



# New Malden Methodist Church

*At the **heart** of the High Street*

## The Newsletter of New Malden Methodist Church

**December 2019**

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### Message from Reverend Karl

In the past few months, I've stumbled across more than one opinion piece arguing that the problems faced by this country stem from the loss of so-called 'Christian Values'. This isn't a new lament, and in my experience, what people usually mean is either that they're uncomfortable about the presence of other significant faith groups within our society, or that they are uneasy about the legal recognition of other types of family beyond the nuclear model of mum, dad and 2.4 children, or that they're angry about the Church no longer having a privileged voice within the national discourse and the power to influence commonly-held views of morality. Hence, I tend to be on my guard whenever I hear people talk about 'the loss of Christian values'; what follows is often something I want to robustly challenge.

However, pondering the seasons of Advent and Christmas in the context of the General Election on December 12th has led me to reflect on what lies at the core of my own values as a Christian person, especially as someone who finds themselves in the

position of having a modest public voice through pieces such as this and, most obviously, in the pulpit. For me, the fundamental starting point has to be what God's character and actions (which are inseparably linked) can tell us about what it means to be a human being. In Advent, we're invited to explore the most amazing, wonderful and frightening fact – in Jesus Christ, God's life boiled over into our world, in the form of defenceless love.

This year, our Gospel reading for Christmas morning is the majestic prologue to John's Gospel (John 1:1 – 14), which tells us that the Word of God who became human was with God from the beginning, and indeed was God. In other words, God is eternally a God of relationship, and Jesus Christ is God from God, Light from Light, as the fourth century Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed puts it. When we gaze upon the baby in the manger, we're therefore looking at the fullness of God – needy, vulnerable and primarily dependent on a remarkable young woman (who was anything but meek and mild) who would soon need to flee with her husband and child from the wrath of Herod. It seems that God was willing to take extraordinary risks to come among us humanly and transform creation from the inside.

I think we can thus see from Jesus Christ's birth that God's very nature is indeed that of defenceless love, and if we were in any

doubt about this, surely the events at the other end of his life, and opening his arms wide upon the cross to embrace our broken world, confirm this. There is even more to say, however, because God's choosing to be become human in order to both reveal the divine character, and bring about salvation from the relationship-destroying and insidious nature of sin that blights our experience, says much about the value God places on each and every person. The incarnation – to use the proper theological term – should make us look upon one another with awe and wonder: God thought that this face was worth quite literally everything; this face was worth living and dying for.

It would make a tremendous difference to our world, and the systems which govern and shape it on both a national and international scale, if this basic 'Christian value' of recognising the infinite worth of each person was reflected. I doubt so many people would be dreading being cold, scared, hungry or lonely at Christmas time if it was. Advent is a season of getting ready to encounter this truth. May it shape not just how we vote on December 12th, but how we live every minute of every day.

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## Around the Circuit

**CIRCUIT SERVICE: 10.30AM 29TH DECEMBER AT KINGSTON METHODIST CHURCH**

The Sunday after Christmas should be a restful day and is often a time when many of us visit family. Most of our preachers and local church stewards have asked for a bit of a break after all the energy of Christmas. Many thanks to our friends at Kingston Methodist Church who have agreed to host a circuit service on that morning. The service will be led jointly by Karl and Stan and will offer a time of relaxed worship in the midst of a very busy season. There will

be no other services arranged in the circuit on that Sunday. We ask that each church gives some thought to offering lifts (and sharing cars) and hope that everyone who wishes to be at worship on that Sunday will be able to join us.

*God bless, Stan*

## CIRCUIT PRIORITIES FOR 2019-2020

Our Circuit Leadership Team have set some priorities for this coming year. There are four main headings in our action plan with details of how we will work towards our aims, who will progress them, and when we expect to get them done. As you can see, our main concern is to ensure that we have continuity of ministry in the circuit, and especially at Chessington as Andy and Liz move on in Summer 2020.

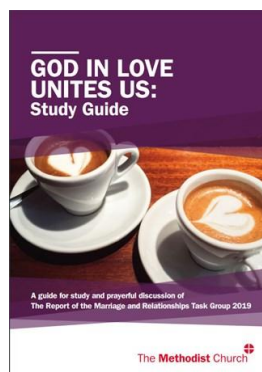
A summary of the priorities and targets we have agreed for 2019-2020:

**Staffing:** Enter stationing process and seek a 0.5 minister for Chessington Methodist Church from Sept. 2020 // Develop an alternative staffing plan if no minister is available, using existing circuit budget and rental of vacant manses to employ new professional lay staff

**Safeguarding:** • Develop the work of the new Circuit Safeguarding Officer and the safeguarding role of the Circuit Co-Ordinator // Ensure an effective Safeguarding Officer in each church // Complete all outstanding Foundation and Advance level training

**Governance:** Clarify the formal relationship with Korean Christian Fellowship at CMC // Succession planning for new Circuit Stewards

**Training:** Circuit Consultation on Marriage and Relationships Report // Circuit training event to help those leading "Local Arrangement" services



**GOD IN LOVE UNITES** is the title of a new Methodist report on marriage and relationships. The report proposes some important changes in our understanding of marriage – including a recommendation that it should be possible

for same sex couples to marry in a Methodist Church. But the report is about far more than this. It reflects deeply and prayerfully on our understanding of marriage and relationships. It explores what it means for couples to “cohabit” without being formally married, it seeks to understand the needs of those who don’t easily fit into our usual ways of thinking about “female” and “male”. It looks at the qualities of good Christian relationships of all kinds.

The Conference has formally “received” the report and asked for a wide consultation before making a final decision on the key issues in summer 2020. *If you would like to know more and share your views please come along to an open meeting:*

#### **GOD IN LOVE UNITES US: CIRCUIT CONVERSATION**

**10am-12noon on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2020 at New Malden Methodist Church**

You can find out more about the report at: <https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/the-methodist-church/marriage-and-relationships-2019/> where there are lots of resources to help us. Please download and read the study guide if you are coming to the meeting – it is very short.

#### **QUARTERLY PREACHING PLAN**

Please note the following change to the December to February Preaching Plan. On the morning of 19th January, Tim Yu will now be preaching at New Malden instead of Stan Brown, and at Surbiton Hill there will be a Churches Together in Surbiton Pulpit Exchange, with Stan preaching at another church in Surbiton.

#### *Next Newsletters*

If you have any news or a forthcoming event you would like to share with the Circuit, please forward details to Michael Axton at the Circuit Office by Friday 13 December: [circuitoffice@kingstonscircuit.org.uk](mailto:circuitoffice@kingstonscircuit.org.uk)

## **Summary of November Notices**

### **CHURCH FAMILY NEWS**

Congratulations to Alison and Peter Bullett on the arrival of their second grandchild who was born on Monday 28th October. Vicky had a baby girl, Piera Juliet, weighing 8lb -13, a sister for Ottilie. Mum and baby (and Dad) are doing well and we wish them all the best as they get used to being a slightly bigger family.

We are sad to report that Maggie Homer died peacefully on Wednesday morning (27th November). We send our love and prayers to her daughter Sue and family. A memorial service for Maggie will be held at NMMC on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 3.30pm. Maggie will be laid to rest on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> in York.

### **VACANCY FOR ACTION FOR CHILDREN REP**

Would anyone be willing to take on this voluntary role? It will involve being the church’s contact for any Action for Children news and publicity and being the focal point for any individual collection boxes that church members may still have and perhaps running one coffee bar a year. It is not an onerous task but also could be expanded if you’re keen! Please see Julia or Sarah.

### **PANTO**

Good news! The date for the panto next year has been set for Saturday 4th April.

Please let me know ASAP if you would like to contribute in any way and what you would like to do if not acting! There is a sign-up sheet on the Notice board.

Rehearsals will be Thursday evenings and we will begin on Jan 3rd with a read through. It will be fun, I promise! Oh yes it will!! Many thanks Julia.

### **MEMORY WALK 2019**

Glynis and the Fox family would like to thank everyone who has supported their fund raising throughout the year for the Alzheimer’s Society. This year they have raised £1,213.57 which was made up of

£475 for the sponsored walk, £673.57 for cake sales during the year and £85.00 Just Giving. A magnificent sum I'm sure you will all agree.

### **JUNIOR MISSION FOR ALL FUND RAISER**

Thank you to everyone who kindly donated 1p, 2p and other coins to our fund raiser on Sunday, 27th October. Our young people enjoyed placing the coins around the perimeter of the Church floor and collecting them at the end of the service! The total amount raised was £34.78.

*Alan Downey*

### **INTRODUCING ROSIE...**

As Hilary is unable to be here on a Sunday, she will henceforth be represented by her new colleague, Rosie the Rota Rabbit. You will find Rosie after the service standing guard over the rota and encouraging potential gap fillers to fill gaps!



### **NEW VOLUNTEERS FOR WESLEY'S**

Have you ever considered joining our team of volunteers? You would be working in pairs for just 2 hours at a time as often as suits you. Last minute gap fillers are just as welcome as those who can commit to regular slots in advance. Speak to Hilary if you might be interested or text her on 07796 157490.

### **WIVES AND FRIENDS**

Our next meeting will be on TUESDAY, 10<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER at 7.30pm in the Extension when Alan Vincent will share an illustrated talk on the History of Richmond Park. Again anyone is invited to join us for this evening.

*Doreen Downey*

### **CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL – TREE AVAILABLE**

Our annual Christmas Tree Festival starts on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December. We currently have one spare tree so if you would like to decorate a tree and raise money for charity, please see Sarah or Julia.

We will once again need help stewarding the festival on the two Saturdays. Please sign your name on the sheet on the noticeboard if you are able to help.

### **CHRISTMAS TREE SALE**

Once again this year, Christmas trees will be sold from our forecourt. The sales will start on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December and happen on weekdays and Saturdays until 22<sup>nd</sup> December (not Sundays). The profits of the sale go to local schools and charities and we benefit by receiving all the trees for our festival.

### **CHRISTMAS FAIR**

A huge thank you to everyone who helped in any way at all to make our Christmas Fair such a success and to Alison and Julie for their organisation. It was fantastic as ever to see the church so full of people and the magnificent sum of £2097.45 was raised. This will be split between our Christian Aid Project and Kingston Young Carers.

### **ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHRISTMAS MUSIC**

Choir for the service of Lessons and Carols on **Sun 22nd Dec at 6.30pm**

Rehearsal Sat 14th Dec 10.15 – 11.45am in the Choir Vestry

Sun 15th Dec 3.00pm in the Church: Music by Brahms followed by tea and cake, with a retiring collection.

Tues 17th Dec 1.10 – 1.50pm in the Church Music for Christmas retiring collection

Rehearsal Sat 21st Dec 09.45 – 11.15 am in the Choir Vestry

Rehearsal on Sun 22nd Dec 4.30 pm followed by tea before the service. All are welcome to join the choir to lead the music at this service. Please let Peter know.

Community Carols **Sat 22nd Dec at 11.30 am** – 12 noon. Come and join us outside the Church to sing carols and Christmas songs to raise money for a good cause.

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## Services in December

### Sunday 1<sup>st</sup>

10.30am Gift Service led by Mr Tim Yu

6.30pm Festival of Lights  
led by Revd Dr Karl Rutlidge

### Sunday 8<sup>th</sup>

10.30am Nativity Service  
led by Revd Dr Karl Rutlidge &  
the Junior Church

### Sunday 15<sup>th</sup>

10.30am Morning worship  
led by Revd Stan Brown

### Thursday 19<sup>th</sup>

7.30pm Blue Christmas Service  
led by Revd Dr Karl Rutlidge  
*For People finding Christmas difficult due to  
disappointment or bereavement*

### Saturday 21<sup>st</sup>

11.30am Community Carols  
*A half hour of carol singing in front of the  
church for everyone*

### Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup>

10.30am Holy Communion  
led by Revd Dr Karl Rutlidge

6.30pm Lessons & Carols  
led by Revd Dr Karl Rutlidge

### Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup>

5.00pm Christingle Service  
led by Mrs Julia Morton

11.30pm Christmas Eve Communion  
led by Revd Dr Karl Rutlidge

### Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup>

10.30am Christmas Morning Service  
led by Revd Dr Karl Rutlidge

### Sunday 29<sup>th</sup>

10.30am **Circuit Service at Kingston MC**  
led by Revd Stan Brown &  
Revd Dr Karl Rutlidge

## Sheep Trail



Collect your entry form now from New Malden Methodist Church.

There will be a knitted sheep in approximately 40 premises on and around the High Street, either inside the premises or in the window. The sheep will be in the High Street until **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December**.

Each sheep will have a tag around its neck with its name on.

Find the sheep and write its name in the space provided on the entry form.

Return the finished form to the church on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December 10.00am - 2.00pm or at the Christingle Service at 5.00pm on Christmas Eve.

All completed entries will receive a small prize.



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The deadline for the next (February) issue is Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January. Please email contributions to [john.cronin@unix.net](mailto:john.cronin@unix.net) or leave them in pigeon the editor's hole

Thanks, John C



## Advent Morning Prayer 2019 - Daily Readings and Service Times

| Date and Time     | Psalm | 1st Reading       | 2nd Reading      |
|-------------------|-------|-------------------|------------------|
| Mon 2nd 10am      | 50    | Isaiah 25:1–9     | Matthew 12:1–21  |
| Tues 3rd 10am     | 80    | Isaiah 26:1–13    | Matthew 12:22–37 |
| Wed 4th 10am      | 07    | Isaiah 28:1–13    | Matthew 12:38–50 |
| Thurs 5th 10am    | 42    | Isaiah 28:14–29   | Matthew 13:1–23  |
| Fri 6th 10am      | 25    | Isaiah 29:1–14    | Matthew 13:24–43 |
| Mon 9th 10am      | 44    | Isaiah 30:1–18    | Matthew 14:1–12  |
| Tues 10th 10am    | 56    | Isaiah 30:19–33   | Matthew 14:13–36 |
| Wed 11th 9.30am   | 62    | Isaiah 31         | Matthew 15:1–20  |
| Thurs 12th 9.30am | 37    | Isaiah 32         | Matthew 15:21–28 |
| Fri 13th 9.30am   | 86    | Isaiah 33:1–22    | Matthew 15:29–39 |
| Mon 16th 9.30am   | 40    | Isaiah 38:1–8     | Matthew 16:13–28 |
| Tues 17th 10am    | 70    | Isaiah 38:9–22    | Matthew 17:1–13  |
| Wed 18th 10am     | 75    | Isaiah 39         | Matthew 17:14–21 |
| Thurs 19th 9.30am | 146   | Zephaniah 1:1–2:3 | Matthew 17:22–27 |
| Fri 20th 10am     | 46    | Zephaniah 3:1–13  | Matthew 18:1–20  |
| Mon 23rd 10am     | 130   | Malachi 1:1, 6–14 | Matthew 19:1–12  |
| Tues 24th 10am    | 45    | Malachi 2:1–16    | Matthew 19:13–15 |

An Advent Morning Prayer booklet is available from the church.

## Diary Dates for December 2019

|                                                     |                  |                                                                                                                                      |
|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>                             | 7.00pm           | Badminton                                                                                                                            |
| Friday 6 <sup>th</sup>                              | 2.10pm           | Dancing Memories with Emily Hampton                                                                                                  |
|                                                     | 7.30pm           | 3 Fs at the home of David & Sue Knowles                                                                                              |
| Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup>                            | 10.00am          | Coffee Bar – Princess Alice Hospice – Molly Simmonds                                                                                 |
| Monday 9 <sup>th</sup>                              | 10.00am          | Films with Friends at the home of Eleanor and Andy Roberts                                                                           |
| Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup>                            | 2.30pm           | Bereavement Café                                                                                                                     |
|                                                     | 7.00pm           | Badminton                                                                                                                            |
|                                                     | 7.30pm           | Wives & Friends – Alan Vincent – a History of Richmond Park                                                                          |
| Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup>                          | 10.15am          | Abacus Pre-School Nativity                                                                                                           |
| Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup>                           | ...              | Election Day – Lower Hall to be used as Polling Station all day                                                                      |
| Fri 13 <sup>th</sup>                                | 10.00am – 7.00pm | Christmas Tree Decorating                                                                                                            |
|                                                     | 2.10pm           | Dancing Memories with Emily Hampton                                                                                                  |
| Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup>                           | 10.00am          | Coffee Bar – Women's Institute                                                                                                       |
|                                                     | 10.00am – 4.30pm | Christmas Tree Festival                                                                                                              |
| Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup>                             | 3.00pm           | Music in New Malden. The Harmonie Choir & instrumentalists.<br>Director Peter Bullett; music by Brahms, incl. 9 Liebeslieder Waltzes |
| Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> – Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> |                  |                                                                                                                                      |
|                                                     | 10.00am – 2.00pm | Christmas Tree Festival                                                                                                              |
| Monday 16 <sup>th</sup>                             | 7.30pm           | Wives & Friends – Christmas Carols & readings                                                                                        |

|                                                      |            |                                                               |
|------------------------------------------------------|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup>                             | 1.10pm     | Lunchtime Concert – Music for Christmas                       |
|                                                      | 7.00pm     | Badminton                                                     |
| Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup>                           | 2.00pm     | Memory Café                                                   |
|                                                      | 3.30pm     | Memorial Service for Maggie Homer                             |
| Friday 15 <sup>th</sup>                              | 2.10pm     | Dancing Memories with Emily Hampton                           |
| Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup>                            | 10.00am    | Coffee Bar – NMMC                                             |
|                                                      | 11.30am    | Community Carols                                              |
| Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> – Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> |            |                                                               |
|                                                      | 10am – 2pm | Christmas Tree Festival                                       |
| Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup>                            | 10.00am    | Coffee Bar – VACANT: please see Sarah Moore to book this date |

## Diary Dates for January 2020

|                                 |         |                                                                |
|---------------------------------|---------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup>          | 10.30am | Friday Fellowship                                              |
| Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup>        | 10.00am | Coffee Bar – Christian Aid Project– Julie Haines               |
| Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup>         | 7.00pm  | Badminton                                                      |
| Friday 10 <sup>th</sup>         | 2.10pm  | Dancing Memories with Emily Hampton                            |
| Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup>       | 10.00am | Coffee Bar – Mind – Hannah Walsh                               |
| Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup>        | 2.30pm  | Bereavement Café                                               |
|                                 | 7.00pm  | Badminton                                                      |
|                                 | 7.30pm  | Wives & Friends – Jenny Reid – Cathedrals of England Part 2    |
| Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup>      | 2.00pm  | Memory Café                                                    |
|                                 | 4.30pm  | Finance Committee Meeting                                      |
| Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup>       | 2.00pm  | Creative Arts Group                                            |
| Friday 17 <sup>th</sup>         | 2.10pm  | Dancing Memories with Emily Hampton                            |
| Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup>       | 10.00am | Coffee Bar – Barbara Cavalier                                  |
| Monday 20 <sup>th</sup>         | 7.30pm  | Kingston District Chamber Music Concert                        |
| Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup>        | 1.10pm  | Lunchtime Concert                                              |
| Friday 24 <sup>th</sup>         | 2.10pm  | Dancing Memories with Emily Hampton                            |
| Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup>       | 10.00am | Coffee Bar – Alzheimer’s Society – Glynis Fox                  |
| Monday 27 <sup>th</sup>         | 7.30pm  | Wives & Friends Meal ‘IN’                                      |
| Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup>       | 8.00pm  | Church Council Meeting                                         |
| Friday 31 <sup>st</sup>         | 2.10pm  | Dancing Memories with Emily Hampton                            |
| Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> Febr’y | 10am    | Coffee Bar – World Day of Prayer – Carol Dadds & Doreen Downey |



**New Malden  
Methodist Church**

*At the heart of the High Street*

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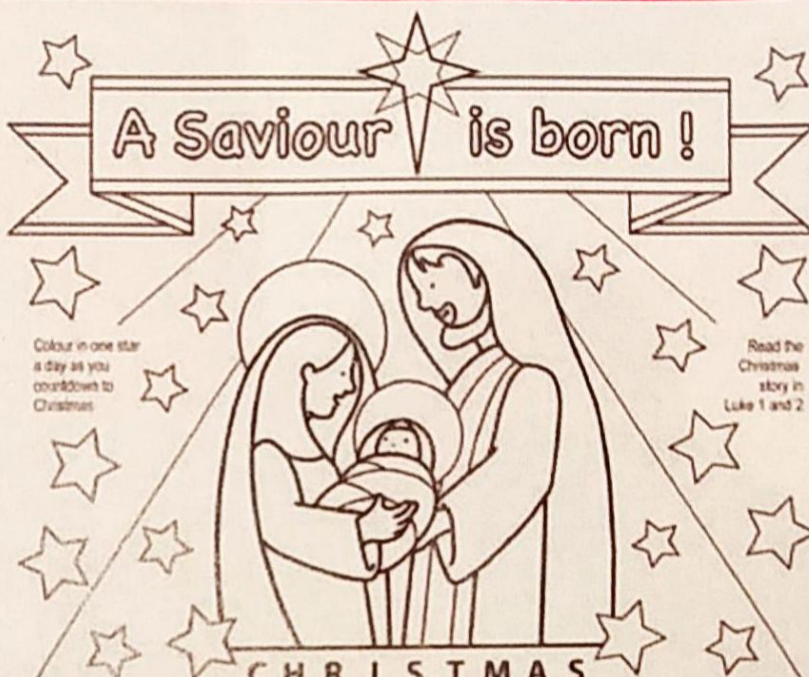
## CHRISTMAS CARDS

Time to write your Christmas cards again – what designs have you picked to send this year? Are they religious ones?

Look in the shops at all the different designs, traditional and modern. Traditional religious cards have usually included the nativity – Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus. But what else would you count as religious? The Three Kings? The Bible doesn't say they were kings, or that there were three; just that they were Wise Men, who travelled far to bring special gifts for the baby Jesus.

Do you know why there are so many robins on Christmas cards? The first postmen in Victorian times wore red and were called robins, so robins were shown as delivering cards.

Whatever kind of card you send this year, be sure to include a kind message with love for your friends. Our love is a tiny echo of God's love for all the world.



CHRISTMAS  
BABYTHOLYJUDEARTH  
BJPEACESONOFLOCKPUS  
ROFIELDEGASHEPHERDS  
IYONBORNNOZEGMARYAAA  
NMRNATOZOAPAAALIRIVV  
GODSCHILDRHLNASOSII  
LJESUSHONELIGHTOEDO  
OGUARDIBETHLEHEMZSU  
RSLSHEEPWHYERLORDOR  
YNNANGELSBHEAVENAME

MARY • JOSEPH • NAZARETH • GALILEE • JUDEA • BETHLEHEM • DAVID  
HOLY • CHILD • BABY • SON • NAME • JESUS • MANGER • ROOM • INN  
SHEPHERDS • FIELD • GUARD • FLOCK • SHEEP • ANGELS • SHONE • BRING  
GOOD NEWS • JOY • SAVIOUR • BORN • CHRIST • LORD • LIGHT  
PRAISE • GLORY • GOD • PEACE • EARTH • HEAVEN • CHRISTMAS

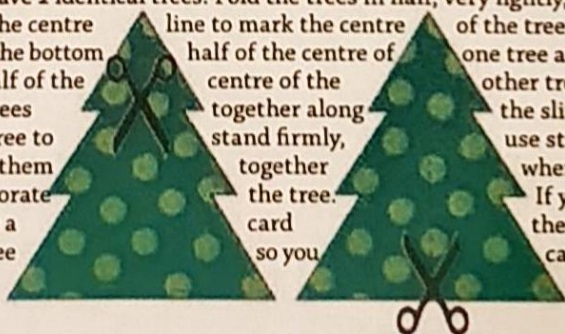
Dec17 © Deborah Noble • parishpump.co.uk

## CARD or DECORATION

Here is a simple 3D Christmas tree that you can use as a decoration or a card. You will need green card, crayons, glitter or paint, scissors and sticky tape.

Fold a piece of card in half, then cut it in half. Put the two pieces together and fold them in half again.

Draw half a Christmas tree opposite the fold. Cut along the line and you will have 2 identical trees. Fold the trees in half, very lightly, hardly creasing the centre line to mark the centre of the tree. Cut a slit along the bottom half of the centre of one tree and along the top half of the centre of the other tree. Slip the two trees together along the slits. To help the tree to stand firmly, use sticky tape to fasten them together along the tree. If you are using it as a card so you can write on it.



Why does Santa have three gardens? **So he can 'Ho Ho Ho'!**

What says Oh Oh Oh?  
**Santa walking backwards!**

Why are Christmas trees so bad at sewing?

**They always drop their needles!**

What do you call a dog who works for Santa? **Santa Paws!**



What do you call Father Christmas on the beach?  
**Sandy Clause!**