

Our United Harvest Festival was held on Sunday 8th October. The morning all-age service was led by the Revd. Rose Hoskins, and Geoff Chapman spoke about the work of *Tear Fund* and *Foundations for Farming* in Malawi. A harvest lunch followed at the Davis Hall. In the evening the Revd. Craig Manley led a "Harvest Praise" service. The collections and profit on the lunch raised £218 which was donated to the project in Malawi.

On Sunday November 19th there was a well-attended "Sing Sankey" service, when hymns and songs were accompanied by a music group from Southville Elim Church, Yeovil,

West Camel Methodist



MESSENGER

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

"The only place and person who can bring glory to us is the child of Bethlehem who became the victim on the cross. For God has come among his people to bring salvation."
—Archbishop Justin Welby.

"May we allow the miracle of Christmas to continue long after the holiday trappings have been packed away; May we welcome the adult Messiah and his challenging Gospel to recreate our lives, making the peace, justice and hope of this holy season

a reality in every season of the new year."
—Connections, 1995.

A PRAYER

O God, our Creator, we thank You that you did not stay in heaven and leave us to struggle alone. You love this world so much that You came to us in a unique and wonderful way and through Christ made a path back to Yourself. May we make room for You in our hearts and homes at Christmas and throughout 2018. Amen.



Our services are now held at All Saints Church



REGULAR ACTIVITIES:

Sunday: 2nd–5th Sundays 6pm. Evening worship.
1st Sunday 4.30pm. "Tea-Time" at the Davis Hall.
Wednesday: 7.30pm Bible study (various venues). First in month, united study at the Davis Hall.

MINISTER: Rev. Craig Manley, Broadclose, Station Road, Ansford, Castle Cary. (Tel. 01963 351598)

STEWARD: Mrs Elizabeth Chapman, Mead Farm, Downhead. (Tel. 01935 850838)

WORSHIP CO-ORDINATOR: Mr Geoff Chapman, Mead Farm, Downhead. (Tel. 01935 850838)

EDITOR: Mr Geoff Chapman.



SMILE

As a little girl climbed onto Santa's lap, he asked the usual, "And what would you like for Christmas?"

The child stared at him open mouthed and horrified for a minute, then gasped, "Didn't you get my e-mail?"

A man sent his friend a cryptic Christmas card. It said: A B C D E F G H I J K M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z. The recipient puzzled over it for weeks, finally gave up and wrote asking for an explanation. In July he received the explanation on a postcard: "No L."

A Sunday School teacher asked her class what a conscience was. One lad put his hand up and said, "A conscience is something that makes you tell your mother before your sister does."

Odd ads

For Rent: 6-room hated apartment.
Man, honest. Will take anything.
Jack Russell terrorist puppies, 2 boys, 3 girls, 5 weeks old.
Wanted: medium-sized dog-house for low income family.

This is the great mystery of our faith: Christ was revealed in a human body. (1 Timothy 3: 16)

EDITORIAL

DIVINE INTERVENTION

THESSE days Christmas seems to begin in November, or even earlier as far as the shops are concerned. Yet, in spite of this, there are many people — even in our so-called Christian society— who don't really understand what Christmas is all about. They may have heard about the baby in a manger, shepherds and wise men, without grasping the truth behind it. Christmas is the celebration of something that actually happened 2,000 years ago when God Himself stepped into history and was born as a human being.



This “divine intervention” took place because of something else that happened in history about 4,000 years earlier. God had created a perfect world — an ideal home for humans. A world without pain and evil, where people could have lived in harmony with God and each other if only they had remained obedient to Him. Tragically they chose to disobey God. Theologians call it “The Fall.” When Adam and Eve sinned the whole creation was spoilt and has been suffering ever since. The apostle Paul wrote: “The whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.” (*Romans 8: 22*).

The coming of Jesus was God's rescue mission to a lost world. At His birth, the angel said: “A Saviour has been born to you.” (*Luke 2: 11*). Like our first parents, we have all sinned and been separated from God, but Jesus came to restore that relationship through His death on the cross where He paid the penalty for our sin. Through His resurrection we can receive that eternal life which sin has stolen. When we admit our need, and turn to Him in faith, our relationship with God is restored. So many of our world's problems would be solved if people just listened to that angel's message and responded to God's amazing initiative.

Christians believe there will be another “divine intervention” in the future, when Jesus Christ returns to earth as He promised. The contrast between His two comings could not be greater.



2,000 years ago He was born in an obscure middle-eastern village, and few people noticed, but when He returns it will be unmissable: “He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him.” (*Revelation 1: 7*). God will then restore the whole creation to its original perfection, and Jesus will reign as King over the whole world. If we receive the forgiveness Jesus offers us, and accept Him as our Lord and Saviour, we can be part of that new creation.

To us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (*Isaiah 9: 6*)

SUNDAY SERVICES



Dec.	3rd.	4.30pm	“Tea-Time” at the Davis Hall.
“	10th.	10.30am 6pm	United Children's Nativity Service Rev. Craig Manley (H.C.)
“	17th.	3.30pm	United Carol Service
“	24th.	11.30pm	Midnight Communion Service
“	31st.	6pm	United Service
Jan.	7th.	4.30pm	“Tea-Time” at the Davis Hall
“	14th.	11am 6pm	United All-age Service Rev. Nick Lakin of Street
“	21st.	6pm	Rev. Craig Manley (Covenant Service)
“	28th.	10am 6pm	United Service at St Barnabas, Queen Camel Mr Geoff Chapman (H.C.= Holy Communion.)

OTHER CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Friday December 8th. 3.30pm. The Davis Hall, Carols and Tea for Senior Citizens. (Free — but please book in advance by phoning 850838 by 6th December)

Thursday December 14th. 7pm. “Carols on the Village Green”, followed by hot drinks and mince pies in All Saints Church.



NEWS FROM THE PAST From *The Western Gazette* 40 years ago

A party for boys and girls who attend the weekly Adventure Club was held at the Methodist Hall on Monday. Tea was provided by church members and friends. Gifts, contained in a giant cracker, were distributed and games were played. (*December 16th 1977*)

Members of the Methodist Church broke with 50 years of tradition this year by discontinuing the annual outdoor carol singing in aid of the National Children's Home, and instead holding

two candle-lit services last week. This resulted in two very well-attended services, with collections amounting to £50 — substantially more than is usually raised by carol singing. On Sunday the service was led by the young people, and on Thursday by the Minister, the Rev. Rossiter Forward. Both services included special musical items. On Thursday the children of the Adventure Club sang and the service was followed by refreshments in the hall. (*December 30th 1977*)

We wish all our readers a blessed Christmas and Happy New Year