

WHITTLESEY QUEEN ST CHURCH

Methodist / United Reformed



Fresh Horizons

Winter 2023



Winter Walk

From Editor

Now that Tim is bringing out a weekly “flyer” to keep us all up to date with diary dates, etc, the time has arrived for “Fresh Horizons” to revert to a quarterly Magazine. It appeared initially at the start of the first Covid lockdown (indeed it was originally named “Lockdown”) and was distributed via pastoral visitors when we were not permitted to attend Church or meet up together in groups! I have to admit that the time taken to put each issue together plus preparing Power-Points for each week’s services takes up a lot of my time so I trust my decision meets with your approval? Of course, I would welcome a volunteer to take over the Magazine?! The next issue will be in the Spring then followed in the Summer, Autumn and Winter. Your continued contributions are most welcomed as always, please. Of course, with Tim including in his Flyer details of worship services, etc, it would be duplicitous for these to also appear in here. Likewise, I believe three months worth of Lectionary readings to be too much but I value your comments on this and any other aspect of this production please? The Magazine is YOURS so I will include whatever you tell me is important to you!

Decorate a window shelf for Christmas?

Families or individuals are invited to decorate a shelf at church for the Christmas season! These decorations can be made at home if you wish but should be in place by the **latest** Sunday Dec. 3rd when our tree will be decorated at the Christmas Messy Church.



Our Minister Langley's schedule has prevented him from submitting his usual piece so I thought it would be good for the wider Church Family to read a report that Tim, our Children, Family & Community Worker submits to the Trustees each month.

Ed.....

Dear Friends,

I hope to provide a report to you before the trustee meeting detailing my current work and plans for the upcoming year. I'm striving to find a balance in the hours I dedicate to children, families, and the community, although these areas often intersect. For instance, Messy Church caters to children, families, and serves as an outreach to our community.

One of the plans I aim to propose involves collaborating with the youth centre in Scaldgate. I've met with their leader and youth worker, who have been working with young people for an extensive period. While they have a centre, the space is insufficient. They expressed appreciation for our church building and have considered using it for their youth club since our initial meeting months ago. They have the necessary resources to cover the costs associated with using our building. I or other church members could volunteer at their youth club to engage with these young individuals.

Naturally, there are concerns about utilising our church property with a group of energetic young people and the potential issues they might bring in. I will liaise with the property team, including Rhod, Paul, and Steve, to assess the feasibility of this arrangement. However, I believe it's a valuable opportunity to enhance our youth work if we have the resources to support it. I have listed the details and concerns in my report you will receive.

I won't be present at the circuit service next week as I'll be attending the National Youth Ministry Weekend in Birmingham, organized by

URC. I'll participate in seminars, various sessions, workshops, worship, and meet new people like youth workers or church leaders over three days. The schedule will be long, starting around 9 in the morning until late at night, with after-hours to meet new people at 10 pm.

I'll be staying on a sofa bed, likely in the living room, as I received a subsidy for accommodation, while the church will subsidise my petrol expenses as part of my training cost.

You won't receive an update from me next week, but I hope to catch up with all of you later on.

Best Wishes,

Tim Wong

Children, Family and Community Worker



Recreating the Parable of
Talents,

Tim and FoG Club
members at a recent
service.



Christmas Shopping Jokes

I went into a toy store to do some early Christmas shopping and asked the assistant, "Where are the Schwarzenegger dolls?" He said, "Aisle B, back."

A woman is taken to court. The judge asks, "What were you charged for?" The women replied, "Doing my Christmas shopping too early." When the judge asked her how early, she said, "Before the store opened."

Who says doing Christmas shopping early avoids the crush? Last year, I did mine a full 12 months in advance, and the shops were just as busy as ever.

I was Christmas shopping the other day and I saw a brass band, with dribble underneath all of their instruments. Turns out it was the Salivation Army.

It was Christmas Eve at the meat counter and a woman was anxiously picking over the last few remaining turkeys in the hope of finding a large one. In desperation she called over a shop assistant and said, "Excuse me. Do these turkeys get any bigger?" "No, madam," he replied, "they're all dead."

A lady lost her handbag in the bustle of Christmas shopping. It was found by an honest little boy and returned to her. Looking in her purse, she commented, "Hmm... that's funny. When I lost my bag there was a £20 note in it. Now there are three five pound notes and five pound coins." The boy quickly replied, "That's right, lady. The last time I found a lady's purse, she didn't have any change for a reward."

Good King Wenceslas phoned
Domino's for a pizza.

The salesgirl asked him:-

'Do you want your usual? Deep pan, crisp and even?'

Candlelit Carols Service

Our annual carols service is at 6.30pm Sunday 17th December.

Refreshments with mince pies served afterwards!



More Christmas Shopping Jokes

Mary-Jo was going to the Christmas office party but needed a new dress. So she went out shopping and in the clothing store she asked the assistant, 'May I try on that dress in the window, please?'

'Certainly not, madam,' responded the salesgirl, 'You'll have to use the fitting room like everyone else.'

A couple were Christmas shopping. The shopping centre was packed and as the wife walked through one of the malls she was surprised when she looked around to find that her husband was nowhere to be seen. She was quite upset because they had a lot to do and so she became so worried that she called him on her mobile phone to ask him where he was. In a quiet voice he said, "Do you remember the jewellers we went into about five years ago where you fell in love with that diamond necklace that we couldn't afford, and I told you that I would get it for you one day?" The wife choked up and started to cry and said, "Yes, I do remember that shop." He replied, "Well, I'm in the bar next door."



Carols 'n Cakes

Monday 11th December 2—4pm



Enjoy singing some of your favourite carols in a relaxed setting! Cakes and teas / coffees with a guest appearance by David Bailey. ***Donations of cakes much appreciated!***

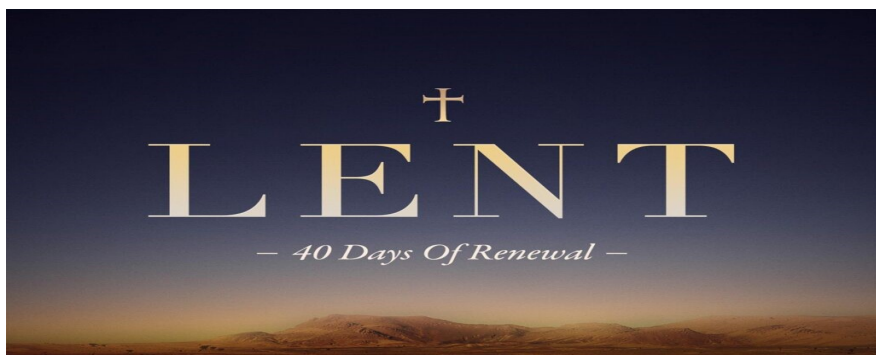


Sunday 3rd

December

4—6pm

**Crafts, Games,
Stories
& Food!!**



I know you won't be wanting to think about it just yet but as the next issue will not be until April, I advise you that the season of Lent 2024 is from Wed, 14 Feb to Thu, 28 Mar. with Good Friday on 29th. Nearer to the time please see Tim's Flyer for full details of all services and activities.

Our NC500 road trip continued

For days 9,10 and 11 of our Scottish adventure we set off on the A836 west coast road through Thurso, travelling 63 miles to our next destination ; the Kyle of Tongue Caravan and Camping site. This was a slow two and half hour journey as two thirds were single track roads with numerous regular passing places. The Kyle of Tongue is a shallow sea loch in the northwest Highland and it's mouth is formed at Tongue Bay. During our 3 days we visited two stunning golden sand beaches at Sango Sands, Durness and Farr Bay Beach. We had a very interesting 30 minute tour discovering the delights of Smoo Cave, Durness, although due to the lack of rainfall, the renowned waterfall was not flowing in the waterfall chamber. We also visited the pretty village of Bettyhill and experienced the delights of its quaint tea shop and also took an early evening stroll from the village of Tongue to Castle Varrich. This small ruined castle is on a local high point of rock and its viewing platform gave stunning panoramic views overlooking the Kyle of Tongue and the village of Tongue.

For days 12,13 and 14 of our trip we made our way to Ardmair, Ullapool. For this part of our adventure, we decided to not follow the NC500 route as we thought the single track roads this time too slow for driver and caravan; we would cover the designated route by car over the three days once we were settled at our destination. We travelled south through the central highlands to Lairg and then west to Ardmair, Ullapool via Ledmore. Our pitch at Airdmair Point Holiday park was stunning and was on the shoreline of Loch Kanaird. Day 12 of our trip we travelled North to cover the North West coast road of the NC 500 route. We travelled through Inchnadamph, experienced the wonderful setting of Ardvreck castle on the shore of Loch Assynt, had lunch at Lochniver and continued our journey on single track

road around to Newton. We crossed the stunning Kylesku bridge to arrive at Rhiconich late afternoon, thus covering that part of the NC 500 route not covered whilst towing the caravan. We then returned to our camp base in Ardmail, Ullapool. The following day, I journeyed to the beautiful grounds and gardens of the Scottish National Trust property of Inverewe which overlooked Loch Ewe near Poolewe. Zoe decided to have a relaxed day from all the travelling at base camp by the shore of Loch Kanaird.

The following day, we set off South for our next caravan site at Lochcarron, along the coastal route via Garloch and Kinlochewe. It took 3 and half hours to travel 71 miles, but the mountain scenery and valleys were stunning. The aptly named 'Wee Campsite' at Lochcarron was small with challenging access being located off a narrow lane and on a steep terraced gradient. We stayed here a further 3 nights and on day 16, we took the opportunity to travel the relatively short drive South West and over the bridge spanning the Kyle of Lochalsh and 'over the sea to Skye'. We travelled north on the Isle of Skye to visit the famous 'Fairy Pools' near Glen Brittle Forest. This is a very popular attraction and the vivid aqua blue pools are formed by a natural waterfall phenomenon; an enticing place for many wild swimmers. It was another glorious sunny day and the 2.4 km walk on the purpose made gravel path from the very large car park was well worth it. We paddled and Luna, our Border Terrier, enjoyed her swim. I regretted not taking my trunks that day to fully experience the magic. The morning of Day 17 was spent travelling the infamous Bealach Na Ba pass to Applecross; this is definitely not one for towing a caravan! The name is Gaelich for 'Pass of the cattle', built in 1822 and historically used as a drover's road. It is a winding single track road, with very tight hairpin bends and gradients of up to 20% and summit of 625m

above sea level. It is very popular with the motor bike fraternity and a challenge to a number of hard- core cyclists! In the evening we had a little treat at Rockvilla restaurant overlooking Loch Carron, partaking in the catch of the day of pan fried cod and took a late evening stroll to the ruins of Strome Castle.

Day 18 was our final day of our NC 500 road trip. We hitched up and took a relatively leisurely 51 mile drive East to Dingwall, North East of Inverness. Our final overnight stay was at a Caravan and Camping Club site which was adjacent to the stadium of Ross County FC; the Scottish premiership football club. How I wished I had timed our stay better to have had the chance of seeing a home tie! On the morning of Monday June 19th 2023, we broke camp for the final time on our NC 500 road trip and headed south for a long caravan towing trip of 267 miles to our overnight stop at Scaleby , near Carlisle. From there, we continued our journey south to Tibshelf, Derbyshire. We had planned to spend 8 days in the area visiting Zoe's daughter Tamara and wife Cherie and our beautiful grandson Jasper before our final journey home at the end of the month.

We have both been very fortunate to have had this opportunity of experiencing the Highlands of Scotland in this way. We had been blessed with some gorgeous weather and stunning scenery. I don't think Zoe particularly enjoyed all the road travelling, but then, this was billed as a 'Road Trip' of 516 miles with a journey of 486 miles to get to the start!. If we were to visit Scotland again with our caravan, I think it may well one planned at stopping at just 2 or 3 destinations from mid Scotland and below, possibly Fort William and Loch Lomond area. Has anyone got any recommendations?

Nick & Zoe



Balach na ba Pass



Smoo Cave



Fairy Pools
Isle of Skye



Nick!



Kylesku Bridge



Sanga Sands Beach

Ardvreck Castle

Malcolm's Wordsearch

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

Find the following words which we associate with Christmas in the grid above: CAROL, CARD , TURKEY, TREE, LIGHTS, PUDDING, PRESENT, FAIRY, DECORATION, HOLLY, SHEPHERDS, KINGS, MYRRH, DONKEY, ANGEL, MARY, JOSEPH, STABLE, MANGER, CHRISTMAS



A plaque was recently presented to our Church in recognition of Mission progress being made with the help of Synod grant funding. It is displayed on the wall near the servery hatch.



Churches Together
in Whittlesey
Joint service for week of
Christian Unity (at Queen St)
Sunday 21st January at 3pm

THE VIRGIN BIRTH

A woman takes her 16-year-old daughter to the doctor. The doctor says, "Okay, Mrs. Jones, what's the problem?"

The mother says, "It's my daughter Carla. She keeps getting these cravings, she's putting on weight and is sick most mornings."

The doctor gives Darla a good examination then turns to the mother and says, "Well, I don't know how to tell you this but your Carla is pregnant. About 4 months would be my guess." The mother says, "Pregnant?! She can't be, she has never ever been left alone with a man! Have you Carla?" Carla says, "No mother! I've never even kissed a man!" The doctor walked over to the window and just stares out it. About five minutes pass and finally the mother says, "Is there something wrong out there doctor?"

The doctor replies, "No, not really, it's just that the last time anything like this happened, a star appeared in the east and three wise men came over the hill. I'll be darned if I'm going to miss it this time!"



Volunteers are always needed and welcomed for the various jobs and positions within our Church. Please consider whether your gifts and talents are able to be utilised at Queen St.

Why not double up with somebody to find out more?

Come Talk With Us

Last month Tim hosted a pop-up youth gathering with Tadiwa, Thabiso, James, and Ejiro's family. The purpose of this meeting was to strengthen bonds and discuss their preferences for Christmas carols. Tim prepared a meal for them, and they all had a wonderful time together. It was an enjoyable opportunity to share thoughts and stay connected.

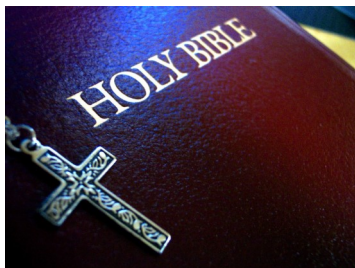


We give praise and thanks for the great work Tim is achieving with our children and young persons.....Ed

Bible Conversation

December date—5th, January date— 16th

Everybody warmly welcomed to an informal Bible conversation session, where nobody is compelled to speak. If you prefer, just sit, listen and maybe learn new things from the passages read. Held in Wesley Room.



UK?

We recently had a holiday in France. We were instructed to cover all GB stickers and small letters on number plates with UK stickers. We did as we were told. The only people who noticed, as far as we are aware, were the French couple who came up to us to ask if we were from Ukraine!...Linda C

On Christmas Eve, John thought it would be nice to buy his wife a little gift for the next day. Always short of money, he thought long and hard about what that present might be. Unable to decide, John entered Debenhams and in the cosmetics section he asked the girl, 'How about some perfume?' She showed him a bottle costing £80. 'Too expensive,' muttered John. The young lady returned with a smaller bottle for £50. 'Oh dear,' John groused, 'still far too much.' Growing rather annoyed at his meanness, the sales girl brought out a tiny £10 bottle and offered it to him. John became really agitated, 'What I mean', he whined, 'is I'd like to see something really cheap.'

So the sales girl handed him a mirror!

Services— Audio Recordings

Our morning services are not routinely recorded, however if you wish for a particular service to be recorded then please ask the duty AV operator in good time before worship begins. A digital copy can then be made for you and placed on a USB stick. If necessary the recording can be transferred to a CD disc.

Do you have any items you wish to be inserted into the Spring issue? Please email or phone them to Tony by mid March.

Copies of this Magazine are placed in Vestibule. Would those **pastoral visitors** with “non email” members on their list who are unable to attend Church please ensure they receive a copy.

As usual we shall have a special short liturgy on every Sunday in Advent and on Christmas Day. Volunteers to read the simple words before and between candles being lit please contact Linda C. Dates are 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th and 25th December.

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