



Copmanthorpe Methodist Church
www.copmanthorpemethodist.org.uk
Churches Together in Copmanthorpe LEP

Newsletter – November 2015



The last two weeks have seen much disruption to the sanctuary and upstairs of our church building, it was a blessing that the timing fell whilst Remembrance Sunday was commemorated and the installing company, ALG were able to leave their equipment in situ. They have worked hard, and those of us who have accommodated and fed them have been pleased to welcome them, this also saved costs which we were able to use towards the system. Over the next few weeks you will be able to experience what the system can do, as

well as the much improved cinema experience, and of course Fizz will benefit from all of the good equipment from downstairs, that we have been able to install upstairs. They now have their own projection and sound system, albeit second hand, to save costs at this stage. On the 5th December we will hold a gift day and short dedication service, and will have the system demonstrating everything it can do. We have lots of plans to use the film opportunity for all the church groups as well as building on our mission and outreach to the community. I hope that this will offer many more opportunities and facilities for Copmanthorpe people so that it is used to the full for the benefit of everyone.

Thank you to all of you who have encouraged and supported this work, now we must use it to the full to glorify God.

*Love
Julia*

Financial Matters

The figures for collections and direct debits for October 2015 are:

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 4 | £57.02 |
| 11 | £171.91 |
| 18 | £256.65 Partly shared with St. Giles |
| 25 | £0.00 Service at Acaster Malbis |
| Standing Orders | £1,567.00 |
| Benevolent Fund | £0.00 |
| October Total | £2,052.58 |

Christmas Starts with Christ

According to a recent survey commissioned by Premier Christian Media, 67% of people across the UK do not believe that the birth of Jesus Christ is the main reason for celebrating Christmas, and 52% do not feel the religious aspect of Christmas is important to them.

There must be something we can do as Christians to reverse this and to remind people of the true and joyous meaning of Christmas.

The '**Christmas Starts with Christ**' campaign aims to spread the key message "Christmas Starts with Christ" through resources such as posters across neighbourhoods and parishes, as well as across social media.

For more information, go to www.premierchristianmedia.co.uk.

The next newsletter will be issued on Sunday 13 December. Please send articles, photographs, reports of events etc. to the church office by Thursday evening 10 December.

Junior Mission for All (JMA)

JMA is about sharing what we have, and making a difference to daily life in the name of Jesus.

The monies collected by JMA members is used to help mission throughout the world, both at home in the UK and also Worldwide.

Thanks to all who helped to raise £388.87p this year here in Copmanthorpe, a super amount which

will make a difference in the work for Christ.

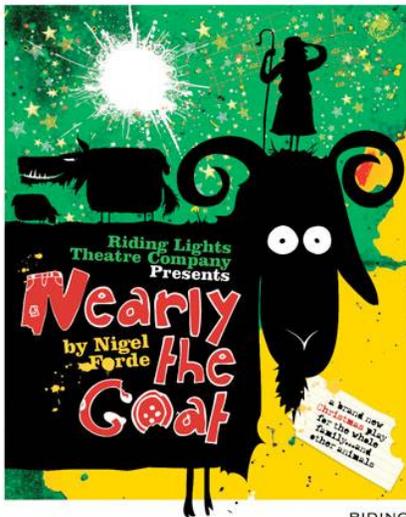
After 14 years Margaret & Geoff Dawson have now stepped down as JMA secretaries for this Church, and therefore if you feel you are being called to be a missionary on the “doorstep” this may be the opening for you.

Margaret & Geoff will be happy to explain procedures, needs etc – just ask, otherwise speak to Julia or any of the Church Stewards.

As with all Church officer positions the salary is negotiable on the “Temple Servants” grade of “where your treasure is, there will be your heart also”.

Thanks G & M Dawson

Riding Lights – “Nearly the Goat”



Touring Yorkshire
November and December 2015



**Copmanthorpe Primary School
Saturday 12 December at 6.00 p.m.**

A Christmas play for all the family.

When was the last time a goat was on hoof to save the day? Somewhere between the tinsel and the cabbage leaves, the crackers and the parsnip peelings, comes the remarkable story of Nearly the Goat, bending his amazing acting talents to impersonate a host of harassed innkeepers and help George tell a spell-binding Christmas story. To say nothing of the wolf!

Will Nearly in his DIY travelling machine get to Bethlehem before the wolf does? And how can the kings return to Persia without their camel? This night of all nights is heading for a flock of disasters. Well, Nearly. And if it wasn't for one relentlessly cheerful, extremely interrupting goat butting in

With an extraordinary range of puppetry skills, Riding Lights bring you the Christmas story in unforgettable style. Hilarious and magical.

“Nearly the Goat” lasts approximately one hour and is suitable for age 5 and up. Tickets are £6 and £4 for under 12s, and can be obtained from the Post Office.

Banner Maker for the King

Probably not something many people would understand, but I can't remember a time when I didn't sew, it was just something I always did. Having been asked to write about sewing, and banners in particular, it led me to reflect on what is behind my enjoyment of everything you can make with a needle.

To start at the beginning, I was born just as WW2 ended. Anyone from my generation will tell you about the wonderful freedom we had. Easy to spend a whole day and not see your parents. Unlike today, there were few organised things for children to do, no cars to take you here and there so we spent days playing with our cousins, neighbours children and siblings. We fished, played chasing and tracking games, skipped, made dolly clothes, picked and pressed flowers and played circle games.



Winter memories are of trying to keep warm, sitting as near as we dared to a coal fire, listening to the radio, singing while my father played the piano. I was encouraged to learn to sew and knit, making socks on four needles when I was only seven. Everything we wore was make do and mend as they say. Rationing being in force, there were no pretty fabrics, just anything you could get hold of. My skirts and coats all made from the best bits of outworn adult garments. Vests were knitted in cream wool by Grandma and had sleeves in. It must have been a constant worry for my mother as to how she could keep us all fed and clothed.



Sundays were different though. Sunday school was mandatory in our family so, spruced up, off we went to Sydney Street Methodist Chapel. It had a big effect on me as I was a very fanciful little girl and I loved the bible stories, songs and hymns contrasting with what I see now was a rather drab post war world. In my imagination I could be in Bethlehem cooing over baby Jesus, or watch the ark being built. A highlight of our year was the Anniversary when you received your prize for Sunday school attendance, (I still have some of mine). My best friend Dorothy went to St. Chads the local Anglican Church. I couldn't understand why she would want to go to that huge drab place and tried to entice her to come with me. 'We have Jesus at Sunday school, you can talk to him and he takes care of you.'

As I grew older the big attraction was the Friday night youth club. The girls had to go an hour early to work on items for the Church Bazaar, tray cloths felt toys and dressing table sets seemed to feature every year, goodness knows who bought our efforts.

I was so glad I that I could sew as a teenager, first it was dresses with many yards in the skirts and then mini dresses came into fashion. . . I copied Cilla Black's styles! Early married days followed, moving round the country with my husband's job. Two babies meant I left work so I was thankful to make the pennies stretch by dressmaking and knitting just as my mother had done for us.

One of my favourite hobbies is patchwork and quilting. Appealing because I can make something new from quite small scraps piecing them together to make something useful. True that these days we can buy our fabrics in every possible design and colour but early training still makes that hard for me.

I became involved with banner making in 2006 when the Stewards at CMC asked me if I could make a banner for Easter. We were to parade from Church to the shops on Easter Sunday morning and, join St. Giles to celebrate. I wasn't sure how to begin, but looked at various books, adapted a picture and I was away. Tim Duffy made a beautiful shaped wooden frame for the banner to hang on for its journey along Main Street. My interest had been piqued and I spent a few years making lectern falls to match the banners we already had. These beautiful hangings had been made by a group of ladies under the direction of Nancy Piercy, a lovely legacy.

Spending hours with your sewing machine for company gives you plenty of time to think about all sorts of things past, present and future. Those early experiences in Sunday school had firmly planted a strong belief in God that has never left me. When I hear of people having Damascus Road experiences, I think how wonderful that would be, but how could I regret that even as a child I had certain knowledge of God's love and care, and have been able to talk to Him, in praise, in petition, in enquiry, just as you would to any other friend. I am sure you will find it amusing that with no experience of open prayer, I was so surprised (amazed) on joining a House group to find that other people had the same sort of chats with the Lord!



Sometimes when people ask about the newer banners, they presume we still have a 'group'. I do like working with other people, but banners are very personal to me and I mainly work alone so no one changes the way I have seen the finished picture. The one exception (so far) has been the banner we made to celebrate the Ecumenical Partnership between CMC and St.

Giles. Needlewomen from both Churches worked together for several weeks and it was great fun. Especially memorable was the shopping trip to purchase the fabrics. Looking for a black background, I wanted a small design so that it did not look too flat. It wasn't until we got the chosen fabric home that we saw the designer had named it 'Angels Among Us' - we felt that was divine inspiration!

Since I became interested in banners, I have seen some fabulous work whilst visiting Churches around this country and in America. I know that I will never be an expert, but what I make gives me pleasure and hopefully enhances our church making it fit for our King.

God grant that I may see the stitch
until my dying day.
And when my last short thread is clipped
and scissors tucked away.
May the work that I have done live on
that other folk may see.
The pleasure I have known, Lord
in the skill you gave to me.

Heather Hewson

The Persecuted Church Family Matters



CHURCHES DESTROYED, 8,000 CHRISTIANS FLEE

A 700-strong mob of radical Muslims marched on government offices in the province of Aceh Singkil, Indonesia, on 13 October. The mob then turned its attention to the Indonesian Christian Church (HKI) in protest against the presence of Christian places of worship. [The church building was torched](#) (as shown in the picture above) and, in the ensuing chaos, a Muslim man was shot dead. Eight people were

also injured.

Fearing for their safety, around 8,000 Christians have fled from Aceh to neighbouring regions in North Sumatra. "The displaced Christians live in scarcity and desperately need clean water, food, clothes, baby food, blankets, and medicines," explained one witness.

Christians in the region were already concerned about the future of their churches after a recent decision by the local government authorised the demolition of ten unregistered churches. The demolitions were due to commence on 19 October. So far, at least three of these churches have been demolished by police-protected government workers.

PLEASE PRAY:

- That those displaced will be able to return home safely, despite the circulation of threatening text messages from radical Muslims
- For the continuing strength of churches, schools, and government offices in North Sumatra who are looking after displaced Christians
- For the Lord to touch the Islamic extremists' hearts and turn them to Him
- For Open Doors workers as they assess the situation to seek ways to assist the refugees.

URGENT PRAYER REQUESTS FROM ALEPPO AND BAGHDAD

"Please pray for the people in Aleppo," wrote our brother from Syria this week. Just a few days earlier, Pastor Farouk Hammo in Baghdad, Iraq, sent a simple request: "Pray for us."

These two cities have been experiencing disasters. For more than ten days Aleppo has been under siege, with many people trapped inside. "There are no food supplies," our contact reported. "Randomly in the city, shells hit. People start to become more and more hopeless."

In Baghdad, heavy rainfall after a heatwave has caused flooding. Not only have churches and buildings been flooded, but internally displaced people (IDPs) living in makeshift shelters have been affected.

Last week we heard how Sarah* has been uniting Aleppo in prayer. Today, we can join in with that movement. "Pray that God will comfort and strengthen the Christians trapped in Aleppo," requested our brother in Syria. "Please pray that the extreme weather situation in Iraq will stop," called our brother in Iraq.

PLEASE PRAY:

- That God will comfort, strengthen and give hope to Christians trapped in Aleppo, and for the siege to end so that food supplies can reach the people

- For Iraqis and IDPs affected by the extreme weather, particularly remembering those whose homes, shelters and churches have been flooded
- That the people of Syria and Iraq would put their trust in God during this difficult time
- That God will continue to support and protect Open Doors workers on the ground as they provide food and basic necessities to people in this war-torn region.

“ Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble.” Psalm 107:6