from Allah. But he is not Allah, nor in any way related to Allah. Allah is unknown and unknowable.

However, as it is only through Muhammad that Allah makes his will for humanity known, and because Muslims have no way whatever of knowing Allah direct, Islam has tended to centre on the principles that Muhammad had revealed to him by Allah.

One theologian, Alister McGrath, sums it up neatly: "Islam speaks of a revelation from God, where Christianity speaks of a revelation of God, seeing that revelation being concentrated and focused on the person of Jesus."

### So – who is this Jesus Christ?

To begin with, his very name needs some explanation. 'Christ' was obviously not Joseph's last name, so where does it come from?

The word 'Jesus' is from the Hebrew Yeshua, meaning 'God saves'. As for 'Christ', it is not a last name, but a title. Strictly, it should be 'Jesus the Christ'. The word Christ is the Greek word for the Hebrew Messiah. And Messiah was the title given to the person who would be raised up by God to bring salvation to his people. For centuries the prophets had said that God promised such a Messiah. And gradually, the Jews had reached a common belief that the Messiah, when he came, would be like a new King David, and he would open up a new, triumphant chapter in Israel's history.

Instead, Jesus was born in a humble family, became a carpenter, and then a rabbi, or teacher. Far from rallying the Jews to rebel against the Romans, what he said so offended them that they demanded his crucifixion at the hands of the Romans. They wanted this man out of the way.

Yet, most inconveniently, Jesus rose from the dead, and his disciples and soon hundreds and thousands of people, came to believe he was this Messiah, this Christ. They tried to persuade the Jews that the God who

had revealed himself through Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Moses, had at last fully revealed himself – and manifested himself – in Jesus. This made Jesus the Christ. The Jews did not accept this.

Whereas it was Muhammad's teachings that gradually made him famous, Jesus did not just one day start proclaiming he was the Son of God. As the Messiah, he was the climax of a story that had begun many centuries before. In Jesus, God may have begun a whole new chapter in his dealings with mankind, but it led on from the chapter before.

This continuity between Judaism and Christianity can be found in a number of ways. For one thing, both Christians and Jews revere more or less the same collection of books as having sacred authority. The Jews call the Law, Prophets and Writings what the Christians call the Old Testament. The Jews regard them as complete; Christians regard them as the precursor to the New Testament, or God's new covenant with man.

As to the birth of Jesus, Matthew and Luke provide complementary accounts – and here's where we get the traditional material for our Christmas carols and cards. Matthew's account is told from the standpoint of Joseph, and Luke's is from Mary's standpoint.

For such a major event, it is a pity we do not know the exact day and year of Jesus' birth. Many people assume it was 25 December, but in fact that date was not chosen by Christians until the 4th century. (It seems the Church took over and adapted an already existing Roman holiday.)

And don't believe everything you see on the Christmas cards! Our traditional Christmas story has become 'stylised'. For instance, nowhere does the Bible mention three wise men, or that Jesus was born in a stable. The tradition of three wise men comes only from the fact that we are told that wise men brought three gifts to Jesus. The tradition of a stable is based on the fact that newborn Jesus was laid in a manger, and stables are after all where mangers are usually found.

Both Matthew and Luke stress the importance of Mary, and refer to her as 'the mother of Jesus'. But what about Joseph? Nowhere he is ever described as 'the father of Jesus'. Matthew, who was writing his gospel for Jews, relates the complicated genealogy to show how Joseph was legally related to King David (Matthew 1.1-17). This meant that Jesus inherited Joseph's legal status of being descended from David, though he was not his actually physical son.

**I'd like to thank the staff** of Worcester College of Technology for their help in printing the coloured pages of the December Messenger. They also had the foresight to correct my mistakes.

## News of the Family

Sadly **Peter Edwards**, who used to worship with us, died just before Christmas. He and his wife

**Shelagh** recently moved to Cirencester to be near family. Our prayers and thoughts are with all the family.

**Many thanks** for the generous gift of **Fairtrade** goods recently given to us in church.

**One afternoon**, the manager of our supermarket saw a somewhat bewildered man staring at his shopping list.

When the manager approached, he noticed these words printed at the bottom of the list: "YOU ARE NOW FINISHED SHOPPING – COME HOME!"

*Reader's Digest*

## What is the difference between colds and flu?

Feel terrible? Sickening for something? Can't decide if you've got cold or flu coming? Here's a handy guide:

	<b>COLDS</b>	<b>FLU</b>
Onset of symptoms	gradual	sudden and rapidly worsening
Sore throat	scratchy	extremely sore
Temperature	small increase	high – up to 41C (104F)
Headache	minor	severe
Aches & pains	mild, usually legs	sudden, whole body, joints
Coughing/sneezing	nasal congestion	coughing usual, rare
Course of illness	rapid recovery	unwell for one to two weeks

The average person catches 200 colds in a lifetime – that is two to four years of being a snivelling wreck. Young people (15 to 24) are most likely to go to bed with their symptoms; people over 65 just carry on.

Research also reveals that what women always suspected is true: men DO fuss more about their colds than women, and say they are less able to cope.

Chicken soup, high in protein and vitamins, helps ease the symptoms. But any hot drink will raise the temperature in the nose and mouth, and thus help to kill off viruses, which like steady temperatures.

Before you catch anything this winter, take as much exercise as you can, of the sort that makes you breath deeply. It stimulates the lymphatic system which is the body's 'highway' for immune cells.

**A man in Connecticut** filed for divorce because his wife left him a note on the fridge that read: "I won't be home when you return from work. Have gone to the bridge club. There'll be a recipe for your dinner at seven o'clock on Channel 2."

*Reader's Digest*

### Pastoral Care Group

#### Co-ordinators

Allan Hitchman 550373  
Jean Gelaky 555758

#### Committee

Roz Mckay 860627  
Claudine Mee 860888  
Eileen Merry 554653  
Yvonne Price 861656  
Nick Price 861656  
Pam Rayner 552892  
Andy Smith 07974269914  
Alan Taylor 751244  
Mary Taylor 751244  
Mike Taylor 552992

Please contact any of the above with names for visiting and prayer

**WE NEED YOUR HELP**

**My wife and I** are very happily married. We seldom have an argument and if we do it doesn't last very long. We had a "little tiff" last week and within half an hour she came crawling on her hands and knees begging me to "come out from under the bed".

**Reading gives us** somewhere to go when we have to stay where we are.

*M. Cooley  
Reader's Digest*

**Families are like** fudge... mostly sweet, but with a few nuts!

*Westbrooke Church, Kansas*

**How does** the chap who drives the snowplough get to work?

**Why are there** life jackets under the seats of planes instead of parachutes?

**Drive carefully.** It's not only cars that can be recalled by their maker.

## How do we go about reading the Bible?

Let's consider the following guidelines:

### Right time:

We need to make time to read the Bible, as we will never simply find the time in our busy lives. So it's about establishing a daily routine which will give us the space we need. Why not start with just 5 minutes, either early morning, before we go to bed, or at a convenient time during the day and go from there! Our approach will vary according to our circumstances eg a mum at home with young children, somebody with a demanding job or a retired person.

### Right Place:

Jesus took time out to be alone in a solitary place to talk with his Father. Again the solitary place will vary according to our situation (e.g. lounge, bedroom, train or kitchen).

### Right Version:

We need a version of the Bible which we can readily understand and use. There are a whole range available eg NIV, The Message, Youth Bible etc. If you're not sure which one is for you, get down to your local Christian bookshop to see what's on offer!! For some people, tapes or CDs are also an excellent way of hearing the Bible.

### Right Help

When it comes to understanding the Bible, we not only need a reading plan (rather than simply opening the Bible at random!!), but also reading notes to help us.

These will give us an understanding what a particular passage meant for its original readers, as well as helping us to apply the words to our own situation today.

In all of this we can rely on the help and guidance of the Holy Spirit to enable us to hear what God is saying to us personally, 'when the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth' (John 16:13). So let's ensure that the Bible isn't a closed book for us!!

## How long will it take you to pay for Christmas?

Have you paid for the Christmas of 2006 yet? This time last year, four million of us were still paying for Christmas 2005! Research has found that one in eight users are likely to have debts on their plastic which date back to LAST Christmas.

**I apologize** for the mistakes in the December Messenger. I know of three (to date). There are NO prizes for telling me of any others.

*Mike Taylor*

**Don't give up!** Moses was once a basket case!

*First Covenant Church, Denver, Colorado*

**Little Jimmy**, aged four, was looking at a picture book. When he came to a picture of a zebra, his mother asked him what animal that might be. Jimmy thought for a moment and then replied: "That's a horse who has eaten genetically modified corn."

**Musicians lift spirits of hospital patients**

Shortly after World War II, Sheila McCreery and others conceived a project for taking music into hospitals. This led in 1948 to the founding of the charity Music in Hospitals.

Sixty years on, over 4,000 concerts are presented each year to audiences of all ages in hospitals, care homes, hospices, day-care centres and special-needs schools throughout the UK. All concerts are given by small groups of professional musicians who are carefully selected for their high standards of musicianship, communication skills and breadth of musical programme – enabling them to relate to each member of the audience.

Audience participation is encouraged, making everyone feel that the music is especially for them. The charity's staff piece together all the concerts and choose the appropriate musicians for each event.

Recent research shows that playing live music to patients (with a wide variety of conditions) has clear and measurable benefits. Reports the charity has received from healthcare establishments indicate that some patients require lower doses of expensive medicines after concerts.

Diana Greenman, chief executive of the charity, recalls one patient who caught her attention. "She was slumped in her wheelchair,

obviously distressed and in pain. As the concert progressed, I noticed her fingers were tapping in time to the music and she became more upright in her chair. By the end, she was sitting bolt upright, smiling broadly, waving a flag and singing along to Land of Hope and Glory."

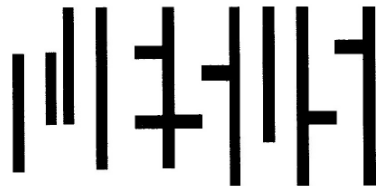
Music can reduce muscle tension and improve body movement and co-ordination. Healing chemicals released by the joy and emotional richness in music can enhance alertness and general well-being of those in care.

Sir Thomas Allen and Aled Jones are both patrons of Music in Hospitals. The address for donations is Case House, 85-89 High Street, Walton-on-Thames, KT12 1BX. Telephone 01932 252809.

**Headline from news website** This is Wiltshire.co.uk:

"Education experts to visit Swindon."

*Reader's Digest*



**BELIEVING IS SEEING**

*Stormont Stepping Stone*

**Time may be** a great healer – it is a lousy beautician.

*S. Howard  
Reader's Digest*

**Social Events 2008**

Normally our social events are non-profitmaking, but this year the social team decided to use some events to raise funds for the church building projects. We are pleased to announce that through these events we were able to donate £395 to the church building fund.

After a successful meeting in December, the team has now planned another exciting year of activities. As always our aim is not only to put together a programme of events throughout the year for our church community, but to offer a range of activities which will enable us to invite along others, who may not normally attend a church event and share with them the fun and fellowship we have.

Please make a note in your dairies now of those events you may be interested in and sign up early.

Dates, events & contacts

**January 19th** Swim and Supper  
Anne Sadler

**March 2nd** Mothering Sunday Lunch  
Tracy Wheeler

**March 8th** Games Evening  
Tracy Wheeler

**April 19th** (tbc) Skittles Evening  
Claudine Mee

**May 17th** Car Treasure Hunt  
TBA

**June 16th** Church Walk TBC  
September (tbc) Barn Dance

Tracy Wheeler  
October (tba) Mime Artist T B A

**November 22nd** Quiz and Chips  
Tracy Wheeler

<b>Reading the Bible</b>	<b>Sat</b>	Jude
	<b>Fri</b>	Acts 27-28
	<b>Thurs</b>	Rev 18-22
	<b>Wed</b>	SofS 7-8
	<b>Tues</b>	Psalms 149-150
	<b>Mon</b>	Esth 6-10
	<b>Sun</b>	Deut 32-34

**He does exactly what it says in the Bible**

## Puppets and Praise

On Saturday, December 8th the puppet group 'No Strings Attached' visited our church from their home church Malvern Evangelical Church. The evening was led by Andy Smith and music for our praise was provided by Ruth Jones and her musicians. To introduce the idea of gifts Andy asked Joshua Wheeler to open a parcel (one he had wrapped earlier!) It contained a tin of chocolates and we were all offered one. He then introduced the 4 puppeteers who gave us the simple message that when we praise God it should come from the heart. This was portrayed through a carol-singing competition, involving big star names such as Elvis, the King and Diana Floss, and overseen by the charismatic Pastor Bob. Each competition entrant had a gift for singing, however for all the show and self importance of the stars, the winner of the competition was the little girl who sang a truly heartfelt rendition of 'Silent Night'. The children of all ages (2 – 90 years!) thoroughly enjoyed the antics of the puppets.

Refreshments were served afterwards enabling the older children to chat to the puppeteers. Our thanks to Andy for putting together the evening. *Tracy Wheeler*

**He who is not** liberal with what he has, does but deceive himself when he thinks he would be liberal if he had more. *William Plumer*

**Charles Wesley's** rules for the singing of hymns.

- 1 Learn the tune.
- 2 Sing them as they are printed.
- 3 Sing all.
- 4 Sing lustily and with good courage.
- 5 Sing modestly. Do not bawl.
- 6 Sing in time. Do not run ahead or stay behind.
- 7 Above all, sing spiritually.

Have an eye to God in every word you sing. Aim at pleasing Him more than yourself, or any other creature. In order to do this, attend strictly to the sense of what you sing, and see that your heart is not carried away with the sound, but offered to God continually.

*The Telegraph*

## Hymns which do not contain the words Lord, Jesus, God or Christ

I vow to thee, my country  
Lead, kindly light  
O worship the King, all glorious above  
Rock of ages  
The spacious firmament on high.  
Who would true valour see.

**Don't wait** for six strong men to take you to Church!

*Trinity Lutheran Church, San Diego, California*

**"Thanks very much** for the beautiful jumper," said Charles, kissing his grandmother dutifully on the cheek.

"Oh, there's nothing to thank me for," she murmured." That's what I thought, but Mum said I had to."

## Weekly Church Events

Sundays	
10.30am	Family service with Sunday School Communion 3rd Sundays
5.00pm (6.00pm in summer)	Evening Worship Communion 1st Sundays
Mondays	
1.30pm	Little Fishes playgroup
7.30pm	House Group Middle Lane, Cropthorne
7.45pm	Prayer meeting at Church
Wednesdays	
2.30pm	Women's Own – Lower Room
7.45pm	Prayer and Bible Study 21Ganderton Court
8.00pm	Bible Study 48 Mayfield Road
Thursdays	
10.15am	House Group 20 Abbeycroft
10.30am	Baby talk
7.45pm	Deacon's Meeting 1st and 3rd Thursdays

There is a **Monthly Communion service** on a Wednesday at 2.30pm

**Impact-** A generation Youth Event on 4th Sunday at 7.00pm

The **Thursday Club** meets in the Lower Room at 7.30pm on the 4th Thursday of each month.

**Church Badminton** is between 8-9pm on 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month in Pershore High School. Details from Anne Sadler.

The **Multiple Sclerosis Group** meet on Monday mornings in the Worship area.

The **St John's Ambulance** use the Upper and Lower Rooms on Tuesday evening.

**U3A Choir** uses the Upper Room on alternate Wednesdays at 2.15pm.

### Thursday Club

On January 24th we are holding the AGM followed by a social time. The meeting will start at 7.30pm in the lower schoolroom and all are welcome.

**Because of the early deadline** for the Messenger and Pam being on holiday, I have no information about Women's Own for January. Please ask Pam when she returns.

**In October I did** a sponsored walk for Project Woodpecker and, with your generosity, raised £510. Thanks all who supported me in this. The money will be used in a rebuilding scheme to enable the use of campsites to be extended into the winter months.

In the summer I helped at two Woodlands Camps for disabled people in Farnham in Surrey. It was hard work but great fun and rewarding.

I hope to go again in 2008 to meet up with old friends and make new ones. All I have to do is to get my arm, which was broken walking in Stratford, better.

*Ann Chaplin*

**Give your troubles** to God, He'll be up all night anyway

*A Birmingham Church notice board*

### The inventor of the bagpipes

was inspired when he saw a man carrying an indignant asthmatic pig under his arm. Unfortunately, the man-made sound never equalled the purity of the sound achieved by the pig. -

*Alfred Hitchcock.*

**Project Woodpecker** operates the Woodlands Camp Site in Surrey.

1000 people, disabled and their volunteer helpers, camp there each year. Most choose to sleep in tents although there are back-up buildings as well.

Woodlarks started over 75 years ago and their buildings (toilets, washrooms, dormitory, kitchens and dining area) have been developed and improved to suit the needs of wheelchair users.

Their aim is to demolish old buildings and rebuild in 3 phases to give better facilities all round.

**The project will cost £2.3m.** Their reserves can provide £800,000 over the 3 phases.

Please help them raise the rest!

For more details ask Ann Chaplin.

**A narrow mind** is usually accompanied by a wide mouth  
Princeton Apostolic Church, West Virginia

### Rainbow Rhymes

Poems and Promises to cut out and collect.

#### Wrappings

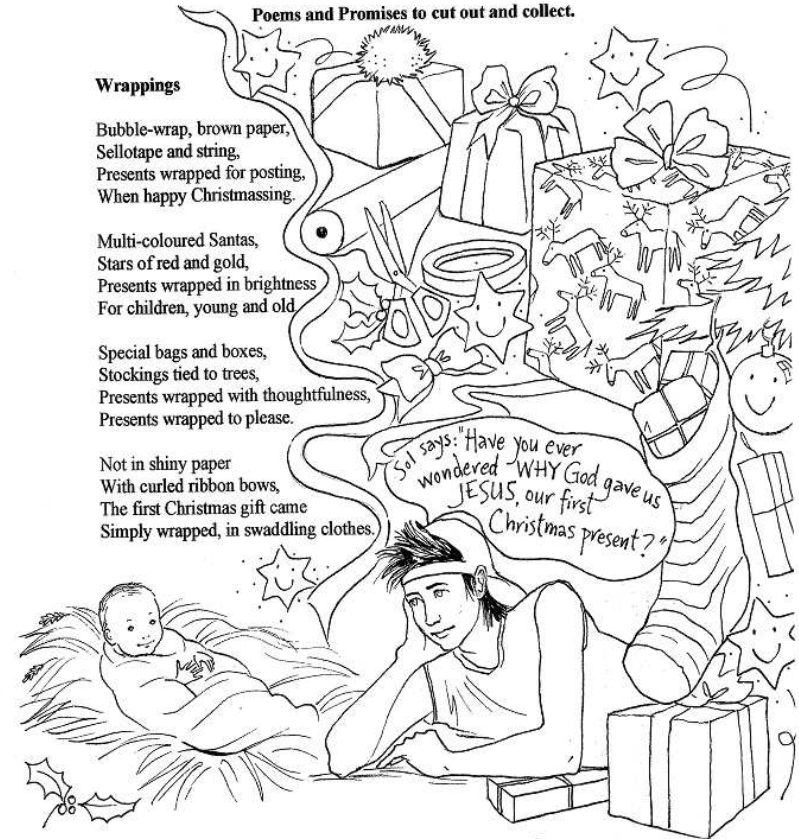
Bubble-wrap, brown paper,  
Sellotape and string,  
Presents wrapped for posting,  
When happy Christmassing.

Multi-coloured Santas,  
Stars of red and gold,  
Presents wrapped in brightness  
For children, young and old

Special bags and boxes,  
Stockings tied to trees,  
Presents wrapped with thoughtfulness,  
Presents wrapped to please.

Not in shiny paper  
With curled ribbon bows,  
The first Christmas gift came  
Simply wrapped, in swaddling clothes.

Sol says: "Have you ever  
wondered WHY God gave us  
JESUS, our first  
Christmas present?"



For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son.....  
John 3:16(NIV)

Poem by Daphne Kitching, Picture by Elaine Hill, Coloured by .....

### Chips With Everything

On Saturday 24th November an amazing evenings entertainment was held in the church and was organised by the Social Group, who are thanked very much. The Question master was Peter Merry. His daughter, Tracy Wheeler, was the adjudicator. Josh Wheeler aided his granddad by collecting score sheets and running the under 14s quiz.

Ten teams took part with more that 70 people participating, and much fun was had by all, some of the questions were taxing (especially the darts question-which I've yet to work out-if anyone can explain it to me I'd be glad) whilst others were more straightforward.

The under 14s quiz, an individual event, and was won by Josh, 2nd was Andrew and Jonny (jointly) 3rd was Tom. Well done to them all and perhaps they'd consider being on my team next time!

In the Team Quiz Hooper's Crew were the winners with a score of 71, there were 5 team members -Mike and Francesca and three lecturers from Evesham College, their strongest round was COLOURS. Like most teams Mike considered they played the joker on the wrong round (in their case General Knowledge). The Biscuits were the strongest of all of the teams because they held everyone else up from the bottom and won the wooden spoon

This was a great evening entertainment-who said Christians don't know how to have fun. So remember when there's a Quiz night announced at church come and join in. By the way the Chips great.

*Alan Mee*

### Shoebox Appeal 2007

We're almost at the end of the 2007 Shoebox Appeal and the lorries have left the Evesham Warehouse for destinations such as Serbia, Kosovo, Kiev, Liberia and Kyrgyzstan. Each lorry was loaded with between 11,000 and 18,000 shoeboxes (the number of boxes loaded is determined by the size of the lorry)

Pershore Baptist Church members sent 32 filled boxes and a large amount of single items, which were very useful as they were used as 'toppers up' for boxes which had been sent to the warehouse with space left in them. In addition a generous donation of £100 was made to the appeal by our church, all of which will be used to aid the transport costs. Quite a number of church members have been to the warehouse to help in the enormous task of ensuring the boxes were ready for the transport which would take these to the waiting children. We hope to begin the Pershore Baptist shoebox initiative in late September 2008 so if you have access to odds n ends of wool and would like to begin to make hand puppets at some stage during the next year - we've got the pattern.

*Diane McBride and Claudine Mee*

**Teacher:** How many zones does the earth have?

Student: Temperate, intemperate,, no parking, and O.

**He was a careful driver** during the Christmas period. At the railway crossing he stopped, looked and listened. All he heard was the car behind him smashing into his boot

### Prayer Calendar for January 2008

1	Pete Everitt	
2	Jim & Grace Faisey	
3	Marshall & Helen Faizey & family	
4	Jimmy & Rosie Flanders	
5	Malcolm & Mo Fletcher	
<b>6</b>	<b>The Apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith"</b>	<b>Luke 17:5</b>
7	Philip & Jean Gelaky	
8	Tracy Genever & family	
9	Mick & Angela Godwin	
10	John & Doreen Gosney	
11	Paul & Lynne Gosney	
12	Marilyn Griffiths	
<b>13</b>	<b>Who am I, that I should go...?</b>	<b>Exodus 3:11</b>
14	Anne Harding	
15	James & Rebecca Harrison & family	
16	Keith & Theresa Hart & family	
17	Colin & Val Harvey	
18	Marge Harvey	
19	Christina Haworth	
<b>20</b>	<b>Christ...is your example. Follow in His steps</b>	<b>1 Peter 2:21</b>
21	Carol Heath	
22	Naomi Haywood	
23	Gordon & Jill Hill	
24	Allan & Rose Hitchman	
25	Mick & Pat Hooper	
26	Mike & Francisca Hooper	
<b>27</b>	<b>Give thanks to the Lord</b>	<b>Psalms 105:1</b>
28	Steve & Jacqui John & family	
29	Andrew & Ruth Jones & family	
30	Ema & Rob Kirbyson & family	
31	Georgina Klee	

### Editorial

1. Messenger material for the February edition to be in by **noon on Sunday 20th January**. Please observe this deadline.
2. If there are any serious errors/oversights, please tell me!
3. If you would prefer a larger print version of the Messenger, have a word with me.

Thanks

Mike Taylor