

KNAPHILL METHODIST CHURCH

MAGAZINE

Changing lives for good through the power of God's word



Christmas 2025

A Word from the Editor:

Hello and welcome to the Christmas issue of the KMC Magazine.

Stop, I want to get off! Another year has gone by. Where did it go?

My next birthday fast approaches. What have I done to deserve this? Was it something I said or have done? No, of course not and I need to seek comfort in the fact that I am not alone as I guess you probably feel exactly the same, even if your birthday is not in December!

So yes, time marches on, life does not stand still, and nor should it. Life is for living and there is always plenty of life going on at KMC and with God's help long may this be the case.

Now this magazine has a wider readership, I thought it would be a good idea to include details again of Silverline and the Warm Welcome Venues which are open at various locations in the Woking area until 31st March 2026. I hope you will find this information useful now winter is almost here.

As some of you will know KMC's Christmas Coffee Morning coincided with Dramatize's Christmas Craft Fair. For those of you who did not manage to get to the Craft Fair, there is a short report by Karen Davies, about what went on and a report from me on the very successful Coffee Morning.

I am indebted to Gill Balls who stepped up to the plate to be interviewed for this edition of the magazine. Thank you Gill.

Thanks also to all those who asked for their Christmas greetings to be included in this magazine in lieu of sending cards. You will find them on the middle pages of this issue and this year there are more than ever which is great.

Although there is no service at KMC on Christmas Day, or 28th December, I hope you are able to attend the Christmas services that are planned, the details of which are on the back page of this issue.

There is nothing left to add except to wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a happy and peaceful New Year.

Take care of yourselves and keep safe (and warm)!

Robin Spice, Editor

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KMC MAGAZINE

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NEXT ISSUE: Look out for information about the copy deadline in The Notices.

Copy to: Robin Spice - editor@knaphillmethodist.co.uk

Message from Paul:

I've just spent a week in Gibraltar as a kind of working holiday. It's very much its own world with 39,000 people living on a coastal strip of land with a large mountainous central rock down the middle. From the window of the apartment I was staying in I could see the coast of Spain just three miles away and to the other side the coast of Morocco, on another continent, just nine miles away.



Gibraltar is small enough to know that it has to depend on relationships with others. It cannot live without that. It is also, in its own way, a gift to those around it and I was surprised by how many Spanish people nip over the border all the time to buy Cadbury's chocolate at Morrisons and shop at M&S.

The Methodist Church Advent material this year is called 'Gifted' and concentrates on the idea that we are gifts made with love. Thinking of gifts is a thing we commonly do at Christmas. In Gibraltar the Epiphany (6th January) and the arrival of travellers from far countries is a time when gifts are given and received.

But how often do we think of ourselves and the mission that we engage in from our Churches as gifts for the world? The fact is that CAMEO, the Coffee Morning, the Christmas Carol Service at Dramatize and Clothes4U are enormous gifts that we offer to the people of our community. The Christmas cards that the churches of Knaphill deliver to all our local businesses are also a gift of love.

In what way can you be a gift made with love - not only to your family and loved ones this Christmas - but to the wider community that we serve?

We are gifts...made and sent with love.

Paul





Family News

Raj Chhetri's memories of Christmas when he was young...

As I was growing up in the 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles of the British Armed Forces in the British Colonies in the Far East, Gurkha children were feted with the Christmas party. Nothing was mentioned regarding the birth of Jesus.

Towards the end of the party, a British man entered the room. He was dressed in a red gown and was wearing a red hat and carrying a big red bag. We Gurkha children were ushered towards a highly decorated tree (Christmas Tree). The man had a white moustache and beard (made of cotton wool) and he spoke with an accent in Nepali language. I guessed he was a British Officer with the Battalion.

The party was great as we enjoyed western fayre accompanied by soft drinks which most of the Gurkha parents would not have been able to purchase as the Gurkhas' pay was one third of the British Servicemen. I was equally thrilled and puzzled encountering this Christmas party. The Father Christmas handed me a nicely wrapped present. When I returned to our Quarter in Block 8 in the same corridor as the Family Hospital for Gurkhas' wives and children, I opened up the present and found it to be a small fighter plane. I tried to fly it a few times but it just fell to the floor. Thankfully it did not break. It was made in Great Britain!

In 1959 my midwife and nurse mother decided to pay school fees, bus fares and for text books so I could be educated in Civil school in the English Language medium outside the camp. In my Secondary Class, Form One we had lessons on "The Heroes of March". It was my first encounter with characters in the Old Testament - my first contact with the Biblical characters. I remembered the name Moses and in the early 1960s saw the film, "Ten Commandments".

In 1961 I moved to the school managed by Catholic Brothers. Here, reading one of the Gospels became compulsory. Since then, I have come to know the birth and the ministry of Jesus Christ. I learnt some years later that the Word became Incarnate and arrived on the Planet Earth - in Israel to save sinners.

From 1964 I began to believe secretly in Jesus Christ. In 1981 when I visited my elderly mother in Kathmandu, Nepal I began to veer away from temples every time my mother began to approach them. My Mother suspected a change in my belief.

Five months after my beloved elder sister died from a progressive brain tumour in August 1975, I started to suffer from clinical depression. I began to seek Christian Salvation. So it was that I went through Baptism in water in 1976 and thus my conversion into Christianity saved my sanity.

I confess that my belief in Jesus as my Saviour saved me physically and mentally. But I know that Christmas Day/25th December was fixed by the Pope many centuries ago.





Congratulations to **Mike & Sally Allison** and their daughter **Polly** and son-in-law, **Nick** on the baptism of their granddaughter Matilda at the Holy Communion service on 19th October. Pictured is Matilda with Mike & Sally and Nick's parents, Mr & Mrs Wellman.

News from Ann & Rob Gill in France...

2025 has seen us do an immense amount of travelling, some far across the world, some closer to home in Europe. Probably the most special and memorable time for us was spending three weeks in the UK in August, meeting up with family and friends in order to celebrate our Golden Wedding.

On the Sunday following our actual

anniversary, we returned to the Methodist church in Worcester where we were married in 1975, and which my family had attended since I was five. Rob read a lesson, and we were "interviewed" near the start of the service. Simultaneously photos taken in the church at our wedding appeared on the screen. For us it was very moving. There are still members of the congregation who remember us. Rob's sister is a church steward there and had made a cake to share with everyone afterwards.

Soon we shall be on our travels again, to spend the festive season with our family in Oxfordshire. Rob has offered two dates to the circuit and is to preach at Weybridge on the Sunday before Christmas and at KMC on 4th January. We are very much looking forward to returning to Surrey.



Grateful thanks are owed to **Nelly Ford** for the beautiful cushion she produced which we were able to display in church during our Remembrance Service on 9th November.



At Christmas in particular, when people traditionally get together, there are those who do not necessarily have family or even friends to talk to and so may be alone over the festive period. Some might prefer it that way, others may not. For anybody who does live on their own and/or when family or friends may not be available to meet or speak with, may I recommend the Age UK service “The Silver Line”.

This free helpline service, which is just for older people, was started by Dame Esther Rantzen in 2011 when she was having feelings of deep loneliness.

It operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and its aims are to:

- ◆ offer friendship, conversation and connection to older people and help ease feelings of loneliness and social or physical isolation;
- ◆ provide a 24-hour helpline to older people seeking practical information or guidance on issues that are affecting them;
- ◆ empower older people experiencing neglect or abuse to access the right protection and, if appropriate, connect them with specialist services who can help;
- ◆ be ready to pick up the phone to the people who need help at any hour of the day and night.

Their telephone number is 0800 4 70 80 90. To read more about this vital service they have a website and the address is: www.thesilverhelpline.org.uk

Warm Welcome Venues

These are venues run by Surrey County Council with partners across the county. In addition to enjoying social interaction, residents can access a venue for a free hot drink and other support services between 1st November 2025 and 31st March 2026. They are open to everyone. A Warm Welcome space is a physical space run by a community group, charity, organisation or business where people can go to:

- ◆ Warm up
- ◆ Get a hot drink for free
- ◆ Get energy advice and debt support
- ◆ Enjoy some social interaction

And finally, at some venues, benefit from additional services such as free meals and activities.

In Woking the venues available are:

MASCOT – Maybury & Sheerwater Community Trust, Sheerwater Nursery, Blackmore Crescent, Sheerwater GU21 5NZ

Opening times: Tuesday 10am – 4pm; Wednesday 10am – 4pm; Thursday 10am – 4pm

Services offered: Hot drinks; Food bank/Food Club/Community Fridge.

Accessibility: Accessible for wheelchairs and has a disabled toilet.

Maybury Support Group – The Arch Centre, Alpha Road, Maybury GU22 8HF

Opening times: Tuesday 1pm – 3pm

Services offered: Hot drinks; social activities; soup.

Accessibility: Hot water, disabled access, kitchen, car park.

Knaphill Baptist Church, 88 High Street, Knaphill. (Community Venue)

Opening times: Friday 10.30am – 12.30pm

Services offered: hot drinks, craft activities, social activities.

Accessibility: Close and free car park close to Heathcot Surgery. Also free places to park in Sussex Road.

St Andrew's Church, Goldsworth Park Centre, Denton Way, Woking GU21 3LG

Opening times: Tuesday 9am – 12pm; Wednesday & Thursday 10am – 12pm

Services offered: hot drinks; social activities; craft activities, external advisors (Homestart, Citizens Advice, Catalyst)

Accessibility: The ground floor café space benefits from automated doors, ensuring access to all necessary facilities for visitors.

Knaphill Library, 4 Anchor Crescent, Knaphill GU21 2PD

Opening times: Monday 1pm – 5pm; Tuesday 10am – 1pm & 2pm – 5pm; Wednesday closed.

Thursday 10am – 1pm & 2pm – 5pm; Friday 10am – 1pm and 2pm – 5pm Saturday 9.30am – 4pm.

Sunday closed.

Services offered: warm space, hot and cold drinks, events & activities.

Accessibility: the library has automatic doors and a hearing loop installed. There is also a disabled toilet.

Welcome Church Café 1-5 Church Street West, Woking GU21 6DJ

Opening times: Monday 10am – 2pm (except bank holidays)

Services offered: hot drinks; meals; Food Bank/Food Club/Community Fridge

Accessibility: Fully accessible.

The Lighthouse, 8 – 10 High Street, Woking GU21 6BG

Opening times: Monday to Thursday 10.30am – 12.30pm; Tuesday to 2.30pm

Services offered: hot drinks; meals; social activities; craft activities; Food bank/Food Club/Community Fridge.

Accessibility: ground floor accessible but upstairs is not due to a lack of a lift.

Christ Church, Jubilee Square, Woking GU21 6YG

Opening times: Wednesday: 3.45pm – 6pm

Services offered: hot drinks; meals; Food Bank/Food Club/Community Fridge

Accessibility: Ramps and accessible toilet.

Woking Library, Gloucester Walk GU21 6EP

Opening times: Monday 9.30am – 5.30pm; Tuesday 9.30am – 7pm; Wednesday 9.30am – 5.30pm; Thursday 9.30am – 7pm; Friday 9.30am – 5.30pm; Saturday 9.30am – 5pm; Sunday closed.

Services offered: warm space; hot and cold drinks, events and activities.

Accessibility: automatic doors and there is wheelchair access throughout the building. Also, a hearing loop is installed. There is a computer with assistive technology available for use, please ask a member of staff to book this.

New Life Church (Community Venue) High Street, Old Woking GU22 9BX

Opening times: Thursday 10am – 11.30am

Services offered: hot drinks, meals, social activities.

Accessibility: disabled access, accessible toilet and parking available.



Whitechapel Mission

In November, Gill Balls and I travelled up to Whitechapel with Lynda Shore to take the Harvest gifts of money and goods which had been donated for the Mission. As you know the Mission supports those who sleep rough in London which it has been doing since 1876. We had also planned to attend their annual thanksgiving service. Unfortunately, our journey up to the East End of London did not go well and we did not arrive until the end of the service. However, we were warmly greeted and were in time to partake in their delicious tea!

As Gill had not visited before, she was taken on a tour of the main part of the building by Tony Miller, the Mission's director.

Hopefully we can go again next year to the service which has been arranged for 1st November, when the Mission will be celebrating its 150th birthday.

I have been visiting with various folk from KMC since 1992! I have a record of all the visits I have made in an exercise book which includes all the news and dates.

Thank you to all those who donate every year to this worthy cause.

Ella Allen

MONTHLY COFFEE MORNING
AND
SALE

KNAPHILL METHODIST CHURCH HALL

4th Saturday every month (except December)

10am to Noon

**BOOKS, DVDs,
JIGSAWS, CAKES,
BRIC-A-BRAC & MORE**

**TEA
COFFEE
BISCUITS
BACON BUTRIES**

Recipe Corner

Here is a dessert that is not a traditional one for this time of year but can be welcome given all the other fairly rich food that we consume at Christmas.

This is a recipe that first appeared in the Knaphill Fayre recipe book that was produced in 2002 as a fundraiser for the KMC redevelopment scheme that resulted in the Welcome Area, Hall and meeting rooms. This recipe was submitted by Allan Wright

Mum Wright's Lemon Trifle

A delicious trifle recipe passed down through at least 3 generations. Simple and very tasty. Serves 6.

Ingredients for the Base

8 sponge cakes

Grated rind and juice of 2 lemons

½ pint water

113g granulated sugar

1 egg

28g margarine

1 generous rounded dessert spoon cornflour

Method

Moisten 1 dessert spoon of cornflour in a saucepan with lemon juice. Add water, lemon rind, sugar and margarine. Add the lightly beaten egg. Stir over heat until mixture thickens. Pour over 8 sponge cakes in a serving bowl. Allow to cool.



Ingredients for the Topping

3 rounded dessert spoons cornflour

2 dessert spoons caster sugar

1 pint milk

Method

Mix cornflour with a little of the milk until it becomes a smooth paste. Add sugar then stir over heat and gradually add remainder of milk. Pour over the cold trifle base.

Note it needs to be eaten at one sitting - which will not be difficult!

This next recipe is definitely one for the Christmas season as you will see. This recipe was submitted to the Knaphill Fayre book by Linda Todd. Linda reliably advises it is not for the faint-hearted nor the teetotal!

Auntie Pam's Recipe for Auntie Jean's Coffee & Chocolate Log

Ingredients

30 sponge fingers

2 meringue nests, crushed

Chocolate and Hazelnut spread

2 tbs brandy

Strong black coffee (about 3 cups – enough to soak all of the sponge fingers)

Half a pint of double cream

Chocolate flake

Method

Mix together the coffee and brandy.

Dip 10 sponge fingers quickly into the coffee/brandy mix and arrange them in a suitable dish.

Spread the chocolate and hazelnut spread over the sponge fingers and then cover this with some of the crushed meringue. Dip 10 more of the sponge fingers into the coffee/brandy mix and place these on top of the meringue, cover with more chocolate and hazelnut spread and crushed meringue. Dip the last 10 fingers into the coffee/brandy mixture and place these on top. Whip the double cream until fairly stiff and cover the whole log. Decorate with crushed meringue and chocolate flakes. Keep cool in the refrigerator.



Unwrapping the Gifts

See how much truth you think there is in the following passage. It certainly rang a bell with me (Editor)

Babies can't open their gifts. Mum or Dad does it for them.

A young child/teenager opens their gifts fast and is only looking for what they wanted. When they get the package opened, they quickly go on to the next one. When they are done, they are "bored" already.



An adult opens their package slowly – they enjoy every bit of it. Some will even study how well it was wrapped (much to the impatience of the children) and will keep the wrapping paper too! When the gift is open, they are very thankful and take some time to enjoy it right away.

An older person is just happy the whole family are there – they have had plenty of gifts and understand and appreciate them all. They enjoy watching the family members open their gifts.

We open our gifts from God in the same way:

A baby Christian cannot open any of their gifts. They have no idea how to. Their "mum/dad" must do it for them. Their friends – their Minister – opens the Book and shows the baby Christian all the gifts that God has given them, but unfortunately, they don't really understand yet the greatness of those gifts.

A child/teen Christian is anxious to get what they want from God. They hear about the gifts, but if the gifts are not of interest to them, they just push them aside for now. Eventually, many of them become bored with their Christian life and want more of what they want, not what God has given them.

An adult Christian enjoys all the gifts from God. They take their Book and, as they open each gift, they study it carefully and fully appreciate the entire gift and what it means to them.

An older Christian is just happy to see the family members getting their gifts and enjoy watching them as they learn about what God has done for them – you see, they have all been there before in their earlier years.

Hopefully God watches all this with great patience!

Author Unknown

**Unwrapping
GOD'S GIFT**



KMC PENS FOR SALE

Roll up, roll up! KMC has pens for sale at only £2 each.

Royal blue, with black ink and a tablet stylus each one has “Knaphill

Methodist Church” written along the barrel.

To buy one or more see Lynda Shore or a Steward. They would make a great Christmas tree present. Hurry while stocks last!



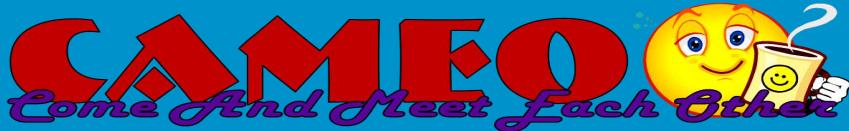
THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR HELP!

Many thanks to all those who have contributed towards the flowers in the Worship Area and by the front door during 2025. The rota for 2026 is now available in the Welcome Area. We all enjoy seeing the flower arrangements and the reason why they have been given. Many thanks to so many for your generosity.

Thanks also to all those who cleaned our worship area during 2025.

The rota for 2026 for this is available in the Welcome Area. We only clean once a month, so if two people join together, it should only take an hour.

Shirley Chase



CAMEO meets in Room 3 on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month, from 2pm until about 3.30pm. We have a mix of members - some from our church, some from Woodhill and other churches, some that have no affiliation with any church at all.

Our meetings usually include a hymn/song, a talk and always close with prayer, followed by tea and biscuits. **All are welcome.**

Barbara Humphries

Programme for January to March 2026:

January 7th - Amie Humphries - **Perils of being an Ecologist**

January 21st - Duncan Twigg - **Local Artist**

February 4th - **Dramatize**

February 18th - **John Mynard**

March 4th - **Rev Paul Glass**

March 18th - Caroline and Alan Dinsdale - **Desert Island Discs**

Knaphill Christmas Events

Despite two Christmas events in Knaphill on Saturday 22nd November clashing, both were hailed a success as you will read.....



Dramatize Christmas Craft Fair

Our Christmas Craft Fair at Dramatize Community Centre was a resounding success, thanks to the vibrant participation of our in-house groups and local artists running their stalls. The event showcased a diverse array of handcrafted goods, reflecting the creativity and talent within our community. A highlight of the day was the captivating performance by the Woking Music Choir, whose uplifting melodies added a festive spirit to the occasion. We are particularly proud of our students with learning disabilities who took on roles in running the Tea Room, breaking down barriers and demonstrating their capabilities. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who attended and supported our centre, making this event a memorable celebration of community and craftsmanship.

Karen Davies



KMC Christmas Coffee Morning

This was KMC's monthly coffee morning - the last one to be held this year. Despite the weather being cold and wet it was well attended and kept those in the kitchen very busy for much of the time. Congratulations must go to the book and jigsaw stall which made £80 – their best ever result! Due to the weather the outside stalls were brought into the porch of the church which as you can see Shirley & Gill valiantly manned despite the cold. Overall, the event made £688.00 – not a record amount but excellent taking into account the past two months each raised just over £500.00, and the Craft



Fair that was happening at the same time.

Thanks must go to all who helped on the day and those who supported the Coffee Morning.

See you again in January 2026!



The Story of a Healing Cat

(Not all God's angels have wings – one has whiskers!)

I was working as a newly qualified staff nurse at the local hospital and in those days (1960s) each ward was blessed with a lovely lady who would help with chores, some meals and run errands. The lady on our ward was Winnie! Winnie was immensely proud of her only daughter who had qualified as a primary school teacher and had started her first job. A few weeks into term a little girl placed a box into her hands and said, “it’s a present for you Miss.” The box contained a kitten and Winnie’s daughter was delighted – Winnie however was not, and the kitten was made comfortable in the garage.

During the whole of the next day on duty Winnie complained about the “thing” in the garage until I could stand it no longer and said I would have it. So, the kitten arrived at my home with fleas and half a tin of Kitekat. We named her Bron. She grew and flourished into a wonderful family cat, and we loved her dearly. On the day of Prince Charles being invested as Prince of Wales at Caernarfon Castle in 1969, Bron presented us with two lovely kittens which we named Charles & Charlotte, though the rest of the family named them Ginger Boo and Bogie Boo. We later found good loving homes for them.

Many happy years passed enjoying family fun and times together, until one morning I noticed she looked swollen. The vet confirmed my worst fears, an abdominal tumor. To prevent any suffering we allowed her to pass. This was the first time I’d had to make a decision to end a life, and I was distraught. I cried for four days and was unable to leave the house due to the state I was in. I sent my daughter to the shops with a list and when the shopkeeper asked whether Mummy was ill, my daughter returned with a bunch of flowers.



The following Sunday my husband suggested a day out, we all needed a break, so I gingered up and off we went. We found a family-friendly pub with a large garden in which there must have been fifty picnic tables and a large play area for children. It was well attended and active. We found a table and ordered our lunch. I looked around to see if I might recognise anyone but no.

At the far end of the garden sat a cat. We made eye contact and up went his tail; he jumped down and disregarding everything around him marched straight towards me. I looked away hoping he would get lost. He jumped up on the bench beside me and I ignored him. “Go away,” I said and nudged him but he moved in closer so our bodies were touching, and I could feel him purring. I did not want this, the attention of someone else’s cat, I just wanted Bron. It still felt raw and I missed her so much.

However, he was undeterred and climbed up on my chest and snuggled his head under my chin and nuzzled me.

By now, my children could see the funny side of this. Here was a cat who insisted on loving me and I just did not want to know. This went on for some time until in the end I gave in and stroked him. He relaxed and laid across my lap purring softly. We sat in silence body to body, soul to soul and I smiled and felt at peace.

Our meal arrived, he jumped down with tail up and trotted off – job done! I did not see him again, but I will never forget him. All my life I have wondered how did a strange cat know I was hurting?

Three weeks later, Annie & Poppy joined the family. These were two kittens found abandoned behind a parade of shops. I now felt ready to be “Mum” again.

Thank you for reading this. With love and God bless.

Christine Woodley



Christmas BLESSINGS



*Wishing you peace and blessings
at Christmas and the New Year.*



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all at KMC

We send our love and best wishes to the KMC Church Family and wish
you all a blessed and peaceful Christmas
and a happy and healthy New Year.

With love and God's blessings. Linda & Phil Todd & family.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.
Thank you to everyone for helping me.
Love from Joan Bearman.

Greetings and best wishes for the Christmas season.
Eileen Lane.



We would like to wish all our KMC friends a very happy Christmas.

We have grown older and sadly more frail since Covid making it difficult to get to church but we do not forget you.

Sylvia & Brian Dowding.

To all my friends at KMC. I wish you a wonderful time at Christmas with family and friends. God bless.

Vicki Drew.

I wish everyone a happy Christmas and a happy New Year. Lots of love.

Nelly Ford.

“Wishing everyone a very happy Christmas and a healthy and joyful New Year. Love to you all.

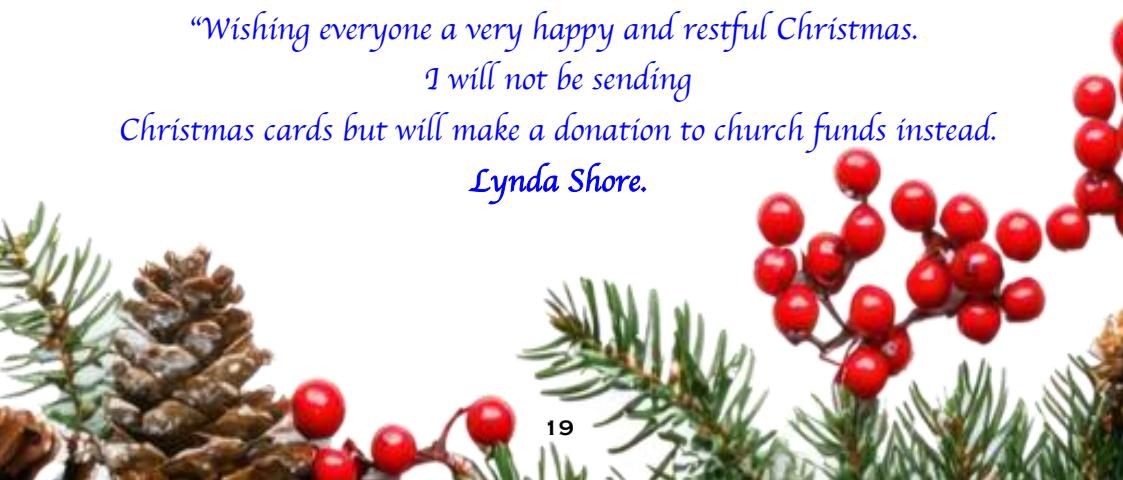
Susan Bennett.

“Wishing everyone a very happy and restful Christmas.

I will not be sending

Christmas cards but will make a donation to church funds instead.

Lynda Shore.





May I wish all members of the congregation at KMC a MERRY
CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR

Raj Chhetri & Family.

We send our warmest greetings to you all for
Christmas and for the New Year to come.

Rob & Ann Gill.

Dearest friends, Happy Christmas and good health for the time ahead.
We send our love and gratitude for your friendship and hope you
understand we are now giving up writing cards. We admit defeat!
Lots of love. Sheila & John Mynard, Carole, Graham and Peter.

Wishing all the friendly and accommodating families/congregation of
KMC a delightful Christmas and New Year. May it be full of love,
happiness and God's richest blessings and guidance throughout the year.
Merry Christmas to my new-found friends. Ena Corrah.

We wish everyone at KMC a Happy Christmas
and Best Wishes for 2026!
Allan & Yvette Wright



A Mayoress was visiting an old folk's home one Christmas. As she went round she saw an elderly lady sitting on her own. So she sat down beside her and said "Good morning!" The lady looked a little puzzled, so the Mayoress said, "Do you know who I am?" The lady replied, "No dear, but if you ask the Matron she will tell you!"

It was a cold and misty Christmas morning in the very depth of winter after a heavy fall of snow and only one farmer and the minister managed to arrive at the church for the morning service

"Well", said the minister, "I guess there's no point in having a service today."

"That's not how I see it," said the farmer. "If only one cow turns up at feeding time, I still feed it!"

12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

We all know this song about someone who comes across as a very generous present giver! What you may not have read before is the supposed response from the recipient who appears far from grateful as you will read.....

On the 1st day of Christmas, my true love sent to me a partridge in a pear tree.

On the 2nd day of Christmas, my true love sent to me 2 turtle doves and a partridge in a pear tree.

On the 3rd day of Christmas, my true love sent to me three French hens, two turtle doves, and a partridge in a pear tree.

On the 4th day of Christmas, my true love sent to me 4 calling birds, 3 French hens, 2 turtle doves, and a partridge in a pear tree.

On the 5th day of Christmas, my true love sent to me 5 gold rings, 4 calling birds, 3 French hens, 2 turtle doves, and a partridge in a pear tree.

On the 6th day of Christmas, my true love sent to me 6 geese a-laying, 5 gold rings, 4 calling birds, 3 French hens, 2 turtle doves, and a partridge in a pear tree.

On the 7th day of Christmas, my true love sent to me 7 swans a-swimming, 6 geese a-laying, 5 gold rings, 4 calling birds, 3 French hens, 2 turtle doves, and a partridge in a pear tree.

On the 8th day of Christmas, my true love sent to me 8 maids a-milking, 7 swans a-swimming, 6 geese a-laying, 5 gold rings, 4 calling birds, 3 French hens, 2 turtle doves, and a partridge in a pear tree.

On the 9th day of Christmas, my true love sent to me 9 ladies dancing, 8 maids a-milking, 7 swans a-swimming, 6 geese a-laying, 5 gold rings, 4 calling birds, 3 French hens, 2 turtle doves, and a partridge in a pear tree.

On the 10th day of Christmas, my true love sent to me 10 lords a-leaping, 9 ladies dancing, 8 maids a-milking, 7 swans a-swimming, 6 geese a-laying, 5 gold rings, 4 calling birds, 3 French hens, 2 turtle doves, and a partridge in a pear tree.

On the 11th day of Christmas, my true love sent to me 11 pipers piping, 10 lords a-leaping, 9 ladies dancing, 8 maids a-milking, 7 swans a-swimming, 6 geese a-laying, 5 gold rings, 4 calling birds, 3 French hens, 2 turtle doves, and a partridge in a pear tree.

On the 12th day of Christmas, my true love sent to me 12 drummers drumming, 11 pipers piping, 10 lords a-leaping, 9 ladies dancing, 8 maids a-milking, 7 swans a-swimming, 6 geese a-laying, 5 gold rings, 4 calling birds, 3 French hens, 2 turtle doves, and a partridge in a pear tree!

...and a Thank You note....

Well I suppose I should be grateful you've obviously gone to a lot of trouble and expense.

Yes I did like the birds – the small ones anyway were fun, if rather messy, but now the hens have roosted on my bed; the rest are nested on the wardrobe. It's hard to sleep! With all that cooing, let alone the cackling of the geese whose eggs are everywhere, but mostly in a broken smelly heap on the sofa.

No, why should I mind? I can't get any peace anywhere – the lounge is full of drummers thumping tom toms and sprawling lords crashed out from the manic leaping.

The kitchen is crammed with cows and milkmaids and smells of a million stink-bombs and enough sour milk to last a year.

The pipers? I'd forgotten them. Well, they were no trouble, I paid them and they went.

But I can't get rid of these young ladies. They won't stop dancing or turn the music down. And they're always in the bathroom, squealing as they skid across the flooded floor. No, I don't need a plumber to come round, it's just the swans – where else can they swim? Poor things.

I think they are going mad, like me. When I went to wash my hands one ate the soap and another swallowed the gold rings.

And the pear tree died. Too dry. So thanks for nothing, my true love. Goodbye!



1. According to the poem, “The Night Before Christmas”, how many reindeer did Santa have to pull his sleigh? Eight, nine or ten?
2. What is traditionally hidden inside a Christmas pudding?
3. What is the name of the character in Charles Dickens’ “A Christmas Carol” who gets visited by the ghosts of Christmas past, present and future?
4. A foreign city has donated a huge Christmas tree to the people of Britain every year since 1947, which is always displayed in Trafalgar Square. Which city is it? A) Munich B) Stockholm C) Oslo
5. How many days are there on a traditional advent calendar? 12, 24 31?
6. In the song “The 12 Days of Christmas” how many gold rings does the singer’s “truelove” give him?
7. There are 365 days in a year. What number day is Christmas Day?
8. Why did Father Christmas need Rudolf the Reindeer to use his large, glowing nose to guide his sleigh?
9. What is the last day of Christmas called?
10. Which plan, beginning with P is associated with Christmas?
11. What is “Happy Christmas” in Spanish?
12. What’s the name of the ballet traditionally performed around Christmas each year?
13. Stollen is a cake with fruit and marzipan, traditionally eaten at Christmas and originating from which country?
14. Who introduced the Christmas tree to the UK?
15. What is a female turkey?
16. Bethlehem is a tiny village in which UK country?
17. If you’re born on Christmas Day, what’s your star sign?
18. Which country does St Nicholas originally belong to?
19. Between 1996 & 1998 which British girl band celebrated three consecutive UK Christmas number one singles?
20. Which UK monarch delivered the first Christmas broadcast to the BBC in 1932?

Answers on page 31

People in Profile: Gill Balls

Here follows a profile of another stalwart of KMC, whose contribution to the life of KMC over many years, we are pleased to be able to highlight.

Going back to the beginning, Gill was born in Chobham and went to both the infant and junior schools in the village. She successfully passed the 11+ and as a result attended Woking Girls Grammar School. However, this was not a happy period for Gill, not helped by the distance she had to travel to school and back again every day.

Gill attended St Lawrence Church in Chobham with her parents where she went to a youth club, known at that time as the King's Messengers. At around the age of 9 or 10 Gill joined the church choir too, and this was the start of Gill's membership of several different choirs throughout her life.

The family moved to Horsell from Chobham in the mid-1960s and in fact lived in the same road as the Editor until 1973, although they did not know each other at that time, unfortunately.

Gill left school after taking her O'levels and started work almost immediately in 1965 at a new branch of Lloyds Bank in Woking in what was then known as Commercial Road. Gill enjoyed her time there and only left when she got married to Carl in 1973.

Life during their early years of marriage was lived in Windlesham. This was followed by a move to Staines as at that time Carl worked in the air freight industry for a few different airlines so needed to be closer to Heathrow. However, it was not ideal and after moving to Ashford for a period, Gill & Carl decided to return to this area and have lived in Knaphill, Goldsworth Park and Westfield where Gill still lives to this day.

Two children, Joanna and Nick arrived in the late 1970s and early 1980s respectively following which Gill worked part-time for 7 years at Sheerwater Post Office followed by a return to banking and working for Barclays bank.

The family enjoyed a number of great holidays in the 80s as, at one point, Carl worked for Zambia Airlines so had free travel. It was during this time that the family visited Zambia which included a 3 day stay in what Gill recalls as being huts with very basic amenities. An experience not to be forgotten!

In the late 1970s Gill started attending KMC when Arthur Hoyles was the minister, and it was here that both Joanna and Nick went to toddler group and then as they got older, Sunday school and the Hill Club. Gill, meanwhile, became Secretary of the Finance Committee and for a time was a Communion Steward.



Around 1990 she started helping with the arranging of flowers, a role that continues to this day.

After Carl left the aircraft industry he briefly worked for Prudential before making a successful move to AQA, the examinations board in Guildford. Gill later joined AQA too, though in a different department, and it was from here that they both retired within a short time of each other in 2013.

Very sadly Carl passed away shortly after he & Gill celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 2023, so Gill has had some adjusting to do in the last couple of years. One successful adjustment has been going on solo holidays which proved to work out well. The last two, to Austria & Italy, were taken with a friend and they are planning to go on another together next year.

Gill's grandchildren, who are 12 and 9 years of age, remain a helpful distraction and she sees them both regularly. They are currently looking forward to another sleepover at Granny's very soon.

Gill has always had a great love of singing and as mentioned earlier has belonged to a few choirs including Bisley Ladies Choir, Remix Voices and another choir in Albury. The hymn that came to mind when Gill was asked to name a favourite, was for no other reason than the sentiments behind the words and the tune: *Lord for the Years*.

Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided,
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.

Lord, for that word, the Word of life which fires us,
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us,
Lord of the word, receive your people's praise.

Lord for our land, in this our generation,
spirits, oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care;
for young and old, for commonwealth and nation,
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.

Lord for our world; when we disown and doubt him,
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain;
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without him,
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.

Lord, for ourselves; in living power remake us,
self on the cross and Christ upon the throne;
past put behind us, for the future take us,
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

Timothy Dudley-Smith 1967



Life in the 1500s

No that isn't a mistake – the following does relate to the middle-ages. This article demonstrates both how far we have come since that period, and where (maybe) some well known phrases/sayings originated. I would add though that even if they are not completely true or accurate it makes for some quite entertaining reading and will make you thankful that times have changed. Here goes....



Did you know that most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May and still smelled pretty good by June? However, apparently if the bride thought she was starting to smell, she carried a bouquet of flowers to hide her body odour! Hence, the reason for carrying a bouquet when getting married.

At that time bathing at home meant filling a big tub of hot water with the man of the house having the privilege of bathing first in nice clean water. After him came all the other sons and men in the house followed by the women and children. Babies came last of all. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose a baby in it. Thus comes the saying “don’t throw the baby out with the bath water.”



In the 1500s houses had thatched roofs, piled high with thick straw with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the cats and other small animals such as mice, bugs etc lived in the roof. When it rained the roof became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof. Hence the saying “it's raining cats and dogs”.



As there was nothing to stop things from falling into the house, this posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could mess up your nice clean bed. Thus, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection and this is how canopy beds came into existence.



The floors in the house would just consist of dirt. Only the wealthy could afford something other than dirt to cover their floors. Hence the saying, “dirt poor”. The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread

thresh (straw) on the floor to help keep their footing. As winter wore on, they added more thresh until when the door was opened it would then all start slipping outside. To prevent this happening a piece of wood was placed in the entranceway. Hence the word “threshold.”



In those days, people cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle that always hung over the fire. Every day the fire was lit and things added to the pot. They ate mostly vegetables and did not get much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot to get cold overnight and then start over the next day. Sometimes the stew had food in it that had been there for quite a long time. Hence the rhyme, “Peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot nine days old”.

Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over, they would hang up their bacon to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man could bring home the bacon. They would cut off a little to share with the guests and would all sit around and chew the fat.



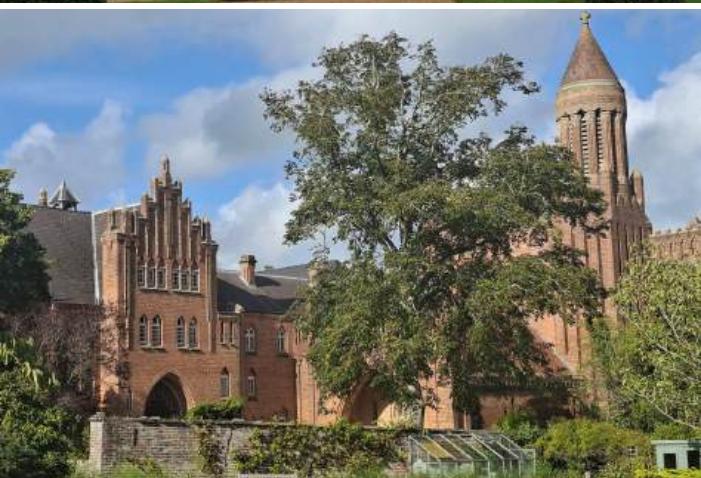
Those with money had plates made of pewter. Food with high acid content caused some of the lead to leach onto the food causing death by lead poisoning. This happened most often with tomatoes so for the next four hundred years, tomatoes were considered to be poisonous.

Lastly, bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle and guests got the top, or the upper crust. Say no more!

Visit to the Island in the Solent

This can only be the Isle of Wight, where Maggie & I decided to return to for a week's holiday after a long absence. The island was our chosen destination for our honeymoon and Maggie had been a regular visitor as a child when her grandparents lived and worked in Ryde. She clearly recalls going from Woking to Portsmouth by train to catch the passenger ferry to Ryde, accompanied by her brother when she was about 7 and he was only 12. Maggie also had an elderly cousin who lived in East Cowes during the 1980s whom we visited when our children were very young. I went to the island with my parents as a child back in the 1960s. But all of these trips were a very long time ago, so we felt it was time to reacquaint ourselves.

We booked a self-catering cottage in the south-west of the island – an area we had never been to before. The cottage was thatched, as were many other houses in the village and the surrounding area. The village of Brightstone is inland and set in wonderful countryside reminiscent of Devon, but it is only a couple of miles to the coast, so we really did have the best of both worlds. We took the ferry from Lymington to Yarmouth, again both places we had not visited before and both were absolutely delightful to explore.



During the week we were there we visited a number of places including Osborne House (top left) and Quarr Abbey (bottom left). Quarr Abbey is a monastery which is home to a small group of Benedictine monks who dedicate their lives to the glory of God and whose days are taken up by prayer, work and community life. The monks are very enterprising making their own ale, chutney, honey and jam and selling them in their farm shop and tearoom, together with other island made products. They have a book shop, and books are also available to buy online via their website. Guests can stay at the Abbey

where they are encouraged to share in the silence and prayer of the monastery in the hope they will be able to come closer to God.

No visit to the IOW would be complete without a visit to Osborne House, the former home of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. It was built between 1845 & 1851 and was the couple's summer and rural retreat. When the couple bought the house Prince Albert demolished it to make way for a much larger property built in the style of an Italian Renaissance palazzo. Prince Albert participated in laying out the estate, gardens and woodland to prove his knowledge of forestry and landscaping. The House also has its own private beach which can be visited and where you can sit and imagine Queen Victoria using her bathing machine from which she entered the water! The Queen died at Osborne House in 1901 and her son, King Edward VII, who had never liked Osborne House, gave the House to the state on the day of his coronation.



Places such as Freshwater, Godshill, Bembridge, Shanklin and Ventnor were all on our itinerary. We also managed to visit East Cowes, where the Wight Military & Heritage Museum is located. It is within this museum that we found the Britten-Norman Islander aircraft which Allan Wright was instrumental in helping to

restore over a twenty-year period. You may recall the article he wrote for this Magazine about it in the Autumn 2023 issue, plus the talk he gave at CAMEO. The aircraft has been beautifully restored and in fact looks so good that you would think it should be able to be flown again. Regrettably, it would have proved too costly a process to obtain certification for airworthiness so it will remain on show at the museum where it has pride of place.

Prior to our holiday we had discovered that Brightstone has a Methodist Church so on the Sunday morning we were there, we decided to attend their morning service. We were very warmly welcomed by the congregation, who were small in number but big on friendliness as you might expect given they were all Methodists. During the service, the lay preacher asked us to split into groups to consider what we should be thankful for. She gave each group a few cards which contained different letters of the alphabet. The idea was for each group to produce words beginning with the letter on their respective cards. We were then told that the lay preacher would put the words together to make a psalm which she would distribute to all present. The psalm is on the next page...



God who blesses us: We thank you!
For agility, for awareness of problems, and for ability to deal with them:
God who blesses us: We thank you!
For beauty, butterflies and bees, for birthdays, beans, bicycles and buses, and for our many blessings:
God who blesses us: We thank you!
For comradeship and church, for children, cats, cake and caterpillars, and for Christmas:
God who blesses us: We thank you!
For daylight, diaries, dew and daily bread, for daybreak, dawn and the dawn chorus, for dogs, doctors, dentists, disabilities and death:
God who blesses us: We thank you!
For energy, electricity, exploration and encouragement:
God who blesses us: We thank you!
For friendships, food and finches, for fresh air, fire and fellowship:
God who blesses us: We thank you!
For gardens and giraffes, for giving and gratefulness and for you, God:
God who blesses us: We thank you!
For haematology and hope, for heathers, heaters and hair, for hospitals and health care and for home:
God who blesses us: We thank you!
For kindness, for inspiration and for joy:
God who blesses us: We thank you!
For laughter, love and llamas, for lupins, lakes and light:
God who blesses us: We thank you!
For Mary, miracles, and mercy, for medicine, monkeys and matches, and for the Methodist Church:
God who blesses us: We thank you!
For new life in all sorts, for nice days with friends and family, for neighbours, new days, and for Nigel a beloved son:
God who blesses us: We thank you!
For operations to heal us, for oranges and for outdoors:
God who blesses us: We thank you!
For paper and paint, for people, for paramedics and pharmacies, for pity and for peace:
God who blesses us: We thank you!
For quizzes, questions, quietness and for Queen Elizabeth,
God who blesses us: We thank you!
For rest, reliability, relaxation, resilience and reward:
God who blesses us: We thank you!
For sight, sound and spectacles, for sea, sand and summer, for sheep, shoes and swallows:
God who blesses us: We thank you!
For time, for tests and treatment for illness, for toast and tea parties, tenderness and care, for transport and for thoughtfulness,
God who blesses us: We thank you!
For the universe and for universities:
God who blesses us: We thank you!
For visitors and vision, for villagers, views and vegetables:
God who blesses us: We thank you!
For a warm and welcoming church building, for words and water, wind and waterfalls, wellingtons, work, wood and willpower, for weeping willows, worms and wool:
God who blesses us: We thank you!
For X-rays and xylophones:
God who blesses us: We thank you!
For youth, zest and zeal:
God who blesses us: We thank you! God who blesses us: We thank you!

The Methodist Church in Brightstone has only been open since 1999. Prior to that the previous building, which was just one large room, was located in another part of the village where it had stood for 150 years. However, its lack of facilities and difficult access meant it increasingly became an unsuitable place for worship and there was no possible way of extending it in order to make the necessary improvements.



Very fortunately the Church managed to acquire a piece of land at a location much more central to the village on which to build a new church. The church secretary at the time commented “we had no money but we decided to go ahead with no knowledge of how we were going to go about it.” Through 4 years of hard work and faith, it took 2 years from when the last service was held at the old chapel to the new church opening on 22nd May 1999. Most of the £180,000 costs was raised locally with grants also coming from Methodist sources, churches and charitable trusts.

Maggie & I have maintained some email communication with one particular member at the church, and we hope not to leave it so long to visit the island again!

Editor

Christmas Quiz Answers (Page 23)

The wise men worshipped Jesus. **YES**. They knelt down and worshipped him. (Matthew 2:11)

The wise men saw Baby Jesus in the manger. **NO**. The wise men came a long way, and it took a long time. Jesus was probably 1 or 2 years old when the wise men came. (Matthew 2:11)

The wise men brought three gifts to Jesus. **YES**. They brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. (Matthew 2:11)

The wise men based on the three gifts they gave to Jesus. **YES**. They brought gifts to Jesus.

There were three wise men. **NO**. The Bible does not say how many but it is believed to be three based on the star which followed the three wise men. (Matthew 2:2)

The wise men followed a star to find Jesus. **YES**. They said “we saw his star when it came up in the east”. (Matthew 2:2)

Answers to “What Does the Bible Say About the Wise Men? (Page 33)



Children's Pages

Joy to the World

WORD SEARCH



ADVENT
ANGEL
BETHLEHEM
BIRTH
BLESSINGS
CAMELS
FRANKINCENSE

INFANT
JESUS
JOSEPH
MAGI
MANGER
MARY
MIRACLE

MYRRH
NATIVITY
REJOICE
STABLE
STAR
THREE KINGS
WISE MEN

Solution on p35

Wise Men

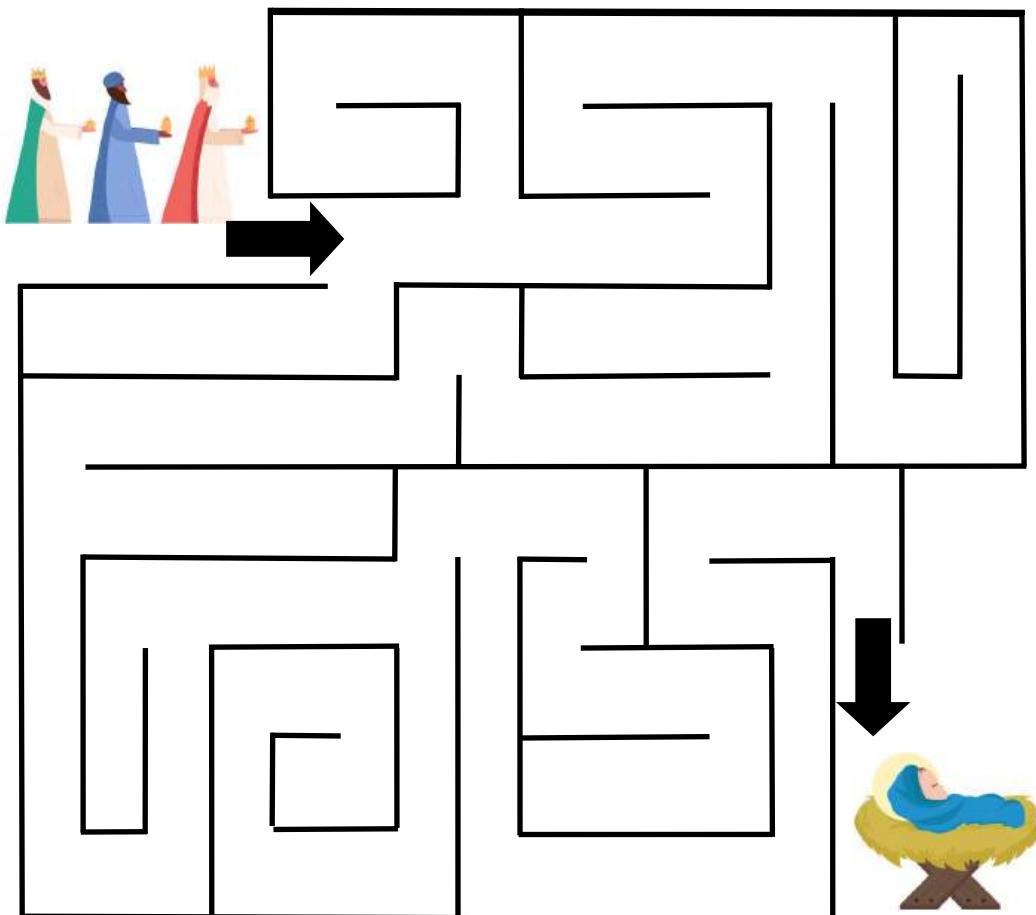
What Does the Bible Say About the Wise Men?

Mark each statement yes (true) or no (false).

Then check your answers on page 31.

1. The wise men followed a star to find Jesus.	YES	NO
2. There were three wise men.	YES	NO
3. The wise men brought three gifts to Jesus.	YES	NO
4. The wise men saw Baby Jesus in the manger.	YES	NO
5. The wise men worshipped Jesus.	YES	NO

Help the wise men find their way to Jesus.





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KNAPHILL METHODIST CHURCH



Knaphill Methodist Church, Broadway, Knaphill, Surrey. GU21 2DR
The Minister with Pastoral Charge for our church is Rev. Dr. Paul Glass.
Paul can be contacted via the Circuit Office on 01483 537655
or by email: minister@knaphillmethodist.co.uk

SUNDAY SERVICE : 10am - Morning Worship

(includes facilities for children)

Our services are warm and cordial. We include traditional and contemporary hymns and songs, led by our Worship Group.

The sermons are Bible based and are sometimes themed over several weeks. Holy Communion is generally on the 2nd Sunday of every month. After the service everyone is welcome to join us for refreshments; a time for a chat and to get to know each other.

We have a special Family Area at the back of the church with things for children to do. For further information see the notice boards outside the church or contact:
admin@knaphillmethodist.co.uk

www.knaphillmethodist.co.uk

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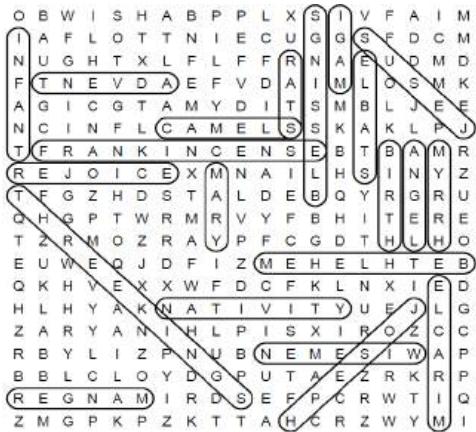


A NOTE TO CONTRIBUTORS

The KMC Magazine has a wider readership than just within KMC because it is published on the KMC and Circuit websites as we want to be able to share it with the other Churches. However, we recognise some contributors may be uncomfortable with being mentioned, particularly on the internet. I will therefore be happy to omit names and any other personal details in any future issue if requested to do so.

Editor@knaphillmethodist.co.uk

Joy to the World wordsearch solution





Services @ KMC

14th December

10am

Morning Worship with Dave Paterson

CHRISTMAS @ KMC



21st December

10am

Morning Worship with Elizabeth Gurd

6pm

Carol Service with Paul Glass

24th December

4pm

Family Carol Service with Paul Glass

28th December

No service at KMC

10.30am Circuit Service *at Godalming United Church - Live streamed*

10.30am Circuit Zoom Service with Sam Funnell

MERRY CHRISTMAS

2026

4th January

10am

Morning Worship with Rob Gill

11th January

10am

Morning Worship

18th January

10am

Holy Communion with Paul Glass

25th January

10am

Morning Worship with Elizabeth Gurd

1st February

10am

Morning Worship with Allan Taylor

8th February

10am

Morning Worship with Rosemary Lee

15th February

10am

Holy Communion with Paul Glass

22nd February

10am

Morning Worship with Peter Hills

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