



Preaching Series

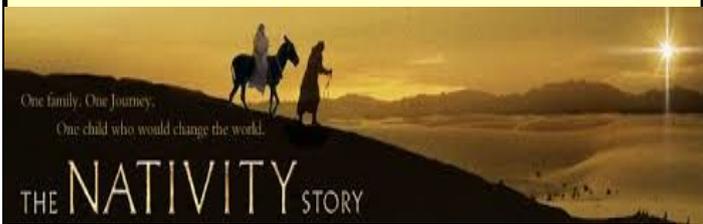
Waiting in Hope—Stories of Advent

Tax collectors and other notorious sinners often came to listen to Jesus teach. This made the Pharisees and teachers of religious law complain that he was associating with such sinful people – even eating with them! So Jesus told them this story ... (Luke 15:1-3)

Jesus was a storyteller. When he spoke to those who came to hear him, he often told them a story. He used stories to address and capture his hearers' hearts, to bring them up short about their own actions and thoughts, to get them to respond to him in some way. He didn't simply use stories to illustrate his teaching; his stories often were his message.

The lives we live are messy and complicated. This is why stories are so powerful; they can take us on journeys which speak to the complications of our lives. They are about joy and pain, love and hate, truth and lies, life and death. Stories can help us to understand both the hard times and the happy ever after. When a story captures our imagination as we read or listen to it, we enter into the story and become part of it. Our defences come down or are bypassed and our hearts are laid open. Our hard hearts often struggle to hear truth, when it is told to us. But as we open our hearts to God and enter into his story, we can, through the Holy Spirit, begin to experience and discover truth for ourselves. Listening to God's stories can change us.

This year, during Advent, we will be telling the story of the birth of Jesus through the stories of Zechariah, Elizabeth, Joseph, Mary and Jesus. As we listen to their stories of doubt and faith, of waiting and hope, we will walk with each of them until we find ourselves in the stable on the night when God became man.



The story begins: 'In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah' (Luke 1:5)

Sunday 3rd December, at 10.30am:	Zechariah's Story
Sunday 10th December, at 10.30am:	Elizabeth's Story
Sunday 17th December at 4pm:	Mary's Story
Sunday 24th December at 10.30am:	Joseph's Story
Christmas Day at 10.30am:	Jesus' Story
Sunday 30th December at 10.30am:	New Year Message

Future Diary

Saturday 2nd Dec:	Carol Singing at The Swan 3pm-5pm
Sunday 3rd Dec:	Churches Together Advent Service, St Dustan's, Ashurst Wood at 4pm
Sunday 17th Dec:	Christingle Service at 10.30am Carols by Candlelight at 4pm
Monday 18th Dec:	Carol singing at Oakwood Park at 10.30am
Sunday 24th Dec:	Christmas Eve Communion at 11.30pm
Sunday 25th Dec:	Christmas Morning Celebration at 10.30am
Sunday 21st Jan:	Church Meeting & Deacons Elections
Saturday 20th Jan:	Day of Prayer
12-14 July 2019:	Dalesdown Weekend for church family

Deacons' Elections

At the end of 2017, Andy Clark will come to the end of his term serving as a Deacon and is not eligible for re-election as he has served two terms. We therefore have one vacancy for a new Deacon and would ask you to be thinking and praying about who God might be calling from our membership into leadership of FRBC. If God has placed somebody on your heart for this role, then please speak to Mary or one of the Deacons. Nominations will open on 3rd December and will be open for two weeks, closing on Saturday 9th January 2018. Anyone nominated will need to have been a church member for 6 months and be nominated and seconded by current church members. Elections will take place at our Annual General Meeting on 21st January 2018.

Andy has also faithfully served the church as Treasurer for 12 years. In order that we continue to model good governance and stewardship of our finances, he feels it is time for somebody else to take on this role. We will therefore also be voting for a new Treasurer at our AGM, so if you believe this is a role that God may be calling you to, please speak to Mary.

We are hugely grateful to Andy for all he has given over many years in leadership and now we look forward to the new ways in which God will use his giftings to serve the church over the coming year.

Tek Ura

As a church, we are privileged to be able to support the work of BMS at the Tek Ura centre in Albania, working amongst the marginalised Roma community who live on the banks of the river. Dan and Annie Dupré head up the project, offering drop in opportunities for parents and carers, health talks, stay and play, therapy for those with complex disabilities, physio, English lessons, men' group, food packages,.....the list goes on.

As part of our giving as a Church, we support the employment of a development worker for Tek Ura. Recently we showed a video about their work at one of our services and as a result, we received a generous one-off donation which has enabled Tek Ura to complete the purchase of a specialist wheelchair.



Please continue to pray for the essential work which Tek Ura does in this community and if you would like make a donation towards their work through BMS, please speak to Andy Clark.

Food Bank Christmas Parcels



Food Bank are collecting for Christmas Parcels.

Please bring your donations to the Church by **Sunday 9th December** at the latest and leave them in the box at the back of the church.

The following items have been requested:

Tinned Ham	Jam
Boxes of Biscuits	Christmas Pudding (med/lrg)
Boxes of novelty cakes	Tinned Custard
Tubs of Sweets	Christmas cake Bar
Christmas Crackers	Tubs of Crisps (not packets)

In addition to these items we are also in need of the following

Toothpaste	Shampoo
Toothpaste	Razors (small packs)
Washing Powder	Toilet rolls (2 packs)
Surface Cleaner	Tissues (small packs)

December 2017

“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, humility, gentleness and patience.

Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as God forgave you.

And above all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. “ Colossians 3 vv 12-14

Friday 1st	9.30am—11.30am	Vivid
Saturday 2nd	3pm-5pm	Carol Singing at The Swan
Sunday 3rd	Café Style Service 10.30am—12 noon 4pm-5pm 7pm—8pm	Led by: Mary McLachlan Advent Service @ St Dunstons Ignation Prayer
Monday 4th	9.15am-10.15am 8.00pm—10.30pm	Prayer/Quiet Time Deacon’s Meeting
Tuesday 5th	8pm-9.30pm	Tuesday Home Group
Wednesday 6th	9.30am-11.30am 10.30am-12noon 8.15pm—9.30pm	Playaway TLC Men’s Group Meal
Thursday 7th	8pm-9.30pm	Thursday Home Group
Friday 8th		
Saturday 9th		
Sunday 10th	Communion Service 10.30am—12 noon	Led by: Mary McLachlan Speaker: Richard Wombell
Monday 11th	9.15am-10.15am	Prayer/Quiet Time
Tuesday 12th		
Wednesday 13th	9.30am-11.30am 10.30am-12noon 8.15pm—9.30pm	Playaway TLC Men’s Prayer Group
Thursday 14th	7pm-9.00pm	GWNN—Christmas Special
Friday 15th	9.30am—11.30am	Vivid
Saturday 16th	9am-10am	Deacons’ Prayer Time
Sunday 17th	Christingle Service 10.30am—12 noon Candlelight Carols 4pm—6pm	Speaker: Mary McLachlan Led by: Mary McLachlan Speaker: David McLachlan
Monday 18th	9.15am—10.15am 10.30am-11.30am	Prayer/Quiet Time Carols at Oakwood Park
Tuesday 19th		
Wednesday 20th	10.30am-12noon	TLC
Thursday 21st		
Friday 22nd		
Saturday 23rd		
Sunday 24th	Morning Worship 10.30am—12 noon Communion 11.30pm—midnight	Led by: Mary McLachlan Speaker: Mary McLachlan Led by: Adam Yates
Monday 25th	Christmas Morning Celebration 10.30am—11.30am	Led by: Mary McLachlan Speaker: Mary McLachlan
Tuesday 26th		
Wednesday 27th		
Thursday 28th		
Friday 29th		
Saturday 30th		
Sunday 30th	Communion Service 10.30am—12 noon	Led by: Mary McLachlan Speaker: Mary McLachlan
Monday 31st		

Our Services

Café Style Services (1st Sunday)

With an informal and interactive approach to worship, Café style services are suitable for all ages. We sit around tables in small mixed-age groups and enjoy coffee and cake during the service. As well as a short talk, we enjoy quizzes, craft activities, drama, Bible study and worship. This is a great service for those wanting to get to know other people in our Church family.

Morning Services (3rd & 4th Sundays)

Our music group lead us in a variety of traditional and contemporary worship songs. We often enjoy an extended time of sung worship, with a Bible-based talk and intercessory prayer-time. During the talk, children meet for Sunday school in the hall (in the school holidays, there will be activities at the back of the Church).

Communion Services (2nd & 5th Sundays)

These services are often more structured and contemplative in style. We enjoy worship led by our music group, intercessory prayer, and a Bible-based talk, followed by Family Communion. The children meet in the hall for Sunday school during the talk but come back into the service and sit with their families for Communion. We use gluten-free bread and alcohol-free wine and communion is open to all who are seeking a relationship with Jesus, including children.

Messy Church

This service takes place once a month after school. Designed with primary school children and their parents / carers in mind, the afternoon will include drinks and snacks on arrival, art and crafts activity, and a Bible story and song time.

Messy Church provides a great opportunity for introducing children to the good news of Jesus using age-appropriate activities and songs. It is also a great way of getting to know the team from Church who help to run all the activities.

Who to contact

Rev. Mary McLachlan 07507 702522 or 01342 822006

Mary’s working days are Sunday to Thursday. In cases of urgent pastoral need on other days, please contact one of our Deacons.

Our Deacons

Andy Clark	Treasurer /Men’s Meals	07825 221613
Denise Clark	Messy Church/Homegroup	07784 631908
Stella Ellwood	Secretary/Music Group/ Newsheet/Homegroup	07969 684297
Richard Wombell	Men’s Prayer Group	07720 509040
Adam Yates	Homegroup	07900 936909
Marie Yates	Hall Bookings/Safeguarding	07879 032791

Midweek Groups

Debbie Blaxall	Playaway	07905 883525
Irene Lillicrap	TLC / Foodbank / Vivid	01342 824201
Mary McLachlan	GWNN	07507 70252
Jezz Ellwood	BMS Partners	07952 370175