

P
O
E
T
R
Y

'No prizes for guessing the theme of our next
'Poetry Please!'

Even if you've never been before, bring along
your favourite Christmas poem and
join us on Friday 3rd December at
10.30, for a morning of festive
poetry and good company!



P
L
E
A
S
E



Save your postage stamps this Christmas for
BMS World Mission!

Just cut the stamps off the envelopes, leaving a
wide margin around them. You can give them to
Sylvia Levitt and she passes them on to be sold
for BMS. (You can give used stamps to Sylvia all
year round, not just at Christmas!)



ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Please send in
news and details
of special
celebrations to
Christine Wright
candgxwright@
msn.com
01296 624084
Next month's
deadline will be
Monday 27th
December.



CHRISTMAS FAIR

Saturday 11th December
10.30am-3.30pm

There will be cakes, festive crafts and refreshments
and the opportunity to pick up an entry sheet to
follow the Wendover Christmas Trail. Soup and
bread lunch will be available between midday and
2pm. All proceeds go to 'Embrace the Middle East'.

Please bring cakes and festive crafts for sale. If you
would like to volunteer to serve refreshments and
lunch or 'man' the stall, please speak to Remco.
But mostly, do come and support the event
and help to make everyone welcome.

Bring a friend!



NEWSLETTER NO. 195

Wendover Free Church

December 2021

MISSION PRAYERS FOR DECEMBER

Wendover Free Church
supports Aylesbury Women's
Aid in a number of ways and
this Christmas we will be
donating gifts for the 13
women and 14 children
(between 8 months and 13
years) currently seeking
refuge there.

Staff are not present at the
Refuge on Christmas Day and
Boxing Day but remain on
24-hour call.

At a time when violence and
threatening behaviour
continues to blight the lives
of some families, we are

blessed to be in a
position where we can
bring some joy at this
special time of year.
This year the gifts we
have been asked for are:

On Christmas Day
and Boxing Day
residents are
provided with a full
Christmas dinner
and all the
trimmings which
will cater for all.



The women usually cook
together and sit together with
the children. Staff are
grateful for being able to
provide women with presents
while children receive a sack
full of presents and a
stocking thanks to all the
many donations received.

women -
slippers, socks, hats,
gloves, scarves,
chocolates, gift boxes of
toiletries, hot water bottles;
children - selection boxes,
toys / books for 0 -2 year
olds; clothes for 0-2 year
olds.

There is also a Christmas tree
with lights for the women and
children to put up and
decorate, while tickets are
available for those who wish
to attend the pantomime at
Aylesbury Waterside Theatre.

Christmas wrapping paper
would also be useful.

Please wrap your gift, add a
tag describing the item and
bring it to church by Sunday
12th December at the latest.
Thank you for your
generosity. **Sandra Smith**

OUR LIVES ARE ONE HUGE ADVENT!

Grace and peace to you all.

Already, it is Advent! This year has gone by so quickly! Advent is traditionally a time of anticipation and waiting for the birth of the baby Jesus. Yet it is also a time of looking for hope and to prepare ourselves and the world for the arrival of King Jesus.

It is easy to get caught up in waiting for the gentle baby born in the stable, and forget the hope and life-changing redemption the birth of the Messiah really means for the world. Richard Rohr writes in his

book *Preparing for Christmas* that the “Franciscans have always believed that the Incarnation was already the Redemption, because in Jesus’ birth God was already saying that it was good to be human, and God was on our side.”

Jesus came to bring a new kingdom. Through his birth, life, teaching, death and resurrection he demonstrated a new way to live and see the world. He brought the

hard-hitting message of loving those on the margins, including our enemies, and of forgiving more times than we can count. Advent, (the looking for hope and how we prepare ourselves and the world, for the coming of our Lord Jesus) could also describe our lives as Christians. Some of the final words of the Bible are: “Come, Lord Jesus” (Revelation 22:20). It means

that we are constantly waiting for the return of Jesus as our Lord and King. This suggests that the whole of our lives, and the life of the church, is one huge advent.

My prayer is that this Advent we will find hope in many places, even where we least expect it. And I pray that during this time of Advent, we will be able to prepare ourselves, and those around us, for the arrival of the Messiah, who will come to redeem the world.

May God bless you this Advent season. **Remco**



DECEMBER EVENTS

Friday 3rd 10.30am **Poetry Please**

Wednesday 8th 10am-12 noon
Craft Group

Friday 10th 6.30-8pm
Carols Around the Tree at the Manor Waste

10th-20th **Christmas Trail Through Wendover**

Saturday 11th 10.30am 3.30pm
Christmas Fair (see back page)

Thursday 16th 7pm

Florence Nightingale Hospice Carol Service

Saturday 18th 10.30am
Book Club

Services 10.45pm
Sunday 19th All-Age Nativity
Christmas Day for All Ages
Sunday 26th Café Style Church

Wednesday 22nd 3.30-5.30
Messy Church
Booking essential.

OUR CHRISTMAS CARD

As in the past few years, we will create a Christmas card signed by as many as people as possible for circulation to all members of the congregation. Having saved money on individual cards, you may like to make a contribution (£3-£5 suggested) towards the work of Christian Aid.

From Sunday 28th, you can write your Christmas greeting to go into the card. There will be slips of paper

at church or email Emma on emmacritchley@eclipse.co.uk. The final day to get messages to Emma will be **Sunday 12 December** so that cards can be distributed on 19 December.

Donations to Christian Aid can be made direct at <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christmas-appeal> or we can receive cash at church.