

# The Signpost



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DECEMBER 2017  
[www.perthgospelhall.com](http://www.perthgospelhall.com)

# Welcome to the Christmas issue of ... **The Signpost**



This is now the **10th** edition of *The Signpost*, a community magazine which was launched 2 years ago by the Christians at **Perth Gospel Hall**.



In this **Christmas** edition of the magazine you'll find a number of seasonally specific articles. Along with a round-up of the various **activities** and **services** being conducted by Perth Gospel Hall over the festive season on *page 3*, you'll also find some interesting facts and figures about **Christmas** on *page 5*, and a **Christmas** **recipe** on *page 7*. On the same page you'll notice this month's **free offer** - a 'little bag of joy' to help you out if you're struggling over the Christmas period.



For regular updates, please check out the **Perth Gospel Hall website**, and join the other **550 people** who follow us on **Facebook**!



Please **get in touch** if you want to know more about anything mentioned in the magazine. If you would like to arrange **transport** to any of our services, or if you'd like us to pop round and **visit** you in your own home, we'd love to hear from you!



We hope you like the **free** **calendar** which we've distributed alongside this month's magazine. We'd also like to take this opportunity to wish all our readers a very happy Christmas. Please come and join us for our **Christmas Eve Carol Service** (*details on back page*).



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# 'TIS THE SEASON TO BE BUSY!



Christmas is a busy time for everyone, but particularly so at **Perth Gospel Hall!**

Throughout December we'll be distributing **Christmas parcels** to residents at each of Perth's **homeless hostels**. We'll also be providing help to those in need through our weekly **Good News Soup Kitchen** (*see page 6*) and sending **shoe boxes** to Eastern Europe.

In the lead-up to Christmas we hope to visit several **care homes** across Perthshire to conduct short **Carol Services**, to bring some festive cheer to those who find it difficult to get out.



There will also be special Christmas events for our **Little Treasures**

**Toddlers' Group** and our **Sunday School** and **Bible Classes**. On Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> is a **Christmas Fun Day** and on the 17<sup>th</sup> is our Sunday School **Christmas Service**.

If that wasn't enough, we'll have **Christmas Carol Services** in the **Bridge of Earn Institute** at 7pm on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> and in the **White Church, Comrie** at 7.30pm on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup>.



The main **Christmas Service** at Perth Gospel Hall will be at **12.30pm** on **Christmas Eve** (*details on back page*).

For **more information** on these Christmas activities, check out our **website** and **Facebook page**, or **get in touch** today.



## COMMUNITY CORNER...

### HELP THE HUB HELP YOU!

The **Letham Community Hub** is looking for local people to provide their thoughts about the community's needs via a short online survey. You can access it through their Facebook Page:

[www.facebook.com/hub.letham](http://www.facebook.com/hub.letham)



### LETHAM RESIDENTS

The next meeting of the **Letham Residents Association** will take place on **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February**.

Further details to be confirmed nearer the time!

# THE BIG QUESTION...

## WHY DID JESUS COME TO BETHLEHEM?

The birth of Christ is still celebrated today, even though it's now 2,000 years since He was laid in Bethlehem's manger. Why was His birth such a special event? Here are 3 reasons...

### HE CAME TO REVEAL

The Christmas Carol, '**Once in Royal David's City**' reminds us that *'He came down to earth from Heaven, who is God and Lord of all...'* The **child** in the manger was actually the **God** of Heaven in human form.



Our **Creator** came into our world at Bethlehem in order to **reveal Himself** to us. We no longer need to guess what God is like, because Jesus Christ is *'the visible expression of the invisible God'* (Colossians 1:15). Throughout His time on earth Jesus revealed God's **holiness** in His perfect life; God's **wisdom** in His thought-provoking teaching; God's **power** in His many mighty miracles; and God's **love** in His care and concern for everyone He met.

### HE CAME TO RESCUE

The Bible tells us that *'Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners'* (1 Timothy 1:15). This is why they called Him **Jesus**, because He would *'save His people from their sins'* (Matthew 1:21).

The Bible identifies us all as **sinners** who have broken God's laws many times. It also reveals how sin spoils our lives, separates us from God, shuts us out of Heaven and will send us down to Hell.

Jesus came to **rescue us** from our sin by bearing the punishment we deserved whilst dying on **the cross**. The Bible says it's only through personal **faith** in Him that we can receive the forgiveness of sins.



### HE CAME TO RECONCILE

The ultimate purpose of Jesus' coming is expressed in the Carol, '**Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**'; that through His death on the cross we might see *'God and sinners reconciled...'* If we're willing to **turn** from our sinful ways and put our **trust** in Christ, we can be **reconciled** to our Creator. We can then enjoy **life** as God originally intended us to, and eventually spend **eternity** with Him in Heaven too.

In another Christmas Carol, 'Joy to the World' we sing, *'Let every heart prepare Him room...'* Yet sadly, just as there was no room in Bethlehem's inn for Jesus 2,000 years ago, still today there's no room for Him in most people's lives.



This Christmas we want to ask our readers; *'have you any room for Jesus?'*





# CHRISTMAS BY NUMBERS



8

MILLION PEOPLE  
TUNE IN TO THE  
QUEEN'S SPEECH

5

MILES ARE WALKED BY  
AVERAGE PERSON DOING  
CHRISTMAS SHOPPING



300,000,000

MINCE PIES ARE  
EATEN OVER  
FESTIVE PERIOD



83

SQUARE KMS OF WRAPPING  
PAPER ARE THROWN AWAY



1

**SAVIOUR SENT**



'THE FATHER SENT THE SON TO BE THE  
SAVIOUR OF THE WORLD.' 1 Timothy 1:15

**LIFE GIVEN**



'CHRIST DIED FOR OUR SINS... HE ROSE  
AGAIN THE THIRD DAY' 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

**WAY TO HEAVEN**



'BELIEVE ON THE LORD JESUS CHRIST  
AND YOU WILL BE SAVED' Acts 16:31

1,000,000,000

CHRISTMAS CARDS  
ARE SOLD IN THE  
UK EACH YEAR



957

CALORIES ARE IN  
THE AVERAGE  
CHRISTMAS DINNER



8



800

POUNDS ARE SPENT BY  
THE AVERAGE FAMILY  
OVER CHRISTMAS TIME



MILLION REAL  
CHRISTMAS TREES  
ARE BOUGHT IN UK

# SPOTLIGHT ON GOOD NEWS SOUP KITCHEN

**THIMBLEROW  
CAR PARK  
EVERY MONDAY  
7.30 TO 8.30PM**

**DRINKS &  
SNACKS TO  
ENJOY WHILE  
YOU WAIT**

**LITTLE BAG  
OF GROCERIES  
TO TAKE AWAY  
WITH YOU**

We've recently started using our **Good News Trailer** to run a weekly soup kitchen and food bank.

Every **Monday** evening from **7.30 - 8.30pm** we station ourselves in the **Thimbleroe Car Park** opposite St Catherines Square on Perth's High Street. We serve cups of tea, coffee and hot chocolate, along with Pot Noodles and soup.

Those who visit the trailer can take away a bag of basic groceries to help them out in the week ahead. We also keep a stock of **toiletries** and small items of **clothing** which we provide to those who need them.

During November alone, our helpers gave out over **100 bags** of groceries to people who came to see us.

We are delighted to be able to show a little bit of **Christian kindness** to those who come along each Monday, but our ultimate aim is to tell them about a **Saviour**, the **Lord Jesus Christ**, who **loved** them and **died** for them on the cross, and who is able to transform their lives and offer them hope for the future.

For more details, check out our website:  
[www.perthgospelhall.com](http://www.perthgospelhall.com)







## CHRISTMAS RECIPE: *Gwyneth's Christmas Truffles...*



### INGREDIENTS

**25g** butter  
**5tbsp** double cream  
**325g** milk / white  
chocolate (broken into  
pieces)



### INSTRUCTIONS

- 1) Put the butter & cream in a small saucepan, bring slowly to the boil, stirring constantly & then boil for 1 minute
- 2) Remove from heat, add 225g chocolate & stir until melted
- 3) Pour into a tin lined with baking paper & chill in fridge for 2 hours
- 4) Break off pieces of mixture, roll into balls & chill in fridge for 30 mins
- 5) Melt remaining 100g of chocolate in pan & dip the truffles into it
- 6) Place on baking paper, dust with cocoa powder (optional) & leave to harden

*A Christmas Gift from Perth Gospel Hall...*



## A LITTLE BAG OF JOY



These bags contain some bits n pieces that might come in handy over the festive season for anyone who's struggling. We won't give too much away to avoid spoiling the surprise!



*Claim yours before Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December*

**TEXT OR CALL: 07584099498**

**WITH YOUR NAME & ADDRESS**

**(1 bag per family)**

PLEASE JOIN US AT PERTH GOSPEL HALL

# CHRISTMAS EVE CAROL SERVICE

12.30 - 1.15 PM  
SUNDAY 24<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER

TRADITIONAL  
CHRISTMAS CAROLS

\* \* \*

SHORT CHRISTMAS  
MESSAGE

\* \* \*

REFRESHMENTS SERVED  
AFTERWARDS

\* \* \*

ALL WELCOME

## GET IN TOUCH...

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