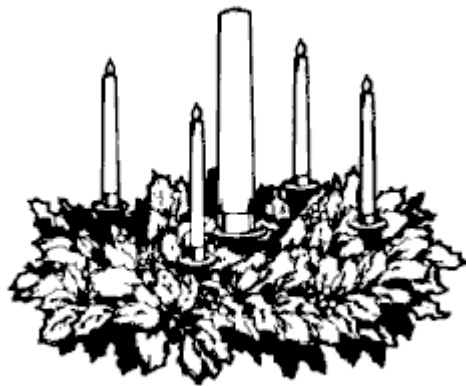


**ST ANDREW'S METHODIST CHURCH**  
**Huddersfield Road, Halifax**  
**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2014**  
**FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT 2014**



**10.30 a.m. Morning Worship**  
**conducted by Mrs Kathleen Melling**

**5.00 p.m. Carols by Candlelight**  
**Leader – Miss Alison Dobson assisted by**  
**members of the O & A Team**

*Our Mission is to share the Love of God*  
*as revealed by Christ, through the Holy Spirit*

Junior Church meets every Sunday from 10.30 a.m. except on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month when we have our All Age Worship & Parade Service.

There is a crèche in the coffee bar for babies under 3 years.

We hope you will join us for coffee after morning worship.

If you are new to our church, please make yourself known to one of the stewards.

**PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP**  
**Please pray for**

- Kathleen and Alison and all who take part in our Services today.
- For those sitting near to you.
- If you have a subject for prayer which you would like to be included in our prayers for others, please write it briefly on the slip available from the Door Stewards, for collection during the service.

**10.30 A.M. MORNING WORSHIP**  
**CONDUCTED BY MRS KATHLEEN MELLING:**

**WELCOME:**

**LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE:** (*L: Leader, P: People*)

As ever, God's choices are surprising.

**L** Of people!

**P** Mary, from Nazareth in Galilee; Elizabeth in her old age.

*Silence*

**L** Of places!

**P** Can anything good come out of Nazareth?

*Silence*

**L** Of context!

**P** Roman-occupied territory.

*Silence*

**L** Of method!

**P** A child born into lowliness.

*Silence*

**L** Of continuity!

**P** Us!

*Silence*

**L** So we pray.

**P** However unworthy we may feel;  
 wherever we may come from;  
 into whatever time we have been born;  
 however puzzled we may be by God's choices;  
 may we share with gladness all that we have been given. Amen  
*(The first four candles are lit.)*

**CALL TO WORSHIP:**

**HYMN:** StF 188 There's a light upon the mountain...

**PRAYERS AND THE LORD'S PRAYER:**

**TALK WITH THE CHILDREN:** "The First Tinsel"

**HYMN:** StF 59 Lord, the light of your love... (Shine Jesus Shine)...

**THE CHILDREN LEAVE WITH THE BLESSING:**

Lord Jesus bless our church, bless those who leave and those who stay. Help us to love you more each day. Amen.

**OLD TESTAMENT READING:** Genesis chapter 1 verses 1 – 5 (O.T. page 3)

**MEDITATION:** "A Story of Light and Darkness"

**HYMN:** StF 706 Longing for light, we wait in darkness...

**GOSPEL READINGS:** Matthew chapter 5 verses 14 – 16 (N.T. page 7)

John chapter 12 verses 35 – 36 (N.T. page 135)

**HYMN:** StF 175 Light of the world you stepped down into darkness...

**SERMON:** "Lights that Shine"

**HYMN:** StF 185 Sing we the King who is coming to reign...

**OFFERING AND DEDICATION OF OFFERING:**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:**

**HYMN:** StF 350 I cannot tell why he, whom angels worship...

**THE BLESSING:**

**Organist : Mrs Leah Mullin**

**A MEETING FOR PRAYER** is held every Sunday morning from 10.00 a.m. – 10.20 a.m. in the Playgroup Room and we invite all to join us as we bring our concerns and prayers for our Church; other people and ourselves to the Lord – please do come and share in this special time of "Talking with God" as we ask Him to lead us forward as a Church Family and as individuals.

**THIS MORNING AFTER WORSHIP** the O & A Group invite you to enjoy ground coffee and mince pies with them in the Coffee Lounge – all donations for Ravenscliffe – thank you.

**THIS AFTERNOON WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US FOR OUR CHRISTMAS CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT SERVICE** – this special Christmas Service will be held **TODAY** at **5.00 p.m.** but you are invited to come along at **4.00 p.m. for a buffet tea** – please do try to join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus the Light of the World. Refreshments will also be served after the end of the Service.

**AS PART OF OUR CHRISTMAS DAY CELEBRATION YOU ARE INVITED TO.....JESUS' BIRTHDAY PARTY**, here at 10.30 a.m. Christmas Day morning. Transport can be provided – see Margaret or David – **Hope to see YOU there – There will be a retiring collection for the Forget Me Not Children's Hospice**

**A HUGE THANK YOU IS EXTENDED** to all who supported **OUR CHRISTMAS MEAL LAST SUNDAY LUNCHTIME** – what a lovely time of fellowship we shared together around the table and in true St Andrew's style we all enjoyed the meal. We were reminded again that "Jesus is the Reason for the Season" and this was expressed by the generosity of the members of the Outreach and Awareness Group who donated everything that we had to eat and prepared and served the food. We are always very appreciative of the washing up and clearing away help that friends give when the meal is over. The meal raised the wonderful amount of **£323.00** for the Ravenscliffe@SpringHall Appeal. We are pleased to report that with another injection of money from the Toys and Games Quiz of £25.00 plus a donation of £20.00 from a friend of Tricia's the Appeal fund stands at **£2,159.40** at the moment and with the money raised by the Rainbow Guides to be handed in shortly, this brings the total amount raised to date to **£2,220.62** and the O & A Group want everyone to know just how much your help and support means to them but more particularly to the pupils and staff at Ravenscliffe – if you can manage it, please give yourself a 'pat on the back'.

**A BIG THANK YOU GOES TO THE CHILDREN OF OUR JUNIOR CHURCH** – who shared with us their brilliant Nativity Play "An event for all" last Sunday morning, we want to take this opportunity to say a BIG "thank you" to them all and also to their teachers for the hard work in putting the Nativity Play together.

**MRS EDNA SMITH** - it is with sadness that we had to inform you last week of the death of Mrs Edna Smith at Ingwood Nursing Home. We will all have our own different memories of Edna and we pray for Mark and her granddaughters at this sad time for them all. Her Funeral Service will take place here at St Andrew's on Tuesday December 23rd at 11.45 am followed by cremation at Park Wood at 12.45 pm.

**RAINBOW GUIDES** would like to say a BIG THANK YOU to all who bought their biscuits and buns on Sunday 7th December for our fun fundraising for Ravenscliffe, we hope you enjoyed eating them as much as we enjoyed making them. We raised £41.22 plus sponsorship of £20.00 which makes a total of £61.22 for the Ravenscliffe@SpringHall Appeal - Thank you again, Valerie, Margaret and Patricia.

**CARDS FOR PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE** - Thanks to the generosity of so many people, we have again sent 46 cards to prisoners of conscience around the world. To know they are not forgotten makes a huge difference to people in such difficult circumstances.

**RAVENSCLIFFE@SPRING HALL – OUR LATEST QUIZ IS STILL AVAILABLE** – "TOYS AND GAMES" this time - very appropriately named for this time of year. The Quiz costs £1.00 and can be bought from Tricia, Sue and other members of the O & A Group – Buy one now to relax with over the Christmas holidays!

**OPEN TO GOD** – which normally meets every Wednesday morning is taking a two week break over the Christmas period and will begin again in the New Year – watch this space for details.

**CHURCH CHRISTMAS CARDS** - we would like to thank everyone who took church Christmas cards to give out. After the interest shown we will order a bigger number next year.

**CHRISTIANS TOGETHER – WINTER ACTIVITIES** – Please read the Notice on the Board regarding an appeal for funds to enable "**The Gathering Place**" at 1 St James Road to be converted into a winter shelter for those who would otherwise be sleeping rough in and around the streets of Halifax.

**CHURCH WEEKEND - Friday 13th to Sunday 15th March 2015** - If you are interested in joining us on the Church Weekend please add your name to the list and give Glenda a £20 deposit. Leaflets about the weekend are available in the Church entrance. We are going to Grange-over-Sands again as the hotel offers a sea view and lots of comfortable space for fellowship together. All rooms are en-suite and there are single, twin and double rooms. We enjoy a weekend of Christian fellowship together, with time to enjoy the surrounding areas.

**News Items new to us this week** are from – Food Drop in Centre report – please read to see the food most needed at this time – Methodist E-News for December – Plough Service at Ripon Cathedral 11/01/2015 – Family Concert with Doug Horley aimed at families with children aged 5 – 11 – at Elm Church – "Change Over My Dead Body!" says Jesus – 'A Christian Reflection' 25/04/2015 at Addingham.

**WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST ANDREW'S DURING THE COMING WEEK:**

Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Eve	11.30 p.m.	Christmas Eve Communion
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Day	10.30 a.m.	You are invited to come to <b>JESUS' BIRTHDAY PARTY</b>
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> December	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship conducted by Mr Michael Scott

**During this week please pray for:**

The Rev Alistair Newton our Minister and Mrs Stella Christie our Pastoral Lay Worker. David, Margaret and Janet our Worship Leaders as they prepare to lead our worship on Christmas Day.

Mr Michael Scott as he prepares to lead our Service next Sunday morning.

Today we join other members of the Calderdale Circuit as they pray for the Church Family at Northowram and for their Minister the Rev Patrick Taylor.

For all who prepare to lead Christmas Services throughout the Circuit.

Rev Alistair, Stella, and Sue Ng as they prepare to lead Worship at Heptonstall, Highgate and Southgate, Elland next Sunday.

Members of the St Andrew's Church Family who need our prayers and for those who are not well at this time either in hospital or recovering at home and for those who have family members unwell at this time. Pray that the Loving Lord Jesus will sustain them all through their time of worry and anxiety for themselves and for their loved ones. We think of Ann in Elm Royd, Brighouse just now and we remember Edwin & Margaret Harrison, Edwin is in Calderdale Royal at the moment.

For the family and friends of Mrs Edna Smith whose Funeral Service will take place at St Andrew's on Tuesday at 11.45 p.m.

**IMPORTANT** ring Dorothy (250509) regarding lettings or if you want to use a room. Items for the News Sheet please send to Enid by email to [j.turner302@btinternet.com](mailto:j.turner302@btinternet.com) or by phone (362654)

Our website [www.standrewshalifax.org.uk](http://www.standrewshalifax.org.uk)

Circuit website [www.calderdalemethodists.org.uk](http://www.calderdalemethodists.org.uk)

District website [www.westyorkshiremethodist.org.uk](http://www.westyorkshiremethodist.org.uk)

*May the true meaning of Christmas  
surround you with Peace and Joy  
and 2015 bring  
great blessing to  
you and your loved ones*

