

CHRISTMAS 2021

We had several united events at Christmas. Just over 40 people attended "Carols on the Green" (right) on December 16th. Carols were introduced by our minister Ray Ursell and accompanied by a group from St Paul's Church, Sherborne. This was followed by mince pies and drinks in the church. The collections were as follows: Christingle Service and "Carols on the Green": £110 – divided equally between *Action for Children* and the *Children's Society*. Sunday Carol Service: £200 – donated to *Save the Children's Afghanistan Appeal*. Thanks to everyone who gave so generously!



PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

Lent is a time for discipline, for confession, for honesty, not because God is mean or fault-finding or finger-pointing but because he wants us to know the joy of being cleaned out, ready for all the good things he now has in store. — *N.T. Wright*.

God never said that the journey would be easy, but He did say that the arrival would be worthwhile. — *Max Lucado*

Temptation provokes me to look upward to God. — John Bunyan



A PRAYER

Lord Jesus, we thank You that you were willing to come to earth, and live a human life. We are encouraged to know that you understand the problems we face, and can give us the strength we need, if we simply ask. Thank You that you are our Friend. Amen



SMILE

It was a very long and boring sermon. As one parishioner left the church, he said: "Pastor, today your sermon reminded me of the peace and love of God."

The pastor was thrilled: "Really? Tell me why." "Because it endured forever."

After a service, a stranger approached the minister and said, "Please will you pray for my hearing."

He placed his hands on the man's ears and said

Sign in a Bucharest hotel lobby:
The lift is being fixed for the next day.
During that time we regret that you will be unbearable.

a passionate, earnest prayer.
"How's your hearing now?" he asked.
Looking surprised, the man said, "Well, my hearing is not until tomorrow."

A policeman spots a woman driving and knitting at the same time. Driving up beside her, he shouts: "Pull over!"
"No," she shouts back, "a pair of socks!"

The MESSENGER

**West Camel
Independent
Methodist Church**

NO. 517
FEBRUARY
-MARCH
2022

Our services are held at
All Saints Church



REGULAR ACTIVITIES:

Sundays: 4pm (until 27th March)

United Bible studies on "Zoom" monthly as announced.

MINISTER: Mr Ray Ursell (Tel. 01884 821375)

SECRETARY: Mrs Elizabeth Chapman, Mead Farm, Downhead. (Tel. 01935 850838)

WORSHIP
CO-ORDINATOR: Mr Geoff Chapman, Mead Farm, Downhead. (Tel. 01935 850838)

MUSICIANS: Mr Geoff Chapman and Mrs Judy Purnell

EDITOR: Mr Geoff Chapman.

A member of the Independent Methodist Connexion of Churches

[Jesus said] "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (*John 16: 33*)

EDITORIAL

GOD KNOWS

ONE of the things which sets Christianity apart from other belief systems is belief in the Trinity — God in three Persons. The Bible very clearly states that Jesus was God. He said “I and the Father are one.” (*John 10: 30*), and “Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.” (*John 14: 9*). In Jesus, God lived on earth as a man. At Christmas we celebrated His birth. Now, as we approach the season of Lent, we will be reminded that Jesus grew up and, like us, faced life’s challenges.



The bleak Judean wilderness

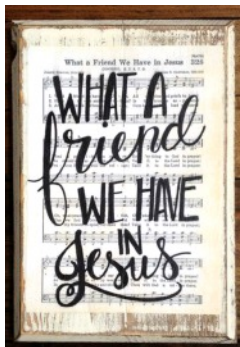
Although we all face temptation, during His forty days and nights in the wilderness Jesus faced a situation which we are unlikely ever to face, when, at His most vulnerable, He was tempted to take the easy way, rather than fulfil His Father’s purpose by going to the cross to pay for our sins. The author of Hebrews wrote: “Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.” (*Hebrews 2: 18*).

During His short life on earth, Jesus also experienced many other things that we sometimes face — misunderstanding, scorn and ridicule, and personal danger. He also experienced the emotions common to humans, such as hurt, loneliness and bereavement. He shed tears at the tomb of a friend, and wept over the city of Jerusalem because He could see that their rejection of Him as their Messiah would result in disaster. He was left alone as His disciples forsook Him when He was arrested, tried and crucified. After His resurrection, Jesus returned to heaven as a man, though with a body for ever beyond the reach of death. In heaven, the Bible tells us, He is praying for those who seek to be His faithful disciples here on earth.

God knows what it’s like to live in this world, with its challenges and struggles. He is not a God who is “up there,” but “God with us.” In the words of hymn-writer Johnson Oatman:

*Jesus knows all about our struggles,
He will guide till the day is done;
There’s not a friend like the lowly Jesus—
No, not one! no, not one!*

We often sing “What a Friend we have in Jesus.” What a Friend indeed — who died for us, to bring us back into God’s family. A living Friend, who promised to be with us through the Holy Spirit. There is no need to face life’s difficulties alone! Is He Your Friend?



We have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. (*Hebrews 4: 15-16*)

SUNDAY SERVICES

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|----------|------|------|--|
| February | 6th | 4pm | “Sunday @ Four” (U.S.) |
| “ | 13th | 4pm | Mr Geoff Chapman |
| “ | 20th | 4pm | Mr Ray Ursell (C.S.) |
| “ | 27th | 4pm | Mr Clarence Spracklen of Milborne Port |
| March | 6th | 4pm | “Sunday @ Four” (U.S.) |
| “ | 13th | 4pm | Mr David Herring of Bridgwater |
| “ | 20th | 4pm | Mr Ray Ursell (H.C.) |
| “ | 27th | 10am | Mothering Sunday Service (U.S.) |
| | | 6pm | Mr Tom Oaks of Milborne Port |

(C. S. = Covenant Service. H.C. = Holy Communion. U.S. = United Service)

Wednesday 23rd February
10am-12.30pm

LEGO HOLIDAY CLUB

For children aged 4-12
Build Bible scenes with Lego!
Also songs, games, quizzes and refreshments. Free admission.

To register children, please contact:
01935 850838

WATER AID LENT APPEAL



Help provide clean water to those who lack it by collecting change during Lent, which begins on 2nd March.

Special jam-jar labels will be available.

NEWS FROM THE PAST

From *The Western Gazette* 50 years ago

On Sunday the Methodist Church had a visit from Mr and Mrs Philip Holder, who are on furlough from the Philippines, where they are working with the China Inland Mission. Mr Holder preached at both the morning and evening services. They return to the Philippines in May. —11th February 1972.

The Methodist Church was filled on Monday when two films were shown, “Facing the Facts” and “The Ultimate

Adventure.” The projectionist was Mr Peter Moore, and for the first time the youth club’s own projector was used. It was purchased from the proceeds of a sponsored walk last autumn, which raised £40. —3rd March 1972.

On Sunday a young people’s ‘get-together’ was held at Lower Farm, when there was singing and a Bible quiz. The speaker was Miss S Bartlett of Ansford School. Refreshments were provided. —17th March 1972.