

### EDITORIAL

Christmas can be a spectacular time with lots of Christmas illuminations. Some of these are on a really grand scale. Yet they fade into gaudy insignificance compared with the amazing display as all the angels announced the tremendous news of Christ's birth. What an amazing sight as the whole of the sky was filled with all the heavenly host as they proclaimed "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favour rests."

This was seen and heard by a small group of the poorest of society; shepherds who were out in the open beside their sheep pen guarding them through the night. They had just been told of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem by an angel, when they saw this dazzling sight.

What a display for the birth of a tiny little baby, in a cave used as a stable that smelt of dried animal dung. Seen by these shepherds. A tired mother beside a little wrinkled newborn baby.

Sometimes amidst all the glitter and feasting of Christmas we need to take time simply to gaze on this newborn child. Who came as a tiny helpless baby to save our world.

*Simon Lloyd*

### PASTOR'S ARTICLE

I came across this quote the other day: "Christmas is a holiday that persecutes the lonely, the frayed, and the rejected."

As we start the run-up to our Christmas celebrations, my heart has already been grabbed by the arresting thought that some are dreading the arrival of the festival. I look forward to Christmas. I always have and I hope I always will. But life-experience has taught me that Christmas for some is an ordeal to survive or a trial to endure.

And yet I'm drawn to the inescapable truth at the heart of the birth of Jesus:

that the person at the centre of this season made the friendless, the ragged, and the unwanted of our world the priority for His love.

I think we need to make sure that we do too - then perhaps those who expect Christmas-time to bring harassment may find that it actually brings them joy and peace through Christ.

*Paul Merton*

### TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF PAUL'S MINISTRY

We celebrated Paul's tenth anniversary with a fun evening based around a pie and peas supper. The evening included a multi-faceted quiz plotted by Alan Haswell, a (Lancashire-style) poem from Richard Taylor and music from both Richard Woolfall and Stewart Garry.



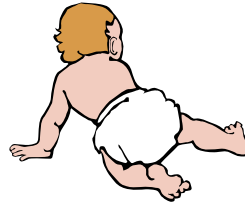
### ALISON AND PAUL COME UP NORTH

There's a grand Baptist Chapel called Westgate  
That's noted for feasting and fun  
It's run by a Deacons' Committee  
With a Clergyman as Number One.

The last one they had were called Andrew  
A fresh faced young lad when he came  
But time and the meetings got to him  
And left him not feeling the same.

So once when the Deacons weren't watching  
He went up to Scotland for th'day  
And didn't come back, and they realised  
That he'd managed to get clean away.

Finding themselves short of a Vicar  
They decided on something quite smart  
They'd advertise "HELP WANTED QUICKLY"  
And put it in Exchange & Mart.



Now Reverend and Mrs Paul Merton  
After th'football match, were dining out  
They'd opened their chips in the High Street  
When Reverend let out a shout:

"Look here on the wrapper! An advert  
For a job up in th'North - best in years"  
"O yes" replied Alison, sniffing,  
"With football, and big Polar bears"

Man of action, the Reverend Paul Merton  
(Saint Paul as he's known to his chums)  
Got the missus to fill in the coupon  
'Cause he'd got chip fat on his thumbs.

He came up North for th'job audition  
His life story full to relate  
And having least points on his licence  
The job it were his on a plate.

Ten years have passed like a moment  
We thrill to his voice like a lark  
His five-minute sermons are legend  
And his whiskers are out of the Ark.

So here's to the Reverend Paul Merton  
Our guide in a world full of strife;  
To Alison - real story hero -  
Behind t'throne, the power's the Wife.  
*Richard Taylor*

### **BABY PEEP**

Combine mashed banana, Heads, Shoulders,  
Knees and Toes, story books, Row, Row, Row  
Your Boat, sleep deprived parents, Old  
Macdonald had a Farm, wooden spoons, Round  
and Round the Garden, new teeth, Wind the  
Bobbin Up, mirrors, Incy Wincy Spider, baby  
sick, This is the Way the Ladies Ride,  
bubbles, What shall we do with the Bouncing  
Baby? nappies, Here we go Round the  
Mulberry Bush, clapping, Forwards and  
Backwards, laughing, The Wheels on the Bus

and amazing babies and it must be Baby PEEP  
on Tuesday mornings

Most of the babies are first children  
so the parents appreciate the mutual support  
in the ups and downs of the early months.  
Weaning recipes, tips for  
helping babies to sleep, ideas of baby  
friendly places to go and much more  
is chatted about week by week.

Please pray for Lorraine and I as we  
spend time building relationships with the  
parents. It is lovely that one of the mums  
has begun coming to Sunday services and  
others are keen to come to the Christmas  
events. Pray that the contacts made would  
continue even after babies have their first  
birthdays and are too old for the group.

*Heather Begarnie*

### **WHAT MIGHT YOU RECEIVE THIS CHRISTMAS?**

- A Marks and Spencers silk tie.
- More jewellery
- A bag of sapplings from Honduras
- A phone call from an estranged relative.
- An invite from a lonely neighbour

For many of us Christmas could be a chance  
to give while we receive.

*Steve Begarnie*

### **KIRTON AVENUE SMALL GROUP**

Over the past few months we have  
enjoyed studying, praying, eating and just  
being together as a group. We had a lot of  
fun helping Liliane to move into her flat and  
painting Keith and Max's new house. (Sorry  
about the carpet - oops!) Now Ruffine has  
just moved and we expect to put our painting  
skills to work again. Christian's expertise  
does rather show the rest of us up though!

We are using the Nooma series of  
DVDs by Rob Bell to stimulate discussions.  
We are so grateful to Abel for letting us  
borrow these. One, entitled 'Rain', explored

the truth of God's presence and care during the hard times of life.

We had a moving and helpful evening praying for one another in the midst of family concerns, grief, longings, illness and uncertainties. We are thrilled that there have been answers to prayer since then - Irene is much better, Liliane has a new job.

We miss some of our members who no longer come to the group but still pray for them. We are looking forward to 40 days of community and pray that we will be drawn closer as a group and be able to continue to have more of an impact on those around us.

*Steve and Heather Begarnie*

### **VOICES FROM WESTGATE FOYER**

It is Wednesday morning. Why is there a group of people sitting in the Westgate Foyer?

Hazel: "I'm here because it's fun. There's good social interaction and it's like a little community here. It is a good way to get to know people."

Geoff: "I'm here to relax, meet people and chat. It is especially good to have time to spend with those in the fellowship, who I don't normally see. I like to introduce visitors to our church."

Bev.: "I'm here to get out of the house, meet other people and have a lovely cup of coffee."

Diane: "I've come to see Paul and am enjoying a cup of tea and a chat while I wait."

Carol, Barbara and Carole: "We've just done Keep Fit and are having a coffee while we recover before going to the shops. We do enjoy the coffee (just the way we like it!) and the company."

Judith: "I want to show a friendly, welcoming face to anyone who comes in and to give them an opportunity to find out about my faith."

Brian: "It's good that our front doors are open to be able to welcome anyone who is passing."

Steve: "Coming here keeps me occupied and is a place where people can have a chat and be helped through their problems. People leave feeling more content."

Doris: "I've come to meet my friends and have company - otherwise the day can be quite lonely."

And Joan - she's too busy cleaning all the glass to stop for a chat! *Heather Begarnie*

### **YOUNG CHURCH MIDDLE GROUP**

The new school year has brought big changes to the middle group. A number of the older children moved up to the upper group, resulting in a middle group that is now, on average, younger and smaller than previously (though no less lively!) There remains a nice mixture of children whose parents attend church and children who come by themselves to church.

The group bases its teaching programme on Scripture Union material. The programme so far this term has focussed on "God's Mighty Plan" (why Jesus died and what that means for us) and "Jesus Challenges Us" (that is, to put God first, use everything we have for God, helping others).

There has been a change in the young people's Christmas programme this year. There will be a leaflet detailing the Christmas events, but the "Crafts for Christmas" afternoon normally held the week before the All Age Carol Service has been moved to February (when it will be called something else!)

*Jonathan Harness*

### **CHURCH WEBSITE**

The new church website is now up and running and working well. You can find it at:

**[www.westgatebaptist.org.uk](http://www.westgatebaptist.org.uk)**

There is a lot of useful information including the history of our church. Personally I've been very impressed at how quickly all the pages load up, as I can't get broadband.

### **SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES**

Young Church needs a person to assist with the Middle group. Please contact Jonathan Harness

Youth Klub urgently needs leaders of both sexes. Please contact Tim or Sarah Belton

## **IMAGE OF GOD**

Made in the image of God and his likeness.  
All different, yet together showing what God  
is like,  
As in a picture built from myriad photos of  
faces.

Made in the image of God who is spirit.  
Made spiritual to have close intimate  
relationship with God.  
Yet made from the dust of the earth, so  
made flesh.  
Unique in creation being both spirit and body,  
God's highest creation on earth.

Made in the image of God the creator,  
Expressed in so many of the gifts  
Of craftsmen, artists, poets and so, so many  
others.

Made in the image of God, Lord over all,  
Who delegates to us rule over animals, plants  
and landscape;  
Giving the care and use of them into our  
hands.

Made in the image of God, the Father, Son  
and Holy Spirit,  
Whose love between them embraces us all.  
Wanting to fill us with the same love for God  
and each other

Made in the image of the God of  
righteousness and justice,  
Yet also showing patience and mercy.  
We show that same desire for fairness and  
justice,  
Quite instinctively.

Made in the image of God the holy one.  
Not a cold sterile holiness, but one of warm  
pure love,  
That calls us to change to increasing holiness  
in our own lives.

Made in the image of God the Trinity  
To enjoy the intimate love of God as Dad,  
Made possible by Jesus' death for us,  
And inspired by the Holy Spirit.  
We too are a trinity of body, mind and spirit.

Made in the image of God with the highest  
calling of all,  
To express our love in glorious worship,  
And yet enjoy closeness with Him both now  
and for ever.

*Simon Lloyd*

## **WELCOME**

I was compelled to write to highlight  
the importance of the smiling face on a  
Sunday- In fact, on any day. When my fiancé  
and I came to Westgate way back in October  
we were pretty nervous but keen to hear  
from God if it was where we were going to  
build our family.

The welcome we received was warm, not  
pushy; and friendly without being too over  
the top. It has made me think about my own  
ways of inviting non-believers to church, and  
to hear about my faith. We loved the church  
immediately, because the Lord had prepared  
the way, the welcome we received was to  
confirm that.

In the same way, in Romans 1 v20 God's  
eternal power and attributes are clear to be  
seen and it is the 'fool that says in His heart  
that there is no God' (Psalm 14 v1); the  
friends and contacts we have DO know in  
their hearts that God exists, so it is the  
gentle, loving, warm, friendly welcome and  
invitation that is attractive. An abrasive,  
over-friendly or fake pushing of the gospel is  
not in line with the gentle man that Jesus is.  
It is something that I have been thinking  
about in my relations with my course mates,  
'speaking the truth in love' (Ephesians 4v15)  
is something I desire to grow in and  
throughout my life.

*Fran. Dixon*

## **NEWS FROM TONY AND JUDITH SYKES**

The winter season has begun bringing  
with it dark nights and the smell of wood  
smoke in the air from the various cooking  
fires around us. Still we're not complaining;  
we are enjoying the cold air and sleeping  
under a blanket.

This month we have a number of people  
passing through. Last week David McLellan  
from BMS stayed with us a few days which  
was a real encouragement and next week

Richard King, our Link co-ordinator from Leicester, is coming for a 2 week stay.

The end of this week also sees C.I.H.S.R.'s Board meeting taking place at the hospital. Never an easy time with lots of people giving their own ideas of what should be done when. Please pray for this and especially Dr PK John who is stuck in the middle of it all.

We also have 3 I.T. engineers coming long term. Tushar is from West Bengal; he has given up a good job with a big Indian company because he wanted a challenge...well I think we can give him that. He has a small family - a daughter 7 years and a son of 1 month. It's hoped they will all join us in March if a good school can be found. David (a networker) is from Australia and Wes (a software designer) is from Canada. Both are young fellows who have been working together in Delhi for the past year preparing the software and computer systems for the new hospital and are now coming to install it...hopefully. We are learning that these things are a lot easier said than done.

After such a long spell of there just being the 4 of us, it will take sometime for us all to adjust to living together, so please pray that we cope.

We continue to look for civil, electrical and mechanical engineers while Tony tries to keep it all going. So please continue to pray for this.

The choirs are practicing Christmas carols and today we received our first Christmas service invitation...almost feels like home! We thank you for your continuing prayers and thoughts,

*Love from Tony & Judith Sykes*

## READING MATTER?

On the table side by side,  
The Holy Bible and the T.V. guide,  
One is well worn but cherished with pride.  
(Not the Bible - but the T.V. guide).  
One is used daily to help folk decide,  
No! It isn't the Bible but the T.V. guide.  
As pages are turned, what shall we see?  
Oh, what does it matter, turn on the T.V.  
So they open the book in which they confide.

(No, not the Bible - it's the T.V. guide).  
The word of God is seldom read,  
Maybe a verse as they fall into bed,  
Exhausted and sleepy and tired as can be,  
Not from reading the Bible but watching T.V.  
So then back on the table, side by side,  
Is the Holy Bible and the T.V guide,  
No time for prayer, not time for the word,  
The plan of salvation is seldom heard,  
Forgiveness for sin so full and free,  
Is found in the Bible not on T.V.! *Anon.*

## ANNUAL REPORTS

Annual Reports must be submitted to Angela by the end of December if they are to be included in the 2006 Annual Report. They should contain details of the past year and be no more than 250 words in length.

## NEW CHURCH APPOINTMENTS

Our church has made three new appointments (subject to final checks & contracts). These are:

- Outreach Worker - Shelagh Garry
- Outreach Administrator - Heather Morton
- Receptionist - Janet Wilkinson

These three will be taking up their posts on 1<sup>st</sup> January next year.

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## COMING EVENTS

Monday 11th December: Men's' Group.  
**Alcohol - do we or don't we?** Tim Belton,  
7.30 p.m.

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## CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December morning - **All-Age Carol service**- 10.30 a.m.  
**Evening Service** - 6.30 p.m.



Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December  
**Scout Group Party** - 6.30 p.m.

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December - **International Christmas Party**, 6.30-9.00 p.m.

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December - **Volunteers' Lunch**, 12.00 - 2.00 p.m.

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December - **J. John Carol Service**, City Hall.  
(Tickets £3 from church office)

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December  
**Parents & Toddlers Christmas Party**  
**Kidz Klub Christmas Party** 6.30 - 8.00 p.m.

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December  
**Young Church Christmas Party**  
**Community Carols** - 4.30 p.m.

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December  
**Holiday At Home Christmas Lunch**  
from 10.30 a.m.

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December  
**Carols @ Hillfield Nursing Home** - 2.00 p.m.  
**'re-fuel' Christmas Carol Singing** - 7.00 p.m.

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December  
**Morning Service** - 10.30 a.m.



**Christmas Eve Nine Lessons & Carols**  
- 6.30 p.m.

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December  
**Christmas Day Service** - 10.00 a.m.

Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December  
**Morning Service** - 10.30 a.m.  
**New Year's Eve Watch Night Service**  
11.30 p.m.

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December - Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January** the church based team will be taking a Christmas break and the building will be closed except for Services.

### 2007 Events

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January  
Men's' Group, 'Being a Dad'. **Some Biblical Guidelines**. Steve Begarnie - 7.30 p.m.

**Church Weekend - Sneaton Castle, Whitby.** Friday 21<sup>st</sup> to Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> September. Booking lists will be available in January.

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### CONTRIBUTIONS

I am very grateful to all those who have written articles as well as to the team who check each edition, correct errors and then get each edition printed.

I am always on the lookout for articles, photos of events, personal testimonies etc. If you would like to contribute could you please see me? This is particularly important for the next edition, as it is not easy asking for articles when annual reports about all the different groups have just been handed in.

Please get articles for the February edition to me by Thursday January 25<sup>th</sup>. You can contact me direct at church or e-mail me at [lloyds@uku.co.uk](mailto:lloyds@uku.co.uk)

*Simon Lloyd*

### RECORDINGS OF SERMONS

We have not been able to record sermons since our tape deck broke down earlier this year. Tape recording is becoming obsolete and is being replaced by CDs. These are both more reliable and cheaper than tapes.

The Public Address team is currently working on a system of saving sermons directly onto computer in digital format. We are limiting this to the Bible reading and the sermon. We are hoping to be able to offer CDs from the beginning of next year.

These digital recordings will also be put onto the website but will only be available to those with broadband.

*Simon Lloyd*

### CHURCH CONTACT

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