

The magazine of the Barnsley Group Pastorate



WINTER 2014





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Dear friends

Christmas is coming, the geese are getting fat

Please
put a
penny in
the old
man's
hat
If you
haven't
got a



penny, a ha'penny will do

If you haven't got a ha'penny, then God bless you!

A very well known nursery rhyme. But, do you know the other verses?



Christmas is a coming, the egg is in the nog.
Please give a friendly man a friendly little dog.
If you haven't got a friendly dog, a friendly cat
will do,
If you
haven't
got a
friendly
cat may



God bless you!



Christmas is a coming, the
cider's in the keg.
If I had a mug of cider I
wouldn't have to beg.



If you haven't got half a mug, may God bless you!

And the final line is;

If you haven't got a thing for me, may God bless you!

Christmas is a coming, the
lights are on the tree.
How about a turkey leg for
dear old me?

If you haven't got a turkey
leg, a turkey wing will do.

If you haven't got a turkey
wing may God bless you!



If you haven't got a mug of cider,
half a mug will do.

If you haven't got half a mug, may
God bless you!

There is a two line chorus which
echoes each stanza:

God bless you, gentlemen, God
bless you!

The whole rhyme seems to be about preparing for Christmas.

In our churches
we prepare for
Christmas for
just four weeks.
We call it Advent.
We prepare
ourselves to make
room in our
hearts for Jesus
whose birth we



celebrate on
Christmas Day. Jesus
came to the world as
a baby to bring
forgiveness and
salvation to us all.

Strangely, today, it
seems that many
people don't know
'the reason for the
season'. Some have
even said that
Christmas would be

better if it didn't involve religion! They are missing the point,
don't you think? The clue is in the name of the festival!

Christmas is coming, the geese are getting fat...prepare a place in your heart and your life for Jesus our Lord and Saviour.

May you have a blessed Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Items for the Spring 2015 LINK need to be with me by Sunday 8 February). Thanks.

Your friend and minister

Nick

(Cover photo: Dearne Valley Park)



WEST MELTON'S GREEN TIPS CORNER

By Helen Owen

Number 22 - REUSE OLD TOOTH BRUSHES



Old tooth brushes are perfect for all sorts of cleaning jobs around the house. Use them for cleaning taps, grouting, muddy shoes/boots, bike chains, jewellery and many more. The list



is endless just don't reuse for your teeth!



Group Pastorate Services 2015

We meet together for worship,
fellowship and food
three times a year.

TRINITY - 22nd MARCH

CLAYTON WEST - 28th JUNE

WEST MELTON - 11th OCTOBER

*These services will start at 11.00am and
will, as usual, be followed by a time of
fellowship as we eat lunch together.*

YOU ARE ALL WELCOME.

PLEASE PUT THESE DATES
IN YOUR DIARY NOW



Trinity Players
present the
family pantomime



Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs



Friday	16th January	19:00
Saturday	17th January	14:30 + 18:00
Sunday	18th January	14:30
Friday	23rd January	19:00
Saturday	24th January	14:30 + 18:00

Tickets £6 (£5) FIRST NIGHT JUST 3 QUID!
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Trinity Hall, Crookes St, Off Summer Lane, BARNSELY, S70 6BS

YOUR FAVOURITE HYMN

Another contribution from Margaret Swallow (surely other people have a favourite hymn!)



This was taken at sunrise from Margaret's hotel room in New Zealand

This hymn inspires us to praise God whatever we are doing, and tells us of the wonders of nature. It was written by a Lutheran author in Germany .

These are four of the verses of this hymn. (There are more!)

When morning gilds the skies,
my heart awaking cries,
may Jesus
Christ be
praised:
alike at
work and
prayer
to Jesus I
repair;
may Jesus
Christ be
praised.



When sleep her balm denies, my silent spirit sighs,
may Jesus Christ be praised:
when evil thoughts molest, with this I shield my breast,



may Jesus Christ be
praised.

Does sadness fill my
mind?
a solace here I find,
may Jesus Christ be
praised:
or fades my earthly
bliss?
my comfort still is
this,

may Jesus Christ be praised.

Be this while life is mine, my canticle divine,
may Jesus Christ be praised:
be this the eternal song through ages all along,
may Jesus Christ be praised.



This hymn was written by a German author whose name has been lost in time. It first appeared in a Roman Catholic hymnal, *Catholisches Gesangbuch* in 1828. That hymnal originated in Wurzburg, on the Main River near Frankfurt. That is lovely country, with hills and streams. It's no wonder that a poet, seeing that beauty, would be inspired to write a hymn praising God for natural wonders. But the hymn celebrates more than natural wonders. It calls us to praise God whether we are at work or at prayer -- whether in the night or the day -- even when faced with the powers of darkness, which lose their power when subjected to praise to God. It calls us to praise God "thro' all the ages long."

The hymn was translated from German into English by Edward Caswell (1814-1878), a Roman Catholic priest from England. Caswell was the son of an Anglican clergyman, and was himself ordained as an Anglican. He converted to Catholicism in 1847, prior to translating this hymn in 1854.

A picture for you to colour

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

Luke 2:10



Christmas Carol Wordsearch (solution on page 18)



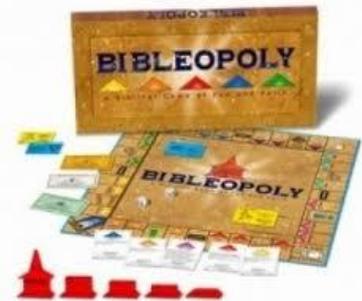
AWAY IN A MANGER DECK THE HALLS DING DONG
MERRILY ON HIGH HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING
O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL O LITTLE TOWN ONCE IN
ROYAL DAVIDS CITY SILENT NIGHT
THE FIRST NOWELL WE THREE KINGS

The Uniqueness of Jesus.

What's different about Christ? *by Lawrence Moore (Director of the Windermere Centre)*

How unique do you rate Christianity? That has been a vital question in the encounters between Christianity and other religions down through the centuries. Think, for example, of the Crusades or the Inquisition or of colonialism: in all these cases, it was assumed that Christianity represented a superior religion, or was 'Truth' in the face of the 'falseness' of the other religions. That same ferocity that rejoiced in the 'defeat' of other religions is seen again today in the War on Terror, where 'Islam' is portrayed as 'The Enemy'.

Of course, the moment we actually delve into other faiths with any seriousness, we discover astonishing treasures of spiritual insight! And when we actually talk with people of other faiths, we discover just how much we have in common. When we read the Scriptures of other faiths, we realise that the Bible hasn't got a monopoly on the things and the truths of God. If we engage at any depth with the holy people of other faiths – the Prophet Mohammed and the Buddha, for example – we discover quickly that Jesus was not the only man of God worth listening to or following.



The disturbing fact is that we need to keep ourselves and others ignorant if we are to maintain the conviction that Christianity is obviously superior to other religions, or that other faiths are some sort of 'Satanic seduction' from the truth of God that we find fully and exclusively within Christianity.

Matters get worse when we start to delve into the story of Christianity. Running prominently through Church history is a strand of pure



inhumane, unadulterated, godless horror, whether it be the Crusades, the witch hunts of the Middle Ages, the Inquisition, the Slave Trade, the Holocaust or Apartheid.

All these factors have led to a great deal of

unease and uncertainty about how to relate to other faiths. It is absolutely obvious that people of other faiths need to be treated equally and with the same respect that we show to our fellow Christians. But that raises enormous questions about evangelism, for example: ought we to try and convert people to Christianity any more? Can we really believe that Jesus alone is the Saviour of the world, and that 'there is salvation in no other name'?

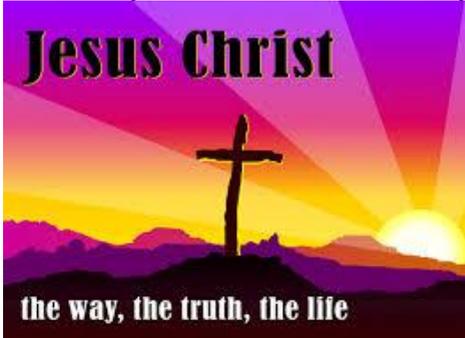


For many Christians, the response has been to abandon any attempt at evangelism and replace it with dialogue. The aim of dialogue is not to convert people but to share and learn about each other's faiths, in the conviction that there are human beings everywhere engaged in a 'common search for God', who share a 'common experience of God' and which are all differently but equally 'paths to God'. For any who wants to argue otherwise, the constant question to be faced is whether or not it is either possible or right to consider Christianity superior to other faiths in our contemporary context.

From where I sit as someone having grown up in Africa rather than the UK, that is a very European dilemma! Colonialism and Apartheid showed us that the Church is often part of that from which the world

needs saving, rather than a sign of the Kingdom of God that Jesus preached and died for.

And here is the key: it isn't anything to do with the uniqueness of Christianity that either motivates or justifies us in engaging in



evangelism. Rather, it is all about the uniqueness of Jesus. The Church and the Kingdom are not the same thing, just as the Church might look and behave radically differently from the Jesus whom it professes to follow!

Jesus ought to be as much of a problem and challenge to the Church as he is to the rest of the world. The Church isn't automatically guaranteed to be 'right' simply because it takes the name of Jesus Christ, who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Rather, the Church has more responsibility than anyone else to be Christ-like, and is faced with the greatest temptation to assume that everything that it is and does is automatically blessed by God for Jesus' sake!

What I would want to affirm – what I'd actually go to the wall for – is that Jesus uniquely shows us what God is like. That isn't to say that no one else gives us a picture of God; it is to say, though, that Jesus is the fullest, most complete picture we have of God, such that anything we want to say about God is ultimately measured against Jesus.

That is a world away from equating the truth of God with the Christian Church or the Christian religion!

Yes, all religions are on an equal footing – because all of them are equally challenged by Jesus and the God whom Jesus reveals to us ... Christianity included.



it

That is why we ought to be committed to evangelism: not because we're right and everyone else is wrong, but because, if we spend our lives doing anything other than following Jesus, we miss out on all the riches that God has for us in Jesus and through the Spirit. This world is made for God. We are made for God. How tragic it would be to miss out on a life lived with God. And how tragically stunted our imaginations are if we believe that the very best God has to offer the world is the Christian Church, rather than the Kingdom Jesus preached!



Bonfire Night at West Melton – 5 November 2014

With thanks to Brian Marchant and Alan Percival



[Update from India](http://www.kidsforchristjesus.com)
www.kidsforchristjesus.com

Pastor David Karunakar writes: 'By the grace of God, we have given school bags to 70 kids. Kids continue to grow in learning songs and Bible verses. The kids in the pictures used to sit on the roads and now God has helped them to have a shelter. We are praying for funds to buy at least 50 chairs for these kids. Each chair will cost about \$15 (about £9.50). Thanks you for your prayers and support. You are in our prayers.'



I am hoping to go to India to visit David and minister with him for a few weeks when I have my next sabbatical in 2016. Nick.

Christmas Berry Punch



1.5 litres Ocean Spray raspberry cranberry (well chilled),
2 x 187ml sparkling wine (well chilled)
125ml Cointreau, 2 Limes (quartered), 250g strawberries
(halved), 150g blueberries, 120g raspberries, A few mint
leaves.

Pour the cranberry juice, sparkling wine and Cointreau into
a punch bowl. Use your hands to squeeze some of the juice
from the limes into the punch. Stir to combine. Add the
squeezed limes to the punch.

Add the strawberries, blueberries, raspberries and mint
leaves.

Drink and enjoy. Hic!

REGULAR ACTIVITIES IN OUR CHURCHES

Clayton West

Sunday	Worship every week at 3.00 pm. Communion is included in the service on the 1 st first Sunday of each month
Friday	Baby and Toddler Group 1.00pm - 3.00pm (<i>in term time</i>)
Saturday	Coffee Morning on the 4 th Saturday each month 10.00am

Trinity (Barnsley)

Sunday	Worship every week at 10.30 am. Communion is included in the service on the 3 rd third Sunday of each month
Tuesday	Bible Study at 7.30 pm
Wednesday	Age-Well (<i>over 50s club</i>) every week 10.30am-1.00pm Trinity Players every week at 7.30pm

West Melton

Sunday	Worship on the 1 st (<i>inc. WHIZZ KIDS</i>) and 4 th Sundays at 10.30am and on the 2 nd & 3 rd Sundays at 3.00pm. Communion is included in the service on the 3 rd Sunday of each month
Tuesday	Fellowship evening (<i>varied programme</i>) 7.30pm on the 4 th Tuesday of each month
Wednesday	Little Stars 9.00am every week (<i>in term time</i>)
Saturday	Men's Breakfast at 8.00am on the 3rd Saturday each month



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Group Minister:

Rev. Nick Percival BA
19 Longdale Croft
Barnsley, S71 2QT
Tel: 01226 771277

Mobile: 07986668032

Email: revnickp@yahoo.co.uk

Group Treasurer:

Mr. John Paskell
1 Giles Avenue
Wath on Dearne
Rotherham, S63 6SG
Tel: 01709 879224

Email: john@paskellplumbing.co.uk



Trinity
Farrar Street
Barnsley
S70 6BS



Clayton West
Church Lane
Clayton West
Huddersfield HD8 9LY



West Melton,
Melton High Street
Wath on Dearne
Rotherham S63 6RG

Church Secretaries:

TRINITY:

Mrs. Fiona Weighton-Smith, 18 Normans Way,
Sandal, Wakefield, WF2 6SS Tel: 01924 253010
Email: isabelsmith655@talktalk.net

CLAYTON WEST:

Mrs. Betty James, Winter Hill Farm, Bank End
Lane, High Hoyland, Barnsley, S75 4BB
Tel: 01226 382820

WEST MELTON:

Mr. John Paskell. *(As above)*

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