

Me and my Bible verses.

'I was born in London but grew up as an army kid. When my dad left the army we went to live in Dorset. I loved sport and had a very happy childhood. 'I'd been baptised at 17 but I wasn't really converted. I did English and PE at Chester Uni and went a bit mad – I partied really hard. I was drinking really heavily. My lowest point was at an Isle of Man sports festival when I woke up covered in vomit.

'I was pretty desperate. I didn't change overnight, but my best mate had just become a Christian and we shared our stories and went to church together.

'I qualified as a teacher but wasn't really sure it was for me. I had a few jobs including youth work and working for a Christian travel company. But I found a dream job teaching PE in a middle school and loved it. I now teach in a private school – an alien world to me, but I've really enjoyed it. I now have a pastoral role responsible for a team looking after more than 80 kids, and I feel it's something I'm called to do.

'The Bible verse that's meant a lot to me is Isaiah 40.31, *"those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles;*

they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."

'I look back and think how I've been held. I was on a mission to an orphanage in Mozambique, and I was given the wrong prescription for anti-malarial drugs and could have died. There was a time when the alcohol kicked in at Crewe service station, I was running across a motorway, and down marble steps – it was as though I floated down.

'At times when my strength is drained and stuff is messy, those words help me not to try to do things in my own strength. I like the idea of riding on thermals. You might think this is just distancing yourself from reality and living in a dream world. I don't think that; I think this is the real world, and I'm living in God's promises.'



Minister: Rev Jack Walker.

Secretary: June McCaughren

Treasurer: Laura Ivey

Leadership Team: Adam Stacey. John McCaughren. John Hadley.

Whitchurch Baptist Church

Sunday December 5th

Second Sunday in Advent



Jack completes the series on John's Gospel today with John 14 v 1-14

'Preparing to die'



What's on this week:-

Tuesday 10am Men's Study Group

Wednesday 8pm Mid week study group

Sunday 12th 10.30am No 1 in short Advent series. Matt 1 v18-24. Jack speaking

Advent & Christmas plans

Monday 13th Christmas Lunch 12.30pm

Sunday 19th No 2 in Advent. 10.30am

Wed 22nd 6.30pm Carols in the Car Park

Christmas Day 10.30am Family Praise!

Sunday 26th NO SERVICE TODAY

How many initiatives are 'sold' on the idea of 'come and receive a free gift'?

This Christmas season is a bit different this year as we seek to consider 'doing Church differently' or having a different perspective to what we have had over the past umpteen years! So at our 'Open Air Car Park Carols' on Wed Dec 22nd we are offering each of our guests who come a 'free gift' which will incorporate contents like the 'Goody Bag' we did at the Carols at the Station initiative. [Chocs, pen, children's booklet, ??] so every 'guest' who comes will receive one!

Now doesn't that inspire you to invite your neighbour? There will be printed invitations available from today, and.....

..... then it's up to you!!

ANDOVER FOODBANK 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS APPEAL; Well done W.B.C. 6 complete bags!!



Carols and their stories

Angels from the Realms of Glory

This text was written in 1816 by Scottish writer James Montgomery (1771-1854), a newspaper editor who was imprisoned multiple times for the radical views expressed in his publications. "Angels from the Realms of Glory" is one of 400-odd hymns Montgomery penned.

This carol is popular with several tunes, including *Regent Square* by English law-student-turned organist and Henry Smart (1813-1879).

Angels We Have Heard on High

This is a traditional *noël*, or French carol, which may have originated in the district of Lorraine. In French it's called "Les anges dans nos campagnes," and its lyrics are a dialogue between the shepherds and women of Bethlehem, who tell the Christmas story and quote the Latin text of the angels' biblical nativity song, *Gloria in excelsis Deo*.

This carol became popular in France and Quebec in the mid-19th century, and it reached English speakers in a 1860 translation by James Chadwick in *Holy Family Hymns*

Foodbank: The office will still receive gifts of 12 Days of Christmas and Hampers for those intending to donate. They do get 'late' requests so can be used. Also Longlife milk and Longlife fruit juice needed plus cleaning items etc.

Don't forget to book with Jayne today if you are intending to come to the **Christmas Lunch** on Monday Dec 13th here at the Church 12.30pm

This weeks book review

God on Mute. Pete Grieg

This new edition of Pete Griegs classic includes a new forty day study guide, a foreward from the Archbishop of Canterbury, and a new introduction from the author who has personally revised and updated the text throughout. Originally written out of the pain of his wife's fight for life, but also the wonder of watching the prayer movement they founded changing the lives around the world, Pete Grieg steps into the dark side of

prayer and emerges with a hard-won message of hope, comfort and profound biblical insight for all who suffer in silence. Price £9.99.

available from Aslan Books aslanchristianbooks.com. or Amazon.

Twinkling lights and candles everywhere remind us that Jesus is the light of the world that came to dispel the darkness. That theme of light is what originally gave birth to the Advent wreath hundreds of years ago in Lutheran Germany, and it's become a beloved tradition in many churches and homes. The Advent Wreath is typically an evergreen wreath containing five candles, each lit on successive Sundays during the Advent readings. Some variations of the Advent wreath include different colours to correspond to different themes, while others keep the candles a simple white.

Last Sunday we had --- No 1 Hope. [Isaiah 9; 2 & 6-7]

Today the Second Sunday of Advent Readings:

No 2 Preparation

Isaiah 40:3-5:

"A voice of one calling: 'In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Check out www.whitchurchbc.org.uk.

Our new website is now up and running - www.whitchurchbc.org.uk - please do take a look. During December you'll find an interactive digital Advent Calendar on the website, don't forget to check back each day to see what is behind the latest window and share with friends! If you notice any typing errors or have suggested amendments for the website then Adam is happy to receive them. All enquiries regarding the website etc contact Adam.