

# inspire

December 2018 -  
January 2019

Your life at St. Chad's



## IN THIS ISSUE

**Devotional** - *Steve Burmester*

**Getting to Know You** - *C. S. Lewis (Part One)*

**Reflections** - *Sue Thompson*

**Pastor John's Candle** - *The Christingle Story*

**Where's The Piccolo?** - *Inspirational Christian Story*

**Daily Prayer** - *9th Dec - 2nd Feb*



**T**hey told me when I was younger that time would seem to go faster the older I got. And Christmas really does seem to come around sooner and sooner each year! But our home is empty of children for most of the year now too – so I must be getting older! I do remember both our girls when they were younger going through a phase of calling things ‘mega’ when they wanted to emphasise how good something was or that it was a great event – ‘it was mega’. In Luke’s gospel when he described the events of that first Christmas he relates the words of the angel as he spoke to the shepherds in Luke

2:10 “And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.” So, it made me smile that the word for ‘great’ in the greek is ‘mega’ ... ‘mega joy that will be for all the people’. I hope you experience some of that mega joy this Christmas and into the New Year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Burmester'.

**Revd Steve Burmester Vicar, St Chad’s Church**



**T**he Festive Season is almost upon us once again and amidst all the excitement we must remember that if we are too busy to pray, we are busier than God wants us to be. Our prayer life can continue to grow even in this hectic time of year. Maybe one of our New Year’s resolutions could be to spend more time getting closer to our Lord who guides us throughout the year. After all Billy Graham once said “I’ve read the last page of the Bible and it’s going to turn out alright.” we really should try to read all the pages that come before!

I hope you will be able to help and support our Christingle Messy Church on Saturday 15th December, it will be a great family fun event for kids and parents, as will our Praise & Play Nativity on the 23rd and Carols in The Paddock on Christmas Eve, I wish you all peace and happiness this Christmas and look forward to another year together.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pat Grange'.

**Pat Grange**

# Devotional - How to walk in 2019...

*Steve Burmester*

The Christian life is not a sprint. It is a journey of ten million steps. Day after day, and year after year, we put one spiritual foot in front of the other as we 'put off the old life'; and follow Jesus on the path of new life. Step after step after step — ten million times.

As we begin 2019 we need to stop, like a hiker who checks her compass, take our bearings and set out again in the right direction to stay the narrow and hard path that leads to life and avoid the wide and easy way that leads to destruction (Matthew 7).

The new year is a time for course correction — a time for taking out the map, consulting the compass, and heeding Paul's command to "look carefully . . . how you walk" (Ephesians 5:15).

In Ephesians, Paul commands his readers five times to "walk" — in good works, in a manner worthy of their calling, in love, in light, and in wisdom.

**Walk in love**, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. Ephesians 5:2

For Jesus, love meant nails through his hands and feet and a spear through his side. Love meant climbing onto a cross and offering himself up as a sacrifice. Love meant inconvenience and sorrow and an excruciating death. This is the love that breathed life into us; the love that is broader, longer, higher, and deeper than the

galaxies;  
the love  
that is  
washing  
every

stain of sin from our souls; the love that God commands us to imitate — even if our strongest love is pale by comparison.



At one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. **Walk as children of light.** Eph 5:8

When the light of Christ broke into your life and dispersed your darkness, he shone on you so that his light might make its home in you.

Train your tongue to heal others instead of cutting them up. Grow in gratitude for all that God has given instead of stewing over all that he's withheld. Long for "all that is good and right and true".

You can walk in these paths of light this year because you already are light in the Lord. The dark version of you died with Jesus at the cross, was laid with Jesus in the tomb — and will never rise again. Even if you feel like a smouldering wick right now, if you are in Christ, your destiny is to "shine like the sun in the kingdom of [your] Father" Matt 13:43. Walk in light this year.

Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise **but as wise**, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Ephesians 5:15.....**Cont'd on page 5.**

# Getting to know you

## *C. S. Lewis (Part 1)*



**C**live Staples Lewis was born in Belfast, Ireland on 29th November 1898. Lewis was raised in a religious family that attended the Church

of Ireland. He became an atheist at the age of 15, though he later described his young self as being paradoxically “angry with God for existing” His early separation from Christianity began when he started to view his religion as a chore and a duty.

As a boy Lewis was fascinated with anthropomorphic animals and fell in love with Beatrix Potter’s stories and often wrote and illustrated his own animal stories.

Lewis loved to read - finding a book to read was as easy as walking into a field and “finding a new blade of grass.”

Lewis was schooled by private tutors until age 9 when his mother passed away from cancer. His father then sent him to study at Wynyard School in Watford, the school was closed shortly afterwards due to a lack of pupils.

Lewis then attended Campbell College in the East of Belfast but left after a few months due to respiratory problems after which he was sent to the health resort town of Malvern, Worcestershire

where he attended the prep school Cherbourg House which Lewis calls “Chartres” in his autobiography. It was during this time that Lewis abandoned his childhood Christian faith and became an atheist, becoming interested in mythology and the occult. As a teenager Lewis was wonder-struck by the songs and legends of what he called “Northernness”, the ancient literature of Scandinavia. He also grew to love nature.

In 1916 Lewis was awarded a scholarship at University College Oxford. In one of his letters Lewis cited that his experience of the horror of war, along with the loss of his mother and his unhappiness in school, were the bases of his pessimism and atheism.

It was a cultural shock when Lewis first arrived in England which took many years to heal. In 1921 Lewis met Yeats twice, he wrote “I am often surprised to find how utterly ignored Yeats is among the men I have met, perhaps his appeal is purely Irish, if so then thank the gods that I am Irish”

He eventually returned to Christianity having been influenced by arguments with his Oxford colleague and Christian friend J. R. R. Tolkien. Lewis vigorously resisted conversion. Alone in his room in Magdalen College in the Trinity Term of 1929 he gave in and admitted that God was God and knelt and prayed, perhaps that night the most dejected and reluctant convert in all England.....

***Part 2 to follow in February.***

# Reflections

*Sue Thompson*

**Reflections on being Vulnerable and a Weak.**

I am not used to being on 'the other side of the fence', having been a nurse for over 40 years, admitted to Hospital in mid September feeling weak and wobbly and very vulnerable it is amazing how we are supported and loved by our Church family at St Chad's.

Within any family there are so many skills, but added to that within St Chad's we have the unconditional Love of our Father too, which allows gifts to be shared with one another. These gifts were very apparent with so many acts of kindnesses I received from wonderful, generous individuals.

Whilst at Macclesfield Hospital I was able to enjoy the small garden by the cafe. This peaceful space with greenery and sparse colour with only a few colourful flowers enabled time away from the ward and enjoy God's provision in this small space. To reflect on how swift medical attention, which I too have taken for granted, is an amazing service in the UK and how grateful to have that service.

By my 6th day in Hospital, it was a Sunday, I was able to attend the small chapel, there were equal amounts of patients attending, Church staff and supporters. The service was simple but very powerful. A message of Compassion and unconditional love.

***We left with the Footprints poem, by Mary Stevenson in our hands...***

**..... Devotional cont'd from page 3**

Every path in this world cuts through our enemy's backyard. We don't yet walk in the safety of the new heavens and new earth; we walk in "the present evil age", an age where the devil stalks the earth with a quiver of burning arrows, his eyes keen for careless travellers. If we do not apply God's wisdom to how we are walking in every area of life, the devil will be more than happy to chart the course for us. Walk in wisdom this year.

One day soon, you will not need to look carefully to how you are walking. Perfect love will course through the veins of your resurrected body. The light of God's righteousness will radiate from your every thought, word, and action. Until that day, 2019 is another year to "look carefully . . . how you walk". Walk in love, Walk in light and walk in wisdom. These are three roads that lead us to God's city of joy, where our journey of ten million steps will finally end.

## Sunday 9 December

☺ Give thanks for the links we have with Uganda and pray for an increasing impact of the Gospel on the life of the nation; for Gill and Carlos Olaaka and Roger and Jean Tripp working there. † Give thanks for John and Roey's ministry amongst us. Pray for their health, family and the Lord's leading in 'active' retirement. 🏠 Corruption destroys societies and nations. Pray for those working to expose and stop corruption and malpractice, local, national and international.

*John & Roey Knowles*

*Richmond Avenue*

## Monday 10 Dec

☺ **Human Rights Day** Lord we cry to you on behalf of all who suffer injustice. † Pray for a planned activities programme for 2019 which can draw us together. 🏠 Pray for help for the homeless at this time. *Feriel Lu Lababedi Residents of Ringstead Close*

## Tuesday 11 Dec

☺ Pray for Christians in Egypt, a large but disadvantaged minority. † Pray for a good end to her ministry as Jane looks towards retirement. 🏠 Give thanks and pray for the use of Stanley Hall Park.

*Jane*

*Residents of Rodepool Close*

## Wednesday 12 Dec

☺ Pray for the appointment of a new Vicar for St Michael's, Bramhall after a long period of uncertainty.. † Pray for the Wednesday Club at Christ Church. 🏠 Pray for Esther McVey, MP and Works & Pensions Sec.

*Joan Lawrence*

*Residents of Rookerypool Close*

## Thursday 13 Dec

☺ Give thanks for the release of Pastor Andrew Brunson in Turkey, pray for the Justice system there. † Give thanks for our House Groups, pray for the Leaders. 🏠 Give thanks for St Ann's Hospice; pray for the staff and Chaplains in their work.

*Margi Lawrence*

*Residents of Rossenclough Road*

## Friday 14 Dec

☺ Celebrate today 100 years of votes for women in Britain, but around the world many are still oppressed. Pray! † Pray for tomorrow's Messy Christingle. 🏠 Pray for local Police and Emergency Services.

*Jackie Lawton*

*Residents of Saltersbrook Grove*

## Saturday 15 Dec

☺ Christmas in a supermarket? Pray for Jesus to be known on both sides of the tills. † Pray for good support for the Hampers of Hope Concert this evening. 🏠 Give thanks and pray for the Children's Society whose work is supported by Christingle services.

*Jim & Avril Lethbridge*

*Residents of Sagars Road*

## Sunday 16 December

☺ Colin and Ikekie are based in Aydin in the west of Turkey. Pray for them as they meet with many personal and Bible Correspondence Course contacts and for safety on many journeys. † Pray for God Squad Christian Bikers as they nurture young Christians from difficult backgrounds and for blessing on their home life. 🏠 Pray that the churches and Christians in Handforth will together make the light of Jesus shine in our village this Christmas.

*Lenny Leonard*

*Residents of Sandiway Road*

## Monday 17 Dec

☺ Pray for the couples Colin and Ikekie help through Marriage Intensives. 🏠 At this time, pray that we can show our care for those with particular needs at St Chad's and in our wider community.

*Sue & Sandy Livingstone*

*Residents of School Rd*

## Tuesday 18 Dec

☺ **International Migrants Day** Lord, give us your heart for those who in despair have left home and loved ones. † Pray for today's Praise and Play Nativity. 🏠 Pray for the work of Age UK.

*Gregor, Fraser, Laura & Douglas Livingstone*

## Wednesday 19 Dec

☺ Pray that Christians in North Korea will be given strength and hope this Christmas. † Give thanks and Pray for Pam Whitney, cleaning and helping in many ways. 🏠 Pray for unpaid carers for family and friends.

*Janet Lewis*

*Residents of Sealand Way*

## Thursday 20 Dec

☺ Pray for a ceasefire in Yemen so that the desperate need for food and medical care can be met. † Pray for the families with children who will be receiving Hampers of Hope. 🏠 Give thanks and pray for the staff of Nightingale Care and those who receive their help.

*Anne Long*

*Residents of Sefton Drive*

## Friday 21 Dec

☺ Christmas Day is now a holiday in Nepal but restrictions on Christians have increased. Pray for them. † Pray for those decorating our church for Christmas. 🏠 Pray for those who are mentally confused.

*Rachel & Charlotte McDowell*

*Shrigley Close*

## Saturday 22 Dec

☺ Give thanks and pray for Nepali Christians who have been the first (and last) giving help when disasters have struck. † Pray that everyone who comes into St Chad's at this time will know they are welcome in Jesus name. 🏠 Pray for Police Officers on duty over Christmas.

*Enid McFall*

*Residents of Shellbrook Grove*

## Sunday 23 December

☪ This week we join in 5 'W' prayers with all linked to the support ministry of CPAS in the Church of England. **WORSHIP** Father God, speak through the words of the Christmas carols we sing, especially to those who don't know you. † Pray for this evening's Carol Service and Carols on the Paddock tomorrow. 🕯 Give thanks for the work of Embrace the Middle East. Pray that many will be moved to support them as they use their Carol Sheet on the Paddock and take them home afterwards.

*Anne McFarlane Residents of Siddington Rd*

## Christmas Eve 24 Dec

☪ **WORD** As your Word is proclaimed in churches across our nation, give those listening open ears and hearts to receive your gospel. † Pray for the safety of those travelling today. 🕯 Pray for those who will be missing loved ones at this time.

*Jacqui, Trudie & Tom McFarlane Somerford Way*

## Christmas Day

☪ **WONDER** Lord Jesus we sing with the angels: Glory to God in the highest! May everyone in our churches and many outside know the wonder of your presence. † Pray that Jesus may be found also by those who spend Christmas on i-phones and watching TV.

*Derek & Helen Malpas Residents of Snapebrook Grove*

## Boxing Day

☪ As this is also **St Stephen's Day** pray for Christians who are persecuted, suffering and ready to die for their faith.

† **WELCOME** As homes are open to friends and family, pray that many hearts will be open to Jesus' invitation to life in Him

*Peter Mayall Residents of South Acre Drive*

## Thursday 27 Dec

☪ **WITNESS** Holy Spirit, give us boldness to speak about the real meaning of Christmas and to declare what you have done for us. 🕯 Pray that Stuart and Sheila will be encouraged in their family and in their work for the Lord, much of it unseen by others.

*Stuart & Sheila Millar Residents of Southfield Close*

## Friday 28 Dec

☪ **WISDOM** Lord, in our culture, it is often very hard to know how best to tell others about you. Give us wisdom to know how, when and what we should say. † Pray for wisdom and the Lord's guiding as we look to appoint a Church and Communities Families' worker in the new year.

*Sam & Sarah Milward Residents of Spath Lane*

## Saturday 29 Dec

☪ **WALKING** Almighty God, we pray for all those walking in darkness in our world, that they will see your great light in 2019. † Pray that Steve and Jo will be able to rest after a very busy season. 🕯 Pray that those who celebrated Christmas with our Christ, will find Him in 2019.

*Sophie & Eleanor Milward Residents of Spinney Close*

## Sunday 30 December

☪ Almighty God, time is in your hands: You know every detail of the future. Help us to submit our lives to You through prayer and trusting in your grace and mercy. May Your kingdom come and Your will be done through Your Church. (CARE) † Give thanks for the visit of Paul and Linda Hembrough as through Turkwork, they give us a new link to God's Kingdom coming in Turkey. 🕯 Give thanks for the enjoyment given by the Lindow Singers.

*Dave & Di Mobbs Stanley Park Grange*

## New Year's Eve

☪ Give thanks for every blessing we have received over the past year, as a Nation, a community, a church and as families and individuals; for God's protection and provision. Commit the coming year to Him - the raging of the nations, the outworking of Brexit and our own lives.

*Bryce Moore Residents of Stanley Road*

## New Year 2019

☪ Help us Lord to remember that You journey with us in all we do through this new year. Thank You for others whom You send to travel with us. Bless us all with Your wisdom and love. (USPG) † A New Year resolution - to let God speak to us through the Bible every day.

*Darlene & Robert Moore Stanneylands Road*

## Wednesday 2 Jan

† Pray for OM ship Logos Hope, beginning visits to South America in Antofagasta, Chile, today. 🕯 **Our Day of Prayer** Whether in church, at home or away, come to the Lord in prayer today. 🕯 Give thanks and pray for Weston Park Care Home.

*Ray & Joan Moores Residents of Station Road*

## Thursday 3 Jan

☪ Chester Diocese prayer today is for the Parish of Hurdsfield with Youth Worker, Melissa Weardon. † Give thanks for Melissa's time at St Chad's and keep in prayer the need for a new worker to join us. 🕯 Pray for the safety of children as they go on-line.

*John Moreton Residents of Stretton Way*

## Friday 4 Jan

☪ OM now has workers in 110+ countries. Give thanks for many open doors and for 60 years of work in Turkey. † Pray for Carole Harding and her team as Sunday Club begins a new year. 🕯 Pray for those in Handforth who are beginning the new year lonely and without hope.

*Wayne Morrison Residents of Sunbury Close*

## Saturday 5 Jan

☪ There are hundreds of thousands of Turkish speakers in UK but only a few are Christians. Pray for the building of God's Church amongst Turkish speakers. † Pray for VIDA, 11 -14 yr olds, meeting on Sunday afternoons. 🕯 Pray for the return of Christmas visitors to St Chad's.

*Michelle & Gary Myers Residents Sutton Way*

## Sunday 6 January

☪ **Epiphany** Creator of the heavens, who led the Magi by a star to visit the Christ Child, and worship Him; bless all who lead Your Church today, that it may prosper and grow in faith and action. † Pray for Steve as Chair of Governors and Head, Mark Unwin, as they lead The Grange Primary School into new management as an Academy. 🏠 Pray for Emma Hinds and the Christians in Schools Trust, CIST, workers as they renew contacts in Stockport schools and begin a busy new term.

*Gracie, Owen & Tiegan Myers Swale Close*

## Monday 7 Jan

☪ Pray for the people of Brazil who have elected controversial President Bolsonaro. Can he overcome rampant corruption? † Pray for the preparation of February Inspire. Good ideas are needed to keep it fresh. 🏠 Give thanks for those who keep our village clean and safe.

*Esther Nuttall Residents of Swettenham Road*

## Tuesday 8 Jan

☪ Pray for the moving of God's Spirit in Japan. The Church is tiny and 120m Japanese are one of the world's largest unreached people groups. † Pray for this evening's PCC, the budget for 2019-20 and a possible new worker. 🏠 Pray for the ongoing work of the Royal British Legion.

*Andrea & Martin Paxton Residents of Swinley Close*

## Wednesday 9 Jan

☪ Pray for God's hand upon Saudi Arabia. He has the power to transform this heart of the Muslim world. † Pray for Pat Grange as she coordinates many activities at St Chad's. 🏠 Pray that Britain's Christian Heritage will stand against those working for secularization.

*Noah & Alice Paxton Residents of Tabley Road*

## Thursday 10 Jan

☪ Pray that the protection of new life through legal restrictions and control of abortion will be maintained † Pray for Dennis, Margaret and their family. Give thanks for the help they give to St Chad's. 🏠 Pray for the staff, residents and their families at Adlington Manor.

*Dennis & Margaret Pepler Residents of Tame Walk*

## Friday 11 Jan

☪ Pray that the social harm caused by Fixed Odds Betting Terminals will stop. † Pray for the Spirit's enabling for Ian as Management Consultant, Retrak Trustee and St Chad's Reader. 🏠 Give thanks and pray for those who provide help for Friday night binge drinkers.

*Ian & Sue Pettigrew Residents of Tarporley Walk*

## Saturday 12 Jan

☪ Pray for the Raggett Family as David begins as Relationships Officer for Wyldiffe. † Pray that Aroma Cafe will be able to reopen on Monday. May it grow as a doorway through which people can meet with Jesus. 🏠 Pray that those who self-harm may seek and find the help they need.

*David & Elaine Raggett Residents of Tarvin Way*

## Sunday 13 January

☪ In the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** Christians from Indonesia have chosen this year's theme from Deut. 16:20 Let true justice prevail. Pray that this theme will unite Christians around the world as they seek justice, especially for those who are oppressed or marginalised. † Pray that as Churches Together in Handforth, St. Benedict's, St Chad's St Mary's and Vinelife can continue to work together, and with other Christians who live in Handforth, in every way possible to bless our community in Jesus name.

*Andy & Alison Robert Residents of Tatton Road*

## Monday 14 Jan

☪ Pray for Tearfund partner, Healing Memories, helping to empower women in Mali to change a culture where 89% of women are subjected to FGM. † Give thanks and pray for our House Groups. 🏠 Pray that 'Responsible gambling' might be a reality not a slogan.

*David & Mary Royle Residents of The Carriages*

## Tuesday 15 Jan

☪ The many millions in 'unofficial' churches in China constantly live with the possibility of arrest and persecution. Pray for strong faith. † Pray for the family contacts we have through Praise and Play. 🏠 Pray for Cynthia in her leadership of Handforth Parish Council

*Cynthia Samson Residents of The Green*

## Wednesday 16 Jan

☪ Pray for the many Chinese Christians who are being trained to take the Gospel back on the Silk Road to Jerusalem. † Pray that the Wednesday 10:30 services will be a blessing to those not able to come on Sundays. 🏠 Pray for those who answer 999 and 111 calls.

*Sue, Jennifer & David Sanders Residents of The Paddock*

## Thursday 17 Jan

☪ Pray for godly wisdom for the Crown Appointments Commission as they nominate new diocesan bishops. † Pray for all those who are preparing to lead, teach, preach and pray on Sunday. 🏠 Pray for Abbeyfields Nursing Home, the staff, residents and their families.

*Hazel Searle Residents of The Race*

## Friday 18 Jan

☪ Pray for a greater drive towards clean, renewable energy and the control of pollution by plastics. † Pray for Ian Pettigrew as he speaks about Retrak after the Men's Breakfast tomorrow. 🏠 Pray that Handforth may be a place where different cultures can live together.

*Brenda Shaw Residents of The Seftons*

## Saturday 19 Jan

☪ Give thanks for those in every sport who are good role models, pray that they will have the courage to stand against foul play and challenge others to follow them. † Pray for those who lead intercession. 🏠 Pray for retailers struggling to keep their businesses profitable.

*Abigail & Jamie Sheehan Residents of Thornton Drive*

## Sunday 20 January

☪ Pray for Paul Moores as he encourages support for **The Leprosy Mission** in the northwest. In many remote areas, including parts of India, it is still a scourge, but successful treatment in better known areas has led to a reduction in funding. Pray for continuing support for TLM and the battle to overcome stigma which is still widespread. † Pray that as a church, St Chad's will keep a strong outward vision. 🏠 Pray that more and more people in Handforth will come to see St Chad's as the heart of our community and their home.

*Oliver & Martha Sheehan Timbersbrook Grove*

## Monday 21 Jan

☪ Pray for God's continued working amongst the Fula people of Senegal - and for Presidential elections there next month. † Pray for Steve and John as they take the funerals of bereaved families and support them. 🏠 Pray that community leaders can keep their integrity.

*Jean Short Residents of Tilston Walk*

## Tuesday 22 Jan

☪ Tearfund partners give thanks for Church and Community Transformation, CCT, projects in west Africa where simple actions in cooperation can bring huge benefits. † Pray for Pat Grange and Steve as they respond to families enquiring about baptism.

*Roger & Prue Small Residents of Tiverton Drive*

## Wednesday 23 Jan

☪ Pray for CCT in the Central African Republic which is helping churches to work for peace in a country torn by conflict. † Pray for those who come to Mums and Tots at Christ Church. 🏠 Pray for adults in our community who have physical or learning difficulties.

*Marion Smith Residents of Toft Way*

## Thursday 24 Jan

☪ Pray for Tearfund's Keystone Project helping men in Jordan who are refugees from Syria with life skills. † Pray for the Capernwray students who tomorrow will join us for the week-end. 🏠 Pray for the staff of Upton Grange Care Home, the residents and their families.

*George & Marion Smith Residents of Torbrook Grove*

## Friday 25 Jan

☪ **Burns Night** Pray for political, church and business leaders in Scotland in the light of Brexit. † Pray for spiritual insight for those who offer Prayer Ministry at our Communion services. 🏠 Pray that restrictions may be effective in preventing underage gambling.

*Win & David Smith Residents of Tranmere Drive*

## Saturday 26 Jan

☪ Pray that the Called to Serve day at Foxhill will help attendees to discern the ministry God has for them. † Pray that the Capernwray students will be able to identify quickly with the life of St Chad's. 🏠 Pray that TV producers will restrain the use of blphemous language.

*Shirley Stafford Residents of Tudor Green*

## Sunday 27 January

☪ Barnabas Fund and others have expressed growing concerns for restrictions being placed on freedom of expression in Britain. Pray that the government, university and other authorities will resist pressure to classify the defence of orthodox views, e.g. of marriage, and all criticism of others' views as 'hate speech'. 🏠 **On Holocaust Day** pray that freedom of speech may not be taken as a licence to foster polarisation. Pray for respect and understanding between nations and people, especially in the Middle East and for the Foundation for Peace and Reconciliation there.

*Audrey Stephenson Residents of Tudor Road*

## Monday 28 Jan

☪ Pray that the heavily restricted Churches in Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan will remain strong in faith. † Give thanks and pray for the Knit and Natters who meet in Aroma. 🏠 Pray for the dementia support group 'In Together' at St Mary's.

*Tony & Sylvia Street Residents of Ullswater Road*

## Tuesday 29 Jan

☪ Give thanks and pray for the Anglican Province of Myanmar's WASH (water, sanitation, hygiene) programme helping thousands of people. 🏠 Pray for our Rainbows, Brownies and their leaders. 🏠 Give thanks for the friendship and creative activities of the Women's Institute.

*Linda Syddall Residents of Upton Way*

## Wednesday 30 Jan

☪ Pray for OM ship Logos Hope which is now in Valparaiso, Chile. † Pray that 1st and 5th Wednesday morning activities will welcome new faces who can benefit from joining the services on other Wednesdays. 🏠 Pray for those moving into new houses in Handforth.

*Shirley Taylor Residents of Vale Head*

## Thursday 31 Jan

☪ Pray that if 'Fracking' for gas continues, safety and environmental fears will be fully addressed. † Pray for Sue as she restarts Rhyme Time and develops a good relationship with families who come. 🏠 Pray that those who sell 'alternative' health care will do so responsibly.

*Sue Thompson Residents of Valley Drive*

## Friday 1 Feb

☪ Pray for the building of God's Kingdom in Uganda. Whilst many Muslims are turning to Christ, others are working for political power. † Pray for those who choose hymns and lead our music. 🏠 Give thanks and pray for staff at the Hawthorns, residents and their families.

*Harry & Flora Town Residents of Viewlands Drive*

## Saturday 2 Feb.

☪ Pray that 'Plastic free Wilmslow' will be a model that many more towns can follow. † Give thanks for the Rhema services; may those who come only to these want to join other activities.. 🏠 Pray for police officers working with the Serious Organised Crime Agency.

*Tina Trimble Residents of Village Court*

# Pastor John's Candle

## *The Christingle Story*

A long time ago in the 1600s, in the land of Moravia, lived a kind man. His name was John De Watterville and he was a Bishop. Bishop John spent his days telling everyone how much God loved them. He wanted to find a way to tell the children in his village about Jesus, and about God's promises.

John prayed and prayed, asking God to give him a good idea. In time he believed God answered his prayers and gave him a very good idea. Indeed it was such a good idea, that it is still used around the world.

John was inspired to take an orange the next time he went to see the children in his village. He showed the children how round the orange was and full of goodness. He told the children that it was like the world that God had made – big and round and full of goodness.

Then John pressed four little sticks into the orange to be the four seasons of the year – spring, summer, autumn and winter – and onto the sticks he pushed some sweets and fruits and nuts.

He explained to the children that these lovely things would remind them of all God's gifts to the world.

Next John took a small candle and pushed it into the top of the orange. He told the children that God sent his son, Jesus, to be the Light of the World, to shine God's special light into all the places and hearts that were dark. Carefully he lit the candle to show the children that God's light makes a difference in our dark world.



Finally John told the children that Jesus had so much love that he died on the cross for everyone. John said that Jesus' love stretched right round the world to include absolutely everybody. The minister gently wrapped a red ribbon round the orange to show Jesus' love going round the world.

The children were thrilled by his story. They asked John to tell them the story again and again, and they watched as he put the orange, sweets, candle and ribbon together. The minister had made the first Christingle.

# Where's The Piccolo?

*We all have a part to play*

At certain times in life we may feel insignificant and useless. Surrounded by people with greater talent than ours, we are tempted in our weak moments just to settle back and let somebody else do the work. We reason that what we have to offer won't make much difference anyway. We forget the truth suggested by our Lord's use of five loaves and two small fish to feed a multitude. Each of us has something important to offer in His service.

*"Sir Michael Costa was conducting a rehearsal in which the orchestra was joined by a great chorus. About halfway through the session, with trumpets blaring, drums rolling and violins singing their rich melody, the piccolo player muttered to himself, "What good am I doing? I might just as well not be playing. Nobody can hear me anyway." So he kept the instrument to his mouth, but he made no sound. Within moments the conductor cried, "Stop! Stop! Where's the piccolo?" It was missed by the ear of the most important person of all."*

It's much the same way with the use of our abilities for the Lord. Whether our talent is great or small, the performance isn't complete until we do our best with what we have.

The Master needs what you have to offer no matter if you think it's small. His work on earth is done through His children so give Him you best, give your all.

***In God's eyes it is a great thing to do a little thing well***

***"Even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows."  
Matthew 10:29-31***



## December Services

### Sunday 2nd

9.00 am Holy Communion  
10.30 am All Age Worship  
6.00 pm Rhema

### Wednesday 5th

10.30am Talk

### Sunday 9th

9.00am Morning Prayer  
10:30 am All Age Worship  
and Holy Communion  
6.00 pm Rhema

### Wednesday 12th

10.30 am Holy Communion

### Sunday 16th

9.00 am Holy Communion  
10.30 am All Age Worship  
6.00 pm Rhema

### Wednesday 19th

10.30 am Morning Prayer

### Sunday 23rd

9.00 am Holy Communion  
10:30 am Nativity  
6.30 pm Carol Service

### Monday 24th Christmas Eve

6.30pm Carols in The Paddock  
11.00pm Holy Communion

### Tuesday 25th Christmas Day

10.00am Family Christmas  
and Communion

### Sunday 30th

10.00am Joint Holy Communion

## January Services

### Wednesday 2nd

9.00am - 5pm  
Day of Prayer

### Sunday 6th

9.00 am Holy Communion  
10.30 am All Age Worship  
6.00 pm No Rhema

### Wednesday 9th

10.30am Holy Communion

### Sunday 13th

9.00am Morning Prayer  
10.30am All Age Worship  
and Holy Communion  
6.00pm Rhema

### Wednesday 16th

10.30am Morning Prayer

### Sunday 20th

9.00am Holy Communion  
10.30am All Age Worship  
6.00pm Rhema

### Wednesday 23rd

10.30am Holy Communion

### Sunday 27th

9.00am Morning Prayer  
10.30am All Age Worship  
and Holy Communion  
6.00pm Rhema

### Wednesday 30th

10.30am Outing to a coffee shop