

Dec 98

Newsletter

The Bethel
Christadelphian Church



In Focus – The Care Committee

At the Bethel, we all try to be a caring church, and to show practical love for each other, and for all those in need. To help this go smoothly, and to try to avoid anyone's need being overlooked, we have a 'Care Committee'. This is a group of 6 members who get together to co-ordinate the way this happens. We meet formally four times a year, and informally much more often, to keep us all up to date. The committee could not, and does not try, to do all the caring itself, but tries to ensure that there is always someone 'on the ball'.

The sort of things we do are to keep an eye on all who are ill or housebound, and visit them, provide transport or meals where necessary, and send cards or visit people to cheer them up. Most often, it works both ways: an elderly, housebound lady can be a joy to visit, and we come away refreshed and encouraged. We try to help those with young families who can also become 'housebound'. On Sunday morning our crèche enables those with toddlers to attend the service, and helps the children to grow up feeling part of our church family. To encourage friendship and fellowship, we organise social activities from time to time, hoping particularly to involve those who are lonely or 'on the fringe'. This year we have had country walks, with a shared tea afterwards, an evening of country dancing, and learning about our wider family in Zimbabwe, an outing to Dunham Park with wheel chairs, and a concert at the Bridgewater Hall. Quite a lot of 'behind the scenes' help goes on, like decorating a room, moving furniture, sharing a meal or doing a shop. Our aim is to try to understand the needs of all our members and meet them in whatever way we can.

Obviously, there are much wider needs, in the local area, and world wide, and where possible we do what we can to meet these, by collecting funds for specific needs, or giving practical help where we can.

We would like to be known as a church that cares, because God cares for us.



What's On?

(Henrietta St. unless otherwise stated)

Sunday evening Services at 6:00...

DATE	SUBJECT	SPEAKER(S)
Dec 6	<i>Celebrate – God's Forgiveness</i>	John Downer
Dec 13	The Evidence for God – In Weather	Peter Green
Dec 20	To God a Son is Born – Family Carol Service	Martyn Ramsden
Dec 25	Christmas Day Service (11:00 am)	
Dec 27	One to One with Christ – on Rights	Andrew Leng & Steve Tanner

What's On Ctd..

Regulars:

- Sunday
 - Breaking of Bread Service 10:30
 - Sunday Bible School 2:45 (From Kids aged 4, up to Adult Discussion Group)
 - Evening Service 6:00
- Tuesday
 - Junior Youth Club 6:45
- Wednesday
 - Learning to Read the Bible Effectively Night Class
 - Young Peoples Bible reading Group 8:00
- Thursday
 - Bible Class 8:00
- Friday
 - Senior Youth Club 7:30

We all know the Christmas story don't we! The many nativity plays we've seen so adequately paint the picture... A nervous Mary and Joseph kneeling alongside a straw filled manger. The rosy little faces of the angels and the wilting tinsel protruding above their heads. Those not-so-wise men who always fluff their lines and the shepherds who forget where they're supposed to stand! We may know part of the story but what really happened when it all began 2000 years ago in a small town in Israel...?

Jesus' makeshift cot was where the animals usually fed. The reason Jesus was placed in the manger was for compromise not for 'cuteness'. Perhaps the animals in the stable would have trampled him if he were laid on the floor. Perhaps there was just too much dung there! The Son of God was born in a dirty, stinking animal enclosure! And what was everyone else doing? Well we know the inns were all full that first Christmas... things don't change do they! The humbleness and low social position of Jesus makes us re-consider the comfortable way we live today in nineties Manchester.

"*Glory to God in the highest*" the angels said to the shepherds. Well the real angels have had some unpleasant jobs in the past you see and this was quite simply the best news they'd ever told anybody. Something wonderful had happened and the angels just couldn't keep it in; God's long foretold rescue plan for the earth had begun and it was worth telling people about.

Maybe we could all do with taking a fresh look at the real Christmas story this year and at what it's got to do with us.

(Read: Luke 2, Matthew 1 & 2, Isaiah 9:1-7).