

TODMORDEN BAPTIST HERALD

DECEMBER 2017 / JANUARY 2018

VALE BAPTIST CHURCH

Contact :

Mrs Carol Haughey



01706 816557

Email: Haughey524@

btinternet.com

www.valebc.org.uk



ROOMFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor:

Dr. John Lockhart

11 Rock Terrace

Todmorden OL14 6PU



01706 814195

Email: jlockhart@me.com

www.roomfieldchurch.org



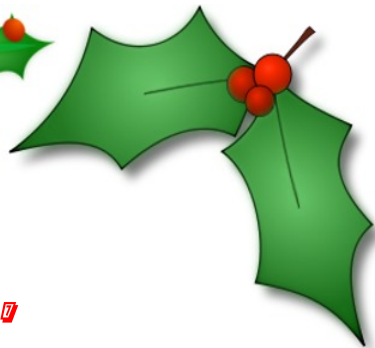
And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, *Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men in whom he is well pleased.* Luke 2:13-14

Vale Pulpit Supply

3rd Dec	10.30 am	Rev Kath Lawson -Christmas Remembrance and Communion
10th Dec	10.30 am	Howard Ellison - Gift Sunday
17th Dec	10.30 am	Janet Waithaka followed by Christmas Lunch
24th Dec	10.30 am	Rev Irene Greenman - Carol Service
25th Dec	10.30 am	CHRISTMAS DAY
31st Dec	10.30 am	Rev Irene Greenman
7th Jan	10.30 am	Rev Kath Lawson -Covenant and Communion
14th Jan	10.30 am	Linda Smith
21st Jan	10.30 am	Susan Western
28th Jan	10.30 am	Neil Munro

Roomfield Pulpit Supply

3rd Dec	10.45 am	Leprosy Mission
10th Dec	10.45 am	John Lockhart
17th Dec	10.45 am	John Lockhart
24th Dec	10.45 am	John Lockhart
31st Dec	10.45 am	Doreen Landriau
7th Jan	10.45 am	TBC
14th Jan	10.45 am	TBC
21st Jan	10.45 am	TBC
28th Jan	10.45 am	TBC



**MAY LOVE,
JOY AND
PEACE
FILL YOUR CHRISTMAS
AND
NEW YEAR**

**SEASON'S
GREETINGS
FROM
THE HERALD TEAM**



The 1 Corinthians 13 of Christmas

If I decorate my house with beautiful twinkling lights and shiny balls, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another decorator.

If I bake dozens of mince pies and roast the perfect turkey, but have no love for my guests, I'm just another cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen and give all that I have to charity, but do not have compassion for those in need, I am just another social service.

If I wrap, decorate and attend a myriad of parties, but don't focus on Christ, I have missed the point.

Love stops the cooking to hug the child.

Love doesn't envy another's perfectly co-ordinated Christmas décor.

Love puts the present shopping on hold to run the elderly neighbour to the doctor.

Love is kind though harassed and tired.

Love bears all things, even irritating relatives. It believes all things, including a teenager's potential for development. It hopes all things and endures all things, even a spouse who is constantly depressed about job prospects.

Love never fails other people.

Food gets eaten, computer games will crash and even cashmere jumpers wear out, but the gift of love will endure forever.

Vale News

Family News

Congratulations to Mrs Pilling who celebrates her 90th birthday in November, David Lawson who will be 70 in December and Kath Lawson who will also be 70 in January.

00000

On November 4th 1967 David and Kath Kerr were married at St Mary's church. To jointly celebrate David's 70th birthday and their wedding anniversary, they recently had a holiday in Venice. On November 5th, David and Kath treated us to a wonderful buffet after the service. Flowers and gifts from the church family and Ladies Guild were given to this very special and much loved couple.

00000

Quiz Night

Thanks to all who attended our Quiz Night on September 15th and special thanks for all the delicious pies and peas. Great fun was had by all, especially when the microphone stand fell on the inquisitor. £125 was raised for church funds. Thanks for your support.

Christine C.

Harvest Supper

Saturday 14th October was the day that 'Strictly' came to Todmorden. We were joined by friends from Roomfield for a Bring & Share supper and it was a truly magnificent feast. Many thanks to everyone for their contributions. David showed a video of the work of Operation Agri for which a retiring collection raised £121.



Then our very own Claudia and Tess (aka Kath and Margaret) led a memorable evening of 'proper dancing'. Everyone joined in from the youngest to the oldest. Lewis proved to be a budding Kevin Clifton but the award for star dancer must surely go to Jonny Kerr for his style, energy and enthusiasm.

Special thanks to Kath Kerr whose idea it was and who organised the music and the hay bales. Dahling it was FAB-U-LOUS! An evening of fun and fellowship; it was a celebration of all of God's gifts to us in the harvests of our lives. On the Sunday, we continued our thanksgiving as we worshipped at Roomfield in a service led by John.

The little box on the table in church is for donations to Home Mission in December and for B.M.S. in January.

Dear Friends,

We would like to say a big thank you to you all for helping us to celebrate our Golden Wedding Anniversary. We had a lovely weekend and it was an extra blessing when you all joined us on Sunday for "a bit of a do". It rounded everything off nicely.

Thank you for all your cards and good wishes, for the lovely flowers, for David's "medication" and for the very generous cheque.

God bless you all, David and Kath (Kerr).

Ladies' Guild

There was a good attendance when Rev Martin Parrott was our Speaker on the 20th of September and we all very much enjoyed his talk.

Rev Betty Pedley led our service on Ladies' Sunday, 8th of October during which we sang 'How great Thou art', 'The church's one foundation', 'Dear Lord and Father of Mankind', 'What a friend we have in Jesus', and 'All I once held dear'. Approximately 26 people including Betty stayed for a finger buffet afterwards and we were pleased that Doreen Landriau was able to come after preaching at Roomfield church.

On October 24th, Joyce Brierley, along with her sister Janet Wright, showed us some beautiful pictures of Todmorden and the surrounding areas and ones of her holiday in Germany. The meeting was well attended and we again welcomed ladies from St Mary's who enjoy coming to our Ladies' Guild.

Margaret Crowther will be with us on November 28th, also with pictures for us to see. Please do come and bring a friend with you. We don't meet in December but weather permitting, we hope to hold our Annual General Meeting on January 23rd 2018.

Operation Christmas Child

25 boxes will soon be on their way to provide some happiness to children around the world in great need due to their circumstances. Thank you, on their behalf, to all who contributed.

Misheard! A little boy's mother was telling him the Christmas story. He chipped in and said that his teacher had told the class that Mary was an ordinary housewife and Joseph was a carpet fitter.

Flowers for September were provided by Mrs Shirley Fielden (in memory of Ronnie) and for the end of October by Mrs Christine Clark, Thank you to all for your contributions to our Flower Fund from which the flowers for the beginning of November were taken.

Birthday Scheme

A cheque for £282.00 was sent to BMS Birthday Scheme to help with essential medical supplies for adults and children in the poorest countries. Thank you to everyone who supports the scheme.

If anyone has any used stamps, they are also welcome. I send a parcel once a year
Joyce



Our Christmas Lunch

will be held on Sunday 17th December after our morning service. I shall be circulating with my clipboard so please come and see me about contributions towards the meal.

Christine C.



No Room

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 - so 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 for ever, 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.

Dorothy M Loughran

— WE CARE — ABOUT YOU



Vale took part in the National Prayer Week-end Sept 29th -Oct 1st. as a church we worked together to distribute over a thousand letters with offers of prayer to our local community.

This included both schools in the area and I was very encouraged by the response I got from Todmorden High School. Staff there encouraged the pupils to take part and forwarded to me the prayer requests they had received. The school would also be happy to be involved next year. The school kindly donated any left-over cakes and biscuits from the Macmillan fund raising day for us to use during the events we had planned for the weekend.

On the Saturday the church was open from 10am-4pm. During this time different members of the church came along to support the work. We had seven people come along who wouldn't normally do so. One lady came to thank us for the letter she had received, which she said came at the time she needed to know that someone cared about her. She stopped for a brew and cake and left her prayer requests with us.

On the Saturday evening we had a service of Celebration and Thanks Giving which turned out quite different to how I had been expecting. It was very informal and apart from one person it was attended by regular members of the church. It was however a wonderful opportunity for us to present the prayer Requests in a creative and moving way. See photos below.



Again may I take this opportunity to say thank you to all those who supported the prayer mission and hope it is something we will be able to take part in on a regular basis.

Roonfield News

Roomfield Church – Regular Activities		
MONDAY	Inspire – Bible Study	11:00am (check for dates)
WEDNESDAY	Rainbows Contact Katie Brooman: 07769 151276	5:00 – 6:00pm (term time)
	Brownies Contact Abigail Birch: 07796 618411	6.10 – 7.20pm (term time)
	Guides Contact Theresa Scholfield: 01706 839959	7.30 – 9.00pm (term time)
THURSDAY	Pilates Classes Contact Kerensa McKie: 01706 818007	10.00–11.00 am
FRIDAY	Quo Vadis (occasional Fridays)	7:30 pm (check for dates)

Inspire – Bible Study

Our Bible Study sessions take place on Mondays at 11:00 most weeks. We are currently working our way through Acts, which throws up many surprises that people may not have noticed before! You are very welcome to join the group at any stage. Please look out for notices to check which weeks we will meet.

Advent Course

Our Advent Course of four sessions will run on Thursdays from 30th November at 7:30pm.

Making a difference

Sometimes individuals can make a tremendous difference in the world. Two examples who spring to mind both helped Jewish refugees from the Nazis, and both lived long lives. Sir Nicholas Winton became known for helping 669 children, mostly Jewish, leave Czechoslovakia to find safety in Britain just before the start of the second world war. He died in 2015, aged 106. Ruth Gruber was instrumental in getting almost a thousand Jews to safety in the United States in 1944, and working to help them stay after the war. She died in 2016 at the age of 105.

Both had long lives and both had made a tremendous contribution to saving lives. Sir Nicholas was a quiet hero:

The first transport of children organized by Winton left Prague by plane for London on March 14, 1939, the day before the Germans occupied the Czech lands. After the Germans established a Protectorate in the Czech provinces of Bohemia and Moravia, Winton organized seven further transports that departed by rail out of Prague and across Germany to the Atlantic Coast, then by ship across the English Channel to Britain. At the train station in London, British foster parents waited to collect the children. The last trainload of children left Prague on August 2, 1939. Rescue activities ceased when Germany invaded Poland and Britain declared war in Germany in early September 1939. (Source: Holocaust Encyclopaedia)

What is remarkable is that his story remained hidden for many years until his wife discovered in the attic an old log book that Nicholas had kept.

Likewise, the film *Haven* tells the story of Ruth Gruber, an American journalist who was instrumental in bringing a group of 1,000 Jewish refugees who arrived in the United States in 1944, the only such refugees to arrive in the US en masse.

In 1944, Gruber got involved in a mission to bring 1,000 Jewish refugees from Italy to the United States. Despite the risk of sailing on waters patrolled by German submarines, then Interior Secretary Ickes appointed her to travel with the refugees.

She lobbied fiercely for the refugees to be given American citizenship, which they eventually were granted. (Source: Haaretz)

In difficult circumstances, both individuals made a difference. Few of us can repeat the heroic efforts of people like Nicholas Winton and Ruth Gruber, but we need to remember that they were only ordinary people responding to extraordinary demands. There is no shortage of issues in the world today. How can we make a difference?

John Lockhart

VALE DIARY DATES

Sat 2nd Dec	8.30 am Men's Breakfast
Thur 14th Dec	2.30 pm Carols at Waterside
Sat 16th Dec	8.30 am Men's Breakfast
Sat 6th Jan	8.30 am Men's Breakfast
Sat 6th Jan	3.00 to 6.00 pm Post Christmas Party
Mon 8th Jan	7.30 pm Churches Together Meeting at St Mary's
Tue 9th Jan	7.30 pm Church Meeting
Sun 14th Jan	Herald notes for FEBRUARY-MARCH due today
Sat 20th Jan	8.30 am Men's Breakfast
Tue 23rd Jan	2pm Ladies Guild AGM (weather permitting)

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

SUNDAY	Meeting for prayer and quiet before Church Service	9.45 am - 10.15 am
MONDAY	Elevenses, come and have a cuppa and chat in a relaxed atmosphere at Vale	10.30 am -12 noon
TUESDAY	Prayer Meeting in Church	10.00 am
	Prayer / Bible Study meeting at Vale (Parsonage or Church)	7.30 pm - 8.30 pm
SATURDAY	Men's breakfast 1st and 3rd Saturdays	8.30 am - 10.00 am

A Prayer for the New Year

Dear God,

Thank you for all that you've allowed into our lives this past year, the good along with the hard things, which have reminded us how much we need you and rely on your presence every single day.

Thank you that you make all things new.

We pray that you would lead us through this New Year, guiding our decisions. We ask that you will open doors that need opening and close the ones needing to be shut tight. We ask that you would help us release our grip on the things to which you've said "no," "not yet," or "wait."

Let your gifts flow freely through us, so that you are honoured by our lives, and others will be drawn to you.

Keep us far from the traps of temptations. That you would whisper in our ear when we need to run, and whisper in our heart when we need to stand our ground.

We pray for your protection over our families and friends.

Keep our footsteps firm, on solid ground, helping us to be consistent and faithful. Forgive us for the times we have worked so hard to be self-sufficient, forgetting our need for you, living independent of your spirit. Forgive us for letting fear and worry control our minds, and for allowing pride and selfishness to wreak havoc over our lives. Forgive us for not following your ways and for living distant from your presence.

We confess our need for you...fresh...new...again. We ask that you make all things new, in our hearts, in our minds, in our lives, for this coming year.

Help us to be generous and kind, help us to look to the needs of others and not be consumed by only our own, making the fruits of your spirit evident in our lives - your love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Shine your light in us, through us, over us in this new year. May we make a difference in this world, for your glory and purposes. May we reflect your peace and hope to a world that so desperately needs your presence and healing.

To you be glory and honour, in this New Year, and forever.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.