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PURPLE

I wonder what comes to mind when we think of the colour **purple**?

Perhaps it's the phrases 'purple prose' or 'purple patch'; or the film 'The colour purple'; or perhaps, if you are of a certain musical taste, the song from 1958, 'Purple people eater'!

Whatever it means to each of us, **the Church of England calendar allocates the colour purple to the second week in Advent - a reminder both of our need for repentance, and also of the fact that it is the symbol of royalty and that thus we worship Jesus as the King of kings.**



We can use the advent weeks to consider afresh both of those images. Our carols remind us of the Lamb that was born to save and therefore of our need to come to Him with repentance in our hearts and on our lips, and at the same time, even in these troubled times, that the same Lamb, to quote Handel's Messiah:

***"...shall reign forever and ever
King of kings forever and ever!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
And Lord of lords forever and ever!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!"***

Cliff Darby



THE KING IS COMING



At Hampden View we have a **knit and natter group** on a Wednesday morning from 10-12. We started the group in October 2021 with about nine ladies coming and we can now have up to twenty. It is a lovely peaceful time. All the ladies help each other with their projects. The ladies do knitting, crochet, jewellery making, cross stitch, hand quilting and some make cards. It is always a hive of activity.

Last December, in our church, we read through an Advent book "The King is Coming". It is a children's book, and the stories go

through the whole Bible and they all point to Jesus. The book comes with 25 blocks, each with a number, picture and a letter on them. The number and picture correspond with the story for that day. The letters spell out **"Emanuel God With Us"**.

Whichever group is meeting on that day, the corresponding story is read. We read it at our knit and natter group and it went down well with the ladies.

On the Wednesday before Christmas we had a Christmas afternoon tea. A few of us made

sandwiches and a good few of the ladies made cakes. Dave came along and did a little think spot, and we sang a few carols together. We had a wonderful time of fellowship, **and it was a great opportunity to share the true meaning of Christmas.**

The ladies that come along are mainly people that used to come into the craft shop which I ran with my sister and sister-in-law. We had stopped doing classes due to covid restrictions and decided that we try a knit and natter group at church. **Many of the ladies that come along have no other contact with a church. We always have a prayer and have done so since we started the group.**

I had always hoped and prayed that our knit and natter group would be a time for sharing God's Word. **The Lord is always one step ahead of us in these matters and we must be prepared to act on His promptings.**

Elaine Tucket
(Hampden View Church)

THE WOMEN OF ACTION WERE IN ACTION AGAIN!



We just knew that God was going to bless our meeting on Saturday 23rd September, because all the motorway signs announced that the A43 was closed!

Of course, we were meeting at Syresham which is just off the A43, but nevertheless 21 ladies, SATNAVS at the ready, met together in Syresham. **It was a delight to have Dorothy Williams with us and she led a time of worship before Sandra Fall led our study**

of the phrase from the 23rd Psalm, "He restores my soul".

At these meetings Sandra helps us to identify our soul and its needs before God and Matthew Henry expressed the aim very clearly when he wrote *"God makes His saints to lie down, He gives them quiet and contentment in their own minds, whatever their lot is, their souls dwell at ease in Him, and that makes every pasture green"*. That indeed was our experience. Praise the Lord!

The ladies from Syresham blessed us with a delicious tea to end the day.

Daphne Hodkinson



STUDY NUMBER SIX
Mark 3:1-19 (Please Read)

FOR OR AGAINST?

In this passage, two groups of people stand out because of their attitude to Christ, an issue on which there can be no sitting on the fence. Firstly, there were those who were -

AGAINST HIM. In verse 2 we see that there were people who went into the synagogue not to worship but because they were looking for a reason to accuse Jesus. They were so bitter that when Jesus utterly defeated them (*verse 4*) they began to lay plans to kill Him (*verse 6*). In face of all the evidence that indeed He was the Son of God (*verses 7-11*) they still held out against Him. Today, some people criticise Christ and His teaching without even putting Him to the test. If only they would take the advice of Psalm 34 verse 8, they would discover, as I am sure you are doing, that *"the Lord is good"*! The second group (**about whom we read in verses 13-19**) was composed of the 12 disciples, who were -

FOR HIM. Jesus chose this small group of ordinary men and gave them authority to preach (*verse 14*), and special powers to carry out the ministry com to them (*verse 15*).

But first of all they were chosen *"that they might be with Him"* (*verse 14*). They would never have been able to live and work as they did without first being with Him. As a Christian, you can rejoice that the Lord has chosen you to be His disciple (*see John 15 verse 16*) but you will need to remember that this places a great deal of responsibility upon you in your daily life. Let each day begin and end *"with Him"*, and then seek to live in such a way that people at home, at school or at work react as others did in Acts 4 verse 13! None of your gifts or abilities will have as great an impact on the lives of other people as the clear evidence that you are in vital touch with the living Christ.

"No-one can serve two masters... You cannot serve both God and money"
(*Matthew 6 verse 24*)

Prepared
by *David Shuttleworth*
(Jump WR Church)



THOUGHT FOR THE DAY



Rice Krispie Christmas Puddings



Not everyone likes the traditional fruity Christmas puddings, so these chocolatey puddings make a tasty alternative. They're quick and easy to make and are lovely last minute treats or even an extra Christmas gift to share with family and friends.

Method

- Put muffin cases in a muffin tin.
- Melt the butter, Mars bars and golden syrup in a large pan and stir well until smooth.
- Remove from heat.
- Pour the Rice Krispies and mix well.
- Spoon the mixture into the muffin cases and pat the top level.
- Place the puddings in the fridge to cool (about an hour).
- When cool, gently peel the muffin cases from the puddings and stand on a baking tray to decorate.

Ingredients

- 100 gm of butter
- 200 gm of Mars bars
- 2 tbsp golden syrup
- 140 gm Rice krispies or Coco Pops

For the topping

- 180 gm white chocolate or icing sugar
- Festive sprinkles or edible decorations. (Tesco usually have a good range)

- Melt the white chocolate or mix icing sugar with water to spoon over the dome of the puddings.
- Sprinkle the festive sprinkles over the top or use edible decorations instead if preferred.



THE UCB "WORD FOR TODAY" SHARED THIS THOUGHT THIS YEAR



"An early pioneer travelling across the Great Plains stopped at the edge of the Grand Canyon. Amazed to discover a vast chasm one mile deep and eighteen miles wide, stretching out of sight, he exclaimed, "Something must have happened here". And as Haddon Robinson observed: **"At Christmas... anyone who stops to look and listen must ask what the hustle and bustle is all about.** A thoughtful man or woman seeing the lights... decorations... festivities... and religious services might conclude "Something must have happened here!"

Of course, something did happen. We need to tell the world.... **God has visited our planet. His Son... came to reveal God and to die for our sins. He lived among us that we might with Him forever.** When the shepherds found the Messiah lying in a manger, they marveled because it was just as they had been told. As a result, they returned to their fields and flocks with fresh energy, glorifying God for all the things they had heard and seen. But they had to return."

After the celebrations we return to the things we normally do, but we receive fresh energy to share the Christmas story with those who have winter, but no Christmas.



WESLEYAN REFORM UNION

E 2 S

Equip to Serve

At the Local Preacher's Fellowship AGM at this year's Conference, we agreed to change our name to **E 2 S – Equip to Serve.** Why have we done this? Because we want to ensure that we are fulfilling the calling we have to encourage not only preachers but all church members in their ministry of the Gospel.

DAY OF MINISTRY 2023 AT CHURCH ON THE ROCK

ARE CHRISTIANS LIARS?



Our speaker Paul Mallard opened our Day of Ministry by suggesting that many Christians are liars! He meant by this that as people file out of church on a Sunday and he asks them how they are, many will say "I'm fine" or something similar.

The reality is probably different for many of us, but we put a brave face on it and often don't tell the full truth of how we are as we don't want to burden other people.

Do you know someone who is suffering? Perhaps a better question is to ask if any of us **don't** know someone who is suffering!

Paul spoke to us on "Suffering – A Christian Perspective".

In the first session he asked us to hold two well-known verses in Romans in tension – Romans 8:22-23 with Romans 8:28 (do have a look at these!). He then dispelled

some misunderstandings which some Christians have; firstly "Christians should not suffer" and secondly "There is an easy answer". The book of Job shows us that both of these are wrong! In the second session we looked at Martin Luther's "three pillows": God is sovereign, God is good, and God is wise and passages that support these truths. In the final session (after a very good lunch provided by Church on the Rock!), Paul helped us to see that through suffering, God can deepen our fellowship with Him, make us more like Jesus, and prepare us for heaven, and encouraged us not to give up!

Dave Tuckett
(E2S Secretary)



W.R.U. Overseas Missions



'Safe Haven Hot Meals Program'

SAFE HAVEN SOCIETY

SERVING AT RISK CHILDREN IN LEBANON SINCE 2007

**Come and join us for dinner,
and sample the Cuisine of the Lebanon**

**Wednesday
8th November
7pm**



Where?

Jump W.R. Church

Church Street, Jump, S74 0HZ

For more Information Contact Ian Sykes – 07810 766542

It would be appreciated if you could let us know approximate numbers for catering purposes (particularly if you are attending as a church group)

DENBY DALE WR CHURCH, THE SEASON OF SOCIAL EVENTS



NOVEMBER

**Saturday, 18th November 2023,
10:30-12:00 - Christmas Coffee
Morning**

**(Hot drinks, mince pies and
cakes, various stalls, including
Christmas gifts).**

DECEMBER

**Sunday, 3rd December 6:00pm -
Carol Praise with Vintage Brass**

**Sunday, 17th December 6:00pm –
Candlelight Carols with Chapel
Voices**

**Saturday, 25th December 10:30 am
– Christmas Family Celebration**



OBITUARY

FAITH SHARP (1942-2023)

Faith was born in August 1942 in Lincolnshire. She was the daughter of Charles and Florence Mackinder, and as a family they served a number of Wesleyan Reform Union churches around the country including St Just, Deddington, Wellingborough and Aylesham.

After finishing high school in Wellingborough Faith found work in Boots the Chemist before going on to train as a nurse at Northampton general.

It was whilst working as a nurse in the late 1960s that Faith met Graham, who attended the Bedworth WRU Chapel. They married in 1971 while Graham was Young People's Secretary for the Union and began married life together in Birmingham. There they worked together for a year or so as House Parents in a children's home for NCH before moving to Oldbury, in the Black Country where they had two children Deb and Tim. Graham continued work as a social worker, in foster and adoption care whilst Faith became a full-time mum.

In 1987 Faith and Graham moved

from Oldbury to Nuneaton with Graham's work for NCH. They found their church family at Hall End WRU Chapel in Attleborough. Tragically Graham died in December 1987. Faith was supported by her church family and continued to serve in the chapel running the youth work, with Friday night study suppers, second Sunday gatherings at her family home as well as annual trips to Spring Harvest and of course the youth weekend each year at Swanwick!

In the late 1990's Faith moved from Nuneaton to Syresham where she became a pastoral worker for Syresham chapel. She thrived in her role in the village.

In 2012 Faith made the decision to leave Syresham and move nearer to her daughter and grandchildren in St Ives, Cambridgeshire. The move represented a new challenge for Faith as there was no local WRU chapel so instead she joined the Free Church in St Ives, which was part of the United Reform Church. Once again she was quickly absorbed into church life, taking on preaching engagements, offering pastoral visits



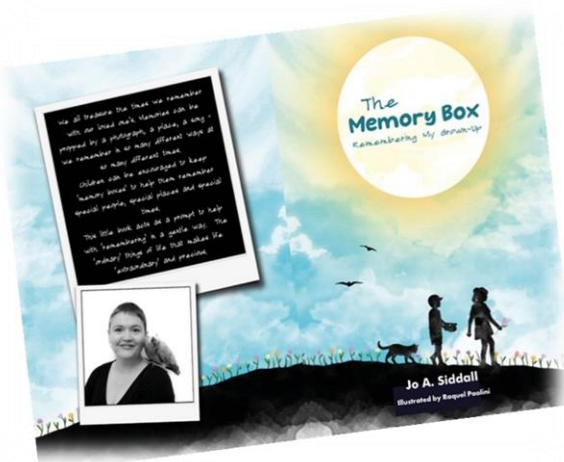
and becoming an elder. Faith very much enjoyed her work with the church, she also became involved in local clubs and groups and volunteered at the local Day Centre for the elderly. She also cherished time with her growing family of nine grandchildren and willingly took on babysitting duties.

Sadly in 2018 Faith was diagnosed with dementia. She withdrew from many of her activities, many of which were impacted by Covid. As restrictions lifted, she was able to return to the local Day Centre, this time as client. In May 2023 she was admitted to hospital where she spent over three months before moving into a care home in Peterborough, just round the corner from her daughter, where she died on the 19th August.

The Memory Box Remembering My Grown-Up

Jo A. Siddall from Hampden View in Sheffield works with families who are grieving. This is her second book, published by 'Small World Big Imagination Publishing House'.

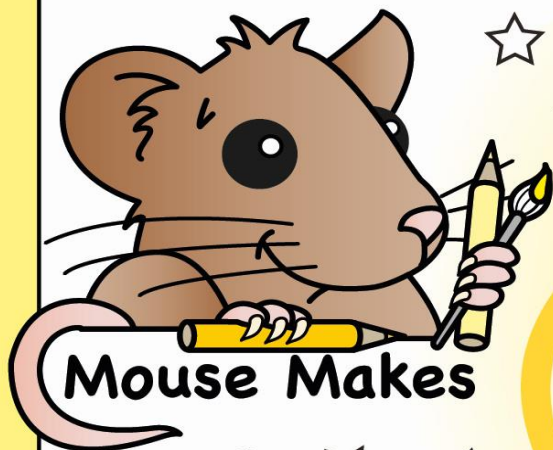
The book is written for children (aged between 4 and 9) who are 'remembering their loved one'. It is written in rhyme which makes it easy to read and remember. In the story, children are helped to 'remember' and create their own 'memory box'.



It is available on Amazon, and can be ordered in to local Waterstones Bookshops.

Jo also writes for the WRU Website – her monthly devotions are found in the 'Women of Action' part of the website.





Mouse Makes



GOD'S PROMISE

Isaiah 9:6-7

CHILD • BORN • SON
GIVEN • WONDERFUL
COUNCELLOR
MIGHTY • GOD
EVERLASTING
FATHER • PRINCE
PEACE • LORD



AN ANGEL MESSENGER

Luke 1:26-38

ANGEL • GABRIEL
JOSEPH • MARY
FAVOUR • SON
JESUS • GREAT
THRONE • REIGN
FOREVER • HOLY
SERVANT • WORD

ADVENT
comes from
the Latin
'AD VENTO'
which means
ARRIVAL

In Advent we
celebrate Jesus' birth
and look forward to
the time when Jesus
will come again.



A LONG JOURNEY

Luke 2:1-20

BETHLEHEM
REGISTER • BIRTH
MANGER • INN
SHEPHERDS • FLOCK
ANGELS • JOY
GOOD NEWS • PRAISE
SAVIOUR • CHRIST



THE BEST GIFT OF ALL

John 3:16

GOD • SO • LOVED
WORLD • HE • GAVE
ONLY • SON
WHOEVER • BELIEVES
ETERNAL • LIFE

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Colour in one star each day until Christmas

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