

DIARY

Please let me know of any errors or omissions. *Don*

2018

December

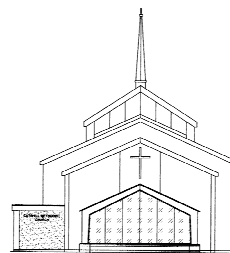
Sun 2nd	10.30 am	Rev Anne Smith: Mission Praise, Gift Service, Communion Toys/toiletries for the Basement will be received
	6.00 pm	Mrs Di Ross at Bromsgrove
Mon 3rd	3.30 pm	Funeral Service for Margaret Jones, see notices
Wed 5th	1.00 pm	Toddlers' Club (ends 3.00 pm)
Thurs 6th	10.00 am	Rendezvous: Reflections at Christmas
	6.00 pm	The Choir Practice
	7.00 pm	Men's Choir
Fri 7th	10.00 am	Coffee@CMCC
Sat 8th	10.00 am	Coffee@CMCC: Carols round the Piano and 'Wear a Christmas Jumper' for 'Save the Children'
	12.00 pm	Christmas Party for Refugee Families and their Children at The Bridge - see Notices and Poster (ends 3.00 pm)
Sun 9th	10.30 am	Ms Jackie Hartrey.
	6.00 pm	Rev Tony Perry
Tues 11th	10.00 am	Prayer Meeting in the Porch
	7.30 pm	Young at Heart: Fairtrade Products
Wed 12th	1.00 pm	Toddlers' Club (ends 3.00 pm)
Thurs 13th	6.30 pm	Men's Choir
	7.00 pm	The Choir Practice
Fri 14th	10.00 am	Coffee@CMCC
Sat 15th	10.00 am	Coffee@CMCC:
Sun 16th	10.30 am	Ms Lyn Gennoe
	6.00 pm	Rev Anne Smith: Carols with the Choir and poems/readings
Wed 19th	1.00 pm	Toddlers' Club (ends 3.00 pm)
	7.00 pm?	Christmas at Home, at the home of Angela & Ian
Thurs 20th	6.30 pm	Men's Choir
	7.00 pm	The Choir Practice

Our Minister: Rev Anne Smith tel 01527 570437
email: revasmith@btinternet.com

Website: www.catshillmethodists.org.uk
Items for website to Dave Morgan meandi@btinternet.com

Notices to Don Cook by 5.00 pm on Thursdays please.

☎ 877387 or e-mail d.e.cook@btinternet.com



Welcome To Catshill Methodist Church Centre

Notices 2nd December 2018

First Sunday in Advent

Worship God Welcome everyone Serve the Community
Be a strong loving Christian presence in our community as we:-
Welcome everyone, encouraging and nurturing the faith of all.

If you have recently moved into the area or are visiting, we welcome you. Our minister is Rev Anne Smith (tel: 570437).

If you would like a visit from a minister, or know of someone who would appreciate a visit, please contact one of the stewards.

10.00 am - 10.20 am Prayer Meeting in the Lounge: All welcome

Preachers:	10.30 am	Rev Anne Smith: Mission Praise. Gift Service, Communion Toys/toiletries/gifts for the Basement will be received
	6.00 pm	Mrs Di Ross at Bromsgrove
Pianist:	10.30 am	Helen Blundell with the Band
Worship Leader:	10.30 am	Ian Jones
Stewards:	10.30 am	Brenda Tristram:& Alan Ryder
Vestry Steward:	10.30 am	Eileen Kirby
Screen:	10.30 am	John Lacey
Door Steward:	10.30 am	Rita & John Lacey
Crèche:		Toys available in the Porch
Flowers:		Angela Jones
Sound:	10.30 am	Alan Ryder
Tea/Coffee:	~11.30 am	Fran Perry & Margaret Baker
Traidcraft:	~11.30 am	Angela Jones

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

Mon 3rd	3.30 pm	Funeral Service for Margaret Jones, see notices
Wed 5th	1.00 pm	Toddlers' Club (ends 3.00 pm)
Thurs 6th	10.00 am	Rendezvous: Reflections at Christmas
	6.00 pm	The Choir Practice
	7.00 pm	Men's Choir
Fri 7th	10.00 am	Coffee@CMCC
Sat 8th	10.00 am	Coffee@CMCC: Carols round the Piano and 'Wear a Christmas Jumper' for 'Save the Children'
	12.00 pm	Christmas Party for Refugee Families and their Children at The Bridge - see Notices and Poster

Collections last Sunday totalled £176.20, including £132.20 from the envelopes. Giving by direct debit was £321.00.

* If you know of anyone who would value our prayers, please write his or her name in the Intercessions Book in the Porch (assuming you have their permission for them to be prayed for publicly), AND add your name after the entry.

WORSHIP SUNDAY 9th December: Second Sunday of Advent

10.00 am - 10.20 am Prayer Meeting in the Lounge: All welcome

Preachers:	10.30 am	Ms Jackie Hartrey
	6.00 pm	Rev Tony Perry
Organist:	10.30 am	James Knott
	6.00 pm	Ian Jones
Worship Leader:	10.30 am	Angela Jones
Stewards:	10.30 am	Jan Martin:& Alan Ryder
	6.00 pm	Lindsay Peniston
Vestry Steward:	10.30 am	Elizabeth Hilderley
Screen:	10.30 am	Lindsay Peniston
Door Steward:	10.30 am	Bob Martin
Sunday Club:	10.30 am	Jess Knott & Eileen Kirby
Crèche:	10.30 am	Toys available in the Porch
Flowers:		Margaret Baker
Sound:	10.30 am	Alan Ryder
Tea/Coffee:	~11.30 am	Brenda Tristram & Tricia Shepheard

Sound Rota

The next sound rota is on the board. There are a couple of gaps so if you can help out on those days, can you please add your name.

Jan

Bromsgrove and Redditch Welcomes Refugees Christmas Party

There will be a Christmas Party for our Refugee families and their children at the Bridge Memorial Hall, Evesham Road, Redditch (next to The Bridge Church) on Saturday 8th December from 12 noon to 3.00 pm.

Anyone who would like to go to meet the families would be made very welcome.

There will be a buffet lunch and you are asked to take something to contribute to the table.

Please see the Poster in the Porch.

For more details go to info@brwr.uk or see Carole.

What do Basement Clients need?

We are wonderful at supporting the clients of the Basement with our regular food and toiletries donations, but I decided, for once, to actually ASK what they are short of rather than just give the usual beans and soups! The real need at the moment is for long life milk, squash, sugar, tinned ready meals, pot noodles and toilet rolls! Obviously the Basement are grateful for all and any donations but if we can concentrate on what they are actually short of that will help even more. Thanks again.

Dave

CHRISTMAS AT HOME

7.00 pm Wednesday 19th December

23 Church Road, Catshill

You are warmly invited to an evening of Christmas readings and carols by firelight.

Hopefully our singing will be fortified with mince pies , mulled wine and coffee/tea.

If possible please bring a poem or story, humorous / serious to share.

Angela and Ian Jones 876679

Christmas Cards

As usual we will have an area on one of the notice boards where you can send a Christmas Card to the church and all members and friends rather than giving out individual cards. Envelopes will be available for you to give a gift in lieu of the money you would have spent on cards and stamps which will be added to the Christmas collections.

Christingle

How quickly a year goes by and annual events come round again!

I will once again be placing the Christingle box in the Porch to collect gifts of soft sweets, raisins and cocktail sticks in readiness for the Christingle-making on Saturday 22nd December between 10.00 am and 12 noon at the Coffee Shop.

Please do come and help if you can, as it doesn't take long if we all help out.

If you would prefer to make small donations towards the cost of the oranges and sweets, I will be happy to receive them.

The Christingle Service will take place at 4.30 pm on Christmas Eve.

Thank you for your help.

Carole

Book of Remembrance

This week, from our Book of Remembrance, we remember

John Barber

CTiB praying for each other

Please pray for New Life Church and Rev Clifford Beasley

Collect for today: First Sunday of Advent

Urgent God,
breaking through the static
to speak to our hearts:
disarm our love of control
and shake the silent heavens
to reveal your dawning glory,
judging all in the light of love;
through Jesus Christ, the one who is to come.

Amen

Margaret Jones

I am sorry to have to announce the death of Margaret Jones, who passed peacefully away on 19th November at Housman Court.

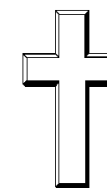
Margaret was a loyal and respected member here at Catshill. She attended regularly until she went to live at St John's and then Housman Court.

As well as serving the congregation here at Catshill, she also was a dedicated member of Network (now MWiB) and served as Treasurer for many years.

Her funeral will take place at Church on Monday 3rd December at 3.30 pm following a private cremation.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Geoff and Vivien and all of Margaret's family.

Anne



A Letter from the Manse December 2018

Dear Friends,

On Wednesday morning I felt a bit low. I had a lot to do and I didn't know how I was going to accomplish it all. I felt I was not doing justice to any aspect of the tasks I have been called to do. Then I read the lectionary reading for the day (1 Samuel 2:1-8) which included the words "the feeble gird on strength" which led me to think of Isaiah 42:31 "but they who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings as eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint". My mood was getting brighter.

Then I came to the study and the endless emails that await in my Inbox, which I hadn't been able to clear this week. I opened one from the Connexional Bishop of the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas, Everald Galbraith (I have received this since we visited the Church in Jamaica) it began "A WORD IN TIME!! "No one shall be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you" (Joshua 1:5)."

Then it said, "There are moments on our journey when we know God is with us, but when we also need to hear from God. We need a word from the Lord when we are being given new responsibilities; when we are deciding if someone is the right person to be our life-long partner; when deciding which house to purchase or which community to live in or which school to send our child; or whether or not to do the surgery; or if we should take the new job or remain with the one we have. These and many more are moments when we want to know that God is with us; but we also want to hear from God" and then the letter concluded, "If God leads you to it, God will lead you through it." My day became much better – the work was still there but I felt I had had words from God.

I have since wondered how many times in the events of the first Christmas the people involved needed words from God to encourage them in their commitment. Mary on her journeys to Elizabeth and Bethlehem, in the condemnation she probably faced and in the poverty of the birthplace. Joseph in his decision to stick by Mary and face that opposition with her, in his travelling to Bethlehem and Egypt. The shepherds in their decision to leave the flock on the

[Letter from the Manse, continued]

hillside and the Magi leaving their comfortable lives for the unknown destination. We tend to make the story a bit cosy but it was real life with the hardships and trials that life brings.

Yet all this was for you and me so that we may know "Emmanuel" – God with us – with you and me. To God be the glory.

Christmas still seems a long way away to me – but it is not. Although I will see you through Advent and before Christmas, may I take this opportunity on behalf of Jim and myself to wish you all the blessings of the season. May you know the presence, peace and joy of God as we celebrate His coming this Christmas.

May God bless you,



Thank you

To all those who met last week to tie tags onto over 300 Angels: They will be winging their way around Catshill in the days to come.

We need people to deliver them.

We look forward to the responses of those who find them.

Anne

Reimagine Church

After Sue Yarrington's inspirational talk last week about her experience at "Navigating Change". The District are running Conference on March 9th at Carrs Lane Church - opposite Moor Street Station so it is easy to go by train. Other information can be found at <https://www.birminghammethodist.org.uk/events-2/> and that will lead you to the booking site. Book NOW as there are limited places. One of the speakers will be John Bell of the Iona Community. I have booked my place - if you can't book on the web I will try to do it for you.

God bless,

Anne

Do you read the Collect?

For most of this year the Collects have come from 'Prayers for an Inclusive Church' by Steven Shakespeare, a Priest in the Church of England. The Church of England and the Methodist Church, with others, follow the Revised Common Lectionary with readings from the Bible for each week of three years A, B and C. We have just finished Year B: with the first Sunday of Advent we start Year C. Each Collect aims to reflect the theme and imagery of the Gospel reading for that day.

You can check the readings for each Sunday by looking at the Plan (third row down) or in the back of the Methodist Worship Book, for Years A, B and C: you will also see collects for each week, only two, so they cannot be linked directly to the three different Gospel readings of the three years.

I apologise to those who already knew all of the above but I hope that you all value the future Collects.

Don

Save the Date

Please join us at Coffee Shop on Saturday 8th December for Carols round the Piano. We are combining this with our Wear a Christmas Jumper morning (optional) which is our annual fundraiser for Save The Children.

Do please join us for coffee and mince pies.

Coffee Shop Committee

Voting results!

The voting for the charities we want to support has been completed and the results have been counted and verified! It was very close for both the overseas and the local charities. The overseas winner was "Embrace the Middle East" (formerly the Bible Lands) with 26 votes (the African leadership and Reconciliation Ministries got 16 votes). The Local Charity winner was "Life after stroke centre (Bromsgrove)" with 24 votes (the Acorns Hospice got 21 votes). Thank you for voting!

Dave

Barnet Green Choral Society

Christmas Celebration 3.00 pm on Saturday 15th December.
Songs and readings with the choir of Millfields School.

Tickets: Adults £10.00 & Under 16s £5.00, including tea, mince pies and stollen.

Tickets at the door, or phone June Luckock (0121 445 5866)

Songs of Praise

You may like to watch "Songs of Praise" **TODAY** on BBC1 at 1.15pm.

It is to celebrate 50 years of Christingle, since being introduced in Britain by the Church of England's "Children's Society". The programme will cover the history of Christingle and the work that the "Children's Society" does to protect vulnerable children and young people.

We have held a Christingle service at Catshill for at least 30 years. We always have our service on Christmas Eve to enable families with young children to come together to celebrate the birth of Christ, who is the Light of the World.

The collection received at the service supports the work of "Action for Children" - the Methodist equivalent to the "Children's Society".

Hope you enjoy the programme.

Carole

The Choir

Please note that this week, on Thursday 6th December, The Choir will practise from 6.00 pm until 7.00 pm. The Men's Choir practice will start at 7.00 pm.