

MEETINGS ON THE LORD'S DAY

6th Dec	AM: Pastor Billy Jones PM: Mr David Cameron
13th Dec	AM/PM: Mr Stephen Moffitt 4.00PM: Family Carol Service Singers: Sunday School and Bible class <i>There will be a cup of tea after the service</i>
20th Dec	AM: Mr Trevor Matthews 7.00PM: Christmas Music Service — Mr Brian Carson speaking Singers: YF, Searchers & others
27th Dec	AM/PM: Mr David Anderson

FRIENDLY HOUR

The Friendly Hour will meet on **Thursday 3rd December at 10.45am**. The speaker will be **Mr Bob McAllister**, former missionary to the Congo.

The meeting will be followed by a light lunch and all will be made very welcome.

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Details of Youth Fellowship in December are as follows:

Sunday 6th Dec @ 8.15pm : Christmas music practice
Full attendance is requested please.
Supper: Charis & Isaac

PHILIPPI GROUP

The Philippi Group are invited to Ed and Sharon's house on **Friday 18th December** for food and fellowship at 7.00pm.

All are very welcome.

SPORTS 4 CHRIST

Football and Sports for everyone!

Please come along to Lough Moss Leisure Centre on **Monday 28th December from 2-4pm**.

All are very welcome.

ROTAS FOR THE MONTH

	6th	13th	20th	27th
DOOR DUTY	Group B: D Glover *, E Shaw *, B Gibson, D McGreevy, J Carson * <i>deacon in charge</i>			
CHILDREN'S CHURCH	Mark Tanya	Lynsey Karen	David Janette	Paul Gillian
FLOWERS	Eileen Martin	Carol Chesney	Carol Chesney	Audrey Shields
RECORDING	Jonny	Gary	Gareth	Derek

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Sun 13th December @ 3.00 pm — Meeting in Tullywest Nursing Home—David Anderson speaking
- Sun 27th December @ 3.00pm — Meeting in Silverbirch Nursing Home—Brian Gibson speaking

SYMPATHIES

We extend our deepest sympathies to Maurice, Ruth, Ben, Erin and Zara Graham on the recent death of Maurice's mother. Please be assured of our prayers at this time of bereavement.

CHURCH CHRISTMAS CARD

Our corporate Christmas card will be available in the entrance foyer shortly. Each year we sign a card to each other in lieu of sending individual cards. A donation box will be available and details of where this money will go to this year will be announced.

LADIES' FELLOWSHIP BUFFET

The Ladies' Fellowship will meet on **Tuesday 1st December** for our Christmas buffet and Edith Moore will be along with some craft. All ladies should arrive by 7.15pm.

The debt outstanding on the Building Loan for the New Multipurpose Hall is currently £155,500.

Details of items to appear in the bulletin must be given to Karen not later than the second Sunday in the month for inclusion in the next month's edition (email to: nk Reid@utvinternet.com).

Saintfield Baptist Church
51 Crossgar Road
Saintfield

Monthly Bulletin



**SAINTFIELD
BAPTIST
CHURCH**

www.saintfieldbaptist.org.uk

*December
2015*

Matthew 2:1-2 ...there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him..

**Sunday
Services:
11.30am
& 7pm**

**Sunday
Sch: 10.30am
Searchers:
Wed 6.45pm**

**Bible Study
& Prayer
Meeting
Wed 8pm**

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH



The True Meaning of Christmas

It's hard to believe we are approaching the Christmas season once again.

For some Christmas will be a time of travelling—coming home for family reunion.

For others it will be a time of reflection looking at that empty chair and thinking of that loved one who has passed away.

For the business man it will be a time of increased sales to bring in the revenue.

To the party goer it will be a time for overindulging and dancing the night away.

But I trust we will all know the true meaning of Christmas, the coming unto the world of the one Lord Jesus Christ as a little baby.

Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

In Isaiah Chapter 9 the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ is prophesised:

His Incarnation: For unto us a child is born

His Deity: A son is given

His Kingdom: The government shall be upon His shoulder

His Name: Shall be called Wonderful

His Person: Counsellor, wisdom

The Mighty God: The omnipotent one

The Everlasting Father: Who inhabits eternity, the loving and compassionate one

The Prince of Peace: The one who can bring peace to a troubled heart

Can I take this opportunity of wishing you all a Happy and Blessed Christmas.

Bertie Henderson

SPECIAL CAROL SERVICES

You are warmly invited to our special services to be held as follows:

Sunday 13th December @ 4.00pm—Family Carol Service

Speaker: Mr Stephen Moffit

Sunday School and Bible Class will be taking part

Sunday 20th December @ 7.00pm—Christmas Music Service

Speaker: Mr Brian Carson

The YF, Searchers and other singing groups will be taking part.

CHRISTMAS MORNING SERVICE

The Christmas morning service will take place at **10.30am**. All are welcome at this special family service.

The speaker will be Mr David Anderson.

NEW YEAR'S EVE GET-TOGETHER

Everyone is invited to our New Year's Eve Get-together at **8pm on Thursday 31st December** Please plan to come along for a time of fun and fellowship.

CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONAL

Christmas without the 'X'

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born his day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:10-11

So often these days we see Christmas with the 'Christ' taken out and replaced with an 'X'. It's almost as if it's a nameless celebration. We as Christians know how far from the truth that is. We read here of angels appearing to the shepherds and declaring the birth of Jesus, the Son of David—who is the Christ (the Messiah). It is in no way a 'nameless' event, but a wonderful celebration of the greatest event—the birth of Christ and the reconciliation to God He brought to us all.

So let's keep the 'Christ' in Christmas.

Christmas must always start with Christ. For He has saved us and changed our lives.

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SILENT NIGHT—A CAROL

This is probably the most famous carol of all, and certainly the carol with the best known story surrounding its origins. That story however, has been much embellished and mythologised over the years.



In 1816 Pastor Joseph Mohr wrote the words of 'Stille Nacht' as a poem in Mariapfarr, Austria. Two years later, Mohr had moved to the Church of St Nicholas in Oberndorf, and according to the legend the organ in this church crucially broke down - on Christmas Eve of all nights!

Music was desperately required for the Christmas service, so Mohr suddenly thought of his two year old poem, and gave it to his friend Franz Gruber, Gruber, a local schoolteacher and composer, was struck by the beauty of the words and immediately sat down and composed a melody for guitar, rather than church organ. Remarkably, the melody was completed in time for the Midnight Service, and so was born on the eve of Christmas, the carol 'Silent Night'.

Unfortunately the real truth may be a little less romantic. Neither Mohr nor Gruber ever revealed the details of the song's creation, and the broken organ story comes from much later in America. It may simply be that Mohr had specifically requested a guitar accompaniment instead of organ instrumentation for his poem. Whatever the truth, the song took off, first in Austria where a singing family called the Strassers performed 'Stille Nacht' at a Leipzig concert in 1832, and then in America, where the Rainer family performed the carol outside Trinity Church in New York City in 1839.

Two decades later, John Freeman Young published an English translation of the German original. Then in December 1914, 'Silent Night', already a popular carol, took on a new sentimental edge during the first Christmas truce of World War One. It was, it seems, one of the few carols which both English and German soldiers knew, so as the guns fell silent for an all too brief period, the strains of 'Silent Night' filled the air instead.