



December 2017

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Please email your contributions or suggestions to [newsletter@horamchapel.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@horamchapel.org.uk)



## *Chris at Christmas*

With classic songs such as “The Most Wonderful Time of the Year” and Coca-Cola’s Christmas ad stating “The Holidays Are Coming,” we cannot fail to recognise that Christmas is just around the corner. Preparations are starting to be made, lists compiled, menus considered, family plans constructed, and decorations going up. Christmas truly is a wonderful time, and it’s such a special time. However, in all the plans and preparations I’d like to consider two things as we prepare.

The first is that Christmas is not about presents and food, contrary to popular norms. Sometimes these things can overtake the real reason for the season, and that is the birth of the most important man in history - Jesus. This man has more power and influence on this earth than any other human being. Some 2.4 billion people have committed their lives to him and his teachings. The presents and meals over Christmas are great, but I always remember that whilst I spend time with my family over Christmas it is Jesus’ birth we are celebrating. All the other bits are a bonus, but it’s the birth of Jesus Christ that is at the centre. Why not check out the books of Matthew and Luke in the Bible - Chapter two in each - for the full story?

The second thing to consider is this; as we tuck in to our Christmas meals and festivities there are always those for whom Christmas brings stress and sadness. For some the financial and social impact is too great, for others it can be a time of remembering the loss of a loved one, and for others still it can be a time of sheer loneliness. As we enter into this season my encouragement to all is to be on look out for those that find Christmas a struggle. Let’s see if we can bring some Christmas cheer to others, perhaps through acts of random kindness – maybe a phone call to a neighbour, a small gift left on a door step, or inviting someone in for a meal. Let Jesus be our inspiration.

With that said, Christmas is a wonderful time of the year and I truly hope you have a very merry Christmas.

*Happy Christmas to all our Readers*



A month ago, the circus came to Horam Chapel for a week. Roughly 45 children came along each day to make fiery rings, ladders, and biscuits - as well as dressing up as clowns, having their faces painted, attempting to juggle and spin plates. Each day we looked at a different character from the Bible, and thought about how we could apply their 'skills' to our own lives!

We heard about Samson the strong man - and how God gives us strength; Jonah the escape artist - and about how nothing separates us from the love of God; Elijah the fire eater - and about how God won't let us down if we put our faith into action; Daniel the lion tamer - and about how God is faithful; and finally Moses the ringmaster - and that with God's help, everything is possible.

There was also a variety of quizzes to reinforce what we'd been learning, together with some silly games where we absolutely definitely didn't use water pistols, put feet in custard, and spill popcorn all over the floor.... (OK, we did a little bit). Each day's theme was also supported by a couple of clowns, puppets and, of course, an adventure with the Watt family. But now it's all over. We're back to our daily routine, but remain confident that all we learnt is true!

If you use your imagination, you can still hear the lion roaring, and the elephants trumpeting. If you look around, you can still see the big top which they appear to have left behind .....

Perhaps they'll be back one day to collect it?

~ Dave



## God's Greatest Gift

(from a song by Pete B)

A baby laid in a manger; Messiah that shepherds first saw  
Born in such a humble place, so meekly invoking awe  
God's greatest gift to the world

The answer to God's anger, at rest on the animals' straw  
Tightly wrapped in swaddling clothes - bound to die and to rise  
conquering all!  
God's greatest gift to the world

Jesus  
You are our Saviour  
The manger and the Cross were yours  
You lifted the weight  
of our sinful ways  
And the joy and the freedom are ours  
Hallelujah!  
The joy and the freedom are ours!



## Missionary Connection

A missionary family we support are Philip and Deborah Cole and their daughters, Emily and Molly, who are serving the Lord in Zambia.

We first got to know Phil when he helped with Christian camps in Chiddingly. His home was in Welling, Kent, and he worked as an "Electrical Project Design Engineer" in London. He was a volunteer with Brass Tacks from 1999 until he went to Zambia as a full time missionary in 2003. Deborah's home was in Northern Ireland. She went to work as a teacher at Amano Christian school near Chingola in 2003. They married in 2007.

A Zambian couple, Kelvin and Joyce Samwata, were very concerned about the many children living on the streets in Chingola. Phil helped them as they fed many of these children at Bethel Chapel on a Sunday afternoon, also providing them with some decent clothes. Realising that this wasn't enough, the Lord led them to buy a plot of land on which they have now built three homes to house 16 children in each. They named the place IPUSUKILO which means "place of refuge" or "salvation". The children are now being brought up in a loving, stable environment and being educated.

Phil and Deborah spend much of their time there. The children help to look after chickens and sheep, and tend the gardens where they grow their own vegetables. There are also fruit trees in the grounds which helps them to be self sufficient.

In 2016 the family spent many months in Ireland as Emily was undergoing cancer treatment. She is free from the cancer now and back "home", praise the Lord, but has to go to a medical centre for tests regularly. Emily is 6 and Molly is 3.

There is a very interesting and informative website: [www.ipusukilo.org](http://www.ipusukilo.org). I would urge you to go there and find out much more!

~ Marion

## What's Going On This Month?

Sundays

10.30am Morning Service  
including Communion

Mondays\*

2pm Toddler Group

Wednesdays

(not the 20th or the 27th)  
7.30pm Prayer and Bible Study  
at 9 Millbrook Close

Thursdays\*

7pm to 9.30pm



Fridays\*

9am Bible Study

6pm Treasure Seekers  
(Reception to Year 4)

7.15pm BiF  
(Years 5 to 7)

(\*Term-time only)

## Sunday Speakers & Themes

3rd December

2 Thessalonians 3

How can I be sure I'm doing my  
part?

Chris Roche

10th December

Luke 1:26-38

Announcing the births  
Mark Evetts

17th December

Luke 1:39-80

Songs of praise in a time of  
darkness

Robin Jones

24th December

Christingle Service

Chris Roche

31st December

Luke 2:41-52

Jesus the little boy  
Chris Roche

## Also ...

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> @ 6.30pm  
Family Carol Service

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> @ 7.30pm  
Horam Prayer Group

Christmas Day Celebration  
@ 10.30am

Christmas @ Horam Chapel 

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> Dec, Evening Family Carol service, 6.30pm

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> Dec, Family Christingle service, 10.30am

Monday 25<sup>th</sup>, Dec, Christmas day celebration, 10.30am



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