

A Time for Giving and Receiving

By Peter Milsom

The weeks leading up to Christmas are very busy. There are cards to write and send and presents to find and buy. It is an exciting time, especially for children. No doubt, the difficult economic situation means that many people have less money to spend and families are apprehensive about how they will afford the cost of Christmas, but are still looking forward to precious time together.

Christmas is a time for giving and receiving. At Christmas we want to give special gifts to those we love. This need not involve great expense. We want to express our love in a gift which has been carefully planned and which we know they will really like. Christmas morning is eagerly awaited, and not only by the children!



At the first Christmas God gave a very special gift to the people of his world. It is the greatest gift ever given. Then, as now, the world was a sad place with many troubles. The Roman Empire dominated many nations, including Israel, and most people were poor. Jesus came, not to solve the problems of the day, but to solve the biggest problem we all face - our sinful hearts and lives. The message of the angels to the shepherds was, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you, he is Christ the Lord!" Our sins spoil our relationship with God and separate us from him. Jesus came to bring reconciliation through his perfect life and death on the cross. The name Jesus means "Saviour!" God, against whom we have all rebelled, took the initiative by giving his only Son to be our Saviour.

Opening a present from someone we love brings great joy. Parents enjoy watching their children opening their present and seeing their delight when they see what it is. The child's instinctive response is to give their parents a hug and tell them they love them. Have you ever responded to God's gift of Jesus like that? Do you love him for giving you such an amazing present? It brings great joy to God when anyone receives Jesus as their Saviour. This Christmas, like the shepherds, why not take time to receive Jesus, God's gift to you, and to thank him for his love to you.

Hebron
EVANGELICAL CHURCH

High Street, Caeharris, Dowlais, CF48 3PH
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Hebron News

from Hebron Evangelical Church, Dowlais

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Pastor: James Allan

www.hebrondowlais.org.uk

Christmas at Hebron!

Join us for one of our Christmas Services:

Thursday 20th December
Community Carol Service 6pm

Sunday 23rd December
Advent Services 11am & 6pm

Tuesday 25th December
Christmas Day Service 10am

Tuesday 1st January
New Year's Day Service 6pm

Do you enjoy Christmas? It's a time for family and giving. It's a time for promoting peace in world. But have you considered its Christian origins? As we put up our Christmas lights, we're reminded of the light that God sent into the world. As we exchange gifts, we're reminded of God's gift to the world, when Jesus was born into the human race. To receive Him is to receive the greatest gift of all. Join us and find out more.

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CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE



A group of young people (aged 10-18) spent their October half-term in Bala at the Bryn-y-groes Centre. There was plenty of fun including canoeing, evening bonfires and plenty of silly games.



We have a weekly Sunday Club during school term time for children aged between 4 and 11. We hear stories, sing songs, play games and do lots of other activities that help us learn. We start at 10am and finish at 10.45am, but if you come by 9.45am, you get breakfast for free.



For 11-16 year olds, Friday Nighters meet every Friday during school term time at 7.30pm until 9pm. There are games, table tennis and pool. All are welcome.



Calendar

For a second year, we have produced a calendar featuring scenes from around Merthyr. If you did not receive one with this newsletter or would like additional free copies to give to family and friends, please visit or contact us.



English Conversation Class

Our English Conversation Class began in November. We meet every Monday at 1pm. It is a non-technical session, providing opportunity for those developing their English to practice their conversation. All are welcome.

Sunday Services

Why not join us every Sunday? We're a congregation of ordinary people from in and around Dowlais. Our Sunday services are 11am and 6pm. We sing hymns, read from the Bible and hear it preached. If you don't already attend a church, why not come along? You would be very welcome.



Toddlers

Pre-school children? Join us at Toddlers during school term time, every Monday and Wednesday at 9.30am. We enjoy a free time of open play and chatting, and at 11am children gather on the carpet for singing, news, birthday celebrations and birth announcements.

Fancy a cuppa?

On the first Thursday of every month, there's tea, coffee, cake, conversation and friendship at 10.30-11.30am. Join us.

For more details about any of our activities, please visit our web site and get in touch.

www.hebrondowlais.org.uk