

Pastors Comment ...

“Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God” (John 1:12)

As I was walking past the library in Kingsbridge I read a notice inviting people to lunch at Age Concern; I wasn't so concerned about this invitation until I read underneath it "55 years and over welcome" ... It dawned on me that I wasn't too far off this mark and, for the first time, I felt 'old'. Therefore it's with some trepidation that I welcome the New Year. However, I was reminded that I am a child of God—regardless of age: No matter how old (or young) we may be—we are all starting on the road to eternity and we can consider ourselves mere 'spring chickens' in God's Kingdom! I pray that we will walk closely with the Lord this year and in His blessing.

Marjorie is very frail at this time and she may be moving to Well's court shortly. Please also pray for Sarah Rooney, Ros, Roger & Joyce, Dawn, Marion, Pauline, Doreen and Enid's eyesight! I hope to finalise details about the fellowship groups in Malborough, Salcombe and Kingsbridge very soon—first groups are on the 23rd January. *Pastor Tim.*

Services

January

5th Rev Tim Skillman
12th Mr Richard Sanders
19th Rev Tim Skillman
26th Mrs Sue Whiteway

February

2nd Rev Tim Skillman

Flowers

January

5th Special Request
12th Mrs E Parsons
19th Mrs K King
26th Mrs M Hallworth

February

2nd Mrs S Jones

Hoovering (week ending...)

January

4th Mrs S Jones
11th Ms J Brown
18th Mrs D Crocker
25th Mr H Jones

January

1st Mrs J Tucker



Luke 1:14

“He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of His birth.”

MALBOROUGH
BAPTIST
CHURCH

MINISTER
REV TIM SKILLMAN

Fellowship News

Volume 7, Issue 1

January 2014

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

Epiphany

The 6th of January is known as Twelfth Night, and for most of us it is the last day of Christmas when all the decorations are packed away for another year.

But in the Church calendar, that day marks the beginning of another feast, called Epiphany, or “Manifestation”. It is on that day that most European churches choose to remember the arrival of the three wise men, or Magi, at the stable. This event was the presentation of God's Messiah to the Gentile world. This is what John meant when he described the coming of Jesus as, “the Word became flesh”. These theological terms might seem vague and irrelevant today, but they declare the amazing fact that the Maker of all things physically identified himself with mankind, His own creation.

Irrespective of religion, the annual changeover of the calendar is for most of us a time of hopeful expectancy, looking for a better, happier “manifestation of good luck”, and wishing for a better year than the last one. Should it be any different for the Christian? The believer is as prone to wishful thinking as the next person, but the Christian does have the scriptures for a guide. Jesus said, “Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and all these things will be added unto you.”

It follows that each New Year we do “resolutely” promise to take matters into our own hands in order to improve things. Alas, these renewed resolutions are an admission that some of our troubles might be self-inflicted and we think that by changing our habits, our life-style, happiness will come our way.

Thinking back to the stable, we notice that as well as the Magi, there were other visitors to the new-born Messiah; the shepherds. They were simple, unlearned folk who also shared in the epiphany, their own revelation from God. In awe they joined in the heavenly chorus and when they left they could not stop telling everyone about it. This sense of wonder and desire to spread the good news was evident again and again among other people who later met Jesus. Each new meeting with him was yet another epiphany and in a sense each of us here today, having revisited the stable in our Christmas readings and carol services, have had our individual epiphanies. With what result ?

When our neighbours meet us during the coming year, what will they see, “manifest” in us ? Will they simply see a fellow sufferer with no more clue to the future than they have, or will they see a person with rejuvenated hope, joyful and loving, someone who can say like Paul, “In whatsoever circumstances I am in, therewith to be content.... We fix our eyes, not on what is seen, but what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”

This new year has started with another storm and some superstitious folk might see this as some omen of bad luck for the months ahead. But not if we read again the words of Jesus. “*My prayer is not that you take them out of the world, but that you protect them from the evil one.*” He reassures us that His Holy Spirit is with us, guarding and guiding and accompanying us at all times. Jesus was born in stormy times. His birthplace was a mere shelter for animals and his life was under threat, but by the grace of his God he would grow and fulfil His Fathers will.

In the same way, no matter what anxieties trouble us, Gods Holy Spirit will safeguard us. The New Year beckons us on, so let us pray that our witness will be a fresh epiphany to all those we meet. May it be that when the Lord calls us home, we shall hear that loving greeting, “*Well done, thou good and faithful servant.*”

DAWK

What’s on this January...

16th— Fellowship Lunch at 12.30pm

19th— Church Unity Service at the Sacred Heart, Roman Catholic Church, 6.30pm

23rd— Home Groups at 6.30pm (venues below*)

30th— Deacons meeting at 7.00pm

*Malborough—Kings, Salcombe—Sanders, Kingsbridge—Mitchells

Please remember there is a prayer meeting every Thursday at the Chapel, 2.15-3.00pm.

Remembering Edna Philips ...

We remember Edna Phillips who passed away in the presence of the Lord on October 25th 2013. She came to worship with us in 1983 until 2007.

When getting older she felt Malborough was getting too far to drive from Chillington. During Glen’s ministry she was a deacon and for a while Church Secretary. She was loyal and devoted in her service to the church and to her Lord. We will miss her.