

# *Magazine & Newsletter*



*The old Cross Hall School*

*Morley Community Church  
December 2011 & January 2012*

*Morley Community Church - a mission church for Morley*

A warm welcome every Sunday at 10.00 am in Fountain  
Primary School, Fountain Street, Morley

### **Worship Services in December & January**

\*Sunday 4 Dec **Until He Comes** Pastor Steve Wright  
*Luke ch. 22 verses 17-30*

Sunday 11 Dec **Prepare The Way** Pastor Steve Wright  
*Isaiah chapter 40*

Sunday 18 Dec **10.00 am** in the Mission Chapel Pastor Steve Wright  
*Luke ch. 1 verse 68* **The Undercover Boss**  
**5.00 pm** in the Labour Rooms, Commercial Street,  
Morley **Carols At Christmas**

Sunday 25 Dec **CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE** Pastor Steve Wright  
*Matthew ch 2 verse 2* **The Birth of a King**  
*At Birstall Community Church, Smithies Lane, Birstall at 10.30 am*

\*Sunday 1 Jan **The Background** Pastor Steve Wright  
*Isaiah chapters 1-39*

Sunday 8 Jan **Bad News & Good News** Pastor Steve Wright  
*Isaiah chs 1-12*  
*Isaiah chs 24-35*

Sunday 15 Jan **The Servant** Pastor Steve Wright  
*Isaiah chapters 42-53*

Sunday 22 Jan **The Spirit of God** Pastor Steve Wright  
*Isaiah chapter 61*

Sunday 29 Jan Assistant Pastor Tim Wray  
*Visit of Capernwray Bible School Students*

\*Holy Communion is normally part of the morning service on the first Sunday of  
the month

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## **PASTOR'S PAGE**

### **Making The Most of It - "A GOOD RESOLUTION"**

It's Christmas time again. The next year is almost upon us. Where did 2011 go? And what will 2012 bring us?

Living this far north, we notice how the seasons change quite dramatically. Where I have lived for many years - in the mid-latitudes of the tropics - one barely notices the change from one season to the next. In fact it's quite easy to slumber your way through life unaware that time is passing. However there is a big advantage in having these seasonal reminders of the progress of time. They make us aware of the approach of winter, for instance, and the preparations that are required for that. Or, we are encouraged during the midwinter freeze, that the warmth of spring will herald another summer.

It's so easy to amble aimlessly through life as the years slip by. I have just been visiting with my Dad in South Africa and he is in his nineties now. What a full and active life he has had. His busy days are over now, but what fruitful days they were. He has been involved in starting seven or eight churches that I can remember, and probably more. He will be able to stand before his Creator and give a good account of the time that he was entrusted with.

In Ephesians chapter 5 verse 15 we are reminded to use our time wisely. It's not that we have to earn our way into heaven somehow, (that's been done for us by Jesus on the cross). We do need to be faithful though, with the talents and gifts that have been given to us. Like the wise servant who invested his master's loan we also need to make wise use of our time and talents.

As the Christmas season descends on us and we are reminded of God's gift, of His Son and His Salvation, we need to ask ourselves at this time, "What have I done with that gift?"

Like any gift, it needs to be first accepted and then well used.

Let's be purposeful in our use of this gift of life.

God bless

**Pastor Steve**

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## Morley Matters

Winter and Christmas are here yet again. Cold weather, festive activities, presents and the myriad of things that need to be done! We will be reaching out as a church in several ways. We are making 1600 Living Word gospel calendars available to people throughout the town. On **Sunday 18 December** at 5.00 pm we are holding our *Carols at Christmas* in the Labour Rooms on Commercial Street. Make sure you reserve this date, invite a friend or neighbour and join us for this seasonal special. We have obtained some pantomime tickets and will be taking families in need for a Christmas treat. We will also be distributing Christmas gifts to those who are experiencing loneliness or are under pressure at this time of year.

Please note that our Christmas Day service is a joint one with our associate EFCC congregation at Birstall Community Church at their chapel in Smithies Lane Birstall. The service commences at **10.30 am** – half an hour later than our normal start time of 10.00 am. We will resume services at our own Mission Chapel at Fountain Primary School on New Year's day.

**Day One Dairies** for 2012 are now available costing just £1 each. They are a bargain price and a really useful size – they fit very easily into a handbag or pocket. Why not obtain one for yourself and one to give away to a friend. Copies are on the chapel literature table.

Thank you to all those who continue to save their aluminium foil and aluminium drinks cans towards our 2011 **environmental and mission project**. We are recycling these and have met our next target of £130 which we have allocated to the summer youth camping ventures. This means that we have raised a total of £230 in 2011 through this project. There will be plenty of opportunities to save your cans and foil over the Christmas season – so pack them up in a bag and pass it on to any member of the church.

Thank you too to those who have donated household items to our small furniture store. This project exists to help those in need and we are happy to receive referrals from third parties who know of people in need. We live in difficult economic times with people losing their jobs, homelessness and poverty etc. and folks in these situations often find themselves in dire circumstances.

Our **Christianity EXplored** course proved to be an excellent time opportunity. Week by week friends, neighbours and relatives enjoyed a

meal, video clips and stimulating discussion at the business premises of Pic Pac in Victoria Road. Our thanks to Pic Pac for making their premises available. We would like to repeat this course again in the future – watch this space for future details.

May you have a blessed Christmas and a truly meaningful new year as you seek to listen to God and his life transforming message.

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## God's Plan

Some things are beyond planning.  
And life doesn't always turn out as planned.  
You don't plan for a broken heart.  
You don't plan for a failed business venture.  
You don't plan for an adulterous husband  
or a wife who wants you out of her life.  
You don't plan for an autistic child.  
You don't plan for spinsterhood.  
You don't plan for a lump in your breast.

You plan to be young forever.  
You plan to climb the corporate ladder.  
You plan to be rich and powerful.  
You plan to be acclaimed and successful.  
You plan to conquer the universe.  
You plan to fall in love - and be loved forever.

You don't plan to be sad.  
You don't plan to be hurt.  
You don't plan to be broke.  
You don't plan to be betrayed.  
You don't plan to be alone in this world.  
You plan to be happy. You don't plan to be shattered.  
Sometimes if you work hard enough, you can get what you want.  
But MOST times, what you want and what you get are two different things.

We, mortals, plan. But so does God in the heavens.  
Sometimes, it is difficult to understand God's plans especially when His plans are not in consonance with ours.  
Often, when God sends us crisis, we turn to Him in anger. True, we cannot choose the cross that God wishes us to carry, but we can carry that cross with courage knowing that God will never abandon us nor send something we cannot cope with.

Sometimes, God breaks our spirit to save our soul.  
Sometimes, He breaks our heart to make us whole.  
Sometimes, God allows pain so we can be stronger.  
Sometimes, God sends us failure so we can be humble.  
Sometimes, God allows illness so we can take better care of ourselves.  
Sometimes, God takes everything away from us so we can learn the value of everything He gave us.

**Make plans, but understand that we live by God's grace**

## **LET'S MAKE CHRISTMAS TREES MORE MEANINGFUL**

A campaign to make the UK's 20 million Christmas trees a bit more meaningful this December has been launched. The campaign is in response to news research that only 12% of adults, and only 7% of people aged between 18-24, know the details of the Christmas story. To help parents, grandparents and godparents communicate the Christmas story to the next generation, **The Meaningful Chocolate Company** has produced the UK's first ever interactive set of chocolate Fairtrade tree decorations, based on the characters of the Nativity story.

Each box of *Meaningful Chocolate Tree Decorations* contains a limited edition Christmas card, a sticker set and six hand wrapped, high quality, Fairtrade chocolate decorations. The Christmas story, which can be found on the card, enables adults or children to read the story while placing character stickers on the decorations. Once completed, the decorations can be hung on the tree as a reminder of the real meaning of Christmas.

David Marshall, from **The Meaningful Chocolate Company**, said "*We estimate that most of the UK's 20 million Christmas trees don't have anything religious hung on them. The Meaningful Chocolate Tree*

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*Decorations are an opportunity to buy an interactive gift that allows the telling of the Christmas story at home. The card also includes an invitation for people to go to church to hear the Christmas story there. So, not only is it educational, it's also a piece of evangelism."*

The Meaningful Christmas Tree Decorations cost £3.95. Church orders can be made through [www.MeaningfulChristmas.co.uk](http://www.MeaningfulChristmas.co.uk) or exclusively from Traidcraft

### ***The Meaningful Chocolate Company***

Last year the Meaningful Chocolate Company launched *The Real Easter Egg*, the UK's first and only charity Fairtrade Easter egg to mention the christian understand of Easter on the box. By Christmas 2012 the company expects to have helped raise over £60,000 for charitable projects, as a result of Meaningful Chocolate sales. You can find out more at [www.meaningfulchocolate.co.uk](http://www.meaningfulchocolate.co.uk)

The decorations are made from high quality Fairtrade certified chocolate. In addition to paying the sugar and chocolate growers a premium for their ingredients, 15 pence from the sale of every Meaningful Chocolate Tree decoration pack will be donated to the charity, Traidcraft Exchange. **Traidcraft Exchange** helps small scale farmers and producers in the developing world gain the knowledge and confidence they need to grow their crops and develop businesses thus making them self sufficient.

## **Four Worms and a Lesson to be Learned**

A minister decided that a visual demonstration would add emphasis to his Sunday sermon.

Four worms were placed into four separate jars.

The first worm was put into a container of alcohol.  
The second worm was put into a container of cigarette smoke.  
The third worm was put into a container of chocolate syrup.  
The fourth worm was put into a container of good clean soil.

At the conclusion of the sermon, the Minister reported the following results:

The first worm in alcohol - Dead.

The second worm in cigarette smoke - Dead

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The Third worm in chocolate syrup - Dead

Fourth worm in good clean soil - Alive.

So the Minister asked the congregation –what did you learn from this demonstration?

Maxine was sitting in the back, quickly raised her hand and said, '*As long as you drink, smoke and eat chocolate, you won't have worms!*'

That pretty much ended the service.

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# CAROLS

at

# CHRISTMAS

Sunday 18 December 2011

5.00 pm

Labour Rooms, Commercial Street, Morley  
(opposite the Library)

*Carols - Seasonal Refreshments - All Welcome*

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*This magazine is a joint production on behalf of both Morley  
Community Church and Birstall Community Church*

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## AMUSING SIGNS

**In a Paris hotel lift:**

*Please leave your values at the front desk*

**In the lobby of a Moscow hotel:**

*You are welcome to visit the cemetery where famous Russian and Soviet composers, artists, and writers are buried daily except Thursday.*

**On the door of a Moscow hotel room:**

*If this is your first visit to the USSR, you are welcome to it.*

**On the door of a maternity suite:**

*Push, Push, Push*

**In a Budapest zoo:**

*Please do not feed the animals. If you have any suitable food, give it to the guard on duty.*

**On a church door:**

*This is the gate of heaven. Enter ye all by this door (This door is kept locked because of the draught. Please use side door)*

***Do You Know The Legend Of The Cherokee  
Indian Youth's Rite Of Passage?***

His father takes him into the forest, blindfolds him and leaves him alone. He is required to sit on a stump the whole night and not remove the blindfold until the rays of the morning sun shine through it. He cannot cry out for help to anyone.

Once he survives the night, he is a MAN

He cannot tell the other boys of this experience, because each lad must come into manhood on his own.

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