

Wise men seek Jesus



Peace and Love to all

Wheatley Lane Messenger

Wheatley Lane Methodist Church

**Welcomes all
Makes Jesus known
And seeks to serve the community**



***Wheatley Lane Methodist Church,
Wheatley Lane Road, Fence. BB12 9ED***

Dear Friends

A warm welcome to everyone

The days grow colder, the evenings darker, and winter approaches. As if you would need any reminder, our cover reminds us that soon it will be Christmas. We've already enjoyed our 'International' Christmas Fair, and we'd like to thank everyone who came and helped to make it a success. When you read this newsletter we shall be in the period of Advent, and the new village Nativity Crib will have been switched on - maybe you joined in the carol singing.

In church, on the last Sunday in November, four Sundays before Christmas – we lit the first Advent candle. Traditionally, on each successive Sunday we light another until

on Christmas Day we light the final candle in the centre,
to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ

the very reason that throughout the world, we celebrate Christmas.

Advent is heralded by 'Stir-up Sunday' the week before. Traditionally, this was when families would stir up Christmas puddings & mincemeat – whilst making a wish to bring good luck through the following year – so that the mixture would mature for Christmas Day.

The three village churches - and the village school - will each be celebrating Christmas in their own special way, and they invite you to join them. Carol Services have been carefully scheduled to allow you to enjoy as many as possible. There'll be a warm welcome everywhere, and maybe a mince pie and a drink too!

On Thursday Dec16th you'll be able to get up, and sing Christmas carols and songs from breakfast until bed time! Children from the school will be singing all day in W.L. Church (apart from a lunch break), so pop in and support them. Wheatley Lane choir invite you all to a relaxing "Carols and Supper" evening - a Jacob's Join - starting at 7.30pm. There's carol singing at the White Swan too this year. So, there's something to suit everyone – a real village Christmas. More details of all events elsewhere in the newsletter. If you know someone who is alone, why not invite them too?

Happy Christmas to you all

From our Minister

Rev. Gareth Higgs Tel: (01282) 694439
revgarethhiggs@googlemail.com

As many of you will be aware Laura and I have been celebrating the arrival of our first child, Joseph James, born at the end of September. As with any change or big upheaval it takes time to adapt to the rigours of parenting - which, as I have found for myself, nothing can really prepare you for. Whether it's the pride of being a new father, or whether, common to all parents, there is something quite wonderful and quite frightening about being a new dad. I have very little experience with small children, and so just holding JJ was quite an emotionally fraught experience to begin with. Mixed with the surge of love and affection for him was the fear that I might in some way 'break him'. He was so tiny when he was born and so vulnerable, that still I am anxious occasionally of dropping him or getting him too hot or cold. I guess whenever we are entrusted with something precious we experience something of those emotions.

All of this leads me to marvel at the role Mary & Joseph played in the Christmas story. How did they feel knowing they held no ordinary baby in their arms? How did they feel laying Him in the manger? How did they feel realising it was their responsibility to bring Him up, as the angels sang songs about Him?

In the Christmas story we celebrate God entrusting Himself to us, tiny, vulnerable and wonderful. We marvel in awe at the majesty and mystery of God wrapped up in the baby Jesus born in Bethlehem. The good news is that this wonderful story continues. As we prepare for another Christmas season, as we remember and recall the familiar nativity stories, we remember the promise of the adult Jesus risen from the dead, that He would be with us always, even until the end of time. Rejoicing in this promise, wondering at God's presence still with us today, perhaps we are challenged to tread carefully this Christmas season, lest we miss God's glory revealed among us. Perhaps it is us that are invited to grasp hold of something wonderful and precious, God present among us, right now, and to wonder afresh that God would come to us of all people and make Himself known.

May you discover the peace and presence of the Christ-child this Christmas season.

Gareth, Laura & JJ

CHURCH CALENDAR - SUNDAY SERVICES

DECEMBER

- 5th 9.30am *Rev G Higgs* **Church parade. Toy Service**
(Gifts for Sure Start – children 0-5yrs, & adults)
- 12th 9.30am *Rev G Kilagi*
6.00pm **Candlelit Carol Service for all the family**
- 19th 9.30am *Ian Wheeler* - **Nativity Service**
- 25th 9.30am *Rev G Higgs* **Christmas Day - short family service**
- 26th 9.30am *Rev G Higgs* Circuit Service

JANUARY

- 2nd 9.30am *Rev P Clarke*
- 9th 9.30am *Rev G Higgs* Covenant Service
6.00pm *Rev G Higgs & Ian Wheeler*
- 16th 9.30am *Tim Broughton*
- 23rd **10.30am UNITED SERVICE at INGHAMITE CHURCH**
- 30th 9.30am *Ian Wheeler*

FEBRUARY

- 6th 9.30am *Rev G Higgs*
- 13th 9.30am *Gail Pegg* Education Sunday
6.00pm *Rev G Higgs*
- 20th 9.30am *Rev G Higgs*
- 27th ** 9.30am *Rev G Higgs* Contemporary worship
** 11.00am *Rev G Higgs* Traditional worship

Church Website

www.wheatleylane-methodist.co.uk

Church Groups



Choir Notes



The Choir Dinner this year was held at the White Swan, and a lovely meal was enjoyed by all. Choir members are busy getting ready for the Candlelit Carol Service on Dec.12th, along with the School choir

Thursday, December 16th, 7.30pm in Church, the Choir is having an evening of carols, followed by Jacob's Join supper. Everyone welcome

We are always on the look out for new members (7.30pm Thursdays)

Season's Greetings to All

Allan Bland 693134

Tuesday Fellowship

We meet in Church at 2.15pm on alternate Tuesday afternoons. You are very welcome to join us.

We usually have around 18 to 20 at our meetings, and 5 men have joined us. We've also been pleased to welcome Debra & Martin, from W.L. Road. If **you** have an hour or two to spare on a Tuesday – do come along
Programme:

Dec 14th Christmas Party + Jacob's Join.

2011

Jan 4th 'STORYTIME'

18th Mr C Widdas 'Antarctic'

Feb 1st Mrs K Gosling 'Part of my Job'

15th Mrs L Sawley 'Meet the Local Author'

March 1st COFFEE AFTERNOON 2 – 4pm

BRING & BUY STALL
For Church Funds

Christmas Wishes to all our readers

Mary Bland 693134

For
Busy
Women

Time For You

On Thursday 20th January 2011
'Winter Warmers'

On Thursday 10th February 2011
'What's in the Box?'

On Thursday 10th March 2011
'Spring Watch'

Where?
Wheatley Lane
Methodist Church

What time?
From 8pm onwards

Further details: Michelle 696592, Kath 699895

Happy Christmas to you all

Forum
Group

In winter we meet in the vestry at the Methodist Church
On e 1st & 3rd Tues of each month at 7.30pm

We relax, play scrabble or dominoes, have a chat over
tea/coffee and biscuits, and enjoy the company.

You're very welcome to join us. Ring Ann 618648

Xtra

St Anne's church Fence, 7.45 pm
2nd and 4th Tuesday each month

A relaxed, cafe style meeting, where we can be together for:

- *Exploring current issues*
- *Informal worship*
- *Prayer*
- *Drinks & nibbles*

Programme for the next few months:

- 23rd November **The power of the media**
- 14th December **Termination of pregnancy**
- 11th January. **Just war?**
- 25th January **Pick & mix spirituality**
- 8th February **Celebrity and all that stuff**
- 22nd February **Big brother is watching: surveillance culture**

Our first months at Wheatley Lane Church

With a new home in the village earlier this year, we were keen to find a new local church where we would feel at home, welcomed and involved. I had previously attended Wheatley Lane Methodist several years ago and felt that it would be ideal for my husband Neil and our new baby boy, Kimmel.

Neil recalls how we were welcomed straight away by friendly faces and how relaxed the atmosphere was, with members of the congregation happily chatting amongst each other as we all gathered for the 9.30am service! We were never quite sure how we managed to get the 3 of us ready each week for the early start and in the early days, Kimmel may well have been attending in his pyjamas!

As with many families with a new baby, we were anxious that our precious little bundle wouldn't disturb the service with loud screams. Instead, Kimmel was quite often the star of the show, smiling gleefully at whoever was fortunate enough to be sitting behind us. It quickly became the pattern that as soon as the sermon started (no ministers escaped!), Kimmel fell into a deep sleep...☺ It was always reassuring to know that if all else failed, there was a room at the back of the church with toys but it was never frowned upon if you chose not to use it.

Then there was the opportunity for coffee and a biscuit after the service. It was here that we really felt we could get to know the other members of the congregation. We would soon get chatting and within a few weeks we have felt the comfort of being amongst old friends.

On the 1st May, Kimmel's arrival into the world was celebrated with his dedication service. This was an opportunity to invite friends to church who may not have been for a while, and many commented on their experience of a welcoming atmosphere and cheerful surroundings.

Outside of the Sunday service, Neil took advantage of the men's group and joined the trip to the local brewery (!). We were encouraged to attend Esther's famous garden party in the summer and I have recently started to attend a weekly house group. Earlier this month, I have also been involved in starting the new Babies and Toddler Playgroup at the school on a Thursday afternoon.

Hopefully, in continuing to welcome new members into the congregation as you have with us, we can help to repaint the picture of the modern day church as one which is in touch with modern day life and responsive to modern day needs.

Jill Heaton

Wheatley Lane Methodist Babies and Toddler group

Starting 4th November 2010

Every Thursday 2.15-3.30pm

Wheatley Lane Methodist School Hall

0 years- pre school

Play activities and story time

Refreshments

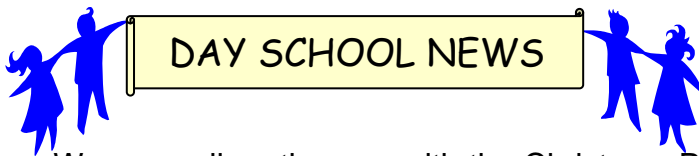
Contact Jill (699637) for more information

All Welcome

Free of charge

Come along and join us!





We are well on the way with the Christmas Productions at school at the moment and the children are, as always, looking forward to performing for their parents. The choir is also very busy this year and they have been asked to sing at various events in this area over the next few weeks. Mrs Brown and Mrs Brassington have been working very hard with them and they sound wonderful.

Below I have put a list of dates for your diary of events that you would be welcome to come and support. The money raised from the Singathon, which many of you have enjoyed in the last couple of years, will be donated to the Kanlungan project again this year. There will be coffee and mince pies served throughout the day at this event.

Sunday 12th December Candlelit Carols for all the family,
6-00pm in church
School Choir, Church Choir & Worship Band

Thursday 16th December SINGATHON - singing all day in aid of
Kanlungan children's centre. Coffee & Mince Pies

Monday 20th December School's Christmas Service at 2.30pm
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**The children finish for Christmas on Tuesday 21st December at 2pm
and return to school on Tuesday 4th January.**

Heather Fry, the PAIS worker who is attached to the Methodist Church, will be coming into school on Tuesday lunchtimes in future to meet with a group of children for a Christian club which is similar to the one that Emerson ran for us. The children are looking forward to going to this as they very much enjoyed taking part in the club and it helped make them aware of the Christian values and beliefs that underpin the ethos of this school.

As this is probably the last message you will have from me this year, can I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and Healthy New Year.

Mandy Kroukamp Head teacher



Three wise men came to visit Jesus saying,

“We saw his star when it came up in the east, and we have come to worship him.”

They brought with them gifts of

G _____ F _____

and M _____



www.THECOLOR.com

* Come and Celebrate

“Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” (Luke 2 11 & 12)

Come to the village Carol Service

Where? You have a choice! The village churches have arranged to have their carol services at different times. You're invited to any or all of them
Mince pie and a drink served afterwards.

Saturday December 11th 6.30pm – W L Inghamite Church

Sunday December 12th 6.00pm – W L Methodist Church

Sunday December 19th 6.30pm – St Anne's Church, Fence

VILLAGE NATIVITY CRIB Switch on 6.30 Dec 1st

Outside WL Methodist Church/School
School choir, Church choirs, Villagers, Friends
Come and join the carol singing round the crib

WHEATLEY LANE SCHOOL

Sunday 12th December Candlelit Family Carol Service
6pm in church. School Choir, Church Choir & Worship Band

Thursday 16th December SINGATHON - singing all day
in aid of Kanlungan children's centre. Coffee & Mince Pies

Monday 20th December School's Christmas Service 2.30pm

CAROLS and SUPPER

Thursday, December 16th 7.30pm

Wheatley Lane Church Choir is having an evening of carols, followed by a Jacob's Join supper.

COME ALONG - EVERYONE WELCOME

Christmas in Fence *

☞ CHRISTMAS DAY Services ☛: 9.30am Methodist Church. 10.00am St. Anne's 10.00am Inghamite Church

☞ INGHAMITE CHURCH ☛

- Sat 11th 6.30pm Family Carol Service
Thurs 16th Carol singing in the White Swan
Sun 19th 10.30am Nativity Service
Sat 25th 10.00am Family Christmas Day Service

☞ St ANNE'S CHURCH, FENCE ☛

- Sun 19th 6.30pm Nine Lessons and Carols
Mulled Wine & Mince Pies afterwards
Fri 24th 6.00pm Christmas Eve Christingle Service
11.30pm First Communion of Christmas
Sat 25th 10.00am Joint Service with St John's Higham
Sung Eucharist
Sun 26th 11.00am said Holv Communion

☞ W. L. METHODIST CHURCH ☛

- Sun 5th 9.30am Toy/Gift Service & Church Parade
Gifts for 'Sure Start' - children 0-4yrs, or adults
Sun 12.th 6.00pm Candlelit Family Carol Service
School Choir, Church Choir, Worship Band
Coffee and Mince Pies served afterwards
Sun 19th 9.30am Nativity Service – with Junior Church
Sat 25th 9.30am Christmas Day - short Family Service

☞ CAROL SINGING in the WHITE SWAN ☛

Thursday Dec 16th



The Privilege of reading God's Word

Reading the Bible, along with prayer and Christian Fellowship, is a key aspect of discipleship. We don't have to read the Bible to be Christians – after all, most people had to manage without a copy of the Scriptures until the first printing press was set up in 1476. Until the advent of free education, the ability to read was far from widespread, and engaging with the Bible would have meant hearing it read aloud in church. Although thanks to translators such as William Tyndale, it was at least available in a common language.

Being able to read the Bible for ourselves is then, a wonderful privilege that we should not take for granted. It is important that we sustain our delight in this privilege, and we can do so in a number of ways.

Firstly, we can ensure that the translation we use is one that enhances our understanding of the passage. This does not necessarily mean a modern translation. After all, we may find that we have grown so familiar with our usual up-to-date version, that what we read somehow begins to lose its freshness.

Secondly, we can develop our understanding by using Bible reading aids, which range from 'thought for the day' Bible notes, to in-depth commentaries. If we have been using the same approach for a while and we are starting to find it a bit stale, the answer is, not to abandon Bible reading, but to try a new approach! For example, we may have grown as much as we can on a 'thought for the day' diet and we should try the 'stronger meat' of an accessible commentary.

Finally, whenever we turn to the Scriptures, we should do so prayerfully. If we read the Bible as believers, it is more than a cultural treasure, or a collection of moral insights or inspiring stories. It is a means of connecting with the living God, whose spirit inspired those who wrote it, and those who helped to shape the canon of Scripture. As we read and reflect, so, amazingly, we will find that over time we continue to be transformed into the likeness of our Creator.

No, we don't HAVE to read the Bible – but who could turn down the chance of such blessing?

Relax !Have a *Coffee Break*

Turkey Treats ?

On the first day of Christmas
my true love said to me
“I’m glad we bought fresh turkey
and a proper Christmas Tree

On the second day of Christmas
much laughter could be heard
As we tucked into our turkey,
a most delicious bird.

On the third day, we entertained
the people from next door
The turkey tasted just as good, as
it had the day before.

Day four, relations came to stay;
poor Gran is looking old.
We finished up the Christmas pud,
and ate the turkey cold.

On the fifth day, I must admit,
the Christmas spirit died
The children fought and bickered,
we ate turkey rissoles, fried.

On the seventh day of Christmas,
my true love he did wince
When he sat down at the table and
was offered turkey mince.

Day eight and nerves were getting
frayed, the dog had run for shelter
I had served up turkey pancakes,
with a glass of Alka Seltzer.

On day nine our cat left home,
by lunchtime Dad was blotto
He said he had to have a drink
to face turkey risotto.

By the tenth day, the booze had gone
(except our home made brew)
As if that wasn’t bad enough,
we suffered turkey stew

A few
confections for
you to think
about



Coffee Break

Only think!

No sampling!

- 1 Has this caterpillar matured? (9.3)
- 2 Helps you to see in the dark? (6.4.)
- 3 Underskirt with a story? (9.5)
- 4 Loss swirl (5.4)
- 5 Do these digits like to dance? (8.7)
- 6 Citrus fruit replaces the blackbirds in this delight (5.8.3)
- 7 Do these lips taste of caffeine? (6.6)
- 8 Is this a Typhoo loaf? (3. 5)
- 9 Romany Delight (5.5)
- 10 A famous Queen might eat it (8.8.4)

Answers on P 20

On the eleventh day of Christmas
the Christmas Tree was moulting
The mince pies were as hard as rock
and the turkey was revolting.

On the twelfth day, my true love
had a smile upon his lips
The guests had gone, the turkey too,
and we dined on fish and chips.

A View

From the Pew

HARVEST
OF
SOULS

Over recent years there have been plenty of warning signs from events that have happened over the past 20 years to show that a stormy path lies ahead.

The voice of the Church has grown weaker, whilst the secularists and opponents of the Gospel have grown stronger. Today Christians cannot speak freely of their Faith without fear of arrest and punishment. Who would have thought this would have happened in a Country with a long history of Christian traditions? If ever there was a need for the Word of the Lord to be clearly declared and heard in this land, it is surely today.

The economic situation is far worse than expected. The country continues to borrow staggering amounts that will take decades to clear. We are mortgaging our children's and grandchildren's future. We are living beyond our means and many are saddled with huge debts. We hear the phrase 'Broken Britain' which is mainly due to a society that has rejected the God of our Fathers.

We need to throw ourselves upon God's mercy and pray for revival in the midst of judgment.

If we can weather the social storm there will be a new openness to the Gospel. Out of despair, the message of hope and unbreakable love that Jesus and the prophets of Israel brought to the world will be heard and many will find Faith in God with lives being transformed and the name again of Jesus will be honoured again in this land.

So be ready for the Harvest of Souls 'He that is in us is greater than he that is in the world.' (1John 4 v 4)

(This is a Church member's view - adapted from candministries.org.uk)

Time for Prayer



*God does nothing but in answer to prayer...
and everything with it.*

John Wesley

If at any time you would like
someone to pray with you,
or pray for you,
Our Church Stewards or our Minister
are always available.

* *Phone / email contact details
can be found on P 20.*

We have a Prayer Box
outside our church
and anyone may post
a request for prayer.

Your request will be
included in
Church prayers
(Your confidentiality will
always be respected)

*

If you would like to receive Gareth's 'Prayer Points'
- a guide to those happenings in our Church, the village, or
the far wider community - which need our prayers,
he would be happy to add you to his mailing list.

It may help to know that others are praying along with you.

*

Precious gift of hope – Christ
Child unseen by tear misted eyes –
may it be that your joy of new life
is freed into the hearts of the lonely,
the lost, the loveless
at this Christmas time.

*There is nothing in all creation that will ever be able
to separate us from the love of God, which is ours
through Christ Jesus our Lord.* *Romans 8 v 39*



BibleLands' Christmas appeal:

The angel said to them:]

'Do not be afraid' (Luke 2:10).

But for the children of today's Holy Land, fear is never far away,

The land of Christ's birth is a land of conflict.

But its children are the peacemakers of the future, and YOU can give them hope.

The conflict in the Middle East is never far from our television screens and newspapers, but while world leaders seek a solution, children are suffering. Across the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, thousands live in poverty, their childhood overshadowed by the fear of violence.

What if their generation could be the one to achieve lasting peace? This isn't just a dream, it's possible. But we need to protect these children today.

BibleLands works with Christian organisations on the ground in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory, including schools that provide a safe haven and comprehensive education to disadvantaged children of all religious backgrounds.

Our partners know the needs of the region and its people, and no matter how hopeless the political situation might seem, they never give up hope. Day by day, they overcome the challenges of checkpoints, outbreaks of violence and limited resources because they are dedicated to improving children's lives.

Here are just 5 ways BibleLands' partners are helping the next generation:

1. **Providing an education that will enable them to escape poverty by earning a living when they are older.**
2. **Encouraging them to think independently, making them less vulnerable to exploitation by extremists.**
3. **Accepting them as individuals and offering counselling to those traumatised by the conflict, giving them the opportunity to express their fears.**
4. **Creating an atmosphere of peace and tolerance, where children can learn about conflict resolution and the importance of respect for others.**
5. **Educating and supporting those who have been written off by society because they have special needs.**

This Christmas, economic conditions are tough here in the UK and across the world. For those already facing poverty and uncertainty, the situation is worse than ever – but it doesn't always have to be this way. You could help us provide a positive future for children in the Holy Land.

Please visit www.biblelands.org.uk or call 01494 897950

Looking towards 2011



The Year
of
The Bible

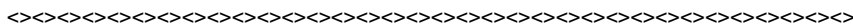
2011 has been designated the “Year of the Bible” to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the publication of the King James (or Authorised) Version of the Bible. Many things are happening nationally to engage with this.

Gareth has challenged local Christians to join with him in reading the whole Bible in a year. Being realistic he doesn't expect huge numbers to respond. However, he can envisage a small group of people who will commit to reading a sizeable portion of the Bible each day, and maybe meet from time to time over refreshments, for prayer and encouragement, and to discuss and share experiences of reading God's word.

‘Biblefresh’ is a movement of hundreds of churches, agencies, colleges, festivals and denominations which has come together to encourage a greater confidence and passion for Scripture.

You haven't time? Well, there are many other ways of engaging with the Bible. The Bible Society (which is affiliated to **‘Biblefresh’**) has launched a new project, **‘You've Got the Time’**, which sees the New Testament dramatised in 40 half-hour audio clips for those who say they haven't got the time to read the Bible. Thirty one TV and stage actors from Riding Lights Theatre Company, the National Theatre and Royal Shakespeare Company take part.

Throughout the year there will no doubt be many more initiatives.



Another new year dawns, and with come it fresh aspirations, and intentions. Our Church Calendar is already looking quite full, so here are just a few of the events which happen in the new year. .

Alpha During December, many events have been arranged, with opportunities for villagers to come together to celebrate Christmas. But, Why? Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus, which happened a pretty long time ago. Do you ever wonder why we are still celebrating after 2,000 years? How Is Jesus relevant today?

If these and similar questions have ever puzzled you, you might find our Alpha evenings interesting. An Alpha evening is a get – together of people like yourself, plus a few who’ve been before. It’s very relaxed, with an enjoyable light meal (time to chat with fellow diners), followed by a talk/video, coffee, and time for discussion and questions. Come along and begin a journey of discovery. There’s no charge, and if you enjoy it – well, come along to the next one.

There’s an open Alpha evening & meal at W L Church, Mon. 10th Jan. at 7pm (For more information, ring Denise 07724 120051)

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is held annually in January. Each year a different country chooses the theme for the week. 2011 is the turn of the Holy Land - where Christianity began. The prayers for the week have been prepared by Christians in Jerusalem, who chose as a theme

“Acts 2:42, ‘They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.....”

Very appropriately this year, Christian Unity Week corresponds with an occasion when the village churches – of three different Christian denominations – come together for united worship.

January 23rd at 10.30am, UNITED SERVICE - INGHAMITE CHURCH

Women’s World Day of Prayer is always held on the 1st Friday in March. It is a worldwide movement of Christian women who come together to observe a common day of prayer in many countries.

The Day of Prayer begins as dawn breaks over the islands of Tonga in the Pacific, and continues across each continent in turn. Christians from over 170 countries and islands unite together in praise, worship and prayer, until the last Services of this special day are held back in the Pacific on the islands of Samoa.

It is an encouragement to women in different countries to know that they are remembered in prayer. What a fellowship of joy, faith and

love. All this has grown from a simple service of prayer held in 1887. This year, as always, a united service will be held at one of the seven churches in Pendle – although prepared by women, it is open to all.

The Covenant Service

At the beginning of each year the Methodist Church holds a special Covenant Service. This uniquely Methodist tradition was started by John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, and it is likely that the first ever service was held on Monday the 11th August 1755 in London. Although this first service was held in the summer, the tradition soon became that the Covenant Service would be held early in the New Year.

But what is the service all about, and what is its significance today?

A legal covenant is an agreement between people e.g. when you buy a house, you enter into a covenant (an agreement) with the seller. In church terms a Covenant is an agreement between God and ourselves – and there is no chance of getting gazumped!!

In the service the Church joyfully celebrates God's gracious offer to Israel that "I will be their God and they shall be my people", and that God will never break this relationship.

Today the covenant service is a celebration of God's grace to all of us, and an opportunity to re-affirm our commitment, to growing in faith and to serving God in our lives within the Church and in the community. At the heart of the Covenant service is the covenant prayer which expresses our response to God's offer of His continuing and everlasting relationship with us.

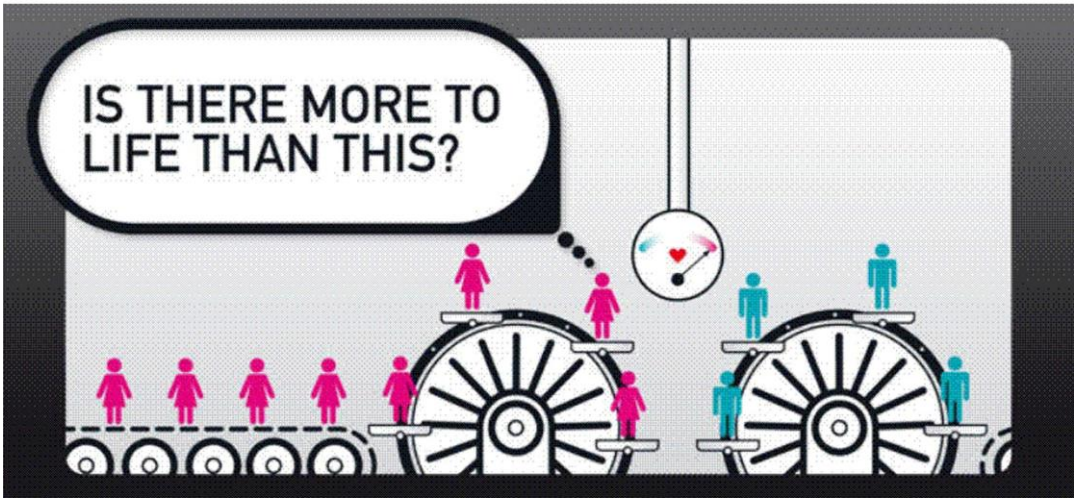
"I am no longer my own, but yours. Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will; put me to doing, put me to suffering; let me be employed for you or laid aside for you, exalted for you or brought low for you; let me be full, let me be empty; let me have all things, let me have nothing; I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to your pleasure and disposal. And now glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, you are mine and I

All are welcome

You will be welcome whether you are sharing in a Covenant Service for the first time, have done it annually for many years, or simply want to watch what others do, without taking part yourself .

The service is a gift, not a demand! And God will give you the grace to do it all. You are not alone!

THE ALPHA COURSE



COME AND FIND THE ANSWER.....

Beginning Monday 10th January 2011
7pm with an open evening and supper
Wheatley Lane Methodist Church

for more information or register on the course please contact:
Denise 07724120051





*Candlelit Carols
for all the family*

*Sunday 12th December
6 p.m.*

led by Rev Gareth Higgs

*with items by our
Church choir,
Worship band
and School choir*

*Wheatley Lane
Methodist Church*