



PARKEND CHURCH

The Survey Christmas

2nd December 2018 - Park End Church Survey - No. 613



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parkendchurch

Park End Church, Llandennis Road, Cardiff, CF23 6EG

Dear Friends

Every year we celebrate Christmas, but have you ever wondered where the word Christmas comes from and what it means? Interestingly the phrase is thought to have originated in the eleventh century. It is a shortened form of "Christ's mass".

The word Christ or Crist, as it originally read, comes from the Greek word Khristos which is a translation of the Hebrew word Messiah which means "anointed".

The second part of Christmas – maeste – is a version of the Latin word missa. This is better known in the Catholic church as the mass, or in our tradition Holy Communion. This is where we eat bread and drink wine in memory of Jesus' death on the cross.

Christmas is most certainly a time to celebrate, because it was the beginning of God's great plan of salvation; which was his chosen way of restoring the relationship between himself and mankind that had been broken by sin.

For many people Christmas is simply a time to enjoy a break from work (or school), a time to be with family and to enjoy festive food and drink. For others it can be a time they don't look forward to because they are on their own, or it brings back painful memories.

To really embrace Christmas a person must grasp the bigger picture and understand the meaning behind it, otherwise it is simply an opportunity to have a holiday and be self-indulgent.

The Christmas story begins with a birth in humble circumstances. Although it is only in retrospect that we realise that Jesus was no ordinary baby but God incarnate. God himself entering his own creation to save mankind from their sins. To appreciate the bigger picture we must look beyond the baby in the manger to the grown man who 33 years later, on Good Friday, was crucified on a cross. Though he had done nothing wrong he allowed himself to be crucified so that he could pay the price of sin - the sin of all mankind, past present and future. Good Friday was good because, at great cost, Jesus dealt with sin so that our relationship with God could be restored.

At the heart of the Christmas story is this amazing gift from God, forgiveness, love and eternal life. The decision we all have to make is do

we leave the present unopened or do we accept God's gift which was summarised in the bible verse John 3 verse 16. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only son that whoever believes in him will not die but have everlasting life"

Now that's what I call a Christmas present! I hope that you will all join with me in unwrapping God's wonderful Christmas gift - for then, as forgiven people, we can have a personal relationship with God. When you think about it that's really what Christmas is all about.

I hope you, and your family have a wonderful Christmas.

God bless

Nick Perry

Can You Help?

Providing tea & coffee after the morning service is a very valuable task – it helps to make newcomers feel welcome and cared for, and it also enables people to catch up and have meaningful conversations after our Sunday morning services.

We are so grateful to the amazing team of volunteers who serve God in this way. Several volunteers who have been serving tea and coffee after our Family & Parade services, are no longer able to do so, and we are urgently looking for volunteers to help, whether it's 1 Sunday a year or 10, we would be so grateful for your help.

If anyone is willing to help in this way or is willing to join any of the other rotas, please contact **Olwen Sirrell**.

Or the Administrator,

Gillian Hughes admin@parkendcardiff.org.uk

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Special Prayer Meetings

3rd Sunday of each month
10:15am - 10:45am

16th December 2018

20th January 2019

17th February 2019

17th March 2019

Weekly Prayer Meeting

Bible Study

House Groups

Tuesdays 7:15pm - 8pm

Thursdays 7:30pm

Various See Notices

CHRISTMAS SERVICE TIMES

PLEASE JOIN US!



December

2nd	11am	Mr Josh Parmar	Family & Gift Service
		Parable of the Wedding Banquet	
	6pm	Rev Peter Milsom	Holy Communion
6th	10:30am	Mission Auxiliary Carol Service	
9th	11am	Rev Roger Grafton	
		Walking the Talk – 1 John 2 v1-14	
	6pm	Rev Roger Grafton	
-			
16th	11am	Rev Rosemary Aldis	Holy Communion
	6pm	Carol Service	
22nd	5pm	Carols Around the Tree	
23rd	11am	Mr Nick Perry	
	6pm	NO EVENING SERVICE	
-			
24th	11:15pm	Midnight Service	
25th	11am	Christmas Day - Family Service	
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30th	11am	Rev Meirion Morris	
		Staying the Course – 1 John 2 v15-27	
	6pm	NO EVENING SERVICE	

January

6th	11am	Rev Peter Milsom	Holy Communion
	6pm	Family Likeness – 1 John 2 v 28 – 3v10	
		Rev Peter Milsom	
-			
13th	11am	Rev David Jenkins	
	6pm	Rev Wayne Adams	
-			
20th	11am	Rev John James	Family Service
	6pm	Rev John James	Holy Communion
27rd	11am	Mr Josh Parmar	
		Family Ties – 1 John 3 v 11-24	
	6pm	Rev Gwilym Roberts	

February

3rd	11am	Rev Peter Milsom	Holy Communion
	6pm	True Love - 1 John 4 v 1-21	
		Rev	
10th	11am	Mrs Ruth Wynn	
		A Call to Have Confidence – 1 John 5	
	6pm	Mr Josh Parmar	
-			
17th	11am	Mr Josh Parmar	
		An Encouragement to Stand Firm – 2 John	
	6pm	Rev John James	Holy Communion
24th	11am	Rev Helen Paynter	Parade Service
	6pm	Rev Helen Paynter	

March

3rd	11am	Rev Peter Milsom	Holy Communion
	6pm	A Challenge to Check Priorities - 3 John	
		Rev Peter Milsom	
10th	11am	Mr Luke Moreno	
	6pm	Mr Josh Parmar	Late Late Breakfast
17th	11am	Rev Wayne Adams	
	6pm	Rev Wayne Adams	Holy Communion

Please note, the service themes provided are just suggestions for visiting Minister



"She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

Matthew 1:21



"Only in souls the Christ is brought to birth and there He lives and dies."

Alfred Noyes



"And so, this Christmas season may our hearts with gladness glow, as we read the blessed story, that took place so long ago."

Alpha L. Buntain



"Christmas in Bethlehem. The ancient dream: a cold, clear night made brilliant by a glorious star, the smell of incense, shepherds and wise men falling to their knees in adoration of the sweet baby, the incarnation of perfect love."

Lucinda Franks



“Christmas is built upon a beautiful and intentional paradox; that the birth of the homeless should be celebrated in every home.”

G.K. Chesterton



“Christmas day is a day of joy and charity. May God make you very rich in both.”

Phillips Brooks



“Are you part of the ‘inn’ crowd, or one of the ‘stable’ few?”

Unknown



“The magic of Christmas is not in the presents, but in His presence.”

Unknown



“Great little One! Whose all-embracing birth lifts Earth to Heaven, stoops Heaven to Earth

Richard Crashaw



“For it is good to be children sometimes, and never better than at Christmas, when its mighty Founder was a child Himself.”

Charles Dickens



Finding The Words

Christmas and New Year are such evocative times aren't they? Packed with symbols and memory triggers, they push and pull at our emotions while societal pressure urges 'buy it, you need more' and 'you must be happy and party'. We live in a world based on duality; because of the bad, we can appreciate good, suffering people - gift others the experience of compassion, and the dark contrasts powerfully with the light.

Our challenge is to be conscious choice makers. Do we want this, or that? These are not the days to be sitting on a fence; the world is screaming at us , " is this ok with you?"

'Ignorance is bliss' the old saying goes, but that (apparent) luxury is no longer an option as The Media brings it all into our front room.

How can we respond in the face of such overwhelming tragedy and trouble?

As Christians we do of course pray.....but can we do it with a sincere expectation that human nature can be changed? Do we just pay lip service to "With God all things are possible"? Jesus told us that we would receive whatever we ask for in prayer, with the proviso "believe it and it will be yours." We need to have Great Expectations!

There is sometimes practical help we can give; hands on, financial or other forms of support....at other times we feel impotent, too small to make a difference. What then?

Science is at last beginning to create ways of measuring and describing things long spoken of by seers and mystics. We are now learning 'officially' that we are all one! Nothing is separate from anything. Tweak this and you tweak that too. We are part of a vast interconnected, cooperative matrix of life. Hallelujah! The bottom line is 'it all begins with us'. What I do affects you, what you do affects me...wherever we are.

"Be the change you want to see in the world" said Ghandi. Whatever we see 'out there' that we don't like, we can choose to heal within ourselves (or the judgement we are holding about it). Then that healing ripples out to affect the wider world. Do we long for peace in the world then shout and shake our fist at politicians; hate angry people then complain loudly about so and so; plastic wrap everything the cry for the

state of our oceans; hate to feel left out when there is someone we are ignoring, and so on?

We are all works in progress; it's a rough ride being human in these times but as we turn the page on 2018 (phew!) there is lots we can do in response to 'our broken world' - oh how I loathe that phrase - we are birthing a new world, heaven on earth, shining God's light into all the dark places so we can step forward and live in a more holy way with solid foundations under our feet....wholly, as in, we are one!

Be it to See it

Something we can all try to do in 2019 is to Find the Words.

The world is full of people not talking to one another for a variety of perceived reasons and often fighting as a result. We can make a ripple with how we live our own life.

Is there something you need to say to someone? Tomorrow is never guaranteed.

Perhaps you want to speak but feel embarrassed; afraid of hurting the person or making a bad situation worse; wonder if they will reject you or maybe even be angry with you? My suggestion; plan ahead. Practise what you want to say beforehand and keep it simple. Pray for help to find the right words and the best time to say them. It seems to me we do most harm when we don't do what our heart feels. 'Speaking up' changes us (like forgiveness) and God knows what happens to those ripples!

The Hindus have a lovely greeting 'Namaste' - it roughly means 'the God in me honours the God in you'. We are all God's children and as we step into a New Year, I pray we can all Find the Words to heal our differences, share our love, express our concern and speak our truth with sensitivity.

I wish you all every blessing for the year ahead.

With permission from

**Deborah Main
Sidmouth Methodist Church**



Christmas

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Thursday 6th December

10:30am Mission Auxiliary Carol Service

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Sunday 16th December

6pm Carol Service

Saturday 22nd December

5pm Carols around the Christmas Tree

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Sunday 23rd December

11am Morning Worship
(no evening service)

Sunday 24th December

11:15pm Midnight Service

Sunday 25th December

11am Christmas Day Service



Christmas at Park End



Carols Around the Christmas Tree

Following the success of last year, Park End will once again be having an outdoor Christmas tree! Get into the spirit of Christmas by joining us to sing "Carols around the Christmas Tree". Join us in the car park on **Saturday 22nd December from 5pm-6pm.**

Refreshments will be served free of charge. Wrap up warmly, bring your torch and get ready to celebrate this joyful season together! Everyone welcome (if it is raining we will adjourn to the hall!).

Church Christmas Card

For a number of years now we have displayed a large Christmas card just inside the door of the Sanctuary. This has two functions: it means you don't have to send dozens of cards to friends here and we can raise money for a good cause!

We invite you to send Christmas and New Year greetings to Park End friends by adding your message to the board, and leave your donations in the box below it. All donations will go to the Noah's Ark Appeal.

Community Christmas Events

The Street Plus Community Choir Concert: Thursday 6th December

7:30pm @ Llanishen Baptist Church, Fidas Road

There will be Christmas songs, carols and a reading with tea / coffee and mince pies afterwards. Free admission with a retiring collection for Ronald MacDonald House, Cardiff.

Christmas Community Day for Seniors: Saturday 15th December, 12:30pm

@ St Faiths Church Hall, Llanishen CF14 5JX

Hosted by Castle Health Helping Hands Ltd.

Free Event | Traditional Christmas Buffet | Live Entertainment | Raffle

To book your place and to arrange transport call: 02920 220177

Blue Christmas Service: Saturday 15th December, 6.30pm

@ Llanishen Methodist Church

A reflective service of remembrance for those who have lost loved ones recently, and for those who struggle at this time of year.

Getting Ready for Christmas

At home, I enjoy getting ready for Christmas! Steaming the puddings; baking the cakes and buying the advent calendars.

In Park End we get ready for Christmas too! We have already packed the sweets for the children in Romania. We have been doing this for many years but, sadly, this will probably be the last time, as both the vehicles who transport them and the people who deliver them are getting too old!

On Advent Sunday we shall be lighting the first Advent candle. Over the years so many individuals and families have had the joy of lighting the candle and leading us in prayers as we travel through Advent, culminating in the last candle lit on Christmas morning. Early in December we have our Gift Service. This started more than fifty years ago, when Margaret Jones, Eunice's late sister-in-law, worked for the National Children's' Homes. Margaret would provide us with a list of names and addresses of children known to the NCH. One evening after the Gift Service a group would meet to collect the gifts into parcels for each family. The parcels would then be sorted into areas of Cardiff for distribution. Later in December, Sunday School would go and deliver the parcels to the home addresses! We can not imagine that being allowed to happen now!

Dave, our eldest son, remembers going out to the Ferry Road area with Frank Pile. The conditions in some of the homes left a lasting impression. Some children would be at home on their own. Others were afraid to answer the door and would turn the lights off when they heard a knock at the door. On one occasion, Owen Harris, one of our young people dressed up as Father Christmas; I wonder what the families thought of Father Christmas making a personal delivery!

There are still more preparations: the Scout Post, packing presents and making cards for Andy's Thursday night friends, carol singing in the local pub, Anne's Christmas lunch for the older folk and then, on Christmas Eve the Midnight Service. This has always been organised by the young people of the church. It's a time to meet old friends and greet the new born King our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Happy Christmas!

Gill Williams

Park End Prayer Walk

On a damp Wednesday evening in mid-September, 14 of us set out from Park End to pray over the neighbourhood. Keith Daw and Iris Taylor stayed in the church to pray for us as we were walking.

The idea came about as a follow-up to the Take-a-Cake Sunday: having visited a number of homes, we felt we should ask God to bless the area around Park End and show us how we can be witnesses for Him.

Our route took us from Park End to The Oval, where, with fresh water from the Nant Fawr stream a religious settlement was established in 537AD. We thanked God there for faithful and unbroken Christian service and witness down the centuries and prayed that we will continue to be a presence in this part of Cardiff.

From there, we went on to Christchurch, praying for their congregation; then to Cardiff High School, where we remembered the pupils, staff and governing body, as well as the Higher Tour outreach mission taking place at the end of November.

Next, we stopped in Dan-yr-Heol, using this as an opportunity to pray for all of the homes and families in the area, and that God will show us where we are needed. This led us on to Rhydypenau School; then to the Crossroads, where we prayed for the businesses and services located there. Our final stop was at the Three Arches pub. No, we didn't go in, despite being quite wet by this point! We thanked God for the place where so many people of all ages meet, and for the links we have established with the staff there.

The days leading up to this event had been very emotional for a number of reasons, and we were aware of the upsets there had been within our own congregation. I wondered if it was right for us to go out at all, but others convinced me that there was no better time to pray for our neighbourhood. They were correct: it was a privilege and a blessing to commit our friends to God's care, and we all came away feeling that He had been with us during the evening. We hope to go in the spring. Perhaps you will join us when we do so.



Janet Chapman

Hymns & Songs at Parkend....The Statistics!

Psalm 96:1 "Sing a new song to the Lord"



I have recently completed the annual copyright report that needs to be done for our church copyright (CCLI) licences. Our AV projection system produces a list for me that includes the number of times each song & hymn has been used; I then enter these figures into the CCLI report.

With so much feeling in Park End concerning the songs & hymns we use, I have produced a chart from this list showing the sources of the songs & hymns we have sung (for the last 9 months) which is reproduced overleaf.

Although all our words are now projected, 70% are sourced from 3 main books:

- The 2 hymn books we use which have older traditional hymns are '**Hymns of Faith**' and '**Church Hymnary**'; these account for **45%** of the songs/hymns we have sung.
- '**Songs for worship**' (our in house songbook produced in 2001) accounts for **26%** of our songs/hymns. Most of these are now considered traditional (last century!).
- The remaining **30%** are not found in these books and include most of our children's songs. Looking at when these 30% of songs were written, they average 19 years old; we sing very few worship songs less than 10 years old.

I hope that these figures will provide a factual basis for our ongoing discussions concerning the future of the church at Park End.

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<u>Popular Songs</u>	<u>Average Use</u>
Our most often used song is 'There is a Redeemer'	Every 3 weeks

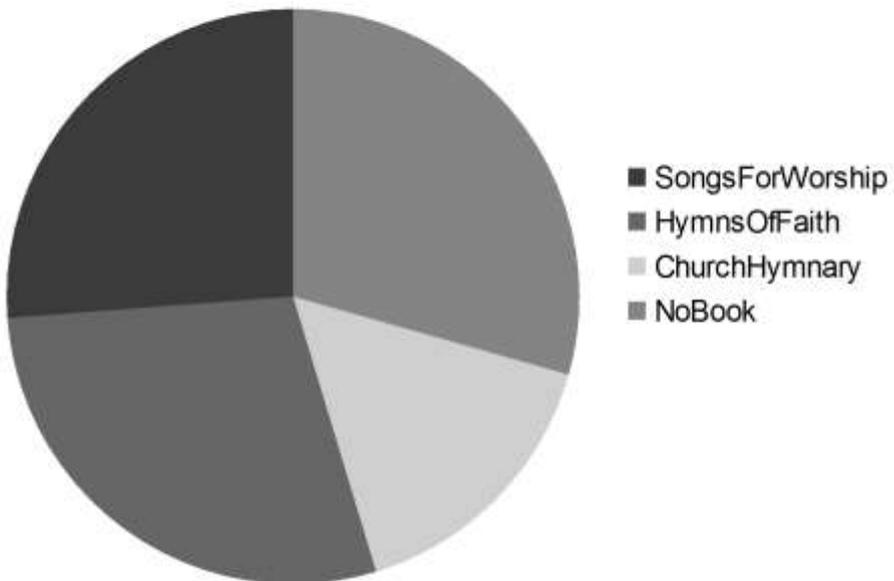
The 'nations favourite hymn' (BBC Songs of Praise) is 'How Great Thou Art'.	Every 6 weeks
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The CCLI most reported song is 'Bless the Lord O My Soul' (10,000 reasons)	Every 9 weeks
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Our songs/hymns are chosen by many different people; please see Diane's article overleaf for more information.

Rob Tucker

Songs & Hymns used in Parkend 2018



Park End Worship Group

On behalf of the Elders, I would like to update you on the work of the Worship Group, and let you all know that I am its newest member – replacing Richard Barrett.

So, who are we and what do we do?

Well, we are a group of church members, commissioned some years ago by the Elders and convened by Rob Tucker. We meet 5 or 6 times a year to review our services and plan special services including the more contemporary style. Any recommendations are presented to Elders for discussion & approval.

For several years the members of the worship team have been Rob Tucker, Chris Williams, Neil Whittington, Alanna Parmar, Irene Mallet & Richard Barrett. Richard & Irene have now stepped down, I have recently joined, and Sam Ogonovsky and Kathryn Davies have agreed to join.

To call us a group is perhaps a little confusing as we are **not** a group in the **musical sense**, but **rather** a designated team representing seven decades of the life and witness of this congregation.

We are **definitely not** to be confused with the band, who lead us in our musical praise, **on behalf** of the Worship Team and with the **full backing** of The Elders.

Because we are a team, we share a **collective responsibility** for what is done in our name. **After** the morning service, during coffee, you are **most welcome** to discuss any aspect of our worship, with members of this group. So, think of **us** as your one stop shop for all your feedback.

Organising the worship has never been an easy task, but as you will appreciate, recent events have rendered things even more difficult than usual. Normal Sunday services are planned by Jo Perry, who takes care of the pulpit arrangements and Rob Tucker who organises the readers and musicians.

This is no easy task under our current circumstances. Songs are often chosen by those leading the services, though sometimes the organist or band leader are asked to choose.

Some of you have voiced concerned about our morning services...these

have a pattern of 2 more traditional services a month and 2 more contemporary. Because of our pattern of Communion on the first Sunday, and family service on the 3rd Sunday, our styles cannot alternate, and occasionally they will all arrive one after another (as in Nov & Dec when the less formal services all arrive one after another).

Using the guitar need not make the worship less formal. The instruments used at each service will be chosen according to the service and who is available to play them. Actually, including our evenings, 70% of all our services are traditional.

Rob's article on the hymns & songs in Park End show that our songs & hymn use match this ratio.

Both our church and our denomination are living through difficult times and there are some churches which have no music at all, while we at Park End, have talented musicians, who give their time unselfishly, to lead us each week, in our musical praise. We are so grateful and blessed indeed.

Thirty-four years ago, God called me to membership here, and then to Eldership and to serve in the Junior Church. I believe that God has called each one of us to be **His family**, here in Park End - an **all age, all-inclusive and supportive family**. We all know that families may not always agree but they should **always love and forgive each other**.

It's about striving to live like Christ, thanking God for the many ways he has blessed us and praising him not just with our lips but with what is in our hearts.

Let us all remember that, we have **an awesome God** who is **greater than all our differences**. He wants us to **build each other up**, in **faith and love**, making us stronger together than we are individually, so that we can become the church he has called us to be, and reflect His love to one another and to those whom we meet in our wider community.

Diane Robbins

(text as spoken before a Sunday morning service in October 2018)

Youth Matters

Personal Update

Greetings everyone!

Personally, we are doing fine and praising God for His blessings in our lives. Jeremiah and Esther are growing fast and we are enjoying every moment with them too. Thanks for all your prayers and support to us as a family, we really appreciate and praise God for you all. I am faithfully serving God in all my work.

As part of my role as a Ministerial Assistant, I have had the privilege to visit a few people in the hospital and pray with them. I count it such a blessing to meet and pray with people not only in good times but also in hard times. If you ever want to meet up and pray then please do let me know.

Rock Solid (Bi-weekly on Wednesdays 7pm-8.30pm)

In Rock Solid, we are doing Youth Alpha and we have had 30 young people attending. Our sessions have been received well and they have all shown great enthusiasm too. It's a real joy to run this outreach club and to be reminded of the great relationship we have in Jesus; the hope He gives us and that He always has a plan, even when things seem impossible. It is such a joy to continue to work in Park End Church serving in this group and impacting so many lives for Jesus. I want to thank all my leaders who so faithfully serve in this group.

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Big Fish (Thursdays 4pm-5.15pm for ages 4-9)

We have been looking at 'Faithful Men and Women of the Old Testament'. It is such a privilege to serve in this group and to see all the children engaging and learning about our Lord Jesus Christ.

Zone: For Year 7 onwards

In Zone, we have been doing 'Youth Alpha' with the young people. They have come to our house for food and then we together do the Alpha course. Doing these sessions has been great, and a real encouragement to us personally as well as seeing how all our young people have engaged with it. It has challenged us all to see God in all our situations, and rely on him throughout.

Additionally, all our schoolwork had been tremendous fun this term. It is a real joy to watch the children hear that God loves us and forgives us, even though we don't deserve it.

Our Youth service called "**Late-Late-Breakfast**" is still a great service that I love to run with the help of some amazing helpers.

The next service will be on the **10th March 2019 at 6pm** with "breakfast food" at the end. We are again looking forward to this service and seeing how God moves amongst us!

Thanks again for all your support and encouragement to us — we really do appreciate it! Why not come along to one of sessions yourself and see all the fun we have, and meet some of our amazing young people.

Please do keep praying for all of the people we meet, that they will be open to the gospel; and that we will communicate it well and remember His love for us all.

Finally, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!

With love and prayers

Joshua Parmar
Ministerial Assistant & Youth Worker

Park End Presbyterian Church
Mobile: Josh 07917 126241
Email: japarmaryouth@hotmail.co.uk

Harvest Supper 2018

I offered to take on the formidable task of organising the Harvest Supper this year, it was okay when I first offered, but as time drew nearer I started to think what have I taken on?! It wasn't long until I got a very willing team together who were so enthusiastic with ideas and suggestions etc., it made the task much easier!

My next task was to arrange the entertainment section. As I had joined the CAFÉ (Cardiff Amateur Flute Ensemble), I asked them if they would be willing to come along and play, they jumped at the invitation. Throughout the summer months we practised our tunes for the event. I had explained to them that they were to remain a secret when they arrived as no-one knew what the entertainment would be! They were taken into the middle room to set up their music and stands, then they were invited to come into the hall and join in the buffet. I had previously said to my team the entertainment must be kept a secret, well they hadn't said a word to anyone which added to the surprise!

I would just like to say a big thank you especially to those who contributed food, i.e. salads, puddings etc, the table arrangements, the people who helped in the kitchen afterwards (a special thank you to Rowland). But most of all a big thank you to YOU ALL by attending and making it a successful evening.

Irene Mallett

Junior Church

It has been good to see everyone back after the summer break. We have been looking at John's Gospel to try and understand a bit more ' Who Jesus is? '

Thank you to all who brought packs of sweets for Romania. We collected 97 in the end which is fantastic! On Dec 2nd Josh will be leading our Family/Gift Service when we will be donating Christmas gifts to families in Cardiff who will be in the care of Social Services over the Christmas period. Thank you to Jan Lines who is organising this.

Our packing presents for Andy's work with the Homeless and making Christmas Cards, which we all feel privileged to be part of, will take place on 16th Dec. Junior Church will then take a break until Jan 6th.

Jo Perry

CAMEO

CAMEO are all ready for the new year. Here is our forthcoming programme. You would be most welcome to join us for any or all of their sessions. Meetings are held on Tuesdays at 2:30pm except for the lunches which start at 1pm.

For any further information, please speak to Pat Heap.

Pat Heap

Spring 2019 Programme

29th Jan Tea

5th Feb History of Cardiff's Hospitals 2 Mr Keith Moger

12th Feb Work of Cat's Protection Ms Kelly Matthews

19th Feb Words, Music and Memories Ms Pam Simmonds

26th Feb Lunch

5th March A Life in the Valleys Mrs J Goodfellow

12th March Berlin Mrs Jeanne Harvey

19th March South Wales Miners at War Mr Ritchie Wood

26th March Lunch

2nd April From Teaching RE to Chaplaincy Mrs Jo Perry

9th April AGM and tea

16th April No Meeting – Holy Week

23rd April No Meeting – Easter

Happy Birthday Kenny!

It was a privilege to host a celebration coffee morning on 27th October to celebrate Kenny's 80th birthday. It's hard to believe that he has reached that age safely, and in good health. We gave him shelter when he needed it; and have shared love and friendship with him for over 20 years now.

It is a joy to have him as part of our family – his cheery wave and conversation has made him very many friends in the neighbourhood; and the fact that nearly 100 people turned up to wish him well was a sign that he is well-loved by so many.

This was an opportunity not only to wish him many happy returns, but also to say thank you for all that he has given to us at Park End and for the effort he puts in daily to look after our building.

What a morning he had! Kenny, we wish you the happiest of birthdays and pray that you will be able to share many more with us.

Janet Chapman

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Thursday Bible Study Fellowship

Although we are very few in numbers, we are making our way through from Abraham to the birth of Jesus, looking particularly at the Covenants made to the Patriarchs. We will be finishing our meetings in December and re-starting in 2019, exact dates will be found in the notices. Everyone is welcome.

Beryl Wensley

Trefoil Guild

We are very pleased to welcome a new member to our Guild, she has transferred from a Guild in Scotland.

The National Trefoil Guild was 75 years old this year and there will be a service at Brecon Cathedral to celebrate in November. Many from Cardiff hope to attend.

Beryl Wensley

15th Cardiff (Park End) Brownie Pack

Hello to all our readers.

We have had another busy time in Brownies. Although we are currently few in number we are able to spend more quality time with each other.

We said goodbye to Eleri and Ella who have moved to the Guide Unit. We wish them well. However we welcomed Holly who is settling in well and will soon make her Brownie Promise.

During the first part of the Autumn term we made our contribution for the Guiding Harvest window in the Church and thought about how God provides so much for us to enjoy.

We played our usual Brownie games and sang traditional campfire songs with the Guides. We made friendship bracelets, made illuminated toadstools and tried some simple origami. The girls enjoyed making cups and animals.

We are planning to attend the Cardiff Scout and Guide Gang Show in the New Theatre.

We would like to see more Brownies join the Pack. If you know of any girls aged 7 – 10 years and would benefit from joining Guiding. Please let me know.

I wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a blessed New Year.

Sue Hawkins
Brownie Guider

5th Cardiff (Park End) Guide Unit

Hello friends at Park End,

The Guide Unit have had lots of fun this Autumn term.

We welcomed Eleri and Ella from the Brownie Unit and they are very excited to continue their Guiding journey.

We also saw the return of Annalisa and Isabella for a few meetings, they are not able to come regularly but it's always good to see them and as Issy is 18 years old she is a real help and counts as an adult in the child to adult ratio.

The Guides enjoy meeting together and planning their own activities. Recently they made use of the kitchen and baked delicious chocolate brownies. They also put on a silhouette show designing and entertaining the girls with a lovely story.

The girls enjoy craft and we have tried a few new things this term. They made contributions for the Harvest window, made Mexican "God's eyes" from wool and tried some advanced origami - making jumping frogs.

We are going to see the Cardiff Scout and Guide Gang Show in the New Theatre and looking forward to seeing the show. It's always wonderful.

With Christmas fast approaching we hope to be able to spend some time on craft and thinking about the real reason for the season.

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas.

Sue Hawkins
Guide Leader



Message of Thanks

"As a family we would like to thank everyone at Park End for their love, support and prayers during an extremely sad and testing time.

We feel so honoured and privileged to have met our beautiful grandson little Noah Edward, albeit for such a short time and are comforted that he is now at rest in the arms of Jesus. He was such a special little boy who brought so much love with him and he will live on in our hearts forever. Our heavenly Father has carried us through this and continues to comfort and uphold us all.

We feel so blessed to have so much support and love around us. God is at work in so many ways and we thank Him for His everlasting love."

Message of Thanks

"Many thanks to you all for kindness over the past few weeks, when we have both been unwell. It is wonderful to have had such support from our church family, and your cards and good wishes have been a great encouragement. We thank God for you all."

..... & Kelly Hamilton

Message of Thanks

"We are writing to say a big Thank You to all those who collect food on our behalf. Without your efforts we would not be able to feed those in crisis in our city. In 2017 we provided three-day parcels of food for 11,556 people and demand continues to rise. In July - September of this year Park End Presbyterian Church donated 66.7 kg of food, equivalent to 3-day food parcels for 6 people. Thank you to all of those who have contributed food and arranged the collections and deliveries."

Church Family News

MURIEL LEWIS

Although coming into membership as late as 2014, Muriel Lewis had endeared herself to the fellowship with her sunny disposition and her obvious talent as organist.

Welsh-born, Muriel showed an early aptitude for music, and as a teenager, played the cello in the Welsh National Youth Orchestra.

Teacher training followed and then marriage to a school friend. This was short-lived and, following her husband's death, Muriel went to Texas where she taught for a time. On her return to Cardiff, she became head of a school in Ely.

She met Doug and they were married in 1968, enjoying fifty years of happy marriage. Following early retirement, Muriel and Doug travelled together all over the world.

Muriel was a very energetic and courageous person and some of that energy was channelled into Cardiff Ladies' Golf Club, of which she was captain, and helping to establish the very successful Ladies' Probus Club. In later years, she arranged Coffee Mornings in their home, raising funds for Velindre Hospital.

Muriel had a strong faith, which was enhanced since joining Park End Church and felt honoured to have been asked to play the organ at some of our services.

An almost full church bore testament to the love in which she was held, and we offer Doug our sympathy and love in this, his sad loss.

CLIFF WEST

Although not a member, Cliff West, together with his dear wife Ruth, had been a regular attendee of the Park End Church evening service for many years, always sitting in the back pew! Following Ruth's passing, Cliff spent some time at Sunrise, when, following a stay at UHW, he moved to the Waverley Care Centre in Penarth.

Moving to Cardiff with his wife and two daughters, they bought a house in Duffryn Avenue which became and remained a loving and caring home.

Unfortunately, Cliff developed Alzheimer's and his family only had six

weeks or so with him before his condition worsened.

We send to Lynn and Laura and their respective families, our sympathy in their sad loss and pray that they will know God's love and comfort in the coming days.

JEAN EVANS

Jean had been ill for some years but successive treatment enabled her to live life to the full until the last months of her life. Jean had friends of many faiths and her love of the Jewish people and Israel made her many friends in the Jewish community, indeed as Jean said herself, she became almost an honorary Jew. She had taught R.E. at Cardiff High School and there were several of her older colleagues at the short thanksgiving service together with many other friends.

Jean had been a faithful member of the Park End prayer group, taking her turn in leading it, and she was also a well-respected member of the church's Committee. She had also given Park Enders talks on the Passover illustrated with food. Jean was also very regular in worship and her many friends at Park End Church will miss her greatly.

We send our sympathy to Deborah, her niece, and the extended family in their sad loss and assure them of our prayers in the coming days.

IN SYMPATHY

We extend our deepest sympathy to those who have lost loved ones since the last Survey.

IN ILLNESS

Several of our members are recovering from surgery. Others are slowly getting back to normal following treatment. We send to all such our love and every blessing for a quick return to full health. We remember, too, those who watch and wait through their loved ones illness and pray that they, too, will know God's peace in their lives.

CONGRATULATIONS

Five new babies have been born to ex-Park Enders in the last few weeks and we give thanks for these new little ones.

RALPH WENSLEY

As promised in the last Survey, here is a fuller account of Ralph Wensley's journey in Scouting, starting with Park End Church and ending in Australia.

Now known as Cub Scouts, Ralph Wensley joined the Wolf Cubs when he was eight years old. In 1942 there was a need for someone to start the Scouting movement at Park End Church and Ralph was chosen. Together with friends, he started Scouts which is still going strong today. Some years later Ralph moved to London where he married and studied for a qualification in Air Conditioning. In order to gain more experience and qualifications he moved to Perth, Australia.

There he quickly joined the Australian Scout Movement where those in charge were very interested in the badge "Silver Acorn" and the badge from Gilwell Park. He soon began attending camps and Jamborees and became part of the Area team. He was for many years Assistant Commissioner responsible for Spiritual Development, and this meant taking responsibility for making sure that whatever religion a Boy Scout held then there would be a suitable tent on the campsite for him to practice his religion.

Ralph was given many awards during his Scouting life including the 50 years long service voluntary award and the Australian Scout Award. Church and Scouts put his name forward for the Order of Australia Medal enabling the letters O.A.M. to be added after his name.

It has become obvious that Church and Scouts played a big part in Ralph Wensley's life and we thank God for every remembrance of him.

A Poem for Christmas by Margaret Wensley

Glass globes glittering, decorations dancing,
Wide-eyed wonderers store-bound stand and stare.
Gay gift-gathering pleasure- plotting parents,
Footsore food-finders catering with care.

Softly, silently, missed by merry millions
Comes the Comforter, God's great gift of grace;
Here, hope-hungry hearts seeking solace, see Him,
Word-wise, worldly ones fail to find His face.

Restless revellers seeking satisfaction
From fine fantasies flying fairy-fleet
Stop, and stablewards look where Love is lying,
Heaven-high happiness find at His fair feet.

This poem was found in Margaret Wensley's personal effects and we are grateful for permission to re-print.

Rhydypennau Library

We have lots of lovely Christmas events coming at the library.

Come and Meet Santa - Saturday 8th December

Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without a visit from Santa. This year he is calling in again to see the good boys and girls. He will be here on the 8th December at 10:30am to meet your lucky little ones.

We will also provide refreshments. No charge but donations will be very merrily received to help cover costs!

An Audience With Santa Claus - 12th December

We all know how much children love being with Santa Claus. Now it's time for grown-ups to hear what it's like being Santa and once again feel the magic of Christmas as seen through the eyes of Santa Claus. Let your inner-child join us.

Doors open 7pm for 7:30pm

Make sure you book to avoid disappointment.

Contact 02920 754 657 / Email - hello@forl.wales / FB Page

Christmas Quiz Night - 19th December at 7pm

The Friends of Rhydypennau Library quiz night returns!

£1 Entry Fee Per Person (includes snacks)

8 Rounds / Teams of up to 6 / Cash Prize & Raffle

TO REGISTER YOUR TEAM

Contact 02920 754 657 / Email - hello@forl.wales / FB Page

Hope to see you there!

Susanna Thomas

Rotas

Porch Duty

2nd December	AM: Sally Evans PM: Julie Emlyn-Jones
9th December	AM: Eleanor Batchelor PM: Pat Heap
16th December	AM: Helen Beale PM: Iris Taylor
23rd December	AM: Bruce Batchelor PM: No Service
30th December	AM: Chris Williams PM: No Service

Scripture Readers

2nd December	PM: Pat Heap
9th December	PM: Sue Hawkins
16th December	AM: Paula Barrett
23rd December	AM: Anne Halton
6th January	AM: Gill Williams / PM: Val Hooper
13th January	AM: Kathryn Davies / PM: Derek Hooper
20th January	PM: Dave Williams
27th January	PM: Iris Taylor

Sunday Teas & Coffees

2nd December	AM: Iris Taylor & Diana Thomas
9th December	AM: Chris & Nick Perry
16th December	AM: TBC
23rd December	AM: Josh & Melanie
30th December	AM: Chris & Nick Perry

Communion Glasses

2nd December	PM: Paula Barrett, Sue Hawkins & Anne Halton
16th December	AM: Sally & David Evans, Alanna Parmar & Taghrid Sarsam
6th January	AM: Eleanor & Bruce Batchelor, Val Hooper & Diana Thomas
20th January	PM: Julie Walters, Pat Sweetnam & Pat Heap
3rd February	AM: Eleanor & Bruce Batchelor, Val Hooper & Diana Thomas
17th February	PM: Julie Walters, Pat Sweetnam & Pat Heap
3rd March	AM: Eleanor & Bruce Batchelor, Val Hooper & Diana Thomas
17th March	PM: Julie Walters, Pat Sweetnam & Pat Heap

Flowers

2nd December	Eunice Webb & Pat Roberts
9th / 16th / 23rd / 30th December	Olwen Sirrell & Diane Robbins
6th / 13th / 20th / 27th January	Paula Barrett & Julie Emlyn-Jones
3rd / 10th / 17th / 24th February	Jean Hobbs & Anne Halton
3rd / 10th / 17th / 24th March	Chris Barnett

Tuesday Prayer Meeting

4th December	Sue Hawkins
11th December	Nick Perry
18th December	Andy Webb
8th January	Beryl Wensley
15th January	Keith Daw
22nd January	Iris Taylor
29th January	Josh Parmar
5th February	Sue Hawkins
12th February	Nick Perry
19th February	Andy Webb
26th February	Beryl Wensley
5th March	Keith Daw
12th March	Iris Taylor
19th March	Josh Parmar
26th March	Sue Hawkins

Saturday Teas & Coffee

8th December	Jean Hobbs & Hazel Baldwin
15th December	(No Coffee Morning)
22nd December	Iris Taylor & Irene Mallett
29th December	Elaine Daw & Janet Chapman
5th January	Olwen & Chris Sirrell
12th January	Julie Emlyn-Jones
19th January	Pat Roberts & Janet Strong
26th January	Jo Perry & Barbara Lloyd

Sanctuary Cleaning

7th December	Helen Beale, Diana Thomas & Sally Evans
14th December	Val Hooper, Derek Hooper & Julie Emlyn-Jones
21st December	Iris Taylor, Pat Roberts & Olwen Sirrell
28th December	Ken Hobbs, Irene Mallett and Susanne Chapple



HAPPY NEW YEAR

- *Man coming for fourth attempt to stop the washer leaking*
- *'Friends' who shared our table on holiday coming to call AGAIN*

Of course it's not long before we realise that much of the baggage for last year has turned up in the year....

- *Dentist 5th March*
- *Boiler Service 8th May*
- *Chimney Sweep 5th June*

Our approach to life can be the deciding mark for this New Year. If we stay with a feeling of 'nothing ever happens / matters / or pleases' this new year will wash up as the last one. If we decide on doing new things, trying a new group or making time for those who don't always agree with us, then this year might be very different. These are just random examples; you know what you would find challenging or even wish to avoid, but do you want to drift through 365 days? Are there any idols in your faith, have you given more time to something in recent years at the expense of Christianity?

Isaiah 43 shows how God offers rescue to Jacob but also notes that Jacob has not been quite so paid up to a little sacrifice. He hasn't given God his ear. But God is still willing to bless and encourage him in chapter 44. In 43: 19 part way through His review of Jacob, God declares, " See I'm doing a new thing!". The purpose of this is so people may proclaim His praise. God tells Jacob good news, but then comes a list of disappointments that God has seen in his people.

In Isaiah 44: 6 God says "I am the first and I am the last; apart from me there is no God.....Do not tremble, do not be afraid". From verse 6-23 God speaks about the futility of idols in almost comic tones. His message though is clear. You only need me and anything else is a waste of time, a distraction and an insult.

From our diary closing on 2018 which days would have shown where our idols live? Was there any disappointment for God in our pages?

God says 'I am doing a new thing'. We have a fresh start in a new year. I wish you every blessing in the coming 52 weeks.

With permission from
Rev Brian Hadfield
Sidmouth Methodist Church

JANUARY 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 <small>New Year's Day</small>	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 <small>W.E.B. Day</small>	28	29	30	31		23

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