

Pastors Comment ...

So what will this New Year bring us? 2011 has been a year of 'shaking' with the threatened collapse of world economies (again), scandals, riots and discontent. However, there is light amidst all the turmoil ... I was very encouraged to hear the PM wanting to see this country return to the Bible! In some ways, as reported by the BBC, Cameron was basically saying that the Church is not doing enough to stick up for Christian values. I believe he's right; the Church in England has become so passive and tolerant that it's like a puppy that's almost gone to sleep. It's time to wake up and share our faith—we have the good news of Jesus Christ and He's no puppy! People are looking for leadership, vision, meaning, answers, fulfilment—what are we offering as the Church? I pray this year will be a year to shine the light of Christ and not continue to hide it under a shroud of passivity and political correctness. Let's stand up for what we believe and offer the hope that Christ has given us!

Once again the 'cooks' of MBC did a wonderful Christmas dinner with all the trimmings! It was great to see new faces and enjoy pulling a cracker or two with them. As this is a late write-up, I can also report on the Carol singing at the Royal Oak which was sung with great fervour before a crowded audience (thankfully it was still crowded when we left!) Please pray for Janice, Ros and Doris. We can be thankful that baby Rosie seems to have recovered well although later tests are needed.

*May the Lord prosper you this New Year in every way,
Pastor Tim.*

Services

February

5th Rev Tim Skillman
12th Mr Denis King
19th Rev Derek Hill
26th Rev Tim Skillman

March

4th Mr Denis King

Flowers

February

5th Mrs Sterry
12th Mrs Hallworth
19th Mrs Parsons
26th Mrs Jones

March

4th Mrs King



Door Stewards

February

5th Miss Edgcombe
12th Mr Collins
19th Mrs King
26th Mr Sanders

March

4th Mrs Collins

Hoovering (week ending...)

January

28th Mrs King

February

4th Mrs Sterry
11th Ms Brown
18th Mrs Jones
25th Mrs Putt



Fellowship News

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Morning Service 10:30 am Communion service held on the first Sunday of the month.

2012...a year that could be really New ?



As I was dashing around a supermarket late on Christmas Eve, frantically remembering what it was I had been sent there to buy, I noticed some of the staff were already removing some of the Christmas features and decorations, anticipating the next sales project for the New Year. It reminded me that for many people the magic of Christmas was not much more than a set of kindly feelings which are un-packed and soon re-packed as if Yuletide were no more than an annual ritual. Nothing new there then. But arriving home to my glowing windows and glittering tree, I realised that my own decorations must also be packed away by January 6th, or Twelfth Night as it is known, This date marks the evening before the 12th day of Christmas, or Epiphany. Epiphany is a word meaning "manifestation", or disclosure. The Church recalls the time when the infant Jesus was visited by the three Magi, a moment when the Saviour was manifested, or revealed, to the World.

For committed Christians, that word "manifestation" also signifies that moment in their lives when the reality of Jesus as Saviour became a personal revelation and the believer recognises and submits to the Saviour. Many people cannot recall a specific date when that realisation came to them and their grasp of the personal significance of Jesus came only slowly, as it did for some of the early disciples.

But whether conversion comes as a blinding Damascus Road experience as it did for the Apostle Paul, changing life in an instance, or dawns on them gradually over the years, most Christians do experience repeated epiphanies, special moments in their lives when the truth of the Gospel and the reality of the presence of Jesus confronts them personally and powerfully.

Just recently, the Prime Minister expressed the need for the renewal of Christian values across our society, and as expected, his idea received a mixed reception. What a transformation such a move would bring to our nation and what a rebuke to some church leaders that the suggestion should come from a politician. But what cannot be expected of society, should surely be adopted by every individual Christian. Did not Jesus call us "the salt of the earth"? With the power of the Holy Spirit, we are able to change things for the better; to stop the moral rot around us be the living proof the truth of the Gospel. Let us pray that we each become someone else's epiphany in the year ahead.

D.K.

A Scripture to ponder ...

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Matthew 5:14-16 (NIV)

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Christmas Lunch Festivities!

Gifts were presented to all those who have worked so hard over the year. Much of what has been raised helped pay for the kitchen and upstairs sink.



What's on this January ...

9th—Prayer for KDCT churches at Frogmore, 10.30am

12th—House group at Richard & Rachel's, 7.30-8.30 pm

15th—KDCT Unity Service, 4pm, Kingsbridge Family Church
Celebration of children's & youth work

19th—Fellowship Lunch, 12.30pm at the Chapel

22nd—KDCT Unity Service, 6.30pm, St George's, Modbury.
Speaker is Jez Brown, Senior Regional Min., SWBA.

29th—Sunday Evening Prayer & Worship at 7pm, Chapel