

Me and my Bible verses.

'My father was from a very strong Buddhist family but my mother was from a Christian family, so I learned about Jesus through her. When I was about 10, we left Sri Lanka for Zambia and my grandmother came to visit us. I was with the wrong crowd at school – there were things that were not of God, like dabbling in the occult. I told my grandmother and she read Psalm 23 to me, and I felt the love of Jesus. Throughout my life that psalm has resonated with me.

'My grandmother grew up in a very Anglican family. They'd been Anglicans for generations and my grand-uncle was bishop of Colombo. Because she had three step-brothers and sisters who were quite young, when she was 21 she married my grandfather who wasn't Christian. He said he would look after her brothers and sisters, but she almost had to forgo her religion and she wasn't allowed to go to church. When she had grandchildren she would talk to me and her cousins about Jesus, though she couldn't do that with her own children.

'When I was 19 I came to England to study.

I met my husband at University. He was a Hindu, while I was a Christian but not really practising. When my children were born I started coming to church with a friend and we did the Alpha course. On the away day, I felt something special – it was almost a transformation, I knew it was the Holy Spirit.

'I think my husband wanted to come to church, but it was a gradual process for him. We went to the National Gallery and he saw a picture by Rubens of Peter in the boat. He said he felt overcome. The next day he came to church and there was a baptism, and I think he truly felt then the Holy Spirit, and ever since he's been a Christian. 'I never thought it would happen – he was very adamant that he was a Hindu and his family were Hindus, so that was quite amazing. 'Psalm 23 is about a journey, and that really speaks to me. My husband isn't good at learning Scripture, but this is the one passage he knows by heart.



Whitchurch Baptist Church

Sunday December 12th

Third Sunday in Advent



No 1 in a two series Advent topic.

Matt 1 v 18-24.

'Joseph tries to do things right!'

Welcome!

Minister: Rev Jack Walker.

Secretary: June McCaughren

Treasurer: Laura Ivey

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

What's on this week:-

Monday 10.30am Ladies Meet Together
12.30pm Christmas Lunch at WBC
Wednesday 8pm Mid week study group
Sunday 19th Dec 10.30am DIY Nativity
'The Impossible Promise'
Wed 22nd Dec 6.30pm
Carols in the Car Park.
Christmas Day 10.30am
Family celebration for Christmas!
Please note: No service on 26th



Invitations for Christmas events here at WBC available in Hall.

Gives information for all our activities this Christmas.

Sunday Dec 19th 10.30am a special DIY Nativity 'The Impossible Promise'.
Produced by the Bible Society where you can come and join in the fun!

If you fancy a Carol service next week, Basingstoke Baptist would love to see you Sunday 19th 4.30pm . [Likely to be busy!]

It is now possible to download the weekly News sheet from the website using the following link:

<https://bit.ly/3diOlBQ>

You can also open up the daily Advent Calendar on the site too!

Carols and their stories

'In the Bleak Midwinter'. Christina Rossetti
*'In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
Snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.'*
Victorian poet Christina Rossetti (1830-1894) composed the words to this, one of the finest Christmas carols in English: it was originally written as a poem titled 'A Christmas Carol', in 1872 – 29 years after **Dickens's famous book of that name** had been published. Rossetti died before it was even published, in 1904. Two years later it was first set to music: the most famous settings are by composers Harold Darke and Gustav Holst. We include 'In the Bleak Midwinter' in our pick of **the ten best Christmas poems**.

Third Sunday of Advent Readings: No 3 Joy [Matthew 2:10-11,](#)

"When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.
On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him.
Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh." (NIV)

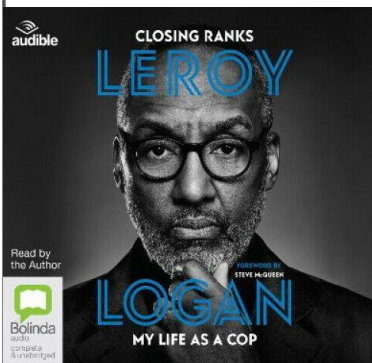
A reminder—

No 1 Hope Isaiah 9 v 2 & 6-7
No 2 Preparation Isaiah 40 3-5
No 3 Joy Matt 2 v 10-11

This weeks book review

Closing ranks:

My life as a Cop Leroy Logan



An inspiring autobiography of an illustrious career, giving a fascinating behind the scenes look at the workings of the Metropolitan Police. One of the founder members of the Black Police Association Charitable Trust, Leroy relates with powerful honesty his first hand experience of racism and how his strong Christian faith helped him persevere in a frequently hostile work environment.

Price: £8.49 available from Aslan Books.

Andover Foodbank

are extremely grateful for the donations to their Christmas Appeal. They are now distributed to the various agencies who will ensure they arrive in time for Christmas! They are also currently in need of
Longlife fruit juice. Tinned meat. Longlife milk.

[Items left in the marked Foodbank box by the serving hatch will be delivered to the Andover office during the week.]

Prayer Support this week

For your prayers and support this week lift up to our Heavenly Father those who are suffering. Jack would appreciate prayer for his ongoing situation and for Jill too as she cares and seeks to deal with obvious and understandable concerns. Rita was admitted to A & E with worsening conditions. Remember Sue and John Vears, also Alan at this time and for Sandra's sister in law. There are those who fear the future and see no 'happiness' in Christmas celebrations! There will be those you know personally who fit into these categories, so just stop for a while where you are and what you're doing, and remember by name those who the Holy Spirit has brought to your attention and prompting you to pray for them. Pray for our Churches Christmas planned celebrations and ask they might be effective as we seek to reach out to the local community.