

# TODMORDEN BAPTIST HERALD

## DECEMBER 2023 - JANUARY 2024

### VALE BAPTIST CHURCH

**Contact Person:**

Mrs Carol Haughey

 01706 816557

Email: [haughey524@btinternet.com](mailto:haughey524@btinternet.com)  
[www.valebc.org.uk](http://www.valebc.org.uk)



### ROOMFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH

**Contact Person:**

Mrs Dilys Peacock

 01422 846684

Email: [dilyspeacock@gmail.com](mailto:dilyspeacock@gmail.com)  
[www.roomfieldchurch.org](http://www.roomfieldchurch.org)



Come  
Let us  
Adore  
Him,  
Christ  
The  
Lord



# Vale Pulpit Supply

3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec	10.30 am	Clare Ashton - Communion
10 <sup>th</sup> Dec	10.30 am	Rev Kath Lawson - Christmas Remembrance
17 <sup>th</sup> Dec	10.30 am	Crawford Kirkwood
	2.00 pm	Carol Service
24 <sup>th</sup> Dec	10.30 am	Patrick Smith
	11.30 pm	Rev Martin Parrot
25 <sup>th</sup> Dec	10:30 am	Deacons - CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE
31 <sup>st</sup> Dec	10:30 am	Simon Keane
7 <sup>th</sup> Jan	10:30 am	Nigel Turton - Communion and Covenant Service
14 <sup>th</sup> Jan	10:30 am	Neil Munro
21 <sup>st</sup> Jan	10:30 am	Neal Lefroy Owen
28 <sup>th</sup> Jan	10:30 am	Clare Ashton



## Christmas Arrangements

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup>** Christmas Gift Service (gifts for foodbank)

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup>** Christmas Remembrance Service

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup>** 2 pm Carols at Millreed Care Home

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup>** 11-12 noon Churches Together Carols  
outside Morrisons

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup>** Christmas bring and share lunch  
between morning service and Carol service

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup>** Community Carols (starting 5.30 pm)

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup>** 11.30 Midnight Communion

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup>** Christmas Day Service

# VALE DIARY DATES

Tues 5<sup>th</sup> Dec 7.30 pm Deacons Meeting

Tues 9<sup>th</sup> Jan 7.30 pm Church Meeting

Sun 14<sup>th</sup> Jan Notes for FEBRUARY - MARCH Herald due today



THE HERALD TEAM  
WISH EVERYONE  
A PEACEFUL AND JOYFUL CHRISTMAS  
CELEBRATING OUR SAVIOUR'S BIRTH



The following regular meetings take place at Vale , All are welcome.

<b>Sunday</b>	Meeting for prayer and quiet before Church Service	9.45 am - 10.15 am
<b>Monday</b>	Elevenses, come and have a cuppa and chat in a relaxed atmosphere Community Keep Fit Yoga	10.30 am to 12 noon 4.00 - 5.00 pm 6.30 - 7.30 pm
<b>Tuesday</b>	Men's Prayer meeting Community Hub (lunch and activities) Prayer / Bible Study meeting at Vale Ladies Guild (4th Tuesday in the month)	10.30 am to 11.45 pm 11.30 am - 1.30 pm 7.30 pm to 9.00 pm 2.00 pm
<b>Thursday</b>	Parent and Toddler Group (Term Time only)	9.30 am to 11.30 am
<b>Friday</b>	Prayer for our Community	10.30 am - 12 noon
<b>Saturday</b>	Men's breakfast	8.30 am to 10.00 am

## **“Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, hail the incarnate Deity”**

Integral to the Christmas story is the visit of Magi from the east, the so-called three Kings. It is a common sight on Christmas cards to see shepherds and Magi gathered around the baby Jesus in a stable. There is no proof they were kings and there may have been more than three of them, though gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh were offered to the young child. However it is very unlikely their visit coincided with the shepherds. Indeed it may have been up to two years later that they arrived. One thing that is certain is that the visit had disastrous consequences for many families in the area when King Herod ordered the slaughter of all male children aged two and under.

A recent documentary on the disappearance of the “Princes in the Tower” claimed to have unearthed new evidence on what really happened to the two young boys. Regardless of whether their uncle, Richard III was as black as he was painted, or unjustly maligned, it is a fact of history that any monarch deemed to be a usurper needed to bolster up their position by ridding themselves of possible rivals.

King Herod the Great was the king of Judea at the time of Jesus’s birth. He was appointed as king by Rome, and though not Jewish - he was an Arab by birth – his father had converted to Judaism. Still he was generally regarded by the Jewish leaders as a usurper with no right to the throne, the true line of kingship being the descendants of King David. So Herod’s position was precarious and he became increasingly paranoid in his later years.

His insecurities had led him to have three sons, his wife, her brother, mother and grandfather murdered, convinced – not without reason – that they were plotting against him. So what happened, when he was visited by Magi from the east looking for the King of the Jews, was by no means out of character. Once he realised he had been duped by the Magi his fury was unbridled.

What is interesting is that the Magi recognised in Jesus something so special they fell down and worshipped him. Their gifts were prophetic, recognising the dual role Jesus would play and his ultimate fate; gold for a King, frankincense for priesthood and myrrh signifying death. The Jesus we celebrate and worship at Christmas is the same Jesus whose death and resurrection we remember at Easter. These two major Christian festivals are inextricably linked. Without Christmas there could be no Easter. God becoming human enabled him to die so that we might have eternal life. As we celebrate this Christmas may we know the reality of that salvation.

***Kath Lawson***

# Vale News

## Family News

Our sympathy goes to Carol Haughey and all the family on the death of Connie Barker, who was such a lovely lady.

During our Remembrance service on November 12th, we went outside to the memorial and Patrick Smith read out 137 names of local men who gave their lives for us in both World Wars. It was so nice to see Pam Widdup there, along with several members of her family.

\*\*\*\*\*

**A Star is Born** It was a lovely surprise to see Jacob on the stage at the Hippodrome in their production of Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat. His cheery smile and sparkly eyes were instantly recognisable. We look forward to seeing him in starring roles in the future. Well done Jacob. Christine

\*\*\*\*\*

**Flowers** for October were provided by Mrs Christine Clark (in memory of Neil) and also from our friends who wish to remain anonymous. Our fund provided the flowers for the beginning of November. Thank you everyone for your contributions.

**BMS Birthday Scheme.** Thank you to everyone who contribute to our Birthday Scheme. We were able to send £314 this year which was gratefully received and will go towards medical needs in the poor areas of the world.

**Ladies' Guild** Jim Haughey was our Speaker on October 24th and told us about several interesting things which may have been Co-incidence, or God-incidence. We could decide for ourselves.

Joyce Brierley brought our programme for the year to a close on the 28th November with some of her beautiful pictures.

Our next meeting will be the AGM and Members' Meeting on March 26th 2024, so please would you bring something such as a story or a poem to share?

\*\*\*

The Community Hub (previously Warm Space) has begun again, and everyone is very welcome from 11.30 am to 1.30 pm on Tuesdays to have a hot drink, something to eat or to simply enjoy a chat.

The next church meeting will be held on Tuesday 9th January at 7.30pm

Only believers obey;  
only the obedient believe.  
Our beliefs are not measured by our statements,  
but by our actions.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

**No Room** Dorothy M Loughran

It was a wonderful night; I remember it well  
Though nobody asked me, I've my story to tell.

I was truly reluctant to turn them away,  
But I had no room – what else could I say?  
But they both looked so weary, and she was so young,  
And expecting a baby, so I softened my tongue.

Then I mentioned my stable and said they could stay,  
Though all I could offer was a bed in the hay.  
Well, you know the story; there was this shining star,  
And the shepherds and wise men who'd come from afar.

But now and forever I shall always regret  
That I couldn't find Him a special place - yet  
Don't judge me too harshly, for when all's said and done,  
I had no forewarning that He was God's Son.



**If you believe in a God who controls the big things, you have to believe in a God who controls the little things.**

**It is we, of course, to whom things look 'little' or 'big'.**

**Elisabeth Elliot**

The morning of the dress rehearsal, I walked in and sat down. Around the room, I saw several other parents quietly taking their seats. As I waited, the students were led into the room.

Each class, accompanied by their teacher, sat cross-legged on the floor. Then, each group, one by one, rose to perform their song.

Because the public school system had long stopped referring to the holiday as “Christmas,” I didn’t expect anything other than fun, commercial entertainment...songs of reindeer, Santa Claus, snowflakes and good cheer. So, when my son’s class rose to sing, “Christmas Love,”

I was slightly taken aback by its bold title.

My son was aglow, as were all of his classmates, in their fuzzy mittens, red sweaters, and bright snowcaps upon their heads. Those in the front row – centre stage – held up large letters, one by one, to spell out the title of the song.

As the class would sing “C is for Christmas,” a child would hold up the letter C. Then, “H is for Happy,” and on and on, until each child holding up his portion had presented the complete message, “Christmas Love.”

The performance was going smoothly, until suddenly, we noticed a small girl in the front row holding the letter “M” upside down – totally unaware her letter “M” appeared as a “W”. The audience smiled at this little one’s mistake. But she had no idea they were laughing at her, so she stood tall, proudly holding her “W”.

Although many teachers tried to shush the children, the laughter continued until the last letter was raised, and we all saw it together. A hush came over the audience and eyes began to widen. In that instant, we understood the reason we were there, why we celebrated the holiday in the first place, why even in the chaos, there was a purpose for our festivities.

For when the last letter was held high, the message read loud and clear: “CHRISTWAS LOVE” And, I believe, He still is!!

Well done to all who packed boxes for the Christmas Child appeal. As a result we were able to send a record 36 boxes this year!



At this time of year  
when we seek Peace and Goodwill  
among the peoples of the world:

*Lord, make us instruments of Your Peace:*

*Where there is hatred, give love;*

*Where there is injury, pardon*

*Where there is doubt, faith;*

*Where there is despair, hope;*

*Where there is sadness, joy;*

*Where there is darkness, light;*

*Grant that we may not seek  
so much to be consoled as to console;*

*To be understood, as to understand;*

*To be loved, as to love,*

*For in giving we receive,*

*In pardoning we are pardoned,*

*And in dying we are born into eternal life.*

*Francis of Assisi*

2023



YEAR  
CHANGE  
AHEAD

2024