

Letters from the Churches

According to tradition, the original mince pies were made with a meat filling and were made to look like Christ's manger. It was supposed to bring good luck to anyone who managed to eat 12 different mince pies made by 12 different cooks!

There's no doubt that many of us will end up eating more than a dozen mince pies this Christmas, as well as generous amounts of other seasonal fare. We spend so much time on the edible trimmings of the season that it's very easy for the real 'nourishment' of the Christmas message to get forgotten.

In a world where so many people are looking for peace, love and purpose in their lives one of the great truths of Christmas is that God came down to earth to be with us, to live among us. To nourish us with his own life given in his Son, Jesus

Why not join us at Church over the Christmas period and discover for yourself that Jesus is no longer in the manger but that he is living and active - nourishing the lives of his people. You can join them and still find time for a few mince pies! Whoever cooks / bakes them for you - have an exceedingly good Christmas.

Reverend John Girtchen

Have you ever failed to respond to the punch line of a joke either by not getting it or perhaps worse still not even realising it was a joke! Either way the joke falls flat. Likewise a punch line without the story beforehand is useless, it does not make sense; it misses the mark.

This December the 300th anniversary of the birth of world acclaimed Methodist hymn writer, Charles Wesley, is being celebrated. Charles Wesley was a master of story punch lines and none more so than in his much loved three verse Christmas carol, 'HARK! The herald - angels sing glory to the new - born King...' Verse 1 concludes 'Christ is born in Bethlehem' - five words that remind us of the essence of Christmas, the birth of the Saviour of the world in a tucked away village like Goxhill. Verse 2 finishes with 'Jesus, our Immanuel' that is Jesus, God with us, and we must not forget the 'our' - we are to celebrate Jesus' birth as much today as ever before. Then at the end of verse 3 we come to the ultimate Christmas punch line, 'Born to give them second birth'. If we do not respond to this punch line, Jesus' invitation to individually accept Him as the centre point of this life and the next, Christmas falls flat whether we realise it or not.

Come to worship and sing 'HARK! The herald - angels sing glory to the new - born King...' this Christmas. Christ, as always, will be in the village of Goxhill, and He longs to be in each heart. A joke is only good if you get it, as is the news of Jesus!

Happy Christmas!

*Rev Gillian Belford,
Minister at the Methodist Chapel.*

Dates for all the Christmas services in the Church and the Chapel are overleaf, on the notice-board.