

ELBURTON METHODIST COMMUNITY CHURCH

# The Courier

Delivering The Message



**O Come, O Come,  
Emmanuel!**

# ELBURTON METHODIST COMMUNITY CHURCH

Springfield Road, Elburton PL9 8PR

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Senior steward: Di Smart Tel: 405435



## Worship in Person

as from next Sunday, December 6th 2020 we will be returning to in person worship at EMCC. This means around 27 people will be able to join in worship in the church building. If you would like to be a part of that you are asked to book in advance via Di. Bookings must be made by Thursday of each week. Full information on how to book and what to expect can be found on our website here:

<http://www.elburtonmethodist.org.uk/video-services>

Dear All

What a year this has been. No one will forget 2020! My family started out with that sense of expectation of a move to a new place, and also, trying to concentrate on the work in hand in Nottingham. It looked like being the most exciting of years. And then, to misquote a line from the Lord of the Rings, there were rumours of something bad developing in the East. Within weeks we had all heard of coronavirus or Covid-19. Who would have thought that words and phrases like Personal Protection Equipment, or Lockdown would be the watchwords. Or, that we would go shopping and find empty shelves, or that we would be wearing a face-covering. Or worse, that hospitals were filling up and that many, many people were dying, and often without loved-ones by their side. What a year this has been. No one will forget 2020!

Yet, and this is a fantastic and great, 'Yet'! Yet, there has been a feeling of unity and togetherness. There has been a re-discovering of what and who really matters. So, we have not been able to meet up in church buildings as we would hope. But we have felt again the importance of a phone call, that offering of simple care. Jesus said, when you did this for the least of these, you did it for me. How many of us thought that in phoning a friend, we were 'phoning Jesus'? Who would have thought that when we put on a face mask, and suffered that minor inconvenience, we were doing something holy? Who would have thought that a professional footballer would be the conscience of the nation? There have been many good things to come out of this year, and even I have come to like technology that has kept me in contact with friends in the church, family and colleagues. Who amongst us had heard of 'Zoom'? Oh, and the move to the Plymouth and Devonport Circuit, for me and mine, is living up to and beyond expectation and hope. What a year this has been. No one will forget 2020!

St Paul wrote that God can do so much more than we can ever hope for or imagine. In March 2020, I did not foresee the good that can come out of a deadly pandemic. But there has been good alongside the suffering. How do we take with us the loving lessons we have learned? What a year 2021 will be. Let's make it a year in Jesus that no one will ever forget.

Every advent blessing

Andy



## What we've been doing!

The latest edition of The Courier has arrived, a little later than anticipated but hopefully we are looking forward to the re-opening of our Church, however limited the services will be.

The building may have been closed but we have still been active in a variety of ways throughout the past few months.

We have all become familiar with new technology, Zoom meetings and services, Facebook, WhatsApp etc. And Jon Carhart continues to keep us in touch with his weekly emails/bulletins. Keep watching the Church website for information. Continued thanks to Jon and Tristan for their Sunday morning video services which have been brilliant, thank you.

We cast our minds back to May 8th with the VE celebrations and some personal memories. As we gradually emerge from lockdown and all the restrictions that has entailed, nothing will compare with the euphoria felt at the end of the war. Even so.....

Heaven invites you to a party,  
To celebrate the birth of a Son,  
Angels rejoicing in the starlight  
Singing 'Christ your Saviour has come'  
  
And it's for you, And it's for me,  
For all your friends and family,  
Now heaven's door is open wide,  
So come on in, Come step inside.  
  
And it's for you, And it's for me  
For all your friends, And family  
Let trumpets blast, Let music play  
Let people shout, Let banners wave  
  
Bring all your neighbours, Everybody  
Send invitations, To every nation  
Come and adore him  
Everybody!  
Everybody!

Graham Kendrick

## **Elburton Methodist Community Church - Support for the NHS**

You may recall earlier in the year purchasing a Rainbow coloured bracelet, made with 'Loom Bands' and a small wooden cross, made by my daughter, Caitlin and I, or possibly you purchased a more lavish threaded bracelet made by Dawn. You may also have bought a DIY NHS Cross Stitch Bookmark.

Thanks to everyone's generosity and support, including Tony's colleagues & friends at Co-Op Funeral Care. I am delighted to inform you that we made a grand total of £240.00. It was decided that the money would be evenly split between two departments in the Hospital. As we (The Church) have two of our own NHS Workers within the congregation, namely Tristan and Tracy, and as both are also part of the Messy Church, it was decided that it would be a nice idea if they were to take the cheques into Derriford Hospital. The two hospital departments selected to receive a cheque as a small token of our collective appreciation, were the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and the Hospitals COVID 19 Ward.

**Picture 1.** Below Tristan is seen presenting a cheque to Tracy Clark. Tracy is the Fundraiser for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.



**Picture 2.** Two Nurses who work on the Hospitals COVID 19 Ward are seen holding their cheque from EMCC

## VE Day REMEMBERED

In the last issue, we asked for your remembrances of the day you heard that the War in Europe was ended. Here are the three we received.

Joan Marsh

I was twelve, almost thirteen on May 8<sup>th</sup> 1945. I had just started at Dudley Girls High School, proudly walking home in my second hand uniform. Unexpectedly the "all clear" siren came on and on! People were visibly confused, there had been no siren warning of an imminent raid. "What's going on", I heard many say. Suddenly, frightened, I felt a firm hand grasp my satchel and turned to see a smiling policeman. "It's Joan isn't it he enquired? Your dad asked me to tell you he's had news from headquarters that the war in Europe is over, and we won". I had difficulty in holding back a scream of joy as he continued "tell your mum he'll be late home". My first selfish reaction was one of relief for myself. I would not have to pump air into the twins' incubator in the air raid shelter. My twin brother and sister came as a surprise and, being so small needed the machine to help them breath. Sadly I thought of Mrs Goldby whose three strapping sons had been killed. Rather portly, she'd crawl upstairs and come down on her BTM as she'd call her bottom. Mum could hardly believe the news, with no flags, she grabbed a red shawl, grandad a blue shirt and, much to his annoyance, I held out his whitish "Long Johns". Screams of laughter followed from outside. I wished I could have gone into the woods and climbed trees with the boys watching celebrating couples on the grass below. I was told I was too young to learn of the intimacy between couples.....soon learned !

The late Margaret Peacock

When the end of the war was announced I was living in Weston Super Mare (where I was born). I was just 15 years old and still at school. It would have been exam time in May/June. Probably my mock exams for the school certificate which I took the following year.

I don't recall how I heard the war was over. Probably on the wireless as we had no telephone or television in those days.

I don't remember any street party in my road. We had been bombed with high explosive bombs in 1942 and 4/5 houses opposite our house were completely destroyed with a number of people killed. The girls part of my school was also partly destroyed by incendiary bombs and we had to share part of the boys building although we were not allowed to mix! We used the classrooms on one side of the quadrangle and they had the other.

My father was a cable telegraphist in a reserved occupation sending coded messages to the USA and the allies and worked shifts. He might well have been on night duty (as he was when we were bombed).

Sorry I can't remember more but I was so grateful it was all over.

## Jean Davies

By May of 1945, as a little girl, I had spent several years (and would spend a few more) in Mount Gould Orthopaedic hospital. May 8<sup>th</sup> was sunny and as usual on sunny days, the nurses pushed our beds out onto the veranda, overlooking the field below. No mean feat as most of us were encased in plaster and attached to metal frames ( no risk assessment then!). Sister Edgecombe ( our ward sister, a very scary lady) came out and told us the war was over. We did not know that some of it was not. What would it mean for me? It would mean that no longer when the siren was heard, I would be handed an enamel washing bowl to put on my head and pull the sheet up over the top of my bed. It is surprising, as a child, how safe you feel in those circumstances. It also meant that my dad, during raids, would not have to stand outside the hospital in the vain hope of getting me out if we were bombed. There had been a bomb, which hit the chest TB ward on another part of the site. Standing with dad were some wonderful folk who lived in the Astor estate opposite, ready to help evacuate patients in any way they were needed. Thank God I live to tell my story.



May 8<sup>th</sup> VE Celebrations at Elburton and Plympton



## Scout News

The Devon County Scout Roll of Honour has just been published showing some of the top awards to members of the church and the young people of 1st Elburton.

Turning to the young people first, a number of them have gained their Chief Scout Award of Gold, Silver or Bronze depending on which section they are in. Achieved by their own hard work and the dedication of the leaders who provide their scouting activities weekly, monthly and annually.

**Adam Faulkner** has been awarded the Award for Merit. Awarded by Headquarters for outstanding service of not less than 12 years. It implies keen, conscientious, imaginative and dedicated service.

Adam was a Cub, Scout and Venture Scout at 1st Elburton. He gained his Queen Scout Award and took up the leadership of Cubs at 1st Brixton and Yealmpton in 1996. He still remains their Akela and is in line to become their Group Scout Leader in the not too distant future. Adam has also been a member of the District team. A keen and enthusiastic leader, must take after his mum! Adam has also seen service of almost twenty years.

**Judy Sheldrake** has been awarded the Silver Acorn. Awarded by Headquarters for especially distinguished, and appreciably better than outstanding service over a period of not less than 20 years.

Judy started her leadership with 1st Elburton in July 1977. She was to take over as Akela from Anne Stanton and remained as Cub Leader until October 1992. During this time a number of Church Members children passed through her care. One of her Cubs being Adam Faulkner who now brings his children to Cubs! No sign of age there then!! Also active at District level for many years serving on the Appointments Advisory Committee, a role in which she is still active. She is currently Plym District Appointments Secretary and Judy is also now very active with the running of Beavers at 1st Brixton and Yealmpton where she is also treasurer.

**Tina Johnson.** In the Devon County Scout Honours list this year Tina gained her twenty year service flash. All twenty years have been spent with 1<sup>st</sup> Elburton here at Elburton Methodist.

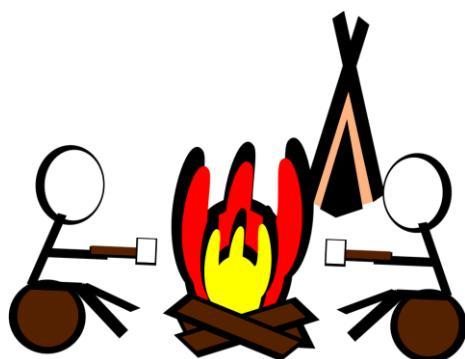
For the first twelve years she was assistant leader but for the final eight has been "Akela." In February 2013 she was awarded her "Award of Merit." Tina has been a tremendous influence on hundreds of young people that have passed through the church hall during her twenty years of leadership. A first class leader in all aspects but will be particularly remembered for her camps at Foxcove. Now, what's the expression "What goes on at camp, stays at camp!" Tina also played a role at District level. Sadly, for personal reasons, Tina has decided to hang up her woggle and wood beads but will be around as an Occasional Helper. She will be greatly missed not only by all those who benefited from her leadership but also the leaders who worked with her. Tina, enjoy your retirement and thank you. "Well done thou good and faithful servant."

Bob Sheldrake

Congratulations!

The church sends its congratulations to all award winners, together with grateful thanks for the time and dedication shown to the scouting movement and the children in their care. We shall be sorry to lose Tina, but thank her for the years she has spent with the group here at Elburton. We wish her well and assure her that she will always find a warm welcome whenever she visits.

Hopefully we may soon see all our children back at the church enjoying their activities."





## Elburton Methodist Women in Britain

Whilst we are unable to meet, we are still keeping in touch with our weekly *At Home with Jesus*. These publications are kindly produced by Di Smart and contain prayers, bible readings, hymns and reflections. By Christmas, if my calculations are correct, there will have been almost 40 issues.

I'd like to share some District MWiB news with you.

As you may know, we have a 2 year MWiB District Project. This alternates between a 'home' charity and an overseas charity. Our recent home charity was **Air Ambulance**, for which our church and friends raised an incredible amount of money, mostly with donations for face masks. In early March, before the pandemic, the District MWiB had already decided that our next overseas charity would be the **Christian Hospital, Berhampur in India**. Fundraising for the hospital was planned to be launched at our Autumn District Day this year, which, along with most other events, was cancelled. The plans then were to launch it at the Spring 2021 District Day. However, at a District Zoom meeting in November, it was agreed that we should start fundraising for them ASAP.

A team from the District, consisting of Rev'd Graham Thompson, Rev'd Liz Singleton, Rev'd Stuart Innalls, Rev'd Deborah Kirk, Anne Browse and Shannon, a young lady with links to Plymouth Central Hall, visited the Cuttack Region of India in January 2020. The District supports this region financially and with prayer. They visited the Christian Hospital in Berhampur. Both Anne and Deborah Kirk, MWiB members, were very impressed by the wonderful work that is done there. Unfortunately, the hospital is in desperate need of financial help. However, with Covid restrictions, meetings and more normal fund raising events are not possible. There is an explanatory booklet (available for those with email) compiled by Graham Thompson, telling some of the history of the hospital and explaining the immediate need.

It is hoped that some people may be able to support this work by a one off donation, however small; every pound will be gratefully received and used well. Details of how you can donate are in the booklet. Unfortunately, it's not possible to include a printed copy of the 10 page booklet, so if you haven't already seen it and would like it emailed to you, or if you are interested in making a donation and would like payment details, please contact Carol Batchelor on 491962 or [candgbatchelor@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:candgbatchelor@tiscali.co.uk)

We will hopefully be able to get back to doing our 'normal' fundraising at Elburton next year once we are able to meet again, and profits from our Cream Tea afternoon and various Circuit events will then go to the hospital. However, I thought you might like to have some information now.



Due to the current restrictions, we were unable to have our usual Harvest Festival this year. Realising that the Plymouth Food Bank would miss out, arrangements were made to facilitate donations. The back and front doors were opened on two days, from 10am to noon, with folk there to accept gifts of food, cleansers, toiletries etc, as well as monetary donations. We were delighted that members of the community came with contributions, having read

the announcement of the event in the newspaper. As usual, EMC showed its always present generosity, as you can see from the photograph. Jeff and Janet kindly took all goods to the food bank where it weighed in at 322lbs. A cheque for £330 was sent by the treasurer from the collected money.

"We have received a letter of thanks from the food Bank for the generous gifts and money".

THANK YOU !!





## SHOE BOXES

*The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to show God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world, and together with the local church worldwide, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.*

The sight of all the Christmas wrapped shoeboxes piled up at the front of our Church during November has always been a reminder that Advent was just around the corner.

Sadly, the collection of shoeboxes was unable to happen this year. However, it is possible to 'pack' a box online or make a donation. Rachel did however collect seven boxes and is grateful to those who have contributed. Thank you.

*"Let the little children come to me ... for of such is the kingdom of God"*  
*Luke 18:16*

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## CHRISTMAS CARD GARLAND

As a result of COVID, the garland of Christmas cards from Church members, in aid of the Mission in Britain Fund, will not be possible this year. Jenny Weymouth has for many years arranged this, if you would still like to donate to this Jenny is happy to receive your donations. Tel 404407





## CRUMBS FROM THE TABLE

You may be aware of a plan to feed around 30 families this year that the primary school tell us will find it hard to feed themselves. We have been overwhelmed with the out pouring of love and support from the entire Church and the community. We have, in one week, received 720 pounds in pledges from Church members and beyond. Helen went to the Co-op to place the order for the food and was delighted when they agreed to add 250 pounds worth of goods to our purchases. It is another very generous gift! As mentioned last week, the Lemon Tree have offered us a selection box for each of the families (another very kind gift!) bringing the total value of support so far for this project to ONE THOUSAND POUNDS!!

It has been a fantastic response that truly shines a light of the compassion and love of God's people!! Thank you !!

Jon & Helen

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## MAINTAINANCE



We are very grateful to Tony Sleep and his merry band of helpers who have been keeping our Church safe and secure during these last months and for preparing the premises for our new look services.

PLEASE remember to lock AND bolt the doors when leaving the Church.

He also keeps us amused and entertained with his daily emails LDD252 to date!!

- Venison for dinner again? Oh deer!
- How does Moses make tea? Hebrews it.
- England has no kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool .
- I tried to catch some fog, but I mist.
- They told me I had type-A blood, but it was a Typo.
- I changed my iPod's name to Titanic. It's syncing now.

## PRAYER PAGE

Lord, **Hear** our prayers. Thank you, dear Lord, that you do hear our prayers and you are willing to answer them in your own time. Father, there are so many needy people around us and we don't know where to start. Please bring to mind people who need our help and show us how we can make a difference in their lives. We thank you for the food banks and the many organisations that work so hard to see that these people are fed and cared for and may know that they are loved.

“What a friend we have in Jesus,  
All our sins and griefs to bear,  
What a privilege to carry  
Everything to God in prayer.”

We **Offer** you our praise and thanksgiving. We fill our hearts with words of praise and thanksgiving to you, dear Lord, and thank you as you surround us with your love and strength. We thank you for your great faithfulness that reassures us that you are always beside us. Thank you God for giving Jesus to the world.....the best gift of all.

“Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising,  
Give me joy in my heart, I pray,  
Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising,  
Keep me praising till the break of day”

Your **Peace** and presence are always with us. Thank you, dear Lord, that we will always have you with us, helping us to handle whatever we encounter. Your world longs for peace – guide the decisions that leaders of governments make for people to lead safer and better lives.

“Put peace into each others hands,  
And like a treasure hold it.  
Protect it like a candle flame  
With tenderness enfold it”      shalom

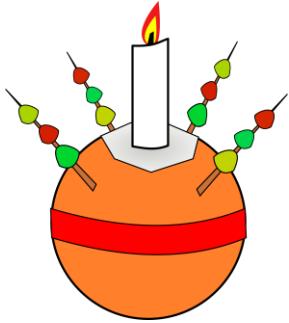
The **Earth** is the Lord's and everything and everyone in it. Creator God, we praise you for the variety we discover in your world ; a wealth of colours and shapes, textures and tastes; innumerable species' of birds and insects, animals and fish, a variety of flowers and trees, grasses and shrubs. People with different faiths and languages, intellects and skills. It is a beautiful and wonderful world. May we all care for it.

“God in his love for us, lent us this planet,  
Gave it a purpose in time and in space.  
Small as a spark from the fire of creation,  
Cradle of life and the home of our race”

BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD

Margaret Passmore





## CHRISTINGLE

As you are aware, due to COVID 19, the Government's guidelines and direction from various Church hierarchies etc, the chances of our Church having its annual Christingle Service is sadly, highly unlikely. To that end, and having spoken with Rev Andy, it has been decided that, in the absence of the Christingle Service, we will do a 'Christingle in a Box', for collection!

In essence, it is exactly what it says. We've got loads of small, children's party type boxes, which will contain all you need to make a Christingle at home, a Prayer, or similar from Rev Andy, Christingle Origin, there'll also be some other small Art & Crafts etc.

The idea is to utilise the Main Door/ Front Foyer area ONLY of the Church as a distribution point. We'll get it decorated up for the Christmas period (poss Nativity Scenery) plus then a few tables as a barrier and counter type surface over which we can distribute the 'Christingles in a Box'. This will take place on Christmas Eve from 3 - 5:30pm.

Julia Washbrook



# *Christingle in-a-Box*



*Pick-Up Yours  
24<sup>th</sup> December 3 – 5:30 pm  
Elburton Methodist Church*

From Elburton Community Church we wish you  
HOPE LOVE JOY PEACE  
this Christmas and the coming year