

DECEMBER 2022 & JANUARY 23

## UPPER EDGE BAPTIST CHURCH

# Newsletter

Dewsbury Rd, Rastrick, HD6 3QD

[www.uebc.org.uk](http://www.uebc.org.uk)



You can find us on most Social Media



### A New Year Dawns

What will we make of 2023?



We cannot see what lies ahead, but we can pray that we will have courage and the faith in God to face whatever may come.

Let us pray for a year in which we can work towards peace for all people, and a better world for all to live in.

Let us pray we can each do our bit to help poor people, sick people, the weary of heart, and those who grieve.

Let us pray for the strength to overcome our own weaknesses, and for courage to make amends to those we have hurt.

A year is a long time. No doubt we will slip from these high standards at some time or another. But surely if we try and try again, we will come through as better people.

The Bible tells us, "Be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed; for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever Thou goest."



Upper Edge Baptist Church would like to wish you a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

We would love to see you at one or more of our Special services taking place in December.

Do come in and join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ our Lord.



A hearing loop is installed in church.





Upper Edge Baptist Church  
126 Dewsbury Rd  
Rastrick  
Brighouse  
HD6 3QD

Dear Friend,

What troubled times we live in. The news is full of floods and mud-slides, gun crime in America, oppression in China as young people dare to protest against endless Covid lock-downs, the cruel and heartless war in Ukraine, as the Russians bombard towns and infrastructure and now instruct their troops to use rape as a weapon of war, while here in Britain many are worried about how to cope with the cost of keeping warm as the winter bites, or how they will manage to afford to buy food – and about the flood of migrants landing on our shores, seeking a better life, so we have strikes and queues at foodbanks and the NHS is in danger of being overwhelmed. It's NOT 'Beginning to feel a lot like Christmas!'

Christmas – the birth of Christ. Times were troubled then, too. The Holy Land was under Roman occupation. Life was hard. People were poor, but had to travel to their place of birth to register for tax purposes. So a carpenter and his young, pregnant wife had to undertake the long journey – about 70 miles to Bethlehem, Joseph's home town, so that the Romans could keep tabs on everyone! Mary was already well into her 9th month, so was probably very weary when they arrived, and desperate for some privacy, rest and comfort, but there was no room for them anywhere, except in a stable in the back yard. There, among the cattle, a baby who was to change the course of history, was born – Jesus Christ our Lord. His name means 'God saves'.



On a hillside nearby, some lowly shepherds thought their end had come, as the night sky filled with dazzling light and they saw shining figures who sang 'Glory to God in the highest and Peace to

all on earth.' When they realised that they were still alive, the angel told them to run all the way down to Bethlehem and see the child who was God's own Son. They were filled with joy and couldn't keep this good news to themselves.

We too try to spread the Good News of God's love and generosity. We collect for food banks, we give presents to children whose families are struggling, we share our joy by offering an early Christmas Dinner to all in the community who wish to come and we invite any who need to keep warm to come along to the church hall when we are there, to chat and be comfortable. We pray for you, our neighbours, every week, for blessing and help, and try to keep in touch with you through our Newsletter. Our Services are open to all. Christmas is a time for Light in the darkness and when the church is decorated it does look beautiful. Come and see! Our services are listed in this newsletter, and you are warmly invited to come on in.

By the way, did you know that Bethlehem means House of Bread? Of course that would be where Jesus, the Bread of Life, would be born!

We wish you every blessing this Christmas time. May Christ be born in all our hearts again.

With love,

*Louise*

(Rev. Louise Armitage)



\*\*\*\*\*

A young boy had been begging his father for a new watch. His father, getting frustrated, finally demanded, "I don't want to hear about you wanting a watch again."

At family devotions that evening, each family member was asked to share a Bible verse. The boy read from Mark chapter 13 verse 37: "And I say unto you all, Watch."



## DECEMBER

### Saturday 3rd

2.00pm Decorating the church for Christmas

### Sunday 4th

10.30am Morning Worship led by Rev Louise Armitage and friends

11.45am Church meeting after the service

### Wednesday 7th

10.00am Time To Reflect

7.00pm Overgate Hospice Concert

### Sunday 11th

10.30am Morning Worship led by Mr Julian Dowson  
6.30pm Carols at The Rock Tavern Upper Edge

***Names for Christmas lunch on the 14th – TODAY please***

### Wednesday 14th

10.00am Time To Reflect

12.15 for 12.30pm Christmas Lunch

7.00pm Soirée @Lorraine's with Secret Santa

### Saturday 17th

8.30am Men's Breakfast including Ladies at The Toby Carvery

### Sunday 18th

10.30am 4th in ADVENT  
Christingle Service led by Mrs Lorraine Tatham and Young Church  
6.30pm Carols by Candlelight in church

### Sunday 25th

10.30am – 11.00am CHRISTMAS DAY  
Short Family Service led by the deacons

## JANUARY 2023

### Sunday 1st

10.30am Morning Worship led by Rev Louise Armitage - New Beginnings

### Wednesday 4th

10.00am Time To Reflect



### Sunday 8th

10.30am Morning Worship with Communion led by Rev Louise Armitage

### Tuesday 10th

2.30pm Deacons' meeting

### Wednesday 11th

10.00am Time To Reflect

12.15 for 12.30pm Church Lunch

7.30pm Home Group @ Colin and Helen's

### Sunday 15th

10.30am Morning Worship

### Wednesday 18th

10.00am Time To Reflect

7.30pm Home Group @ Colin and Helen's

### Saturday 21st

Beetle Drive for all the family. See noticeboard or Lorraine for details

### Sunday 22nd

10.30am Morning Worship

### Wednesday 25th

10.00am Time To Reflect

7.30pm Home Group @ Colin and Helen's

### Friday 27th

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

### Sunday 29th

10.30am Morning Worship by led by Mrs Lorraine Tatham

## FEBRUARY

### Wednesday 1st

10.00am Time To Reflect

7.30pm Home Group @ Colin and Helen's

### Sunday 5th

10.30am Morning Worship led by Rev Jo or Rev Andy Williams





## News of and from the Fellowship

Please remember in your prayers those who mourn the loss of family members and friends especially at this Christmas time. Help us to be there for them and often just to wait in silence and listen when they speak.



Don't forget to let someone know if you would like us to pray for them.

**Father in heaven**, may we share the light and life of Jesus with others today, and always.



### Paul and Ken's Talk with Slides

It was a damp, cold, foggy night and there was an 'important' football match on the TV. Inside the Community Hall at Upper Edge Baptist church however, there was a great atmosphere as over 50 people sat down to eat their delicious pie and peas supper followed by homemade biscuits and coffee or tea. There was a real buzz and the room was full.



This was followed by a very interesting talk from Ken and Paul on their recent walk along the mountains of northern Majorca.

We were treated to some wonderful slides/photos showing the spectacular views they saw from the many mountain tops they ascended and descended. A particular feature of the walk was the many and varied uses of dry stones: snow pits, houses, walls, lime kilns, pathways... basically anything you can prefix with dry-stone, we got it!

Many thanks to all who came and all the helpers, especially Jane Foley, who made this such a wonderful, happy, social event. It was so good to have an evening again like this after almost 3 years. A total of £200 was raised for church funds.

## Fireworks and fun

Thank you to Lorraine and her family for a fantastic bonfire night and for the lovely warm welcome by them. It was a lovely time together with friends from church and also friends of Lorraine and Allan. We were all treated to



mulled wine and corn beef hash etc then a lovely glowing fire that was kept well stoked up by Allan. To top it all a fantastic fireworks display that I don't think could have been topped by anyone. Thank you for a splendid evening.



*Dawn Swaine*

**To All in The Community - That means YOU**

**Wednesday 14th December**

**Church Christmas Lunch @ 12.15 for 12.30pm**

3 course meal with coffee and chocolates. Also the singing of Christmas Carols and a few jokes.

**Please book your place NOW. Donations welcome**

Contact Lorraine on 01422 823013

We cater for many diets eg vegetarians, vegans, coeliacs - you must let us know though in advance when you sign the notice in the Church Hall or alternatively ring to book your place.

If you need a lift do let us know. Do come along to this informal meal for a chat, good food and generally a laugh or two and a few jokes.



Christine: Are you in the top half of your class?

Laura: No, I'm one of the students who makes the top half possible.

## Important things to do before Christmas

Or



### An Alternative to the Advent Calendar



I was handed the following item for the newsletter and as it was all written as one paragraph I thought I would try a different presentation so that each sentence/statement was easier to read.

On counting them I discovered there were 26 so decided that perhaps 24 of these could represent the days from December 1st and on Christmas Day we could try to do the last 2! An Alternative Advent calendar!

I then put them in alphabetical order of first word, someone else suggested in order of difficulty starting with the hardest first or easiest. Anyway it is up to you as they can be tackled any way.

All you need to do is number them and tackle one each day. . . .



Apologise if you were wrong.

Appreciate, be kind, be gentle.

Dismiss suspicion and replace it with trust.

Encourage youth.

Examine your demands on others.

Express your gratitude.

Find the time.

Flout envy.



Forego a grudge.

Forgive an enemy.

Give a soft answer.

Gladden the heart of a child.

Keep a promise.



Laugh a little more.

Listen.

Manifest your loyalty in a word or deed.

Mend a quarrel.



Search out a forgotten friend.

Share some treasure.

Speak your love. Speak it again. Speak it again.

Take pleasure in the wonder of the earth.

Take up arms against malice.

Think first of someone else.

Try to understand.



Worship your God.

Write a love letter.

. . . . However, do not have a quarrel with someone just so that you can mend it!!

### Some strange facts for you to check out.

*What are 3 countries that don't celebrate Christmas?*



**Afghanistan, Algeria, Bhutan, North Korea, Libya, Mauritania, Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Yemen** do not recognize Christmas as a public holiday.

*In what country was Christmas banned?*

In 1644 Christmas was banned in **England**. It was during a time of turmoil and change in England. Christmas as a holiday or celebration was completely banned across the country.



*Which country cancelled Christmas for 30 years?*

In 1969, Castro cancelled Christmas altogether, so that celebrations wouldn't get in the way of the sugar harvest. **Cuba** was officially an atheist nation and the Christmas ban lasted until December of 1997.

*Which country celebrates Christmas twice?*

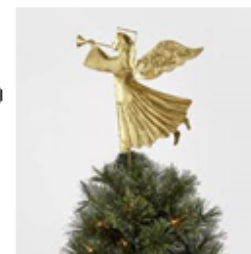
Even though the country has a Muslim-majority population, **Egypt** comes together to celebrate this special Christian holiday. But with many different Christian denominations, including Coptic Orthodox Christians, Christmas in Egypt gets to be celebrated twice, on both December 25th and January 7th.



### Why We Put an Angel on Top of the Christmas Tree

The reason dates back to the very first Christmas.

If you celebrate Christmas, you've likely seen people top their Christmas trees with decorative angels. But have you ever wondered why we do this or how it became a Christmas tradition?



And why an angel, and not just another ornament?

It turns out, this practice comes from the original Christmas story. Angels play a significant part in the first Christmas: Angels visited Joseph and the Virgin Mary about the upcoming birth of Jesus, and on the night of his birth, angels appeared in the sky over Bethlehem to announce his arrival to the world.

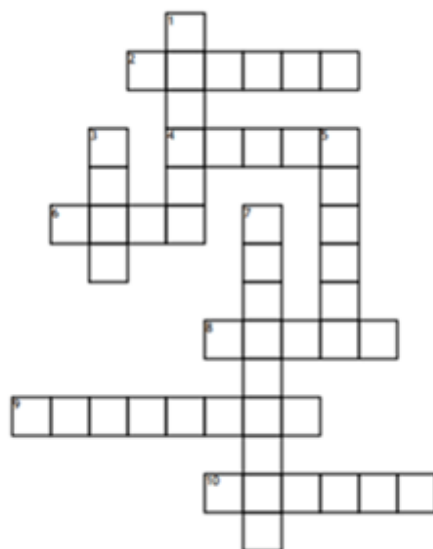
Because angels appeared high in the sky on the first Christmas, people began placing angels high on the top of their trees as a way to celebrate the birth of Jesus. If you've ever seen a star on top of a Christmas tree, there's a similar significance: According to the Christmas story, in addition to angels, the star of Bethlehem (also called the Christmas star) appeared in the sky to guide people to baby Jesus.



\*\*\*\*\*  
\* **WARM SPACE — Upper Edge Baptist Church** \*  
\* *The Church Community Hall will be open and available for anyone wanting* \*  
\* *to come along and sit in a warm room, with coffee, tea and biscuits on:-* \*  
\* Wednesday morning 10.00am to 11.30am \*  
\* Thursday afternoon 2.00 to 4.00pm \*  
\* Friday morning 10.00 am to 11.45am \*  
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## The Christmas Story



### Across

2. The father of Jesus
4. These wise men visited the baby and brought him gifts.
6. The mother of Jesus
8. Baa baa baa
9. The month we celebrate Jesus' birth.
10. Away in a....

### Down

1. This was the animal Mary rode into town
3. This is how the shepherds found the baby.
5. Because the inn was full, the family had to sleep in the
7. The town where Jesus was born.



The answers are in the Bible! I suppose you could also try the internet!!

Want to keep warm this autumn and winter?



Come along to our new  
TABLE TENNIS group



Weekly on Thursday afternoons between  
2.00 and 4.00pm in the church hall.

All abilities  
welcome

Bats and balls are provided

The cost is £2.00 per session  
and refreshments are available



**FREE** — Warm room provided for those who simply would like  
to come along and chat and have refreshments.

## Line Dancing Class

Friday 10.15am - 11.30am

Why not come along and give it a try?

Come along and join us. You will be assured of a warm  
friendly welcome and a lot of encouragement. It is better  
to come at 10.15am before the actual class starts and find out what  
happens. We finish with a cup of tea or coffee and a good chat! It is good  
exercise and we have fun.

Just give it a try. Donations welcome - suggest £5. No special clothing  
required!!!



## UPPER EDGE BAPTIST CHURCH

Dewsbury Road, Rastrick, HD6 3QD

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# Christmas Concert for Overgate Hospice

at  
Upper Edge Baptist Church, Rastrick  
Dewsbury Rd, HD6 3QD

**Wednesday December 7th 2022**

at 7pm



Featuring



**Rastrick High School Choir Groups**

Director - Charles Rhodes

Also **The Overgate Hi-notes** and  
**Paul Whittaker's Signing Choir**



A collection will be taken during the concert for  
the work of Overgate Hospice



Coffee, tea and biscuits will be served at the end in  
the Community Hall downstairs



# Christmas Concert for Overgate Hospice At Upper Edge Baptist Church, Rastrick

**Wednesday December 7th 2022 at 7pm**

See inside cover for details



**Sunday 11th December at 6.30pm**

**Carol Singing**

*led by members of Upper Edge Baptist  
Church*

**At The Rock Tavern**

Dewsbury Rd, Rastrick

Come and join us at this event.

Everyone is welcome.

Wear a Christmas hat or jumper.

**Support your local pub for**

*Christmas carols round the fire*



**Sunday 18th December**

\* 10.30am Christingle Service

\* 6.30pm Carols by Candlelight upstairs in  
the Church



**Wednesday 25th December**

\* 10.30am - 11.00am Christmas  
Day Celebration. Bring a present to  
open

