

Christmas is coming .. invite Christ to take control! Christmas is coming ... invite Christ



Ludlow Elim Christian Fellowship

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"Making families fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ"

Number 24: December 2011 - In this issue.....



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Tim Says

As you get this newsletter, the season of Advent will have just begun (Sunday 27th Nov). The idea of advent, is through symbols to encourage Christians to be prepared for the coming of their Saviour at Christmas time. For example; the advent wreath is circular which speaks of eternal life which Jesus would usher in as a result of his sacrifice on the cross. It is green in colour, sometimes made out of fern type material. 'This speaks to us of life too and also of growth that Christians should

enjoy as they trust the Lord more & more. Attached to the wreath are 4 candles (Not fork handles !!), traditionally 3 were purple or mauve in colour and 1 was pink.

On the first Sunday in Advent, one candle would be lit, on the second Sunday two candles etc. This spoke of the ever increasing light that Christ wants to shine into our lives, folks who watched the candles being lit were exhorted to pray for more of Christ in their lives and to repent of their sinful thoughts, deeds, habits and practices which would prevent them having close fellowship with the Lord. The first candle symbolised hope, the second love, the third joy (Pink in colour) and the fourth peace. All of these characteristics are to

be found in Jesus, but also are to be demonstrated in us. We can sometimes be put off by such things and believe that somehow we are "more spiritual".

But the cross as a symbol and we honour that, bread & wine are symbols and so too are the waters of baptism and we would not dream of demeaning them !!

So as we approach Christmas, prepare your own heart... take a few minutes each day to ask the Lord to reveal ways in which He is not in control of your life and then determine to invite Him to take control. This Saviour is your Saviour, His name is Jesus and He saves His people from their sins!

Text for the Month

Matthew 1:21 You are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins

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December Events

Sat 3rd: 7pm Valley Worship at Burford Village Hall
George Verwer of OM will be the speaker.
You'll miss a real treat if you miss this

Sun 4th: 10.30am Service - Tim speaking

Sun 4th: Christmas Lunch at Cadmore Hotel

Sun 4th: 6pm Prayer Meeting

Tue 6th: 10am-4pm Quiet Day.... Please come & support as we wait on God for what He has to say to us

Tue 6th: 7.30pm - Gil speaking

Sat 10th: 7.30pm Garage Praise in National Trust Cardin Mill Valley. Carols, mulled wine and mince pies in front of a log fire. Everyone welcome.

Sun 11th: 10.30am Go with the flow

Mon 12th Prayer for Israel- please see Kathy Boulton

Mon 12th: 7pm Men meeting in kitchen area

Tue 13th: 7.30pm - Carol Singing around the area with a view to inviting people along. PLEASE JOIN US !!

Tue 13th: Tim leading Christmas service at 4 Rivers Nursing home. If you can help, please let Tim know

Sun 18th: 10.30am - Christmas Family Service

Mon 19th: 6pm Living Nativity outside "One-Stop" & concluding circa 7:15pm at the Castle with Hot Chocolate.

Tue 20th: - NO MEETING

Sun 25th: 10.30am - Christmas Day Family Service - Jackie speaking. Please bring unsaved friends

Tue 27th: - NO MEETING

Sat 31st: - 8pm - 12.30am Watch Night Service

THIS MONTHS EVENTS

In readiness for the Living Nativity, we will be carol singing around the area on Tuesday 13th December, with a view to inviting people along.... PLEASE JOIN US!!

Living Nativity: Monday 19th Dec 6pm

We will be doing the Living Nativity again this year, starting 6pm outside "One-Stop" & concluding circa 7:15pm at the Castle with Hot Chocolate. This year we have a 'massed schools choir' singing for us along the way & we hope that the weather will be kind, and therefore the donkey will be there! Tenbury Town Band are booked.... If you would like to play a part (or you know someone who would) please see Tim ASAP.

AGM

If you were not able to get to AGM, there are a few copies of the agenda & report available. Please see Jackie Shaw or Tim ASAP, A full copy of the accounts is available to members only from Jean Dancy.

Giving

Would you please consider:

- 1) Increasing your giving - regularly giving is about 10% down
- 2) Giving under gift aid. This enables us to claim back the tax you have already paid. Last year this was over £8,000! We need the money more than the government !!
- 3) Making sure you don't forget your giving if you are not at church. (Perhaps set up a bank transfer?). PLEASE DON'T give to the building fund - the general fund should be given to first else we won't be able to pay our way.

Please also consider tithing ... the Bible expresses this as a command - see Tim if you want to discuss this.

Newsletters by email

If you are on email, could we send newsletter to you electronically to save on paper, printing and postage.

Please let Linda Brant know your email address on

linda.brant@hotmail.co.uk

Friday Youth Update

I'm sure that many of you will be aware that over the past few months we have regularly been having between 30 - 40 youngsters on a Friday night to the youth club aged from 10 up; the majority of whom are in families which do not attend church. This kicked off when we had the youth track students from Regents last year to work with Dain and has continued right through the summer months with Dain and various volunteers helping out from within the church and around Ludlow.

The church on a Friday does not look at all like it does on Sunday mornings, but the chairs are cleared aside to make it resemble a youth club. The kids have access to a Wii, X-box, karaoke with lights, pool, a couple of computers and a tuck shop and room to sit and chat.

We have a team of students from Regents to help support and build on this work that has started. Our desire is that the friendships that have been established with these kids will be built upon and that this will open up more opportunities for more conversations about Jesus.

Please pray:-

- 1) For this work as we are reaching out to those who know very little or nothing of Jesus and the hope that there is in him.
- 2) For Dain as he integrates the new students into this work and also that the students will engage and gel with the youth.
- 3) And also most of all please pray for these kids - they need Jesus!

Quiz Night Report

On Tuesday 25 October the brains of Britain were gathered and seated, making up twelve teams and what motley crews they were! Tension filled the air.

Prior to commencement of this electrifying evening, our MC for the night, Tim Coles, was in a corner of the room, gargling, practicing his scales and combing his wig ready for this big event.

Teams were huddled in scrum like groups, discussing tactics, hurriedly reading through their Encyclopaedia Britannica's, Oxford Thesaurus, Marx's Des Kapital, Politics Today and the Beano. The only thing missing was Jeremy Paxman from University Challenge!!

The quiz was divided into several sections, such as, sport, cookery, TV & entertainment and so on; an eclectic mix of questions tested the teams to the full. There was so much scratching of heads, that many left with their fingers full of splinters.

The winners were Woofferton Wonders, in second place The Crusaders and in third place Tea and Biscuits. All teams celebrated or drowned their sorrows with the most wonderful banquet served by the 'Hostess with the Mostest', Barbara accompanied by her fair maidens. A good time was had by all. God really does move in mysterious ways.

Roving Reporter

Zilla Craby

Please Pray for:

- Jackie, Rachael, Siobhan, & Henrique at Regents College
- Frank & Ann Mason and Henrique as they work on placement with us
- The "Youth-Track" students who will be helping on a Friday Night: Henrique, Becky Stephens, Reuben Mackriell, Dave Pennington and Shedean Wellington
- Carol in Tenerife working to witness to Prostitutes & Lap Dancers. Please pray for wisdom, safe-keeping & the joy of seeing a response to her witness
- Sue Garrett battling with MS, pray for a complete healing
- Paul Broad, who is having treatment for cancer.
- Sarah at Cheltenham
- Matt in Oxford..... start to pray that employment opportunities will open
- All those struggling to quit smoking that God will do miracles in their lives
- Our building to sell & for doors to open for land / building for us to move to. Our next Prayer meeting for this will be on Sunday evening 4th December 6pm.

Prayer

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy for us to carry, too real to hide and too deep to undo.

Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire.

Set us free from a past that we cannot change.

Open to us a future in which we can be changed;

And grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the Light of the World.

Submitted by Des Palmer

Taken from the Lookout Mountain Presbyterian Church USA

Prayer for Youth

Jackie Shaw is planning to organise a "Prayer for the Youth" group to pray for specific requests. If you would be willing to commit to pray regularly for the Youth (in your own home/time) please let Jackie know and she will contact you with details.

NB This would be in your own home / time.

**A Big Thank You
for all the people
who did Shoe
Boxes!!**

Christmas Cards

It is suggested that we all send ONE Christmas card to the whole Fellowship rather than a card to every family.

Things for
Mums & Tots.....
Little Squiggles
meets on a
Thursday
morning. See
Louise Bromley
for more details
01584 856747

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And Finally.....

The Sunday School teacher was describing how Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt, when little Jason interrupted,
'My Mommy looked back once while she was driving,' he announced triumphantly, 'and she turned into a telephone pole!'

A Sunday school teacher was telling her class the story of the Good Samaritan. She asked the class, 'If you saw a person lying on the roadside, all wounded and bleeding, what would you do?'

A thoughtful little girl broke the hushed silence, 'I think I'd throw up.'

A Sunday school teacher said to her children,
'We have been learning how powerful kings and queens were in Bible times. But, there is a Higher Power. Can anybody tell me what it is?'
One child blurted out, 'Aces!'

A Sunday School teacher decided to have her young class memorize one of the most quoted passages in the Bible - Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the chapter.
Little Rick was excited about the task - but he just couldn't remember the Psalm. After much practice, he could barely get past the first line.
On the day that the kids were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Ricky was so nervous. When it was his turn, he stepped up to the microphone and said proudly,
'The Lord is my Shepherd, and that's all I need to know.'

(Amen to that!!)

Newsletters by email

If you are on email, could we send newsletter to you electronically to save on paper, printing and postage.

Please let Linda Brant know your email address on

linda.brant@hotmail.co.uk

YOUR contribution could be in this newsletter.....

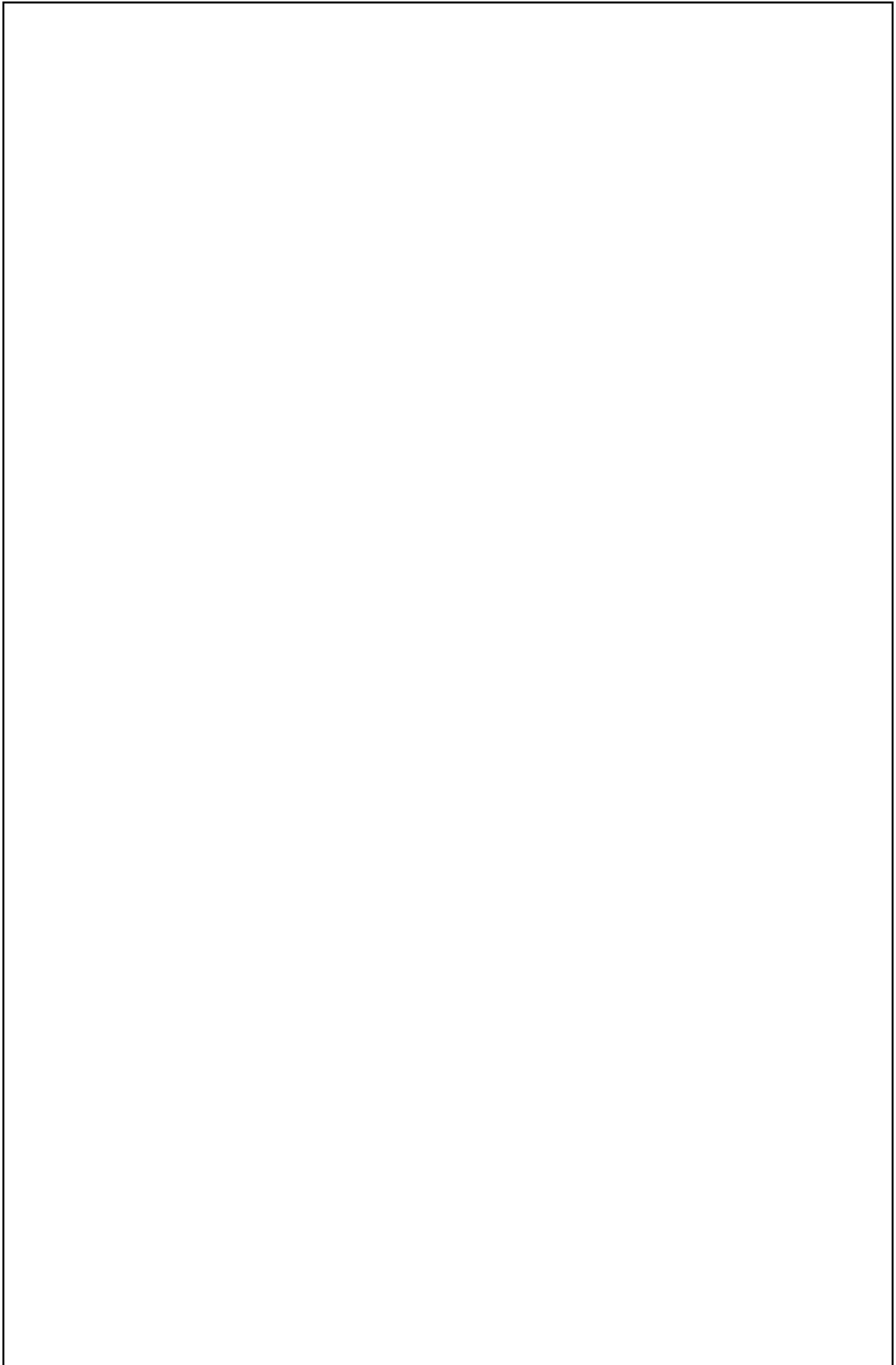
Send it (preferably by e-mail) by Dec 15th to

Tim Coles (trcoles@talktalk.net) or

Linda Brant (linda.brant@hotmail.co.uk)

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