



Monthly Notices - December 2020

Our Ministers - Rev Lin Healey & Rev Joe Rooney

To communicate with our Ministers please use the website
www.caldicotmethodists.co.uk - and select 'Contact Us'

Pastoral Letter December 2020

Dear Friends,

Christmas is here, the season of good cheer but perhaps not in this time of pandemic. The government recommendations for how we shall spend this Christmas holiday have now been revealed. Some people are anxious about mixing with others and would rather spend the time on their own; for some there is a dilemma as to who in the family they can mix with without upsetting others if they are to follow the recommendations; for some there is just anger, "who do the politicians think they are to dictate to us how we will spend Christmas?"

However let us cast our minds back to that first Christmas as Luke tells us the story. Mary and Joseph did not choose to make the long and dangerous journey to Bethlehem from Nazareth, it was a decree from Caesar Augustus that initiated their journey. This separated Mary from her family and all that was familiar just at the time when she needed them more than ever to help her bring her baby into the world. The well-known nativity story we share at this time of the year is full of mixed emotions, exhaustion, pain, anxiety, fear and disappointment but above all there is the joy of a new life safely delivered with all the hope for the future that God had promised. As for ourselves, we may be anxious, disappointed, angry as we approach Christmas 2020 but let us celebrate that God is with us now, as he was with Mary and Joseph all those years ago. There is hope for the future, just as there was then, because God will remain with us as God has promised.

Although we are unlikely to see many of you during this holiday period we thank you for your love and support at this time and wish you all God's blessings for Christmas and as we step into the New Year.

Lin and Jack.



'Dolly the Trolley'

Dolly has been well supported for Christmas, thank you all for your support, Dolly will come out again in the New Year.

NEXT MONTHLY NOTICES

If you have an item, please contact Roger
by **28th December** -Tel : 01633 880304 or
email :- roger@barbaraandroger.co.uk



We welcome all who worship with us

There is Morning Worship every Sunday at 10am

When the church building is open we have limited numbers and booking is essential.

Booking a seat

Nick and Marion Jones have kindly agreed to coordinate this. Booking can only be made for the following Sunday by contacting them at a specific time Fridays between 3pm and 6pm on 01291 423981. Please be considerate when calling them and keep the call brief by just giving them your name and telephone contact number. Should we have no free seats then you will be given the option to add your name to the list for the next service.

Zoom Service - Every Sunday at 10.00am

United with the service in the church, when legal

To join the service or for further details or to request the Zoom link be emailed to you please contact Jack Healey or Gareth Edwards (caldicotmc@gmail.com)

Preachers for December (10am unless otherwise stated)

6th Rev Lin

13th Rev Joe - Holy Communion

CHRISTMAS WEEK SERVICES - Please see last page

Why was Jesus born in a barn?

Our pretty Christmas cards do not do it justice – the stable that Jesus was born in would have been smelly, dirty, and full of mess. So why did God not provide something better for His beloved Son? Why let Joseph and Mary scrounge around until they ended up in a smelly stable?

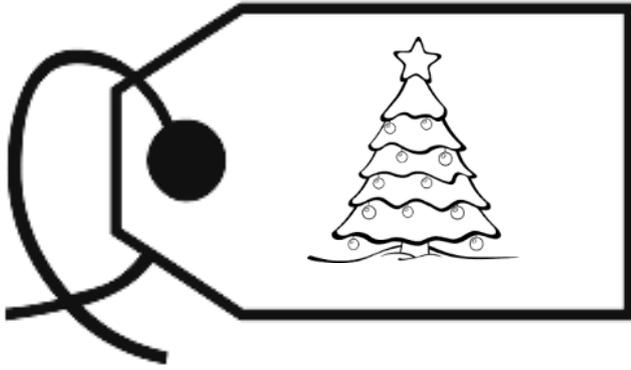
Perhaps because the King of Kings being born in a foul stable is a perfect picture of redemption. Jesus came from glory into a world filled with the dirt, filth and darkness of sin. And Jesus was not put off by darkness in the least – instead, He came to be the Light of the World. Thank God for His unspeakable gift. No wonder the angels sang “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.” (Luke 2:14)



**If you require Fairtrade products,
please contact
Margaret Cook**

**Please follow us on Facebook
'Caldicot Methodist Church'**





CHRISTMAS TREE - in Church

In previous years at our 'Lighten our Darkness' service, everyone has had the opportunity to place a label on the Christmas Tree, with a message remembering a loved one or a prayer close to your heart. This year you will still have the same opportunity of having your label on the tree. Just let us know you want a label and it will be arranged.

NOTICE - CAR PARK FEES

Church car park fees are due on 1st October.

The fee for the coming year is **£10**

**Early payment to Wilf Wilsher
will be appreciated**

**If you need help how to contact Wilf,
please ask for assistance**

A Blue Christmas service

A Blue Christmas service is a time for the people of God to gather in worship and acknowledge the pain and sadness that can sometimes underlie the cheer of the holiday season. If you are grieving anything, the loss of a loved one, a job, a beloved plan, or just the general upheaval this year has brought, this worship service will be a space to bring all of that before God, together.

This service will be held on Zoom on **Wednesday 9th December at 7:30 pm,** for the whole of the circuit. All are invited to attend and to invite others. Contact Lin & Jack for the Zoom link.

Journeys or lockdown this Christmas?

Christmas is a busy time for travel, as many of us venture a great distance to see family or friends again. But this year coronavirus has put an end to all that. Seeing all our loved ones this Christmas will be difficult, if not impossible. Soon we may not be travelling anywhere very much at all.

Have you noticed that the Christmas story is about journeys? It begins with Mary and Joseph travelling from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Then, some shepherds receive news from an angel about a special birth. They travel through the night, across dark fields and down unlit streets to search for the baby Jesus.

After this, in an eastern country some wise men see a new star, one that heralds a new king. They leave home and set out with only the star to guide them, and their faith to reassure them that Someone special is waiting at the end of their journey.

All these travellers must have wondered what really lay ahead. Nothing was fully understood, carefully planned for, or safe. They all travelled with questions and uncertainties. But God had come unexpectedly into their lives, and suddenly they were given new roles to serve Him. Despite worldly circumstances that could have crushed them, they stood firm and trusted God all the way.

These travellers' tales tell us that God may suddenly enter into our familiar, or this year, unfamiliar circumstances. He may come in surprising ways, to prompt us into new avenues of service. At first His call on us may be uncomfortable and challenging.

If our response is anything like Joseph, Mary, the shepherds and wise men – to be obedient to His call in serving, witnessing and worshipping, we shall be greatly blessed and rewarded.

We are all on life's journey. If we travel with God, He will be faithful and lead us to His heavenly Home.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Peace to Earth

To all our friends at Caldicot Methodist Church.
May you be blessed this Christmas and
throughout the coming year. love
Betty & Mike Murphy

Dear Friends
Wishing you a very happy and blessed Christmas
and New Year.
Love Rosemary

A happy & blessed Christmas to all during this
holy season, and a new year of peace, & joy
from Coral & John

Hello from Perth in Western Australia. We are
thinking of you in your Wintertime, while on
December 1st we begin our Summer!

It seems so hard to send Christmas Greetings
during the very different world we are living in
since Covid arrived to disrupt our lives.
Here we are more fortunate in being able to live an
'almost near normal' life and feel very blessed.

Within the world of so much loss and heartache,
we know the love of Jesus has sustained and
helped us each day. As we celebrate His birth, help
us to continue to place our Faith and Trust in Him.
Keep safe and well. Our love and God Bless.

Alison and Eifion

Christmas Greeting
& A Happy New Year
From Babs & Ray

Joyce Tanner and Family.
Send our Blessing of Love Peace
and Joy.
To all Newsletter readers this Christmas and a
Happy New Year 2021

Olive wishes all friends
at Caldicot and Rogiet a very happy and
peaceful Christmas via the Notices
and will therefore not be sending
Christmas cards.

Wishing you all a happy and blessed Christmas &
a New Year, of good health & happiness with
much love from; Hilda

To all our Church friends.
Wishing you Peace and Happiness this
Christmastime
And every good wish for the New Year
Marge & Dave Venn

Wishing everyone a Happy Christmas & a new
year full of hope & peace. Grateful thanks to all
on the Sunday coffee rota (when possible) for
their continued help & support. Maureen.

Wishing you all a happy Christmas filled with love
and a New Year filled with peace;
from Jennifer

*Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, Love divine;
Love was born at Christmas,
Star and angel gave the sign.*
Christmas Greetings, From your friends in Jesus,
Beryl & Keith Simcock

A Christmas Prayer

Lord, as I enter into the fast-paced season ahead, help me walk slowly and quietly. Let me stop and listen to the angels sing of the greatest news ever told. Let my heart, mind and soul join the chorus. "Glory in the Highest!! The Messiah has been born!"

Among all the bright sparkling lights and cheery holiday tunes, let my spirit travel once again toward Bethlehem to honour and worship Jesus, my King, The Prince of Peace, the Lord of Hosts, Mighty Counsellor, Son of God, the Lamb. All Your love, mercy and power somehow made flesh in the tiny form of a humble baby born in a manger. Let me worship the only one who is worthy to take our sin away and open the gates of all eternity!

by Daphne Kitching

CHRISTMAS WEEK SERVICES (Church & Zoom unless otherwise stated)

Sunday 20th December

10.am - Rev Lin

**CHURCH
CAR PARK
ONLY**



6.pm - Rev Joe
Carols in the Church Car Park

NOTE

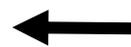
Park your car at the Factory Shop
or Town Car Park

Wrap up warm & bring a torch
Numbers limited - Need to book



10.pm - Christmas Eve - Holy Communion
Rev Lin

Christmas Eve



**ZOOM
ONLY**

Christmas Day

10.am - Rev Lin & Rev Joe

Sunday 27th December

10.am - Rev Joe

CHURCH BOOKING ARRANGEMENTS

Nick and Marion Jones have kindly agreed to coordinate this. Booking can only be made for all the Christmas week services by contacting them on :-

Friday 18th December between 3pm and 6pm on 01291 423981.

Please be considerate when calling them and keep the call brief by just giving them your name and telephone contact number.