



Issue 14:11

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December 2010

LAST MONTH'S
FIGURES

CAPTAIN'S COLUMN

Dear Friends, As I write this newsletter winter has arrived early and it's snowing!! Will there be a white Christmas? Apparently there is a 6:1 chance! As we get engrossed in the busyness of this season it so important that we don't let it take us from focussing on —the real reason for the season. A child born to us—our Saviour, God himself, come down to earth to be one of us.

I read something the other day on Santa's it said— *'In today's politically correct world Santa's have agreed new guidelines. Father Christmas must have a bushy white beard no more than six inches long and a girth of no greater than 48 inches and no less than 46 inches. "We are trying to eradicate shoddy Santa's," said James Lovell of the Ministry of Fun agency which fills 500 Santa positions a year. "I even saw a Santa last year wearing trainers." The hope is that this year, a properly resonant 'Ho! Ho! Ho!' and a neatly presented Santa will adorn Santa's grottoes.'*

It made me think about the nativity scene and political correctness— every year we have a nice cosy scene of Mary and Joseph, the shepherds, the wise men and angels and baby Jesus in the manger all looking pristine and picture postcard like. But of course the reality would have been very different. A cold, draughty cave and probably dirty shepherds and an animals' feeding trough for a cot which no doubt was smelly!

It brings home once again that Jesus was born in a messy, bleak environment. He lived in a chaotic, confused world. The discomfort of his birth was nothing compared with the agony of his dying. The point of the manger is to remind us that when God chose to come and be part of our lives, he did so in a manner that showed us he didn't expect VIP treatment. He came to be part of human experience at its toughest and most demanding.

This gives us a reassurance that lasts well beyond Christmas. Few of us have lives which go to plan and leave us untroubled. The fact that Jesus experienced the same kind of messiness and struggle as we do gives us confidence that when we seek God's support in dealing with our troubles, he knows what we're on about. We know he is our 'Immanuel' God with us in our confusion and he will help us through it.

May God bless you richly this Christmas and may we each know more of the wonder of the Christmas story— 'His'tory.

Every Blessing
Captain Carol

SUNDAY ATTENDANCE

Week 1	42
Week 2	40
Week 3	46
Week 4	45



AVERAGE 43

OFFERINGS

Envelope giving	£ 1347.93
Collections	£ 155.40
TOTAL	£ 1503.33

INCOME & OUTGOING

Income	£ 3335.66
Expenditure	£ 2937.74
SURPLUS	£ 397.92

**What can I give Him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb.
If I were a Wise Man
I would do my part.
Yet what can I give Him?
Give Him my heart.**

Taken from the Carol— In the
bleak midwinter





SUNDAY REFRESHMENTS

December

- 5 Christina, Gael, Jackie
- 12 Colleen, Betty G, Betty H
- 19 Sally, Helen, Sheila S.

January

- 2 Shirley, Sheila A, Paul, Lisa
- 9 Karen, Adrian, Peter
- 16 Christina, Gael, Jackie
- 23 Colleen, Betty G, Betty H
- 30 Sally, Helen, Sheila S

PRAYERS for Saffron Walden

PRAYERS for others

1. We pray for those of our number who are not well at present. We think of Janet Auger & Jack & June Banks. Also those of our number too who are feeling frail physically and emotionally.
2. We also ask for healing on those who have family members who are ill. We trust that God is the great physician—sometimes all we can do is place our loved ones in His hands.
3. We pray for our Christmas outreach at the town hall and in the various homes. We ask God's blessing on this ministry and that people might see something of the true message of Christmas and that they might come to know the Saviour of the world.
4. We too pray for the families which will be helped through the toy appeal and for those that attend and help at the Christmas day lunch. We ask that Jesus would be at the centre of all we do at this time of year and in that he will be glorified.
5. We continually thank God for the way he blesses our fellowship together and for the blessings of being part of His family in this place.



UNITED CHURCH PRAYERS

For the month of DECEMBER We pray for the NEW LIFE Pentecostal Church— it's leaders and members of this Church.

Christmas Concert

Thursday 9th December
7.30pm
Saffron Walden Town Hall

'A CHRISTMAS ADVENTure'

With Guests

'Cambridge Citadel Band'

'Our Children' &

'The Singing Group'



Christmas Activities

Please note times of our Services this year. A sheet detailing these events is on the notice-board along with details of ways in which we will need help. Please indicate by adding your name to the lists as and when you would be available.



Toy appeal: Once again we will be collecting, wrapping and distributing gifts to families with children where some support is needed. We have arranged for them to be collected at the Tourist Information, Superdrug and at our own hall. Karen will organise the wrapping and distribution and will be looking for help with this on Friday 17th December. In the meantime please report to Karen if you know of any families that may appreciate help through this appeal.

Christmas Day lunch and party

If you know of anyone who would otherwise be alone on this day, please encourage them to call us to book a place. To aid catering and ensure that we have enough help, we need to know names in advance of the day. We would also be particularly pleased to hear from people who are able to help with transporting guests at the start and end of the day.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

DECEMBER

Sun 5th 10am Service 2nd in Advent
3pm Barnetson Court Carol Service Great Dunmow
Tues 7th Cameo Trip to Scotsdales
6pm Junior Soldiers
Thurs 9th Town Hall Carol Service
Fri 10th Christmas Late night shopping - Churches Together Stall
Sat 11th Christmas coffee Morning
Sun 12th 10am Service 3rd in Advent
4pm Highfields Carol Service
Tues 14th 4pm Crib Service with URC
No Junior Soldiers at 6pm
Thurs 16th 'Well' Nativity 12.30
Fri 17th Wrapping gifts for toy Appeal.

Sun 19th 10am Meditation round the crib.

3pm Corps Carol Service
Tues 21st 12.30pm Nativity 'Well' Last before Christmas
Cameo — Carols with 'Carol' 5-8.30pm Carol Singing at Tesco's
24th Christmas eve service 11.30pm Castle Street Methodist.
Christmas Day 10.30am Joint service with URC followed by lunch
Sun 26th NO Service
Fri 31st New Year Party URC Hall 8pm Further details to follow
11.30pm Service

JANUARY

Sun 2nd 10am First Service of New Year.
Sun 9th Jam Club Party—Bring a Friend.
Sun 16th Commitment Sunday
Sun 23rd United Service URC
Sun 30th YP Annual Prizegiving

Sunday 19th December

**10am
Meditation and Carols around the crib.**



3pm Corps Carol Service