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**Dec/Jan/Feb
2016/17**



**Buxton
Methodist
Church**

The Church in the Market Place



WORSHIP:

Sunday: 10.30am &
6.00pm on 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month
Tuesday: 10.30am

CHURCH ADDRESS;
Buxton Methodist Church
Chapel Street
BUXTON SK17 6HX

Tel: 01298 27065

e-mail: admin@buxtonmethodist.co.uk
bookings@buxtonmethodist.co.uk

Website: www.buxtonmethodistchurch.org.uk

MINISTER:

Rev Andrew Parker
Tel: 01298 23556

Kwei Lin Chinese Restaurant

Functions, Parties, and Take-away Service
are always welcomed

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Due to family circumstances, Andrew has been unable to contribute his usual introductory letter for this magazine. The following is an item selected by the temporary editors of this edition.

Have an ALTER nativity

Ideas taken from Christian Aid's ALTER nativity campaign by Ruth Jarman

Christmas should be a time of great joy and real celebration for everyone. But many people struggle through it - getting into debt, feeling pressurised or stressed, guilty or lonely - and unable to participate fully in the meaning of Christmas. And the focus on shopping and consuming means a huge amount of energy use and waste, damaging the earth at the very time when we are celebrating God's relationship with the earth through the Incarnation.

Is how we celebrate determined by prevailing traditional customs or by the expectations of others around us; or is our Christmas really about what we want it to be about?

Take Christmas cards as an example. When your first card drops through the door on the 1st December do you eagerly open it with joy and thanksgiving, murmuring a prayer for the sender, or do you scream a stream of abuse at the thoughtless Miss-perfect for reminding you how hopelessly disorganised you are again this year and how there's no way you're going to get all the Christmas cards and presents done in time for Christmas and how you wish you were a hedgehog?

Ask yourself these questions:

- Is sending Christmas cards and giving presents a chore?
- Do you give cards and presents just because people expect it?
- Do you make a choice about where all the money you spend is ultimately going?
- Do you consider the impact on God's world by what you buy?
- What are you saying when you send cards - by choice of card, by your message?
- Do you consider the cards and presents to be part of the celebration?
- Do you give yourself time to stop and wonder at what it is all about?

This Christmas why not challenge yourself to:

- REDISCOVER the values of the Magnificat - 'he has lifted up the humble and filled the hungry with good things'
- REMEMBER the simplicity and meaning of the Incarnation, with the freedom, joy and peace that is offered in the coming of the Messiah
- RESIST the excesses of consumerism, which cause many people to incur unpayable debts and cause such harm to creation.



70 years of Methodist Relief and Development



Children at a refugee camp in Austria, 1945

All We Can helps people to find solutions to poverty and become all that they can, by investing in partnerships that improve quality of life and create positive, long-term change in some of the world's poorest communities.

Origins:

All We Can traces its roots back to the 1940s, when Methodist minister, Henry Carter, felt the church had a responsibility to respond to the post-war refugee crisis in Europe. He pioneered the Methodist Refugee Fund as a personal initiative to raise money and collect supplies to relieve hunger and improve conditions among refugees, particularly in Austria and Germany.

Revd Henry Carter, 1940s: "Man's inhumanity to man darkens the record of every century. Yet, by reason of their intensity and magnitude, the refugee problems of the twentieth century outrange the forced migrations of bygone ages." (Sadly we face perhaps even greater challenges in the 21st century.)

1950s:

As the refugee situation in Europe became less demanding, the remit expanded and they became known as the Methodist Relief Fund (MRF). MRF supported the building of Wesley Village in Hong Kong, a resettlement camp for refugees fleeing the civil war in China.

They also increasingly provided practical relief in response to disasters – including a hurricane in the West Indies, famine in India, a fire in Burma, and the Hungarian uprising – largely working through Methodist channels.

1960s:

The focus began to shift towards 'rehabilitation work' – providing training for the unemployed in West Africa and Rastafarians in Jamaica, and supporting Methodist agricultural colleges in Tonga and Haiti and a home for orphans in Nigeria.

MRF continued to act as a focus for giving at times of crisis, such as after the Biafran war. Ten percent of monies were allocated for work in deprived areas of the UK, such as projects promoting good race relations.

1970s:

With growing concern about global hunger and poverty, Methodists were challenged to give one percent of their income for world development – a figure the government was called upon to match.

A new World Development Fund was launched alongside the MRF, to encourage education and political action to address some of the structural causes of poverty.

The World Development Fund also raised donations – notably through a Harvest Festival Appeal – to be distributed through the Methodist Missionary Society, the MRF and Christian Aid. Projects with subsistence farmers, refugees and the disabled continued to be supported. In 1979, £200,000 was raised for victims of Pol Pot's regime in Kampuchea.

1980s:

After an earthquake in November 1980 left 300,000 people in Southern Italy homeless, the MRF launched an appeal which was backed by local radio stations in Yorkshire. People donated caravans to serve as emergency accommodation and 250 volunteers spent Christmas driving them across Europe.

In 1985, the Methodist Relief Fund and World Development Fund were merged to form the Methodist Relief & Development Fund (MRDF). One of the first tasks was to respond to a catastrophic famine in Ethiopia. However,

the main work was increasingly about meeting longer-term needs, particularly by supporting adult literacy, basic healthcare, and agricultural training.

1990s:

In 1991, MRDF's income reached £1m for the first time. By now they were supporting work in over 50 countries each year, from urban healthcare in Calcutta to land rights of indigenous communities in the USA. Through the 1990s, they ran a significant agro-forestry programme, co-funded by the European Community.

2000s:

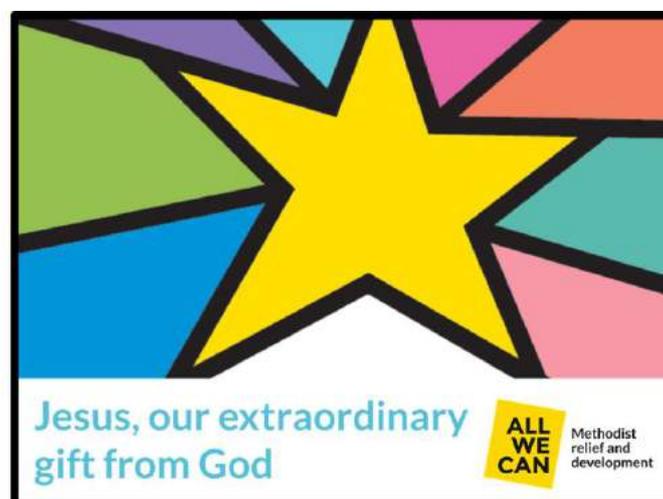
As MRDF continued to grow, they reduced the range of projects and countries they supported in order to focus more on long-term impact and building the capacity of their partners. The World AIMS project was launched to provide a development education programme in Methodist schools.

In 2004, the Indian Ocean Tsunami resulted in the biggest response to an MRDF emergency appeal to date, raising over £1.5 million. The following year, MRDF and Methodists played a prominent role in the Make Poverty History campaign on aid, trade and debt.

2010s:

By **2013**, MRDF was supporting long-term development projects with 38 partner organisations in 16 of the world's poorest countries, with a focus on livelihoods, health and women's empowerment. They continued to respond to emergencies, and resource campaigning and development education work in the UK, including through their award-winning Iota course for small groups.

2014: On the 8th April 2014, MRDF became All We Can.

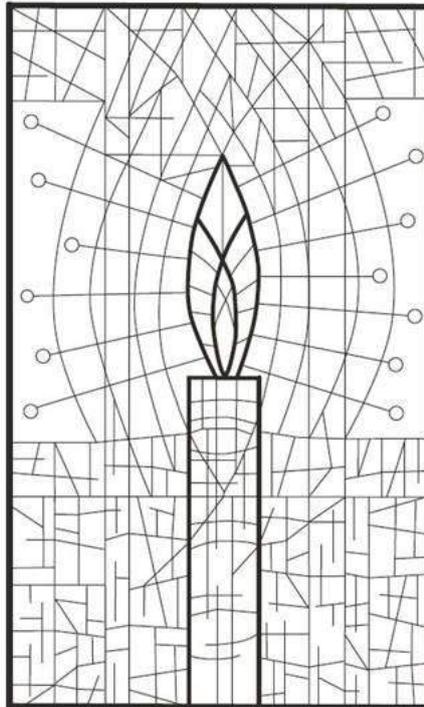


God with us.

Image of the invisible God, firstborn of creation,
Majesty on Earth, born in a humble stable,
Mary cradles her new-born son.
Angels, singing, announce the royal birth,
News to bring joy to the hearts of watching shepherds:
“Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given.”
Every eye at last shall see Him,
Lord of Lords and King of Kings,
Immanuel.

Malcolm Heyward

“The people walking in darkness
have seen a GREAT LIGHT” Isaiah 9:2



#LightTheWay

I am Mary

I am the Mary of your Christmas cards. I listen calmly while the angel brings me news that will shake my life beyond all measure. I accept what has been ordained for me. I am young and dressed in blue.



I am the Mary of your Christmas cards. Despite travelling almost 100 miles across a desert and giving birth in a stable, I am still immaculately clean and tidy, cradling my infant son. I am still young and dressed in blue.

I am the Mary of your Christmas cards, welcoming shepherds from the nearby fields and strangers from afar, a person who treats such events as if they happened every day, calmly pondering on them in my heart. I am still young and dressed in blue.

But is this really me? Do you have any picture of me beyond that of Christmas cards? Where is your picture of me in the temple as Simeon tells me that a sword would pierce my soul? The angel brought greetings and told me not to be afraid so I am calm on your Christmas cards but do you never see the terror in my eyes as I hear Simeon's haunting words and I DO fear what is to come?

Maybe you do have a picture of me 12 years later - but have I aged in your eyes? Am I calm and serene, frantically searching for my son, lost on return from the temple? He was calm but not I.

Do you have a picture of me 30 years after your first picture of me? Am I still dressed in blue? Are there lines on my face? Is my hair now grey?

Do you see me at the Wedding feast, recognising deep within that his time was coming and he would soon be no longer mine?

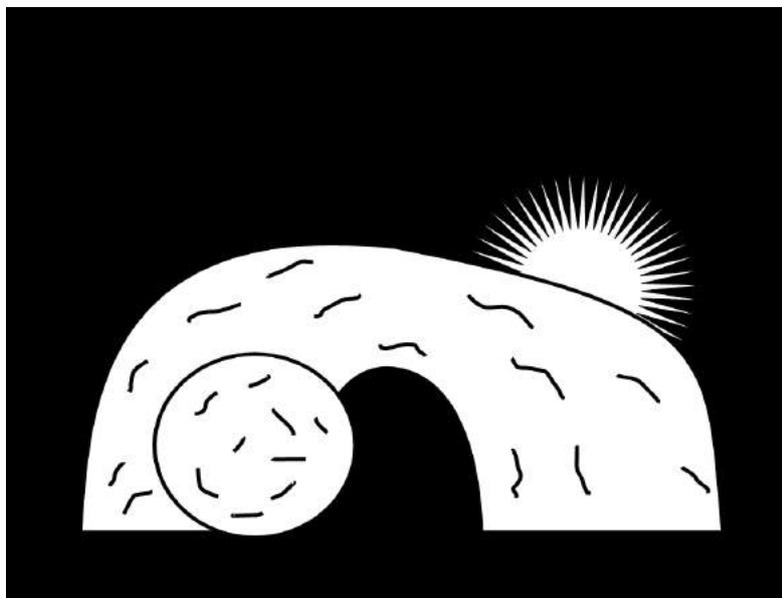
Do you see me, hurt by his rejection when he declared that all the world was his mother and his brother and his sister? I knew that he had a greater purpose - but do you imagine that there was no pain for me in this?

How I aged in those three years. But am I still young in your picture? Was I not grey haired as I stood at the feet of the cross? Do you know what it takes to watch your son being crucified? Some parents still do. As they pierced his side my soul too was pierced. Do you have a picture of me, distraught at the anguish of my son? Or am I still the Mary of your Christmas cards?

They laid him in the tomb - it seemed so final, it seemed I had lost him for ever. Where was the angel now to tell me not to be afraid? My fellow countrywomen kept vigil, I was not alone in mourning. But you know what happened next? Do you let me grieve for the end I thought he'd reached?

You know the end, the triumph of his resurrection, the kingdom without end and this affects your picture of me. I remain always young and dressed in blue, calm, serene, humble and willing- never allowed to show fear, hurt, anger, pain and grief. For many I remain the Mary of your Christmas cards. If I am to be called blessed, please remember all I stand for. As you receive your cards this Christmas please look at me and remember this is just the beginning.

Submitted by Kate MacLean



Still



Jesus still can bind
In love, all human kind –
To a manger, lowly, kneeling,
Still they come for help and healing,
Weary human kind.



SERVICES December 2016.

Communion and Prayers every Tuesday

in the Church 10.30 am to 11.00 am

Sunday Club and Crèche every Sunday 10.30 am

HC = Holy Communion Service

11th December

Advent 3

10.30 am All age worship and Parade service

Rev Andrew Parker

6.00 pm Praise @ 6

18th December

Advent 4

10.30 am Carol Service and Sunday
Club Party

Rev Andrew Parker

23rd December

Christmas Eve Christingle

5.00pm

25th December

Christmas Day

10.30 am All age worship

Rev Andrew Parker

SERVICES January 2017

Communion and Prayers every Tuesday

in the Church 10.30 am to 11.00 am

Sunday Club and Crèche every Sunday 10.30 am

CTiB = Churches Together in Buxton Ecumenical Service

1st January

10.30 am Morning Worship

Ian Stubbs

8th January

10.30 am Covenant Service HC and Sunday Clu

Rev. Andrew Parker

6.00pm Praise @6

15th January

10.30 am Morning Worship and Sunday Club

David Harrison

22nd January

Christian Unity

10.30 am Morning Worship and Sunday Club

Janet Evans

6.00 pm CTiB Service at URC

29th January

10.30 am Morning Worship and Sunday Club

Malcolm Heyward

SERVICES February 2017

Communion and Prayers every Tuesday

in the Church 10.30 am to 11.00 am

Sunday Club and Crèche every Sunday 10.30 am

CTiB = Churches Together in Buxton Ecumenical Service

HC = Holy Communion Service

5th February

10.30 am

Morning Worship HC
& Sunday Club

Rev David Hall

12th February

10.30 am

Morning Worship and Sunday Club Rev Andrew Parker

6.00pm

Praise @6

19th February

10.30 am

Morning Worship and Sunday Club Philip Botham

26th February

10.30 am

Morning Worship and Sunday Club Rev Andrew Parker

6.00pm

Taize Service HC (CTiB)

Rev Andrew Parker

Elizabeth Announcing

My cousin Mary came to me today.

She is with child,

Yet she crossed the wild

Hill country

Just to be with me.

There was joy, beyond all reason, at our meeting,

And I take this for a sign

That between her son and mine

Will be a deep affinity,

Stronger than kinship's tie.

For now I begin to understand this:

That my bitter tears,

The long, empty years

And final despair

Were not a merely private affair.

Even in my fulfilment I had asked:

Why was our youth wasted?

Why could we not have tasted

This joy when we were younger

And blessed with strength and vigour?

I may not live to see my child full-grown;

But I will no longer speculate

About the future. I will wait,

Like Mary, upon the Lord:

Not in anxiety, but in peace,

Trusting His Word.

Susan Brown

Buxton Methodist Church is inviting applications for the following post:

Communications Coordinator

(the post is for 4 hours per week at a rate of £9.50 per hour)

For further information please go to the church website:

www.buxtonmethodistchurch.org.uk

An application pack can also be downloaded from the church website or

collected from the church office by arrangement (01298 27065)

Closing date for the post is Tuesday 3rd January 2017



Taste and See – Do not be afraid

I am privileged to sing in a small choir that meets once a year to make a CD of very high quality to be sold in aid of the Bishop of Derby's Harvest Appeal.

This year's CD contains music and Bible readings around the theme of Christ's invitation to receive new life: 'O Taste and See that the Lord is Good' and do not be afraid to say 'yes' to the call to faith. The music includes familiar choral anthems and one new piece, composed by the conductor: 'Do not be afraid – your prayer has been heard, you have found favour with God'. The accompanying booklet contains the words of the choir items and the readings, with an introduction by Bishop Alastair.

The CDs are £7 each and would make ideal Christmas presents. All proceeds will be donated to the work of the Cathedral Relief Service, based in the slums of Kolkata in India. The Bishop's 2016 Harvest Appeal will particularly be directed towards two projects: 'Ray of Hope' for children to escape labour exploitation through education, and Women's Wings', which is aimed at training young women who are drawn into prostitution to produce products to sell.

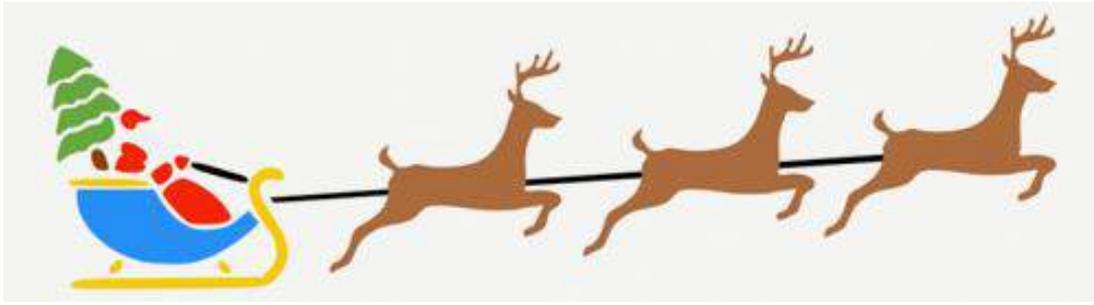
If you would like to purchase a CD, please see me at church, phone and leave me a telephone answerphone message or email me. Thank you.

Kate MacLean

01298-78276

director@creative-heritage.net





“I am old, Father Christmas,”
The grandmother said,
“And my hair has become very white.
Bearing gifts is a pain
By bus or by train.
Do you think, at my age, this is right?”

“Tis so far to go,” she added and sighed,
“At my age the miles become longer,
My stamina’s short,
It won’t do all it ought,
And my legs don’t grow any stronger”.

“Now in this day and age,”
Grandma chatted on,
“You are right up to date, so I’m told,
Electronically sped,
In your shining new sled,
So, I beg, may I borrow your old?”

“In view of your plight”, Father Christmas replied,
“I will consider your pleas,
But you must understand,
A sleigh driven by hand
Needs considerable expertise”.

“Rudolph’s quite ancient”, dear Santa Claus grieved,
“And so is his old stable mate.
They are well past their prime,
And cannot keep time
With the traffic demands of our state”.

“I know how they feel,” the grannie concurred,
“It comes to us all, look at me!
My bones ache and creak,
The future looks bleak,
But the children come first, you’ll agree”.

“Well, all right, my friend,”
Father Christmas allowed,
“But drive with great care on the ice,
And shout as you go,
The odd, “Ho, Ho, Ho”
And a present for me might be nice”

Rita Warrener, Southport, Merseyside (Submitted by Janet Evans)

The Ministerial Candidate

One of the toughest tasks a church faces is choosing a good minister.

A member of an official board undergoing this painful process finally lost patience. He's just witnessed the Pastoral Relations Committee reject applicant after applicant for some minor fault. It was time for a bit of soul searching on the part of the committee. So he stood up and read this letter purporting to be from another applicant.

"Gentlemen: Understanding your pulpit is vacant, I should like to apply for the position. I have many qualifications. I've been a preacher with much success and also had some success as a writer. Some say I'm a good organiser. I've been a leader in most places I've been to.

I'm over 50 years of age and have never preached in one place for more than three years. In some places, I have left town after my work caused riots and disturbances. I must admit I have been in jail three or four times, but not because of any real wrongdoing. My health is not good, though I still accomplish a great deal. The churches I have preached in have been small, though located in several large cities. I've not got along well with religious leaders in the towns where I have preached. In fact, some have threatened me, and even attacked me physically. I am not too good at keeping records. I have been known to forget whom I have baptised.

However, if you can use me, I promise to do my best for you."

The board member turned to the committee and said, "Well, what do you think? Shall we call him?"

The good church folks were appalled ! Consider a sickly, trouble-making, absent minded ex-jailbird? Was the board member crazy? Who had sent in the application? Who had such colossal nerve?

The board member eyed them all keenly before he replied, "It's signed, 'The Apostle Paul'."

[Author unknown. Submitted by Iris Walker]

HIGH PEAK FOODBANK NEED OUR DONATIONS!

At Christmas, remember those in our town who are less fortunate than us. High Peak Foodbank is urgently seeking donations of food..

In December if you can donate, **they need** UHT milk, pasta sauce, Christmas items and tins of vegetables, fruit and puddings.

If you'd like to become a foodbank trustee, please email or phone.

Email: paul.highpeakfoodbank@gmail.com or 01298 214926.

With best wishes and thanks for the help and support you give to local families in crisis,

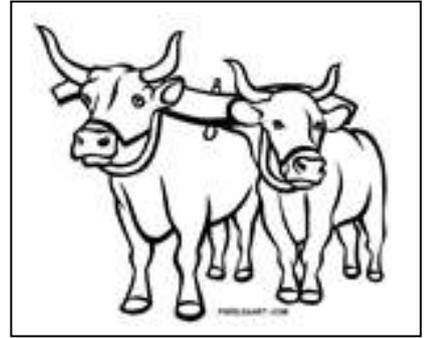
Make Free donations to High Peak Foodbank when you shop at the Coop. As a coop member you can select to support High Peak Foodbank. This doesn't cost anything but means the Coop make a donation when you shop there. You can choose to support High Peak Foodbank with all purchases from Buxton Coops from now until March 2017.

For more information visit <http://www.coop.co.uk/membership/local-community-fund/>



The Oxen

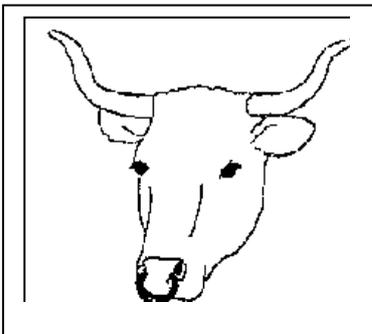
Christmas Eve, and twelve of the clock,
“Now they are all on their knees,”
An elder said as we sat in a flock
By the embers in hearthside ease.



We pictured the meek mild creatures where
They dwelt in their strawy pen,
Nor did it occur to one of us there
To doubt they were kneeling then.

So fair a fancy few would weave
In these years ! Yet, I feel,
If someone said on Christmas Eve,
“Come; see the oxen kneel

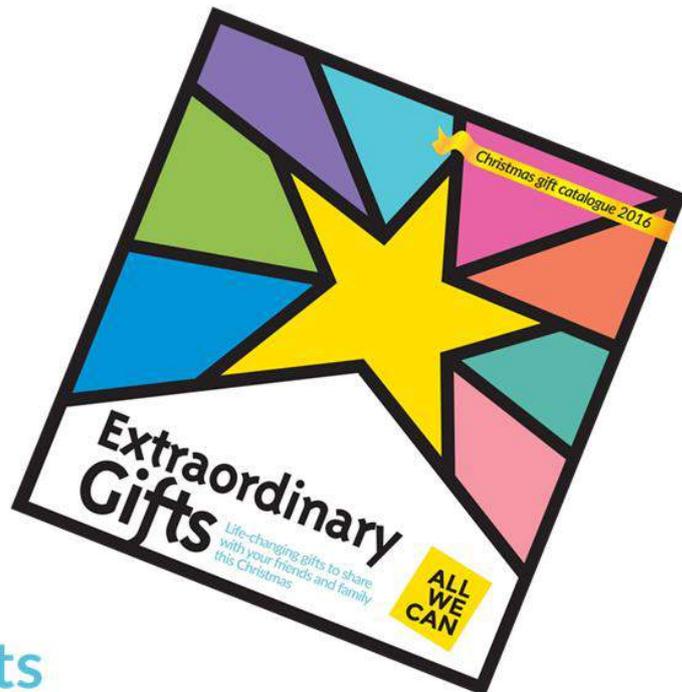
“In the lonely barton by yonder coomb
Our childhood used to know”
I should go with him in the gloom,
Hoping it might be so.



By Thomas Hardy



Extraordinary Gift catalogues are available in the foyer at church.



Order your gifts

www.allwecan.org.uk/gifts

020 7224 4814



Christmas Services at
Buxton Methodist Church.

Sunday 11th December 10.30am
Parade and All Age Worship.

Sunday 18th December 10.30am
Carol Service and Sunday Club Party

20th December
Messy Church.

Saturday 24th December 5.00pm
Christingle Service.

Sunday 25th December
10.30am
Christmas Day All Age
Worship

**Christmas
starts with
Christ**

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issues of the magazine.

The charge will be the same for a black and
white advert, or an inside page printed in
colour.

GENERAL INFORMATION

WORSHIP TIMES

Sunday 10.30 am and 6.00 pm (2nd and 4th Sundays of each month).

Tuesday 10.30 am

Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday morning of each month and every Tuesday morning.

PEOPLE MEET PEOPLE CAFÉ is open on market days, Tuesday and Saturday mornings, when the church is accessible for viewing and prayer. You are invited to borrow books from THE CHURCH LIBRARY to be returned within one month.

NETWORK, which is a fellowship group for men and women, meets on Wednesdays at 2.30 pm.

SMALL GROUPS for study, prayer and fellowship are often arranged.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES include: Sunday Club and Youth Group as part of Sunday morning worship, Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Junior Friday Club, Friday Club, Messy Church, and Parents and Toddlers.

As a community church with the community at heart we regularly host numerous organisations in the town including: Buxton Field Club, Weight Watchers, University of the Third Age, Buxton Musical Society and numerous other groups on an occasional basis.

If you require further information, a list of precise times when groups meet and contact numbers, please write to Buxton Methodist Church, Chapel Street, Buxton, SK17 6HX or ring the office number on 01298 27065.

Material in writing for the next Magazine (to be submitted by the end of February) can be left in the Church Office, or e-mail

admin@buxtonmethodistchurch.org.uk