

Storyteller Chronicles



Advent Edition

The Magazine of Haxby
and Wigginton Methodist
Church



Quiz, Story, Interviews,

Aroma,
Eco Fair,
Survey,



Suggested donation **£1.50**



HAXBY &
WIGGINTON
METHODIST CHURCH

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**And man, at war with man
hears not, the love song which
they bring,
O hush the noise, ye men of
strife, and hear the angels sing.**

Editors Note

Hush the Noise

It's a year now since the people in young church decided they wanted to reintroduce the Church Magazine and tell the stories of our church. I wonder what your favourite story has been so far.?

The theme for the Methodist Church this year is 'Hush the Noise'. Taken from the carol 'It came upon a midnight clear'. The line has always been a favourite of mine 'Hush the noise and hear the angels sing'.

Let me be clear, we absolutely do not want to 'hush the noise' of children, young people, or anyone enjoying themselves. It's about hushing the noise of the 'busyness' that seems to come with this time of year, the overwhelming consumerism, the conflict in our world. How do we 'quieten' that noise, so we can give priority to what is important. This edition is dedicated to showing you ways that you can hush the noise.

So why not grab a hot drink and a mince pie and take some time out of your day to read this magazine. Hoping you find the love song this Christmas.





Stories from Aroma

Aroma may seem like a very ordinary Coffee Shop but it can be an extraordinary place to work. I would like to share with you a story about a couple who started coming into Aroma around two years ago. As soon as they walked in for the first time they liked the cafe. It became their favourite place to come several times a week. They soon got to know every member of staff and enjoyed the banter or having a laugh over a joke. If for some reason they didn't come in one week we would miss them and hope all was well. As time went on we learnt about their situation and admired & respected how they never moaned about what life had thrown at them. The love and care they showed each other was apparent. The gentleman had to have an operation recently and we received the terrible news that he was on palliative care. A few days later his wife came in. No words were needed as we knew he had passed away. We have many customers who come into Aroma but this particular couple touched the hearts of all the

The alien hamster

A story by Eleanor Bowling, aged 7

Once there was a girl with a hamster. Then one day the girl's hamster got lost. One night on patrol the police found her hamster in the park. He picked it up and drove it to the pet shop. By the time they got there it was morning. The police took the hamster in and explained how he found it. So the desk man carried the hamster to a cage. It said 'For sale: hamster cage, some bars bent, some chewed through. One night the hamster spotted a ghost but it was not a ghost it was some ghost aliens. The hamster crawled out of the cage and the hamster sucked up the aliens powers. This made the hamster an alien. Now the hamster was the leader of the ghost aliens. The girls went to the pet shop and noticed the hamster, but it was ill and gave it some food and it was better. The end.

Eleanor I have so many questions!

Did she take the hamster home?

Did the hamster have to go and live with the aliens? If they were ghost aliens did they glow?! - Ed

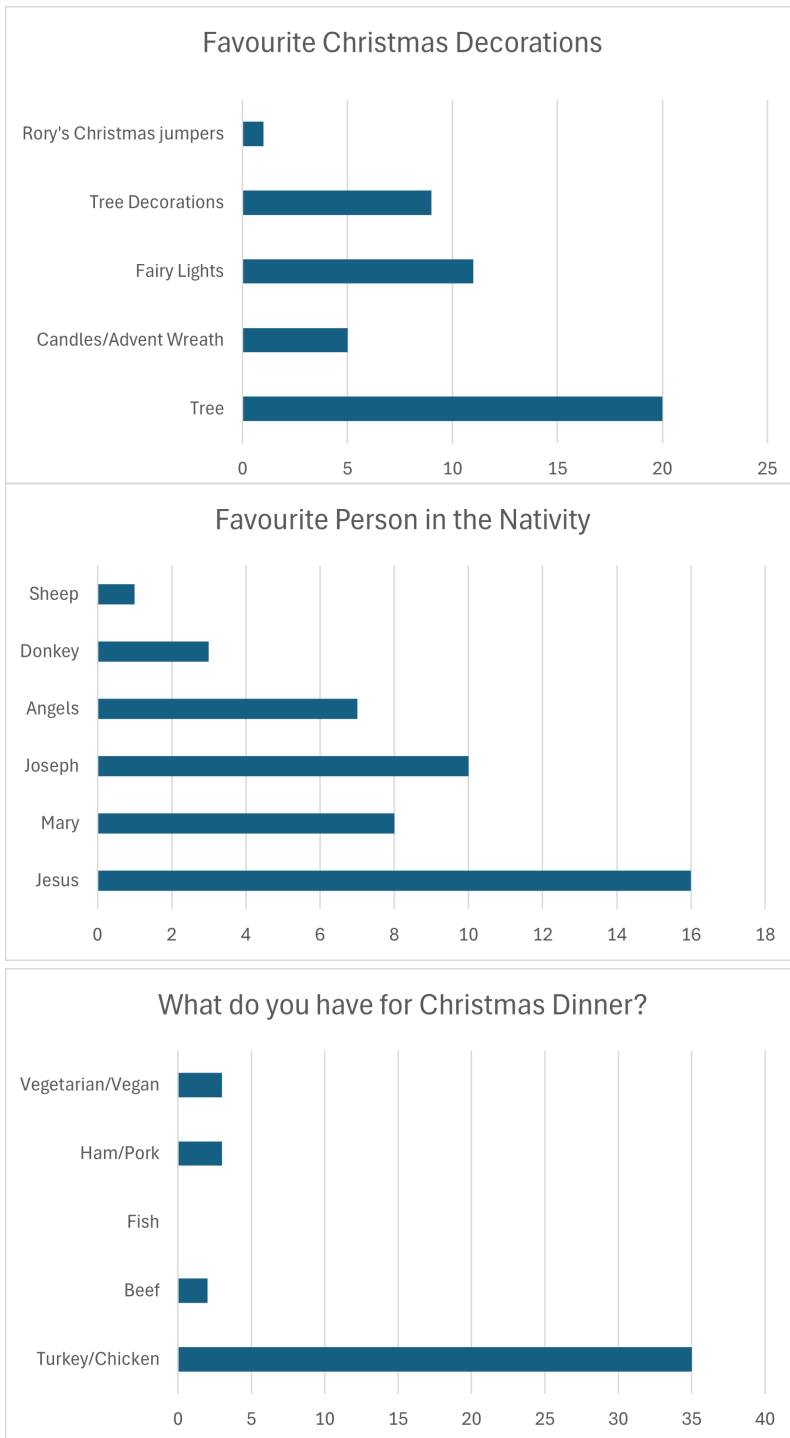
staff. The impact it has had on us just goes to show how special they were as a couple and how much he will be missed.

May we continue to be a lifeline to his wife and others like them.

God bless. Fiona Woolley

Young Church Advent Survey

The young people asked the congregation of our Breakfast Church a series of questions about all things Christmas. No surprises that people left out a mince pie and a tipples for Santa and most folk wanted to be with family, friends and neighbours at Christmas. Some wanted to be with Fred (from a Christmas Carol) or with the Leeds Football Squad. We did notice, though, that folk were not at all averse to adding their own answers or being very specific about their answers. My favourite answer as to whether a person would like gold, frankincense or myrrh as present, the answer came back frankincense (old spice!). Anyway, enjoy some of the results! And can you guess people's favourite Christmas songs or carols from the 'word cloud' which shows the most common words..?



A prescription

By John Freeman

When folk find that their bodies are not working properly they usually, if they can get an appointment, visit the doctor.

“Doctor, doctor, I am sure I am a pair of curtains....’Well, pull yourself together then!”

“Doctor, doctor, I can’t get to sleep at night.’...’Well, lie on the edge of the bed, you’ll soon drop off!”

Often, the way to recovery is to do something differently—more rest, stop smoking, walk, don’t drive, take the medicine prescribed. When John told people that they needed to sort out their lives, they looked at the way they were behaving. They asked John to help put things right. John told them to repent so they could be forgiven. (John, chapter 3). That means changing direction (for example, a simple suggestion: stop swearing. More difficult: forgive someone who has hurt you). The relief and freedom these actions can give you—wow!

What needs changing for the better in your life? Get God working on that mess by confessing and praying and (most importantly) putting those prayers into action and welcoming Jesus once more into your life.

‘Doctor, doctor, I need to change my life for the better.’ ‘Well, I recommend Doctor Jesus Christ; trust him and obey him and you’ll see the difference.’

This Advent, get ready to celebrate Christ’s return. It will be a day of great excitement and joy. Just do it!

**Doctor, Doctor, I’ve swallowed
my pocket money!**

**Take this and we’ll see if
there’s any change in the
morning.**

DOCTOR DOCTOR JOKES - WWW.PUN.ME



The ‘Open the Book’ Team are back into the local schools this term. We have been sharing the stories of Moses and are currently sharing the Christmas story. I am sure we will be challenging their ideas though as in the last story Mary wishes she had a donkey to travel to Bethlehem on. The Bible doesn’t say that they travelled on a donkey at all! It’s going to blow their minds when the star watchers turn up and Jesus is a toddler, not a baby! Couldn’t resist sharing this photo of the team in their finest.



The Young Church Interview

Kay Tuke

As might have been predicted, the 'interview' by young church descended into chaos. 'Interview' was interpreted more as 'interrogation' by the young people, but Kay took it in fun. The two boys were playing good cop/bad cop, one of the others was pretending to be an interrogation lamp and the oldest of the group was desperately trying to do it properly and ask sensible questions.

The interview was also meant to be two way. Kay is a Worship Leader and wanted to understand what the young people would like to see in worship. After some consideration, we decided a football or cricket match wouldn't be particularly practical (!!??!!) but they really enjoyed discussion and getting to know members of the congregation better.

Facts about Kay

She grew up near Pickering and went to the local Methodist Chapel where her faith was formed. 'Life' then got in the way of faith as she started work. Firstly, part time at the newly opened Flamingo land, then a 5 year apprenticeship in tailoring at Scarborough. She also won a silver medal in a competition against people in the Commonwealth and Saville Row! (Eat your heart out Patrick from Sewing Bee! - Ed). She taught sewing at the local adult education centre and also opened 'Kay's sewing centre'.

She married Henry aged 23, and lived in Ampleforth, Kirkbymoorside and back to Pickering, where her 3 children went to the local school and she went to the local chapel and helped out with the creche. She and Henry moved to Skelton, then Strensall, on retirement.

Tell us a little about your faith

I started going to Strensall Methodist about 9 years ago where I was confirmed. I grow in faith by listening to the Methodist Church's 'Word in Time' morning prayers and reading faith books. I also like attending study groups and webinars. My faith also grows when I do my research and planning for leading Worship.

What does being a Christian mean to you in your daily life?

I try, to be a good person, often failing. I try to be kind and help others where I can. I am usually an enthusiastic, positive person and think that although I'm serious about my faith, life can also be full of fun and laughter. I help with Open the Book where we regularly visit local schools and read and act out the Bible stories.

I am concerned about the damage we have done to the world and so I am part of the Church's Eco group. At home I try to buy and use as many Eco friendly products as possible.

Final question—does pineapple belong on a pizza? I prefer my Pizza with lots of cheese only. BUT I think you should be able to add anything you personally like to your own Pizza.

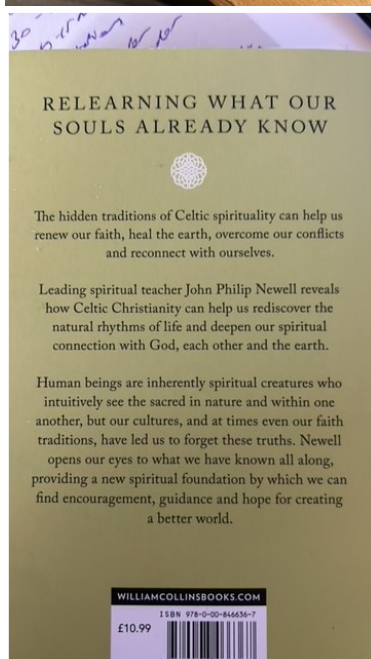
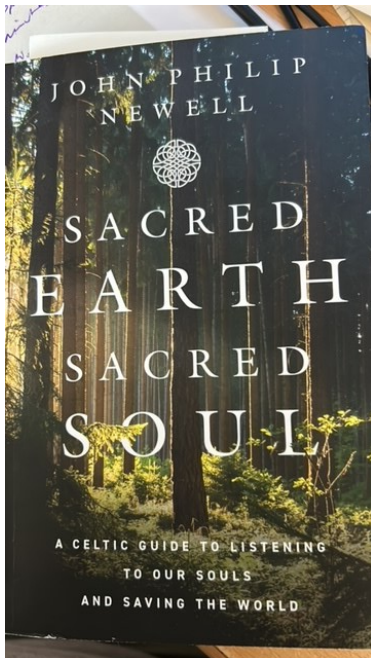




Next Repair Café

**Saturday 18th January
10-12 at Haxby and
Wigginton Methodist
Church**

Book Recommendation!



Eco Church News

It was an exhausting few weeks for the Eco Church Team but September's Eco Fair went well! There were some fascinating talks and workshops. (Did you know that the York Community Stadium Grass is watered by harvested rainwater?!). Lots of nature trails, things to find out and crafts to do too.



The big take away is that there seemed to be an appetite for another repair café. It's a win win— saving things from landfill, saving ourselves the costs of replacing things and having a bit of cake into the bargain too!



Can you do one or two things from the Sustainable Advent Guide..?

The last thing anyone wants to do this time of year is add anything to people's 'to do' list. Our sustainable Advent Guide for Busy People is designed to help you reduce the stress (and 'Hush the Noise') by doing less and spending less. At the same time it's being kinder to people, the planet and yourself!

You can find a large printed version on the noticeboard at the Methodist Church or you can have a look online at www.hwmc.org.uk/ecochurch

The changing look of flowers

Our Church has used the green 'oasis' for it's flowers for many years. It was invented in the 1950s. It's cheap and easy to use and revolutionised floristry.

But the downside is that it's not great for the environment—it's made of petrochemicals and crumbles easily, damages waterways and aquatic life. There's currently no way to recycle it and so it ends up in landfill.

Still, our highly skilled and creative flower team have taken this on board and have risen to the challenge. There are so many alternatives. Glass vases, chicken wire, metal frames, glass tubes, all give new opportunities for displaying things differently. I'm sure we all agreed that the Harvest 'oasis free' display was stunning. We do still have some oasis left so it makes sense to use it up, but watch this space to see what the flower team do next!



*The people walking
in darkness have seen
a great light; on
those living in the
land of deep darkness
a light has dawned.*

ISAIAH 9:2



Rejoice in the
Lord always.
I will say it again:
Rejoice!
Let your
gentleness be
evident to all.
The Lord is
near.

Philippians 4: 4-5

THE
CONNEXION

Advent Prayer

Lord Jesus, Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas. We who have so much to do, help us seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day, We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us. Help us to Hush the Noise this Advent.

take time
together

Meditation

A guided meditation followed by hot drinks and biscuits.
In the hustle and bustle of life, come and find a small oasis of
rest and peace.

Wednesday 18th December, 2pm-3.30pm
Haxby and Wigginton Methodist Church in the Sun Room

You can just turn up but if you want any more information please contact
Lorraine Jones : localpastor@hwmc.org.uk or call 07850 631168



Find out more about
Take Time Meditation
via the QR code or go
to
www.taketime.org.uk

Taketime Together Meditations are an opportunity to pause in the presence of God's gracious and caring love – and find rest. Our guided meditations follow the Ignatian practice in which we imagine that we are in a story from the Bible. For a short while, we can stay with Jesus and simply rest, or ask of Jesus whatever we like, or simply tell him how we feel. We may find that Jesus answers us, telling us what we need to hear and helping us feel the presence of God's love.



CHRISTMAS QUIZ

General Knowledge



1. What is the first name of Scrooge in the novel A Christmas Carol?
2. How do you say Merry Christmas in Spanish?
.....
3. What is the name of Macaulay Culkin's character in Home Alone?
4. What colour are the berries on mistletoe?
5. 26th December is also known as which saint's day?
.....
6. On the seventh day of Christmas, what does my true love give to me?
7. Which country gives Britain a Christmas tree each year as a thank you for support during World War II?
.....
8. If you have your birthday on Christmas Day, what is your star sign?
9. Name 4 of Santa's 8 original reindeer.
.....
10. What gifts were given by the Three Wise Men to Baby Jesus?
.....



The Community Garden is open whenever the pharmacy or Surgery is open, which for most days is 9pm.

You can get to it via the car park—go down to the end of the car park and go right. The entrance is by the tree.

Whole Life Community Garden News
 We take the rough with the smooth in the Community Garden! Whatever the weather brings us, we find ways to enjoy it. As part of Haxby and Wigginton's Eco Fair in September, the trustees held an Open Day, showing people around the garden and talking about our plans for the future.

Do you remember that last Sunday in September when the wind was howling and the rain came pouring down? Well, when sensible people stayed at home, 3 intrepid trustees were sitting under the shelter, drinking coffee with bin bags around our knees (they kept us surprisingly warm!). We had a catch up, laughed at how nuts we were and enjoyed the camaradie that being a garden volunteer brings.

When the rain stopped, I am happy to report that people did come to see what it was all about and we got some 'tidying up' done. Not too much, though, because we have left plenty of hidey-holes and habitats for our non-human friends to overwinter.

In contrast we had good weather for the school children who came down to plant some spring bulbs. One of the children held his bulb close before planting it and said 'I love you!'. It did make me and the teacher smile!!

Then just last week I had one of those 'contented' moments as I had a wander around. The sun was warming the back of my neck, I could hear the birds, I could smell the lavender, the kale plants were doing well and the garlic and onions had started to sprout. The dew was making spiders webs shine and, just for that moment, all was well with the world.

The garden is a wonderful place to 'Hush the Noise'. It's more peaceful than silent though. A perfect place to reconnect with nature and with your soul. Why not have a wander?





“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind. And love your neighbour as yourself.”

Luke 10: 27

Dear friends

Maybe it surprises you that this quote from the Bible goes alongside the ‘Paddington hard stare’?!

As a birthday treat, I went along to see the new Paddington film, and as someone who likes to find wisdom in anything and everything, this film was no exception. Don’t worry, I am not going to give any spoilers, but do go and see it if you get chance!

The part that jumped out at me was when Paddington gives someone his ‘Hard stare’. Inevitably the recipient of that stare gets all hot under the collar and feels very uncomfortable, like a child being caught with their hand in the biscuit tin. Paddington explains that ‘It’s a Hard Stare. It’s for when people have forgotten their manners or what’s important’.

I found myself wishing that Paddington would give a few people in the real world that stare!! But also, if we are honest, don’t we need that reminder (maybe a gentle nudge rather than a hard stare) to focus on what’s important? Don’t we get caught up in the ‘busyness’ and get overwhelmed by the news on the TV and lose sight of what gives meaning, purpose and belonging in our lives...?

I saw something on Facebook the other day that really struck me. It was something along the lines of ‘Everyone should go out in nature every day for at least twenty minutes. If you are too busy, go for an hour’. It has stood me in good stead. Whenever I have been about to cancel something ‘because I am too busy’ I have taken a breath (given myself a hard stare!) and done it anyway— caught up with friends, or gone to a quiet service or gone for a walk. I always feel more connected, peaceful and ready for what life will bring me next.

People find different ways to ‘hush the noise’. I hope and pray you find your particular way this Advent.

Lorraine Jones, Local Pastor, Haxby and Wigginton Methodist Church.