

Wavertree Congregational Church

Messenger - December 2023

Luke 2:10-11

“Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.

Prayers

Please remember the following in your prayers:

Viv & Jim, Carolyn & Family, Jackie & Jason Hookey, Darren, Alison & Ben, Peter & Val Humphreys and family, Martin Eccles, Eileen Lowe, Dilys Little, Anne Lord, Ann & Alan Ascott, Walter Ash, Phyllis, John Burnell & Margaret, Pauline Campbell, Sue & Ged, Lindsay & Peter, Mei, John & family, Steve & Gill Smith, Jean Dawber, Jen & Mark Firkins, and baby Luan.



Tea with a Twist: Saturday 2nd December: Sue Warburton



Sunday Services

December

3rd - Graham Taylor - Advent - Holy Communion

10th - Eve - Christingle

17th - **4pm start - Carol Service - No Morning Service**

24th - Sue Warburton

25th - Christmas Day - Eve

31st - TBC



A Short Christmas Blessing:

May the blessing of joy
abide within you;

May the blessing of peace
rest upon you;

May the blessing of love
flow out through you;

May all the blessings of the Lord
be yours at Christmas
and in the new year.

~ Author Unknown



Dear Friends,

I don't know if you are like me? When I was a kid, I used to love going into town on the bus with my Mum and enjoying all the lights in the shops and overhead, a lovely tree in Clayton Square and the great excitement of it all. Mind you, I never fancied sitting on Santa's knees though in Blacklers! These days, if I sat on someone's knees, a doctor might be required afterwards!! I also used to really like Sooty and Sweep best of all. One Christmas, I remember my Dad disappearing after tea into the backyard shed. It really was a mystery. Until one Christmas Day, I sneaked out of bed early and stuck my head around the bedroom door and saw what could only be a homemade wooden fort, covered in Christmas paper. I nearly exploded with excitement. My brother who was eight years older than me certainly did not share that excitement and just wanted to get back to sleep again!!

These days, things are somewhat different and less magical now. I often wonder what Jesus was like when he was a child. He must have learned with his brothers how to train as a carpenter. Our Christmas must have been his birthday. How different it is now with the terrible conflict in Palestine. Not to mention the appalling invasion of the Ukraine. Let us pray that peace, a just peace will reign across the world when the Lord comes again and evil is at least defeated.

⁸ But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. ¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare. ¹¹ Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives ¹² as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. ¹³ But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells" (2 Peter 3:8-13)

Outside in our street, which slopes down the side of a small hill, you can see the decorations going up and the kids looking forward to Christmas coming. I do love our carol service, when the lights are from candles and everyone, I am sure, will remember their times past and perhaps think on the future. So, dear friends, may we enjoy the time when we gather to celebrate the Lord's birthday, in a barn, surrounded by His parent's undying love. That day was simple, beautiful and filled with joy, with love.

Though I cannot yet be with you all again, I pray in 2024 we will enjoy each other's company again & look forward to whatever the future brings.

God bless,

Peter

