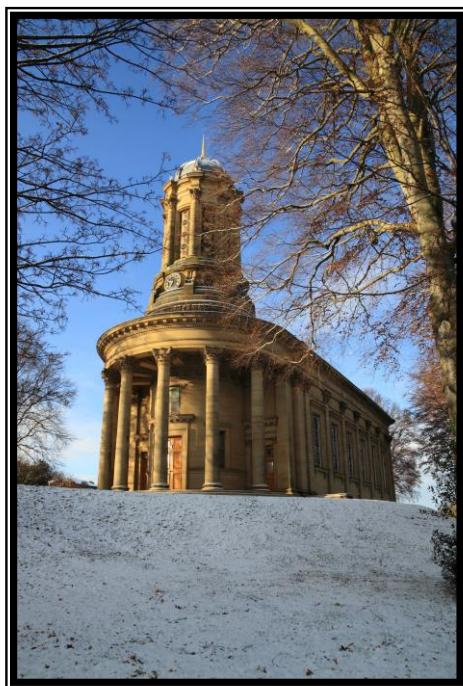


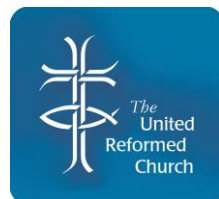
The
Messenger

December 2014 & January 2015

Saltaire United Reformed Church



Welcome to our church:
a place of worship and of
community.



Martin Priestley Wedding Photography



www.martinpriestley.co.uk

Email: m.priestley130@btinternet.com

Mobile: 07531413142

The Gift of Christmas Unwrapped

Our services are children-friendly, with a **Sunday School** for very young children and their carers, which starts after the first 20 minutes of the service.

Coffee and Tea are served after each Sunday service in the downstairs rooms. **Please do join us.**

If you wish to discuss a **wedding or christening**, please see one of the authorized persons at the front desk after a Sunday service.

If you run out of wrapping paper this Christmas, you can take some birthday wrapping paper and simply add 'Jesus' after Happy Birthday! Up until the end of the nineteenth century, brown paper was generally used for wrapping Christmas presents. Then in 1917 Joyce Hall, who ran a stationery store in Kansas, ran out of brown paper at Christmas. In desperation, she sold French envelope lining paper instead, and the rest is history! The true gift of Christmas is Jesus, God's Son born in human form. But how did God gift wrap him? The wrapping he chose tells us a lot about the gift inside.

Wrapped in humanity: Christmas reminds us that God came to dwell with us in human form as a baby. For Jesus, 'who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.' (Philippians 2:6-7).

Jesus was humanly gift wrapped, because God wanted to enter fully into our world, to reveal the immensity of his love for us and that we could know the eternal God personally. You have to be divinely human and earthy present to do that! This was no ordinary gift wrap because he was no ordinary baby.

Wrapped in poverty: Jesus' birth graphically illustrates how he was born in poverty. The stable or cave with its animals, smells and straw was not easy! 'For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.' (2 Corinthians 8:9).

The poverty in which Jesus was wrapped is significant. The swaddling cloths could have been strips of cast-off clothing, or they may have been taken from linen that was carried on long journeys by travellers in case of death. This powerfully reminds us that Jesus was born to die, wrapping himself with our own sinfulness. This was not the gift wrap of a king, yet only the King of kings allowed himself to be gift wrapped in this way! Through his poverty we are rich, as he offers us forgiveness and a new relationship with God.

The envelope with French lining carries this great Christmas message. The plain exterior looks similar to any other (the humanity of God), yet the inside dazzles with colour and beauty, reflecting the glory of God himself!

Diary for December 2014 & January 2015

Date	Time	Event
Sat 6 th	10.30am 3pm	Erecting the Christmas tree. Toddlers' Advent Praise, followed by Christmas party.
Sun 7 th	10.30am	Communion Service led by Rev. Alan Evans. Organist: Mr Geoff Popple.
Tue 9 th	7.30pm	Rotary Carol Concert
Sun 14 th	10.30am	Advent and Toy-Giving Service led by Mrs. Valerie Jenkins. Organist: Mr. David Kirk.
Sun 21 st	10.30am 6.30pm	Advent Service led by Mr Geoff Bellamy. Organist: Mr Robert Moorby. Carols by Candlelight Service, led by Mrs Valerie Jenkins. Organist: Mr Geoff Popple.
Wed 24 th	11.30pm	Christmas Eve Communion Service led by Mrs. Valerie Jenkins. Organist: Mr Robert Moorby.
Thur 25 th	11.30am	Christmas Day Celebration led be Mrs. Valerie Jenkins. Organist: Mr Robery Moorby.
Sun 28 th	10.30am	Family Service led by Rev. Allan Blue. Organist: Mr David Kirk.
January		
Sun 4 th	10.30am	Communion Service.
Tue 6 th	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting.
Sat 10 th	10.30am	Under-40's(ish) planning meeting for 2015.
Sun 11 th	10.30am	Family Service.
Sun 18 th	10.30am	Family Service. Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.
Mon 19 th		Church open for Holocaust Memorial Day.

Sun 25th	10.30am	Family Service.
	12 noon	Church Meeting. Deadline for February's edition of The Messenger.
	6.30pm	Service for Shipley Churches Together.

Regular Church Activities

SUN	10.30am Service:	1 st – Communion 2 nd – Scout Groups' Parade 3 rd 4 th & 5 th – Family Services
	1pm–4pm	Church & cafe open to the public (all year)
MON	1.30–3pm	Toddlers' Praise Time
	7–8.30pm	Bell ringing practice
TUE	7-7.30pm	Prayer meeting for the Church and Saltaire
	7.30pm	Elders' meeting (meets 1 st Tue in the month)
WED	6-9pm	5 th Shipley Scout Groups' meetings
SAT	10.30am	Under 40's Group (meets 2 nd Sat of each month)

The church is open to visitors 2pm-4pm Monday to Friday from April to September.

Please join in! New group members are assured a warm welcome.

Bell ringing contacts:	Len Morris	01274 597894
	Robert Appleby	01274 223753
Scout contact:	Barbara Lawson	01274 591931
Under 40's contact:	Leona Holland	07522 106912
Toddlers' group contact:	Valerie Jenkins	01274 542510
	Helen O'Loan	01274 405847

Prayer Matters

The prayer meeting still takes place each Tuesday at 7pm. Everybody is welcome, no experience is needed. You can come and listen to the music, the quiet and the spoken prayers of others – no pressure to pray aloud!

If you can't make the meeting, you can join us in your own space and time. Some recent and ongoing items for **thanks and prayer** include:

Continued recovery for Nauda & John, Dick & Janet, Len & Doreen, Angela & John, Richard & Roz, Clare, Mandy, Leona, Sheila, Hazel, Mabel and Nancy; Bud & Doreen, Richard and his family.

Strength and wisdom for Ian & Helen Livingstone and the rest of the local health community struggling to meet rising demands.

Those fighting the Ebola outbreak in West Africa.

Sheila Thornton and her family, including little Guilia and mum Kate in Peru.

The suffering, bereaved and refugees across the Middle East; God's guidance for peace makers.

The baptism of Gabriella, daughter of Raquel & Neville; and all our young families who brighten the place up.

A safe delivery for Alex – a great grand-daughter for Valerie.

Young mums and dads considering whether and how much to go back to work.

The new elders, Andy, David & Zac; that they and the whole church may bring their talents – as God guides – to build his kingdom in Saltaire and among us.

PROTECT YOUR ASSETS - HELP YOUR CAUSE

Your will is the most important document you will ever possess
-Prevent unwanted stress and cost - write a will today!

10% OF FEE DONATED TO YOUR CHURCH OR CHARITY OF CHOICE

For more details and a FREE initial consultation contact your local Consultant
- A Qualified Associate of the Institute of Professional Willwriters -

Michael Attenborough LLB(Hons),AIPW

Phone - 01274 613729 Mob - -7825 155922
email - michael.attenborough@aps-legal.com

Thanks & Notices

Thanks and an appeal

You never know what is round the next corner! One minute you are clearing up leaves from the lawn and shredding them for the compost bin then the next minute you are having a ride in van with a blue flashing light and chatting to a friendly ambulance man!

It happened very unexpectedly and was not in my plan for the day. On arriving at A&E I was sent for a CT scan, told I had had a stroke and despatched to the ward in BRI. Doreen had joined me by then and while being very compos mentis I was also a little concerned. A look around the ward quickly made me realize that I was also very lucky! Everyone except one was a lot worse than I.

There are a lot of caring people in this world and quite a few of them were in ward 9 of BRI. I only spent four days there but found that all, from the cleaner who arrived at 6:00 a.m. each day to the consultant who came to have chat, not to mention the many nurses were cheerful, attentive and working hard to get you well again, and they were still there at 7:00 pm too. I found it hard work to find a complaint. (But did find one :- no radio 3! I will settle for nothing more than that!)

I received a wealth of good wishes from friends and relatives, church members, camera club, bell ringers, Saltaire stories and Maria and her tour team. A big thank you to everyone. It helps a great deal when you are rather down and is very supportive.

One knock on affect is that the bells fell silent. With hospital business distracting at least three of the ringers, there were not enough. We could do with some more, a bit younger, ringers. It is great fun and not too time consuming. Commitment is ringing prior to a service and practice on Monday evening at 7:00pm. You are welcome to come to service of course but it is not a commitment. We are one of only four non conformist churches with a ring of bells. It would be great pity if they fell silent on a long term. We hope to start ringing again now and I hope to start ringing again by Christmas.

Meanwhile a big thank-you for all the support and cards that I received from the Church.

Len Morris

Creative Food at Vicar's – pay what you feelcan

Last month we reported that Shipley Food Projects, with a food bank for Bradford North covering BD2, BD10 & BD18, would also include a cafe in Shipley run on similar lines to 'The Real Junk Food Project' in Armley <http://therealjunkfoodproject.co.uk/about/>. It now turns out that this café opens at Vicar's in Victoria Road on 28/29th November.

Clare Coats sends her thanks for the cards and get well wishes received following her operation. She was in hospital for three weeks and is now at home recovering.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2015

This is the 8 days 18 – 25 January. In 2015 this starts and ends on a Sunday. So

Sunday 18th January: Exchange of Preachers at morning services.

Sunday 25th January: SCT United service at 6.30pm. Venue to be decided.

Also: Shipley Christians Together (SCT) AGM and first General meeting: 7.30pm

Monday 19th January at venue to be agreed.

Lent 2015

In 2015, Lent is 18 Feb (Ash Wed) to 3 April (Good Fri). The ecumenical Lent groups with five sessions have proved popular in the past with, last time, 65 people taking part in seven groups and ten churches represented. The cost is about £5 per person. It is proposed the SCT run Lent Groups with materials from the York Courses which have proved helpful in the past and are geared for ecumenical groups. SCT hope to have several groups at various times/venues. Watch out then sign up to attend at a time and place convenient to you.

Church Flowers

A huge thank you to the ladies on the 2014 rota for ensuring we have had fresh flowers in church throughout the year. Thanks also to those people who have generously donated money towards the cost of flowers.

It will soon be time to draw up the rota for putting flowers in church during 2015. I'm sure you will now know what is coming!! Please, if you are not already committed to other jobs around church, will you consider joining the rota on a regular or occasional basis. If you can help, please have a word with me within the next 2 weeks.

Pauline Sleight.

It was good to have **Tony Bower** worshipping with us again on Sunday 16 November and are pleased to hear he is settling into life in Clevedon.

Postage Stamps

Please place your used postage stamps in the tin on the front pew – they are sent on to support charitable works.

Internet Marketing Services for Saltaire, Bradford, Bronte Country and the Dales



www.saltaire-village.co.uk
www.city-of-bradford.com
www.bronte-country.com
www.yorkshire-dales.com

 **EAGLE INTERMEDIA**
PUBLISHING LTD

The Grid, Carlisle Business Centre
60 Carlisle Road, Bradford
West Yorkshire, BD8 8BD

Building Community

- Update on Church Restoration

On Sunday 2nd November Dorothy and Geoff Mawson cut the ribbon at the top of the refurbished south steps to celebrate the latest phase of the church's restoration. The project also included repointing the walls of the upper tower, to eliminate leaks, and these two elements were funded by Waste Recycling Environmental Limited (WREN). We have now received that £5,000. During the opening, thanks were also given to Len Morris and Ian Livingstone for their extensive project management, while Councillor Kevin Warnes praised the whole church for making community activities welcome. At present we are waiting for work to start on the lower west window (vestry) and for quotes to restore the paint in the main vestibule. This is funded mainly by income from visitors and groups, so well done to all helping to keep the church open!

On Sunday 16th November the church meeting requested that we look as soon as possible at improving the kitchen and toilets utilising the generous legacies from Michael Fletcher and Sheila Hunter. This will be alongside our next major fund-raising campaign – an appeal for help to build adequate disabled access, appropriate to our grade 1 listed building.

GEAR Conference 2015

Swanwick, The Hayes Conference Centre.

Friday 20th February (tea time) to Sunday 22nd February (after lunch).

Fellowship, worship, prayer and teaching

Led by Steve Uppal, Senior Leader at All Nations Christian Centre, Wolverhampton. His passion is helping believers live life to the full living intentionally and seeking God for themselves.

GEAR was formed in 1974. Serving the United Reformed Church, our aims are: to emphasise that the heart of all Christian life and work is a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ; to promote growth in Christian faith and life that is rooted in the Bible; to pray for and to foster renewal by the Holy Spirit in the personal life of members and the corporate life of congregations and councils; to explore ways of evangelism, and to encourage participation in forms of outreach relevant to today.

<http://www.gear.org.uk/index.php/swanwick> gives more details

Adults £160.

Children under 12 are free this year as long as places are booked by 31/12/14;

3 spaces available by car with David & Helen O'Loan.



5th Shipley Scout Group

Saltaire United Reformed Church

Meet on Wednesdays in the Church Rooms

Group Scout Leader: Linda Malloy

Beaver Scouts – age 6 to 8 years

6pm to 7pm. BSL: Linda Malloy

Cub Scouts – age 8 to 10½ years

6pm to 7.30pm. CSL: Jennifer Williamson

Scouts – age 10½ to 14 years

7.15pm to 9pm. SL: Neil Holmes

Explorer Scouts – age 14 to 18

8pm to 9.30pm. ESL: Zac Williamson

**For further information contact
Barbara Lawson 01274 591931**

ANTHONY PRUNIER

PIPE ORGAN TUNING,
REPAIRS AND
MAINTENANCE

75 Carr House Road
Shelf, Halifax
HX3 7RJ

07543 441016

PETER RANDALL

Gents Hairdressers

also

PICTURE FRAMING
& HOUSE SIGNS

205 Bingley Road, Shipley
Telephone : 01274 597140

H. H. BIRCH & SON LTD.

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

NAB WOOD, SHIPLEY

WEST YORKSHIRE BD18 4BG

Telephone : Bradford (01274)583467

Fax : (01274) 531761

***Complete Funeral Furnishers
&
Monumental Sculptors***

PRIVATE CHAPELS

David Birch N.A.F.D. M.B.I.E.



Private Chapel of Rest