



GODALMING UNITED CHURCH
(Methodist & United Reformed)

SERVICE FOR SUNDAY DECEMBER 31st 2017 and notices for the coming week

Extract from Christmas Newsletter -

Rev Daniel Pratt M. Chapman Methodist minister in Milan

On Sunday I preached in a town up at the border near Switzerland. The circuit in which I serve is huge and sometimes I leave the day before to ensure I get there on time. The church in question have not had a minister for three years and were overjoyed to have anyone (even myself) come to preach.

The ride there was stunning, but I had to travel for more than 2 hours, through roads that coiled round mountains like a snake on a rock. It was very cold. Nevertheless, for most of the drive there was a spectacular view alongside, a lake glistening like glass in the winter sun.

On arrival I was given some food and a cup of hot ginger tea - not the tea I'm used to, but ... nonetheless, it was a very warm welcome. The community consists mainly of Italians and so this would be my first service in which I only needed to use Italian. I was extremely nervous but managed to get myself through both the liturgy and the sermon without sounding too much like a drunken Yorkshire-man. Italian is not easy but my attempt was obviously passable as they have invited me to come back.

It's so easy for misunderstanding and confusion to arise when people are from different cultures and have different languages. Many of the problems, even the wars, in our world begin with unintentional cultural misunderstandings. In Cameroon, where I used to work, there are two official languages (French and English). Sadly most of the French speakers would not speak English and most of the English speakers would not speak French. Please pray for the situation there as at this moment the country is very tense. After riots in the English speaking zone (where we used to work) the military has closed roads and has even been shooting people dead. This terrible situation offers a tragic example of how language and misunderstanding can divide people.

When I think about Cameroon, I am deeply troubled by how easily misunderstanding and confusion can bring about so much pain. The world is full of such conflict; there are many people trying to deliberately bring confusion and misunderstanding. Nevertheless, at this time of year, I am also compelled to reflect upon the lengths to which God has gone to communicate with us.

At Christmas we are reminded that "the word became flesh" (John 1:14), that Jesus himself is a clear communication of God (Col 2:9-2:9). It is *incredible*, but, God came to earth in Jesus to communicate God's true nature in a form we could understand: Love. If we want to know what God is like we need only to look at Jesus. If we look at Jesus' life, death and resurrection we clearly see what God's love for us is like. Happy Christmas!

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

As we reflect on the year gone by, may God give us the faith and insight to see his hand in the things that have happened to us and the knowledge and experience which we have added, so that as we walk into the new year we can take heart, whatever we face. Amen

Today's stewards are

Vestry Steward Alan Steele
Duty Steward Peter Radcliffe

(stewards are the people to ask, if you need help before, during or after a service)

Our CLOSED LOOP SYSTEM requires hearing aids to be switched to the telephone or T programme. Recordings of our services are available through the church website, or a CD copy can be provided on request – please ask a Steward.

The Church operates a system of covenanted, planned giving (details of which may be obtained from Nicola Garriock).

There is a children's area available at the rear of the Church which parents and their young children may use during the service.

10.30am MORNING WORSHIP

Led by	Rev David Faulkner
Music	Singing the Faith tapes
Hosts:	Barbara and Michael Fabb
Sound System:	Richard August
Projection steward:	Julie Rowling

Welcome and notices

Call to worship Luke 2. 30-32

HYMN (StF)190

Angels, from the realms of glory

Prayers Approach, Confession, Assurance of Forgiveness,
Collect for the Sunday After Christmas

Family Talk What Do You Want to Do With Your Life?

HYMN (StF) 215 See, amid the winter's snow

Video **Labour of love** (Andrew Peterson, sung by Jill Phillips,
video footage from The Nativity film)

Lesson Luke 2: 22-40 (p.1028) read by Barbara Fabb

HYMN (StF) 228 Hail to the Lord's Anointed

Sermon Making Plans For Jesus

HYMN (StF) 225 Bethlehem, of noblest cities

Prayers Intercessions and the Lord's Prayer

Collection and dedication of the Offering (*congregation please stand*)

HYMN (StF) 503 Love divine, all loves excelling

Blessing

Everyone is welcome to join us for coffee or tea or a drink
of squash in the River Room after the service.

Today 3.00 – 5.00pm Pantomime Rehearsal

**6.30pm-7.30pm New Year's Eve service at Busbridge Church
organised by Churches Together in Godalming and
District and Trinity Trust Team
*Refreshments from 6pm.***

Lunch Fellowship – the next lunch fellowship will be at the Jack Phillips on
Wednesday 10th January, 12.15 for 12.30pm. Come and join us.

There will be a **church meeting** following the morning service
on **Sunday 14th January.**

DIARY FOR THE WEEK UP TO SUNDAY JANUARY 7th 2018

Mon 1st New Year's Day Holiday

Fri 5th 10.30am–2.00pm Church open for private prayer

12-1.30pm Lunches

6.00pm Music Kids (*Barbara tel: 421268*)

Sat 6th 1.00 – 6.00pm Hope Church (*Church, River Room, Kitchen*)

Sunday 7th

9.00-10.15am eMerge – Fairtrade Sunday breakfast

10.30am Covenant Service - led by Rev Michael Hopkins

2.30-5.30pm Pantomime rehearsal

ADVANCE NOTICES

Sunday 21st January **10.00am**

United Service of Holy Communion led by the ministers
of Churches Together in Godalming and District will be held at
Godalming Parish Church

(no service at Godalming United Church)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE CHURCH PLEASE CONTACT:

Minister	Rev Paul Hulme	01483 414 709
Church Secretary	Sylvia	01483 423 261
Pastoral Assistant	Eileen	01483 420 459
Senior Steward	Alan	01483 860 683
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