



Wyld Green United Reformed Church

Britwell Road Sutton Coldfield
0121 240 1229

Making the love of Jesus a reality in the community seven days a week.
Reaching out, welcoming in.

December 2021



idings

www.wyldegreenurc.org.uk
wyldegreenchurch@protonmail.com

Minister: Rev Chris Dowd
45 Beacon Road, Sutton Coldfield, B73 5ST

☎ 0121 218 5163

Secretary: Mrs Alex Wheadon
11 Beoley Close, Sutton Coldfield, B72 1EU

☎ 0121 355 6790

In this month's Tidings

Pages

- 3 Letter from Rev Chris Dowd
- 4 News of the family Thoughts & prayers
- 5 Birthday greetings
- 6 Toys for Christmas - Birmingham City Mission
- 7 Santa float
- 8 & 9 Christmas fair
- 10 Book group Christmas concert
- 11 Wylder&Greener - lavender and rosemary
- 12 Christmas decorations available from Traidcraft
- 12 & 13 URC Moderator's Advent message
- 14 Bite size eco
- 15 Services in December
- 16 Wylde Green in December

Dear Friends

I love Christmas. it is a time of twinkly lights, sputnik like Christingles, pretty trees, a million mince pies, carols, mulled apple juice, families returning to be reunited and the slightly jetlagged feeling of getting up to do a Christmas day service after being up the night before for midnight communion.

I love that it is the time when people also renew a connection to us and come and visit or at the very least admire our Christmas Tree and decorated doors. Please extend a genuine invitation to everyone you know to what we've planned - everything from a traditional carol service, to one with fireworks, music and choral concerts, silent Christmas films, a Christmas fair and a Christmas escape room for teens.

What I also really love is the Jesus story that starts in the stable. Who was visited by the roughest of labourers. Whose teen mother sings of joy and justice when faced with possible disgrace. A Jesus, we are told, who was descended from some very interesting people in stories that are certainly not PG. That Jesus could burst into a tired and cynical world if we told his story properly.

So come and celebrate with your church family this most special of years with us. There is lots to do!

But whatever else you do, please share the love and the light with everyone you meet. We all have a lot of catching up to do.

Christmas blessings to you all.

Rev Chris

~ ~ ~ ~ ~



FAMILY NEWS

We think especially of Helen and Andrew Rowe and their family on the death of Helen's mother on 14th November. Our prayers and love go out to them at this very sad time.

We are glad that Anne Horton's granddaughter Robyn is now fit and well after a short stay in hospital.

We send our prayers to Sue and Adrian Miles's son Paul who was admitted to hospital recently. He is home now but has tested positive for Covid.

~ ~ ~



THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

We particularly pray for Helen and Andrew Rowe and family. Anne Horton's granddaughter Robyn and Paul Miles.

We continue to pray for June Lyne, Evelyn Hammett, Audrey Goaley, Sylvia Gray, Janet Dixon, Su Bailey, Jean & Ray Brierley, Meriel Pardoe, Lloyd & Celia McGuire, Val Dinning, Gundula Campden, John Cresswell, Anne & John Turney, Val White, Betty Howes, Ron & Joan Close and Hugh Cunningham's daughter, Sue.

~ ~ ~

God of compassion, Jesus said, 'Blessed are those that mourn for they shall be comforted'. We pray for all those that have lost someone dear to them and for whom Christmas is an especially difficult time. We particularly pray for those for whom this Christmas is the first one without their loved one and they feel only the emptiness and loss and not how wonderful this time of year is when you sent your son to be with us.

We pray that they bring their sorrows to you, Lord, like some odd gift of the magi, and place them at your feet. You understand the depth of their sadness as you sent your son to be with us in our deepest sorrows. May they know that even though they may feel alone, you are there with them, grieving with them and caring for them in their sadness.

We pray this in Jesus' name, Amen.



**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

to those who have
their special day in

December

Emma

John T

Mark M

Margaret

Malcolm

Robin

Janet

Barbara E

Tony H

Caroline

Val P

Brenda

Richard

Julia

Grace



TOYS FOR CHRISTMAS

Our usual Gift service will be held on the 5th of December to help underprivileged children in Birmingham. The toys we donate go to Birmingham City Mission (BCM) for them to distribute to children who otherwise might have very few or possibly no Christmas presents. Please read the article below and if possible, donate by bringing new toys to WGURC's gift service or in the ways suggested below. That way, we might help to bring a little sunshine into the lives of children after what has been a difficult and traumatic year for them. Many thanks.

~ ~ ~

Birmingham City Mission - Toys for Christmas

Every Christmas, Birmingham City Mission gives gifts to thousands of children in our city. Many of these children would otherwise not receive Christmas presents. Thanks to the generosity of Birmingham's people, the BCM Christmas toy distribution to families in need has been running for 50 years.

Donate a toy

We need lots of **NEW (not second hand)** toys, books, games and puzzles for children aged 0-15 for this project. For full details on what to give, download the [ToyLink project toy donation information](#). If you would like to organise a gift collection at your church, school or workplace, please bring donations to the BCM Resource Centre at The Clock Tower, 2 Langdon Street, Birmingham B9 4BP (open Mon-Fri 9am-4pm). Contact us on 0121 766 6603 or office@birminghamcitymission.co.uk if you need us to pick up large collections.

Or do it all online. Choose a gift from an online store and have it delivered straight to the address above, or make a donation on [ToyLink 2021's donation page](#)

There are lots of ideas for gifts to buy on our [ToyLink Amazon Wishlist](#)
Thank you for your gift.

SANTA FLOAT - 8TH AND 9TH DECEMBER



Come and join the fun and spirit of Christmas!

The Santa Float will once again be visiting the streets and houses in our community during the lead up to Christmas.

This really is a lovely event which brings such happiness to the area and is such fun to be a part of.

This year we will be collecting to support the important work that Acorns Children's Hospice does to help children and their families across the West Midlands. Acorns offers a network of palliative care and support to life-limited and life-threatened children and their families.

Please come and help us on either evening. This really is a fun event which brings so much happiness to the streets of Wylde Green and Boldmere.

We will be meeting at 6:30pm on both evenings and finishing at 8:00pm at church to enjoy some mulled wine and minced pies.

Wednesday 8th the meeting point is the corner of Wrekin Road and Beacon Road.

Thursday 9th the meeting point is the corner of Vesey Road and Eastern Road.

Please contact Jason Gardner on 07808807988 or drop me an email gardnerjasonj@gmail.com if you would like to take part.

Wylde Green URC's

Christmas Fair



Saturday 11th December

11.00am-3.00pm

Stalls

Refreshments

Santa's
grotto

Games



Live
performances



Stalls:

Pots by Yeros
Baked in Boldmere
British Heart Foundation
Becky Ellis Gifts
Sally Woodall paper craft
Christmas wreathes
Snuffles hedgehogs
Traidcraft

Comfy Crochet
Accessory Tree
Twiggs Floral
Blackridge coffee
Memory Café
Beanies
Church jam

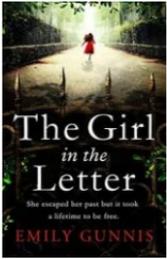
and many more

Games:

Bran tub
Hook a duck
Pin the nose on Rudolph
Knock the tins off the table
Guess the name of the polar bear
Guess how many gold coins in the jar

**Performances from
Gregg and Sniper
and the
Rock Choir**



BOOK GROUP

The next meeting of the Book Group will be on Wednesday 8th December in the Church Lounge - 7.45pm for tea & coffee and discussion from 8.00pm.

The book is 'The Girl in the Letter' by Emily Gunnis.

Ruth Loutit

~ ~ ~

GOOD COMPANY SINGERS CHRISTMAS CONCERT

7.30pm, Saturday 18th December at Wylde Green URC

Good Company Singers, a mixed choir of 40 plus members, are really looking forward to performing in Wylde Green URC again for the first time in four years.

After 21 months of hardly seeing each other, only mainly on Zoom, we did our first concert in September and that was such a joyous occasion.

Since then, we have been preparing our Christmas repertoire and our concert will include traditional Christmas favourites, solo and small group items, a few congregational carols and the choir's own Boy Band, so something for everyone to enjoy.

Tickets are £10 for adults and £5 for children under 14, including refreshments, available from any choir member or from our Ticket Secretary on 07432 879312.

Our Concert will be supporting local charities.

*Linda Harniess
(Good Company Singers)*

~ ~ ~ ~ ~



We need your
Lavender and Rosemary
cuttings, please



As part of our planting for nature ideas for 2022 we would like to try growing some lavender and rosemary from cuttings of already established plants. Please give it a go for us and let's see if we can make it happen! If you have nowhere to keep the pots then please bring them along to church and we can put them in the polytunnel on the field. Many thanks.

The Wylder & Greener Team

- water your established plant the day before
- fill clean pots with compost and grit (they like well drained soil)
- take 4-6" stems from parent plant.
- strip off bottom leaves (roots will grow where leaves were)
- if top is very soft remove it to give a bushy plant
- you should now have about a few inches leaves left
- (if you wish at this point dip cuttings into rooting powder)
- push bare stem into compost around edge of pot (leaving just leaves above soil)
- water
- leave pots in cold frame/poly tunnel/greenhouse/conservatory ensuring they don't dry out during winter.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

CRISP CRUNCHING NEWS

We now have a bin set up for collecting empty crisp packets located in Highbridge corridor. Yay! Terracycle will be using them to create outdoor furniture and children's play equipment.

Any queries let me know. Thanks.

Bev Lyne

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS AVAILABLE FROM TRAIDCRAFT

These decorations have come to Traidcraft from MADE51 providing refugee artisans with the means to market their crafts worldwide. Each purchase you make directly helps refugees, their families and the economy to thrive.



Shooting Star crafted
by Malian refugees
living in Burkina



Eternal Snowflake
crafted by Afghan
refugees living in India



Shining Halo crafted
by Rohingya refugees
living in India

Radiant Circle crafted
by Burundian refugees
returning home after
decades in exile



~ ~ ~ ~ ~

AN ADVENT MESSAGE FROM THE MODERATOR

Are we nearly there yet?

“Are we nearly there yet?” is a cry that probably most parents will remember from bored children in the back seat of the car.

Are we nearly there yet?

It’s something we want to ask about the end of the pandemic. It’s still too early to decide that. As I write, some European countries are entering renewed lockdowns and Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are all increasing restrictions, albeit in a fairly limited way so far. Whether England will move to the Government’s “Plan B” for the winter is yet to be seen.

Are we nearly there yet?

Can we start to call ministers to fill vacancies around the Synod. Aha! Some good news here, again even if in a fairly limited way. We are now moving forwards with creating a number of new posts for Stipendiary Ministers, although we know we will never have a large enough quota to satisfy anyone. We are having to learn how we might lead our churches differently, but at least we are getting nearer to calling some new Ministers to the West Midlands.

Are we nearly there yet?

Many - and I think almost all - churches have found that a significant number of people are still reluctant to return to in-person worship and activities. Certainly every church I've spoken with are finding that volunteers to keep the church running and engaging in missional activities are harder to find. Can we get back to "normal"? No. And let's not try. The old "normal" was already broken before Covid; we do need to embrace a new way of being and doing things in God's service, not just because of the pandemic, but it has certainly had a major ongoing impact.

Are we nearly there yet?

Christmas "celebrations" continue to start earlier. I did see what is very definitely a Christmas tree in a neighbour's house in the third week of November - not only before Advent but before even Christ the King Sunday. (I know many of my neighbours like to light up their homes for Diwali and other faith festivals; this was very clearly a Christmas tree.) But where, in these early celebrations, is there room for Christ?

The Church is called not to conform to the values of the world (Romans 12) but instead to allow our mind to be renewed. Let us be those open to the renewing Holy Spirit, ready to learn new things about ourselves and, more importantly, God. I don't believe we will do that through decorations put up ever earlier (and removed on Boxing Day). I do believe we will grow in the waiting, like the prophets, and the searching, like the Magi. I do believe we can find renewed purpose and hope as we set out to welcome anew Christ into our homes and our churches. Will you come with me on this journey?

Steve Faber
25.11.21



BITE SIZE ECO

Reduce your meat
intake...

Eat two or more
Vegetarian/Vegan
meals each week



Reduce your dairy
products...

Try alternatives such
as Soya or Oat Milk



Buy your food
locally and in
season



Help wildlife through
winter by leaving
perennials uncut. This
will provide seed heads
as food for birds and
hollow stems to shelter
pollinators.



Leave dandelions
to flower for
hungry bees
emerging from
hibernation in
late winter.



Wash clothing at
30 degrees



Use LED light bulbs



SERVICES IN DECEMBER

- 5th Gift Service
 11.00am Family service led by Mark Miles
 Bible: Phil Barker
 Door: Jacqui Goring, Ed Lyne
- 12th 11.00am Junior church festival service led by junior church
 Bible: Joan Cox
 Door: Mark Miles, Bev Lyne
- 3.00pm Service led by Rev Chris Dowd followed by afternoon tea
 Bible: Tony Hughes
 Door: Sue Miles
- 19th 11.00am Family service led by Rev Chris Dowd inc Communion
 Bible: TBA
 Door: Andrew Hughes, Heather Hall
- 3.00pm Rainbow Carols
- 6.30pm Carol service led by Rev Chris Dowd
- 24th 4.00pm *Nativity Who?* A service for young children and their
 accompanying adults
 Come dressed as your favourite nativity character
- 11.30pm Midnight Communion led by Rev Chris Dowd
 Bible: Alastair Frew
 Door: Tony Hughes, Bev Lyne
- 25th Christmas Day
 10.00am Short service led by Rev Chris Dowd
 Bible: Jason Gardner
 Door: Sue Jones, Alex Wheadon
- 26th 11.00am Carols and cakes led by Rev Chris Dowd
 Bible: Jacqui Goring
 Door: Pat Lister, Heather Hall

~ ~ ~

There is a phone-in service at 5.30pm every Sunday with Rev Chris Dowd

EVENTS AT WYLDE GREEN IN DECEMBER

Wednesday	1st	12.30pm	Prayer lunch
Sunday	5th	6.00pm	Silent film with organ music
Wednesday	8th	12.30pm	Prayer lunch
		6.30pm	Santa Float (page 7)
		8.00pm	Book Group (page 10)
Thursday	9th	6.30pm	Santa Float
Saturday	11th	11.00am-3.00pm	Christmas Fair (pages 8 & 9)
Sunday	12th	6.00pm	Carols and fireworks (church field)
Monday	13th	7.00pm	Fish and chips supper
Tuesday	14th	2.00pm	Film
Saturday	18th	7.30pm	Good Company Singers Christmas Concert (page 10)
Wednesday	22nd	12.30pm	Prayer lunch
Friday	24th	5.00pm	Nativity escape room (for teenagers and younger adults)

Articles for January Tidings to the editor by Tuesday 28 December, please

~ ~ ~

WYLDE GREEN EVENTS ON ZOOM

Morning prayers	
9.00am	Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays
Evening prayers	
8.00pm	Tuesdays and Thursdays
Bible study	
9.30am	Wednesdays after morning prayers

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

December Tidings was distributed by Mrs Bev Lyne