

# *Bramley Baptist Church*



*Christmas Magazine  
December 2013*

Minister: Rev. Philip Clements-Jewery  
(Moderator)

Church Office: (0113) 257 9437

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# Letter from our Moderator...

Dear Friends,

Only a month or so into my role as your Moderator, this is the first opportunity I have had to write for your Magazine, so please allow me to introduce myself and to say something about what you may expect me to do. I will write something more seasonal that you can read elsewhere in this issue.

I was trained at Spurgeon's College over 40 years ago and have served in five pastorates, at Oxford, Wigan, Sheffield, Liverpool and Huddersfield. Between Liverpool and Huddersfield I was for a few years Director of the Christian Enquiry Agency, part of Churches Together in England, seeking to elicit and respond to enquiries about the Christian faith. I retired in January 2012, and continue to live in Huddersfield where I am now a member at Oakes Baptist Church. Before becoming Moderator here, I was the Moderator at Lockwood Baptist Church in Huddersfield for 2 years. Personally, I have been married to Sue for 42 years and we have three children and 2 grandsons (who live a long way away, unfortunately, in the USA).

**A Moderator's task** is to guide a church through a period of pastoral vacancy. I will preside at both Deacons' and Church meetings, offering (hopefully wise) advice as appropriate. At Lockwood, I also found it helpful to lead one Service a month so that I could maintain contact with more people than those who attend meetings. That is what I have offered here as well. As a retired Minister I find myself invited to lead occasional worship at various churches, but one-off visits can be unsatisfactory as it is difficult to establish rapport with people whom I see just on that single occasion. The opportunity to exercise an on-going regular ministry at Bramley is better for me, and such continuity, I hope, will also be helpful to you.

**A time of pastoral vacancy can be good for a church** because it helps you to discover and rely on the gifts God has given to every member. When a new Minister is eventually appointed please do not take that as an opportunity to relax, sit back and let that person, whoever he or she may be, do all the work. Ministry is a collaborative exercise, with everybody working in partnership for the good of the whole body, each employing the gifts and filling the role God has given them, Minister and people together.

That leads me to a very important point. Ministers do not possess all the gifts God has given to His people. They are not perfect. They make mistakes. The one you eventually call to be your Minister will be as much a sinner, no more and no less, than everybody else. He or she is a flawed human being, as are we all. Even St Paul could call himself the chief of sinners, and he is not available for the post! So please do not put a Minister too high up on a pedestal; he or she will then only have the further to fall! Put your faith, not in the Minister, but in God. **Look to Him alone for the blessing you seek on your life and work.**

I do look forward to getting to know you all better and to working with you during this time of pastoral vacancy. Please pray for me in my role, as I promise to pray for you. May God bless all that you seek to do in His Name. And do have a happy Christmas!

In Christ,

**Philip Clements-Jewery**

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## Flower Rota

There are still several vacancies on the flower rota for 2014. If you would like to participate and celebrate a birthday or anniversary or just help to beautify the church, please see [Barbara](#) for further details. After the Service each week, the flowers are distributed to any who are troubled or ill.

January	5th	
	12th	Esther
	19th	
February	26th	
	2nd	Molly
	9th	Barbara
	16th	Audrey
	23rd	John and Maureen

## From the Church Secretary...

Whilst we have had a good summer as regards the weather, the same cannot be said for Bramley Baptist Church. We have had two major issues that have affected us here in Bramley. First of all, the Bramley Family Support Project was effectively required to close because of lack of funding, and then we received notice that our Pastor Mark was leaving us.

Nothing is to be gained by worrying about our losses - we must instead look to the future. **Surely there is some organisation, or charity with funding, that can utilise what we have in our Sunday School building.** Also there is someone, who may know (or may not yet know) that the way forward for them in the years to come is the pastorate at Bramley Baptist Church.

We are not the first Christians or Church to have concerns about the future, but these can be overcome. Can I refer you to **2 Corinthians 1 verse 8**. Paul writing to Corinth and Greece (where there are problems even today) said:

*"I think you ought to know dear brothers about the hard times we went through in Asia. We were really crushed and overwhelmed and feared that we would never live through it. We felt we were doomed to die and saw how powerless we were to help ourselves; but that was good, for then we put everything into the hand of God, who alone could save us, for he can even raise the dead. And he did help us and saved us from a terrible death and we expect him to do it again and again. But you must help us too by praying for us, For much thanks and praise will go to God from you who see his wonderful answers to your prayers for our safety."*  
(The Living Bible)

On Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> August Mark preached his last sermon as Pastor at Bramley Baptist Church and followed this by a joyous occasion when he **Baptised Ann, Clive, Sarah and Chris**. We then had a buffet lunch followed by a presentation to Mark and Rachel. I have had a message from Mark's Mum and Dad in Hong Kong expressing their thanks to the people of Bramley Baptist Church for caring for Mark and his family during their time in Bramley.

We have prepared, as never before, by way of arrangements for the appointment of a **new Pastor** for our Church. We have had 3 group

meetings and the Church Review. We have now, thanks to Alastair Hutchinson, a detailed Church Profile.

Despite these changes we have continued with our normal activities and have brought in new activities by way of outreach into the community. This year, we have enjoyed several activities outside church including **Ten Pin Bowling** when residents from Champion House joined us. Our men enjoyed a **Curry Night**, and in the Church we had the **Spring Party** in March. During the summer we had the Sullivan's **Barbeque** and a few of us were able to join Mark and Rachel on a wet Saturday afternoon for the **Church Picnic** in Ilkley. Finally we had our most successful yet **Bonfire Night Pie and Pea Supper**. Our new activities include the **Bramley Craft Club** for Ladies, the **Community Choir** and the **Men's Breakfast** meeting. Also, with the **Healthy Living Network** we have had regular Saturday afternoon Table Tennis sessions.

Once again, we used 3 pitches at **Bramley Carnival** providing free Face painting and handing out free cakes. This year the Craft Club also took part.

There were some concerns that with Rachel leaving it may not be possible to continue with the **'Stay and Play'** activity. I was keen that this should continue and I was pleased when Anne Unwin said that she would take over leadership. The change of Leader has not affected the attendance figures. This is another important outreach of the Church.

The **Soul Group** are meeting again with Amen Corner youth, and the **Growth Groups** are starting up again at the end of this year.

Where possible please support all our outreach activities. Earlier in the year we had problems with the **Church Website** but now thanks to Susan we have an improved site that is updated every week showing the Church Services and activities undertaken by our Church. This will be an important site that will be checked by any prospective Pastor.

We have two church buildings, a Manse and the two cottages to maintain, and now that we don't have the Project funds to provide maintenance costs for the **Sunday School** it is once again the responsibility of the Church. At the start of this winter the Sunday School boiler broke down - was beyond repair and a new boiler has been installed. Because of several break-ins we had to have grills fitted to the back windows of the ground floor of the

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Sunday School.

For the Church building, we have completed the repairs to the outside stonework with work being done on the Warrels Road side of the building. We also had to replace the large front window, and as it had to be in wood to comply with the regulations, it was quite expensive. Inside the Church the new kitchen has been completed thanks to the help from **John and Matthew Knapton**. I built up the units and they installed them. We also have responsibility of maintaining our large burial ground. After some problems earlier in the summer, we did end up with all the grass cut.

On behalf of the Deacons, I would like to thank everyone for their help in ensuring that the church and its activities run smoothly. We could not manage without everyone undertaking those sometimes small, but nevertheless essential, jobs.

During the interregnum the Deacons particularly need help from members of the congregation by informing them of any of our people who are ill or in hospital. The Deacons appreciate help from Church members visiting our people who are ill.

It is with sadness that I have to report that two of our members died during 2013. We give thanks for the life of **Bill Rowe** our expert in the obtaining of grants for work in the Church and Graveyard. He was instrumental in the setting up of Radio Poplar and very much involved with Hospital Radio. He was also a Trustee of the Bramley Family Support Project at a time when it had many problems. In September we were able to give thanks for the life of **Doreen Tallant** a stalwart of the Church Choir.

We thank **Dorothy Knapton** who at the end of this year completes a 3 year period as Deacon of this Church. We welcome **Alastair Hutchinson** who takes up the position of Deacon on the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014. He joins myself, Anne Unwin (Treasurer), Jean Rowe, Ron Spurr and Carol Sowerby.

We look forward into 2014 in the hope that, God willing, we will welcome a new Pastor to our Church. I thank Susan for editing this magazine.

Finally - **Happy Christmas and a Happy & Healthy 2014!**



*John Pratt*

## *Please pray for...*

- **Pray that God will send committed Christians who have moved into this area, to come and join this fellowship.**
- Please pray for the work of the church, as we reach out to the wider community in Bramley.
- The **Sunday School** and the **Stay & Play Toddlers** group, that they will continue to grow and expand, and friendships built up between church helpers and the families that attend. **Kidz Klub** in Bramley - please pray for more volunteers to come forward.
- **SOUL** - the **Youth Cell Group** jointly run with Amen Corner church.
- The **Missionaries** we support (for specific prayer requests, see the mission update): **John & Sue Wilson**, and **Mark & Anna Burgess**.
- For the right **Minister** for our church - that God will 'call' that person to Bramley.



## *We give thanks for...*

- The **new activities started up in the church** to reach out to the local community: Bramley Craft Club, Men's Breakfast, Healthy Living, Bramley Community Choir. We thank God for those who come along, and pray that these groups will continue to draw in large numbers of people to them.
- The huge success of our recent **Fireworks Supper**, where the church was filled with a large number of local people. The **new Christians** in our church and **recent Baptisms**.
- **Rev. Mark Duggan's ministry** amongst us over the last 7 years. We pray for an outpouring of blessing on him, Rachel and their family in their new home and area.

## Stay & Play Toddlers Group

- Our **Stay & Play Toddlers Group** meets in the Family Centre (the large building next to the Bramley Baptist Church building in Hough Lane opposite St. Peter's Primary School) from **9:30-11:30am** on **Wednesdays** during Term Time. The charge is **£2** per family, which includes a **drink** and a **healthy snack**. The group is for pre-school children (including babies) and their parents/carers. The group is run by a team of volunteers, several of whom are members of Bramley Baptist.
- Facilities include: **ride on cars & scooters**, a **Soft Play area** with a **Ball Pool**, a **home corner**, **playdough table**, **Craft table** and designated **baby area with playpen**, **play gyms & toys**.
- Most of the session is **free-play**, with drinks and snacks around 10:00 am, with a **Singing Time** at the end. Plenty of seating for parents and carers to chat and relax. Our average attendance is 20-25 children plus their parents/carers.
- For further information, phone Anne Unwin on: **(0113) 257 4313**
- **SOUL** is a group for **Teenagers** who want to know more about Jesus, the Bible & the Christian faith. It provides a **safe place** for young people to ask questions and have them answered in a relaxed, non threatening environment. It also provides an opportunity for teenagers in the church to meet together and have fun!
- **SOUL** meets straight after the Morning Service (usually **12:20pm**) on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of the Month, finishing around 2:30pm. It consists of food (yes - **you get FREE Food!**), **games** and **discussion**.



## T'owd Weaver

*All T'day i'd thrawn t'owd lume abaat an' nearly earn't three bob.  
I still felt loth to give it up, for its nonn so bad a job.  
Tweyve three strings thro' 6to6 at 10 1/2d a string.  
Sich work puts speed in't shuttle wheels, and helps t'owd arm to fling.*

*But we've a law nut to leet up-an'all good laws i keep.  
An he at warks at after eight, is't blackest of black sheep.  
If a man can't addle meit and cloithes, i' thirteen hours a day  
He's worthy neither less o't 'wark, an' raither more o't pay.*

*So i threw t'owd picking stick aside, and 'thout i'd done eniff  
T'entitle me to go doan stairs, and hev a cosy whiff.  
But i'd hardly drawn me chair to t'fire, and sprodden aat me feet  
When t'bairns began to fratch and feight, an' scream wi all their meet.*

*Aw drat those bairns , its allus so, there's no peace for me.  
If they arn't splitting t'roof wi din, their romping on me knee.  
I nee'er can hev an haar o'peace, try all't schemes i will  
If i talk thro' na to Setterday neet,i cannot keep em still.*

*So i threw me sleds to t'cellar door, an' i donn'd me better shoon  
Then t'wife begins to grunt and growl, to know were i wor going.  
"To onnywhere bur'ere," i said and lewked to awful mean,  
"An i 'ope tha'll hav 'em off to bed, when i cum back agean."*

*From Bramley Almanac, submitted by Ann*

- Would you like to meet up socially with other **mature men and women** in the local community? Then **Healthy Living** is for you!
- Come along as you are for **Fun, Company and Table Tennis**. **Refreshments** are provided. **No previous ability is required**. See Barbara for more information.



# The Christmas Tree

The star upon the Christmas tree  
Reminds me of the one,  
That shone over the stable in Bethlehem,  
To welcome God's dear Son.



The tinsel on the Christmas tree,  
Reminds me of the straw,  
That lined the manger where Jesus lay,  
And covered the stable floor.

The lights upon the Christmas tree,  
Remind me of the night,  
When, as shepherds watched on the hillside  
Angels sang in glory bright.

The presents around the Christmas tree,  
Remind me of the wise men,  
Who travelled far in search of a king,  
And brought rich gifts with them.

But the tree itself reminds me,  
Of yet another tree.  
The cruel cross where Jesus died,  
On the hill of Calvary.

And the prickly branches make me think,  
Of the crown of thorns He bore.  
The pain He suffered and how He died,  
To open Heaven's door.

So when you see a Christmas tree,  
With its garland bright and gay,  
Remember that Jesus Christ was born,  
On that very first Christmas Day.

*A poem submitted by our late friend Bill Burras for  
an earlier Christmas magazine, and  
re-printed now in his Memory.*



For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called  
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup> Of the greatness of his government and peace  
there will be no end.

He will reign on David's throne  
and over his kingdom,  
establishing and upholding it  
with justice and righteousness  
from that time on and forever.

The zeal of the LORD Almighty  
will accomplish this.

*Isaiah 9: 6 & 7 (NIV version of the Bible)*

## Men's Breakfast

- **Come and have Breakfast** (John 21:12). In the cold winter of 2013, we are having a warm **Men's Breakfast and Confession of God's Promises** on the fourth Saturday each month at the Manse, from **8am until 9.30am** (see: [www.bramleybaptist.org.uk](http://www.bramleybaptist.org.uk)).
- We gather for bacon and sausages, then read a portion of the Bible confessing the promises of God in it **Romans 10:10**. To confess means to say not what we think or what we see, no matter what the situation, but to say the same as the Word of God says. When we speak it out loud in faith, mountains will be moved as Jesus said.

See Vladimir (07502) 412 694 or [vnstanchev17@gmail.com](mailto:vnstanchev17@gmail.com)

# Fully Divine, Fully Human...



The Jesus who was born at Bethlehem, we believe, is both human and divine. If, as Paul writes, “*in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself*” (2 Corinthians 5:19), then that work began (but was not completed) at the incarnation when he who was the eternal Word “*became flesh and lived among us*” (John 1:14). This is what the doctrine of the Virgin Birth safeguards. The Son of Mary is in every respect also the Son of God.

Even so, down through the Centuries, the faith that Christ was both human and divine has been threatened by **two opposing and incorrect views** of the person of Christ. These views may be still with us, so we need to be on our watch against them.

**The first** of them is that in Jesus, God was only pretending to be a human being. We may still be in danger of thinking like that, especially when we concentrate (maybe through the songs we sing) on the glory that Jesus shares with the Father. The trouble with this view is that if Christ did not fully enter into everything that belongs to our human nature then those parts of our humanity that he did not share cannot be redeemed. The Letter to the Hebrews, which of all the books in the New Testament has the highest view of the divinity of Christ, also says “*he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect*” (Hebrews 2:17). Becoming like us in every respect is what happened at Bethlehem. Jesus came into the world in exactly the same way as all of us. It was not his birth that was unusual, but his conception.

The **other mistaken view** of the nature of Christ is that he was born as a human being and somehow only later became God. Sometimes this kind of thinking suggests that Jesus was raised to divine status when the Spirit came upon him at his Baptism. But if God was not fully involved at every moment in the human life of Jesus, then again we have to say that any part of human nature that has not been touched by God cannot be redeemed. In fact, the miraculous conception of Jesus in Mary’s womb assures us that

God and humanity were fully united from the very beginning of his life, not later on when he began his ministry.

Of course, those passages in the Gospels that we so love to hear at Christmas do not offer us a theological dissertation on what is called ‘Christology’. Instead, they offer us a story: “*In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth...*”

May the Christ who was and is both fully human and fully divine bless you with His presence and saving grace this Christmas.

*Philip Clements-Jewery*

## Christianity Explored...



- Do you have questions you want to ask about the Christian faith but don't know how to ask?
- Do you think you'll be laughed at if you start asking questions about Jesus Christ?
- **Christianity Explored** maybe what you're looking for. It is a 7 week course. Each week, we:
  - Meet for a **Meal**
  - Watch a short **DVD**
  - Discuss issues from the **DVD**

**Contact Us:** [www.bramleybaptist.org.uk](http://www.bramleybaptist.org.uk)  
or **Phone** (0113) 257 9437

# Meet the Deacons...



**Ron Spurr**

*I have been a Deacon of Bramley Baptist Church for over thirty years. I am a lifelong resident of Bramley, having been born and educated in the area. I have just retired from working in **Construction, Social Services and Rehabilitation.***

*I came to faith in Jesus as Saviour as a 15 year old, in my last year at Secondary School. I have grown more in the last twenty-five years than the previous period. My experience of Christ is more intimate, Holy Spirit focussed. My reaction now is to **Pray first, act second.***

*My primary gifts are in the areas of Prayer and Teaching. I long to see the Church in the United Kingdom grow and develop, to be as God purposed, biblically based, with all the gifts of the Holy Spirit manifest through her.*

*Bramley Baptist is my spiritual home, with all her strengths and weaknesses. I look to the Father to be more evidenced among her people, blessing as He wills.*



**Alastair Hutchinson**

*So - I am a Deacon. My first task is to write my 'Meet the Deacon' article. How do you start a 'meet the deacon' article? (I am sure there will be more searching questions to come.) Let's start at the beginning. I was born short of six months into the 1980's. I was raised near Reading. My Mum goes to Church. My Dad doesn't.*

*On a Sunday I would usually play football instead of church. I was not Christened. Dad believed we should decide for ourselves. I vividly remember, aged 7, a school trip to the Baptist Church – we were told people were baptised when they decided for themselves. This is why I chose a Baptist Church. I read Transport Management at Loughborough University. In my 1st year I lived in a house with 14 people. **Within a month, half had become Christians.** I went **Morris Dancing** instead and met Sarah through dancing 12 years ago. We lived in Abingdon together and were struggling*

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*with life. I was looking for a new job. My sister had recently become a Christian and said she was praying for me. Two weeks later I was offered a job in Leeds. We moved to Leeds 'just for a year'. That was in 2004. I finally became a Christian during 2006, I was adamant not to get married in a Church because I was not a Christian - and in part, that ended up leading me to church. The rest is another story I shall share later. I look forward to serving God and the congregation as a Deacon.*

## Bramley Craft Club



- Bramley Craft Club has been meeting in the church building for the last 18 months. We celebrated our first birthday in the summer. We were very lucky to be offered 2 canal boats for the evening; we drew names out of the hat, as we only had 24 places available. It was lovely to see everyone enjoy the trip especially as a couple of our ladies had never been on a boat before and a few had never been to the canal.
- Craft Club has evolved from a monthly meeting to a club that also runs monthly workshops and social events too. We have also been offered some special free workshops including Cake Decorating at Hobby Craft and Beaded Jewellery at The Bead Hive.
- We are very proud of **the mix of people we attract**, with all ages and abilities attending. Three of our members entered hand-crafted items into the Pudsey Show this year and all won prizes for their creations.
- At the moment, myself and the Committee are busy planning for 2014. We will continue meeting on the **first Tuesday each month** to teach basic skills eg. using a sewing machine and knitting. We will also continue hosting workshops on the **third Tuesday each month**, such as Upholstery and Needle Felting.
- Thank you to Bramley Baptist for all your great support and generosity.

*For more information, contact Sarah (0796) 841 8242*

## Recent Offerings

October	£2,168.20
November	£2,022.50

## Nativity

**N**ow is the time people are thinking of Christmas  
**A**ll the shops are stocked with Christmas goodies  
**T**elevision adverts ask to buy toys for our children  
**I**nfants are getting ready for the Big Day  
**V**arious activities and parties are planned  
**I**saiah foretold the coming of the Prince of Peace  
**T**hrone of David upon which He will reign  
**Y**es we must not forget what we are celebrating

*John F Pratt*



## Our Friend

You're the Alpha and Omega - the Beginning and the End.  
The God in whom we place our trust and utterly depend.  
You're the One who's all forgiving and kind and just and true,  
So merciful and powerful - who can compare with You?

You are mighty and majestic, yet as gentle as a dove,  
Delighting in Your children enfolding us in love.  
Compassionate and full of grace and faithful to the end.  
We come with hearts of joy to serve our Saviour and our friend.

*Sent in by Doreen Tallant for Dec 2008 Magazine - re-printed for  
this magazine in her Memory.*



## Strengthen Me, Lord

Strengthen me Lord, in moments when I'm weak.  
Speak words of comfort when thy help I seek.  
Look down in mercy when I fear the way,  
Give me strength Lord, that I need for each day.

Strengthen me Lord, when I lose the fight.  
Give me the courage to uphold the right.  
Speak to my soul and teach me how to pray.  
Confirm my will, when in temptation's way.

Strengthen me Lord, when by myself I stand.  
Draw near to me and hold me with your hand.  
Yours is the touch that sets my spirit free.  
Yours is the voice that whispers hope to me.

Strengthen me Lord, when darkness dims my sight.  
Lighten the gloom, that I might see your light.  
Guide thou my path, illuminate my way,  
That I may see thee at the close of day.

*Written by D Kershaw when he was 85 years old, a friend of  
Bill Burras. Submitted in Memory of Bill.  
(Ed. note - this could be sung to the hymn 'Abide With Me')*



## Missionaries - on a Mission...

As most church members know, we have Overseas Missionary connections with two families: the **Wilsons in Lyon, France** and the **Burgess' in Lima, Peru**.

### **John & Sue Wilson and their children: Bonnie, Robina, Jessica and Tommy in Lyon, France.**

It is now 25 years since John and Sue Wilson went over to France. Last year, some of us had the opportunity to meet John over here where he shared their vision on expansion, and this year they have finally found a second building so they can grow another congregation. They continue to see people come to faith and this year, on Easter Sunday, their youngest daughter Bonnie was Baptised. However, they ask for prayers that they will find new gifts and resources amongst the congregation to fill gaps where a number of able leaders are leaving for work in other parts of the country.

For more, you can read their blog on the BMS World mission website.

### **Mark & Anna Burgess and their sons: Daniel, Joel and Kaleb in Lima, Peru.**

Over in Peru, Mark and Anna continue to see God's blessings. In 2013 one of the "adventures" they were looking to achieve was

investing in the Oikos School of Ministry and also the leaders that they have in Oikos, in Lima and in the jungle, as well as further afield. As part of this process they have been praying about how they can support the jungle better, as well as how they can help the students learn not just theoretically, but also in practice. In order to do this, they took all the students to Pucallpa on the 16th September and then to a learning community conference, as well as going deep into the jungle by boat to visit several of their network churches. By all accounts this was a success, and they saw many commit their lives to Jesus.

If you want to find out more about how the trip into the jungle went, you can read about it in their latest newsletter. If you can view that online, there is a link to a short video clip of the trip into the jungle. In addition Anna has also re-launched her blog this year, which you can see at [www.annaburgess.com](http://www.annaburgess.com) if you have not already.

Other contact details are: [www.theburgessfamilyblog.blogspot.com](http://www.theburgessfamilyblog.blogspot.com) and [www.missionorder.org](http://www.missionorder.org)

David

## Where is my Focus?

The quick answer might likely be Jesus, but if one looks a little deeper, is it? Where do we place our trust? Who or what do we rely on? Focus on?

Possibly for some, the focus may be on church, charity work, Christian sites, chat rooms, fellowship, etc. All commendable - all have their place, but do we become over-reliant on such? Does such become our main focus and a priority over and before God?

I know personally I don't always put God first, I let distractions creep in - sometimes justifying such under the premise of the fact that the distractions are 'good things'; nonetheless they are still distractions. I'll tend to these distractions and avoid 'one to one' time engaging with God. I've realised this recently - God pointed this out to me and I then questioned myself and asked 'why?' The answer for me personally is that despite desiring a deeper relationship with God, I also desire things that I know not to be good - things that I would rather not face up to or even admit. God knows these things; there is no hiding from God. So I have allowed distractions to get in the way, because **sometimes a deeper relationship with God can cause one to reflect deeper on oneself**, to see and admit to shortcomings, faults, weaknesses, etc, which can be very painful at times.

I will admit that I have a lot of fears. I fear I will lose my faith - I have before. I fear I won't or can't make it as a Christian - I know that by my own strength alone I cannot - so I keep praying, keep clinging onto God and try not to let even the 'good distractions' get between me and God.

Julie

## Baptist Missionary Society Birthdays Scheme...

December Cath  
Ellie  
Maureen

January Jean



If you would like to join the scheme: please see Maureen for more details.

# Christmas Quiz...

1. In legend what did St Nicholas drop down the chimney?
  - A. A Snowball
  - B. A purse of money
  - C. His Hat
2. What are the **three** names of Santa's Reindeers beginning with D?
3. Before the turkey, what was the most popular bird served at a Christmas meal?
4. In Victorian England, turkeys got to market in London by:
  - A. Horse & cart
  - B. They walked wearing boots made of sacking or leather
  - C. They flew
5. In 1841 who introduced the idea of decorating fir trees in Britain?
6. For every real Christmas tree harvested, how many seedlings are planted in its place?
  - A. 4-5
  - B. 2-3
  - C. 15
7. **True or False.** "Christmas trees are edible."
8. Christmas caroling began as an old English custom, where people toasted their neighbours to a long and healthy life. What was this custom called?
  - A. Wassailing



- B. Waffaling
- C. Waggelling

9. What is the best selling Christmas song of all time?
  - A. We Wish you a Merry Christmas
  - B. White Christmas
  - C. Rocking around the Christmas Tree
10. **True or false.** Before settling on the name of Tiny Tim for his character in "A Christmas Carol," three other names were considered by Charles Dickens: Little Larry, Puny Pete, and Small Sam.
11. In what year was the Queen's first Christmas message televised to the nation?
  - A. 1954
  - B. 1959
  - C. 1957
12. What famous Christmas movie is based in New York?
13. **True or False.** In 1647, the English parliament passed a law that made Christmas illegal?
14. Postmen in Victorian England were popularly called
  - A. "Robins."
  - B. "Sparrows"
  - C. "Blackbirds"?
15. Which famous mathematician was born on Christmas Day in 1642?

Submitted by Anna (Questions taken from the internet)  
(Answers on page 27)

## Not Just A Job

Who are you?  
 What can you do?  
 'Just a job' you say.  
 It's not 'just a job',  
 If you do it for God.  
 He gives each one  
 A task to be done.  
 If it's done with love,  
 For the Lord up above  
 Then the smallest chore  
 Means so much more  
 Than the big things you do,  
 If they're done just for you.

So, in doing your part,  
 With love in your heart,  
 You do it for God  
 And its not 'just a job'.

*Submitted by Jean Rowe, in  
 Memory of Bill Rowe. The poem  
 was written by Lorraine Banning  
 who used to broadcast with Bill on  
 Hospital Radio.*



## Empty Words

Empty words  
 Like pretty packages  
 So enticing  
 A delight to look at  
 Wonderful to receive  
 But nothing inside  
 Alluring on the outside  
 An empty shell  
 Vacant  
 Bereft  
 Left hopeless?

I don't want empty packages  
 What this world offers  
 No hope  
 Nothing within  
 Instead  
 I'll put my hope  
 In the King!

Julie

## Hands of the Lord

Hands that heal, hands that care,  
 That gently reach out to us all.  
 Hands that tenderly hold us close,  
 That lift us when we fall.  
 These are the hands of the Lord.

Hands that suffer, hands that bleed,  
 Pierced with nails through and through.  
 Hands that are scarred and full of pain,  
 All for the love of me and you.  
 These are the hands of the Lord.

Hands that bless, hands of peace,  
 That give grace to folk everywhere.  
 Hands that hold an enduring promise,  
 That they will always be there.  
 These are the hands of the Lord.

*Submitted by Jean Rowe in Memory of Bill Rowe. The poem was written  
 by Lorraine Banning who used to broadcast with Bill on Hospital Radio.*



## How to Give...

- **One-off Gifts** - please make cheques payable to 'Bramley Baptist Church', or see Anne Unwin.
- **Monthly Giving** - To set up a **Standing Order**, please visit your Bank with the following church details:
  - Name of Bank: **HSBC**
  - Sort Code: **40 - 37 - 28**
  - Account No: **91117017**
  - Account Name: **The Baptist Church Bramley (A/c 2)**
- **Legacy / Gift Aid** - please contact Anne Unwin: **(0113) 257 4313**

# What is Church...

I've been thinking about this a fair bit and so decided to commit my thoughts onto paper. I do wonder just how much we think about the above question. The Bible has a fair bit to say regarding the church. I know that the church is the body of believers (Christians) of which Christ is the Head of.

**Colossians 1:18** "And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy."

I personally do not see church as just a building, nor as purely a social club. I also do not see it as any one particular denomination; **Colossians 1:4** "because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God's people" - notice "all God's people" not just those of our own particular church or denomination. If church were just purely a social group, then what would be the point? There are plenty of social groups and gatherings already out there. I personally **thirst for God and God's Word** - that is why I attend church. I also attend for **fellowship** with other Christians, I desire to learn. **Colossians 1:10** "so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God", and surely one of the places to get to know the knowledge of God is church?

**Hebrews 10:25** "not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another - and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

This brings me to my next point - 'the body of Christ - the church'. How should we behave to one another? Well there is plenty more in the Bible on that too. I do think we should be encouraging one another.

**1 Thessalonians 5:11** "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing." Although I know that sometimes we may have to point things out to one another, such should be done in love and not to tear one another down. **1 Thessalonians 5:14 -15** "And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone."

<sup>15</sup> Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else."

Is church just purely a Sunday thing, going to a building and going through the motions and then live the rest of the week without God? I personally don't think it is meant to be that way, but I suspect for some it might be.

**Acts 2:46** "Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts".

I was relieved to hear Mark Duggan in one of his sermons say that the Christian walk is a struggle. For once I could relate, because it is not always easy; that is why we need one another, need to encourage and build one another up in faith and just sitting in church on a Sunday and going through the motions doesn't always meet that need - or maybe for some it does?

Also we have differing gifts, different parts of the body, we should not be looking down on another because of such differences. **Galatians 5:26** "Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other".

**1 Corinthians 12:4 - 7** "There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. <sup>5</sup> There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. <sup>6</sup> There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. <sup>7</sup> Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good."

Julie



# Christmas Word Search...

Christmas / Cake

C	A	N	D	L	E	S	P	K
L	H	U	Y	E	K	R	U	T
O	P	R	E	S	E	N	T	S
V	G	N	I	D	D	U	P	E
E	G	J	E	S	U	S	K	J
R	E	N	M	T	Y	A	O	T
C	K	R	I	O	C	Y	E	K
S	A	M	T	S	I	R	H	C

Susan

## Bramley Community Choir

Bramley Choir has met in the back room of the church **fortnightly** on a **Monday night at 8pm**. Although we have only run for 8 weeks, we managed to sing 4 of our favourite Christmas songs on stage at the 'Bramley Lights Switch on'. Sadly, half the choir went down with the lurgey and were unable to attend. It was touch and go for a while as we were all very nervous and were unsure if we could do it, but after a pep talk from me and some emergency re-arrangements to the songs, we got up on stage, had some fun and sang our hearts out! Afterwards we went to the Unicorn pub for a well earned celebratory drink.

We hope to find someone who can play for us, and help with technical stuff. **If you enjoy singing and are interested in joining us, there are no special requirements.** You don't have to be the next Cliff Richard or Lesley Garrett and **you don't need to audition.**

*For more information, contact Sarah (0796) 841 8242*



A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.  
<sup>2</sup> The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him - the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD -  
<sup>3</sup> and he will delight in the fear of the LORD.  
 He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears;  
<sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.

Isaiah 11: 1 - 4 (NIV version of the Bible)

## Christmas Quiz Answers...

(Answers from page 21)

1. B
2. Dasher, Dancer and Donner
3. Goose
4. B - the boots protected their feet from the frozen mud of the road
5. Prince Albert
6. B
7. True- many parts of pines, spruces and firs can be eaten. The needles are a good source of Vitamin C. Pine nuts or pine cones are also a good source of nutrition.
8. A
9. B
10. True
11. C
12. Miracle on 34th Street
13. True. Festivities were banned by Puritan leader Oliver Cromwell, who considered feasting and revelry immoral on what was supposed to be a holy day. The ban was lifted when the Puritans lost power in 1660.
14. A The British Post Office grew out of the carrying of royal dispatches. Red was considered a royal colour, so uniforms and letter boxes were red. Christmas cards often showed a robin delivering Christmas mail.
15. Sir Isaac Newton

# Regular Events at Bramley Baptist Church

[www.bramleybaptist.org.uk](http://www.bramleybaptist.org.uk)

- **Church Services** are every Sunday **10.30am**, with the celebration of Communion on the first Sunday of the month. Every Sunday morning, there is a crèche for pre-school children and the Y-Zone for school age children. Also, prayer every Sunday at **9.15am**.

**Sunday  
Services**

- **Re:Vive Prayer Meeting** on the first Sunday of the month at **6.30pm**.

- **Growth Groups** meet fortnightly on Wednesdays at 7.30pm



- **Stay and Play Toddlers Group** for parents/ carers and toddlers staffed by Church members. This operates from **9.30am to 11.30am** every Wednesday in term time.

**Stay & Play  
Toddlers Group**

- **Bramley Craft Club** - meets **1st Tuesday every Month**



- **Bramley Community Choir** - meets **Mondays fortnightly**

- **Men's Breakfast** - meets **4th Saturday each month**

- **Healthy Living** - meets monthly on a Saturday



**Need to  
CONTACT  
us ?**

Please contact the Church Office  
for times and locations of the  
above meetings and events:  
**(0113) 257 9437**  
[www.bramleybaptist.org.uk](http://www.bramleybaptist.org.uk)

*Readers should note that the views expressed in articles in this magazine are those of the individual authors, and not necessarily those of Bramley Baptist Church.*