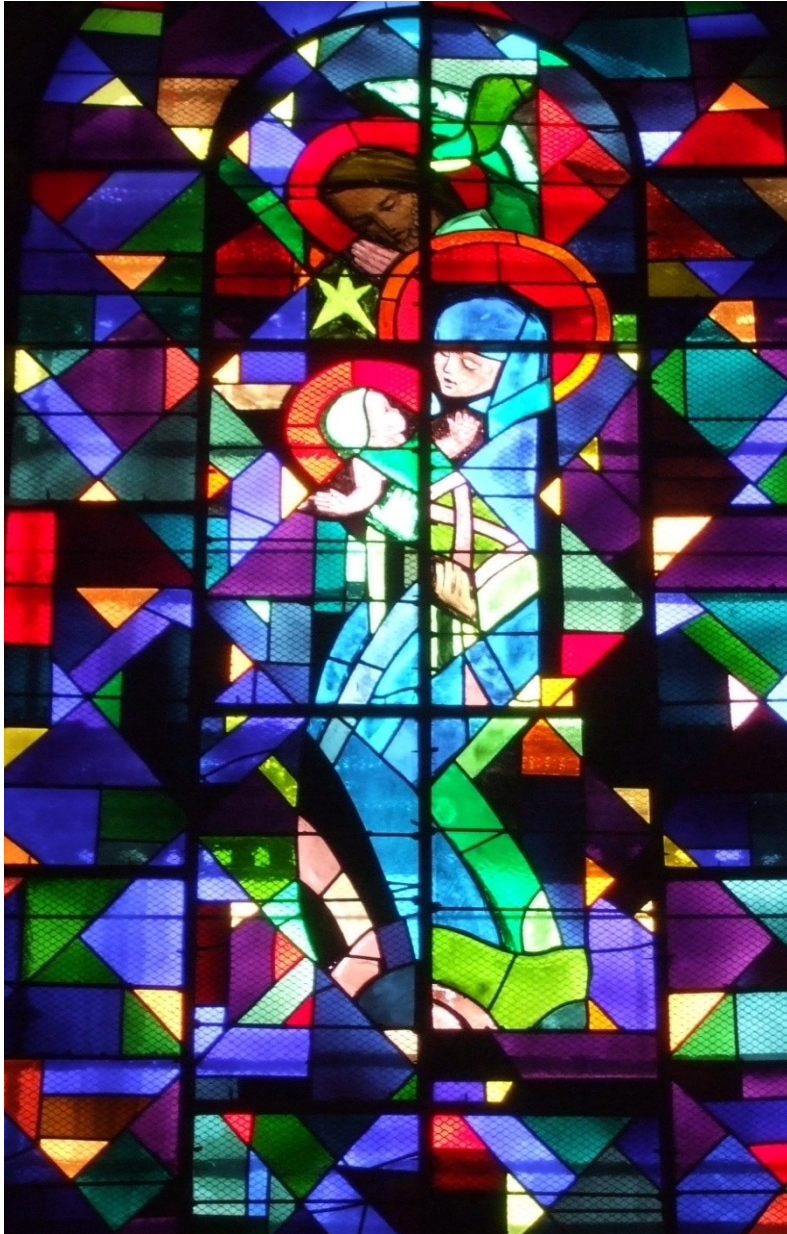


# THE VOICE



## MERROW METHODIST CHURCH MAGAZINE

**December 2023  
& January 2024**

Message from the Manse.

Dear Friends

As the countdown to Christmas is now well under way, I find myself asking, what are the things that for the George's household are considered essential to this festive season? For example, I cannot imagine the Yuletide festivities without carol singing, or going to church on Christmas morning. Nor can I imagine Christmas dinner without Rice, pigs in blankets, a succulent turkey with the usual trimmings, or tuning into the King's speech at 3.00pm. I guess for many of us this time of year is wrapped up in all kinds of family customs and traditions that are repeated in many households across the land.

Similarly, I cannot picture the scene surrounding that first Christmas morning without the presence of the shepherds. I see them perhaps rushing into the stable all breathless and excited saying that they had a vision on the hillside that this helpless child in a manger was really the Son of God. I believe the reference to the shepherds is not some insignificant inclusion, one that is there to simply add a particular charm to that humble and hasty birth. Somehow their presence seems essential to the story of Christ's birth, for they remind us that from the beginning the glad tidings, which were for all the people, were first proclaimed to those little people who were at the bottom of the social ladder. They were ordinary people, going about their ordinary business of tending sheep on the surrounding hills. Yet they were the first to gaze upon the Christ child. They were the first witnesses, and in a sense, they represent the countless multitude of ordinary people who have been drawn to Jesus across the centuries.

Let us not forget that Jesus came from shepherd stock. He was born in the line of David, Israel's shepherd king. It is perhaps not surprising that Jesus would later describe himself as the "Good Shepherd." It is a role that speaks of love, care, guidance, protection and sacrifice.

These expressions of our common humanity at its best are also essential for the world we live in today. I cannot imagine a world without them. Christmas is a time of heightened joy and expectation for many people, but it is also a time of increased sadness and loneliness for others. As we go about our normal day to day living, preparing and embracing our usual festivities, may we be mindful of those for whom this season offers little cheer or congenial familiarity. Christ's charge to Peter was "feed my sheep, care for my sheep." It is a call that is as relevant as ever, and so may we be ready to reach out to others with a spirit of generosity, care and goodwill and do what we can to make sure that this spirit is not left behind like Christmas past.

If you were to ask the average person today on the street, "What is Christmas all about?" you would receive a variety of answers.

"Christmas is getting together with family and friends."

"Christmas is about giving."

"Christmas is about trees and ornaments."

"Christmas is about Santa Claus and toys."

"Christmas is about Rudolph with his nose so bright."

"Christmas is about last-minute shopping in stores with long lines and full parking lots."

What is Christmas all about?

It is about Jesus the Christ, and that amazing day when God himself came among us humans as a flesh-and-blood baby boy. This child brought God's love and peace, that we may live to the glory of God, His father.



Wishing you a magical and blissful holiday!

Have a merry Christmas and prosperous New Year.

May this season of giving be the start of your better life

May this Christmas season bring you nothing but fond memories,  
happiness and laughter throughout the year,

Merry Christmas!

Let us forget the past and move on to greater heights in 2024.

God bless.

Peace, Joy and Prosperity  
George.

## EDITORIAL NOTE



### A December Tale

What weather now before us lies;  
Bright winter sun or lowering skies;  
Snowdrifts, or gentle, cooling rain;  
More storms and fearful floods again?  
But whether bitter cold or mild  
Let's celebrate the Jesus child.

\*\*\*\*\*

A message to all our readers

HAVE A HAPPY CHRISTMAS  
&  
EVERY GOOD WISH  
for  
2024

\*\*\*\*\*

Any items for inclusion in the February 2024 issue of "The Voice" should be sent to me by: **January 23rd**

**via email:** [gillianbrierley13@gmail.com](mailto:gillianbrierley13@gmail.com)

**by hand:**

**or by post to: Gillian Varley - 4, Merrow Croft, Guildford. GU1 2XH**

## **USEFUL ADDRESSES**

### **SUPERINTENDENT MINISTER:**

REV. DR. PAUL GLASS 01483 575667  
[revpaulglass@gmail.com](mailto:revpaulglass@gmail.com)

### **MINISTER:**

REV. GEORGE QUARM 01483 575432  
[unclegeorge.quarm@gmail.com](mailto:unclegeorge.quarm@gmail.com)

### **CHURCH OFFICE:**

Bushy Hill Drive, Guildford, GU1 2SH. 01483 537655  
[office@merrowmethodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:office@merrowmethodistchurch.org.uk)

### **PROPERTY LETTINGS**

**ADMINISTRATOR:** 01483 537655  
[lettings@merrowmethodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:lettings@merrowmethodistchurch.org.uk)

### **PRAYER SUPPORT GROUP:**

This is a small group willing to put time aside for praying each day for special needs within the Church community. Your request will be passed on to other members of the group, where it will remain confidential.

The prayer contact for December will be:

ANN CARPENTER 01483 535282

and for January

PAULINE DANIELS 01483 958905

### **EDITOR - 'The Voice'**

GILLIAN VARLEY 01483 495567

[gillianbrierley13@gmail.com](mailto:gillianbrierley13@gmail.com)

**Important:** It is our practice at Merrow to publish THE VOICE on the website. This is an important source of information about the life of our church and we want to share it with others. However, if you feel uncomfortable with a mention on our web page we will be happy to omit your name and any other personal details in any future issue if requested to do so. Please advise at the time of submitting the copy.

It is also important that you only submit non-copyright material.

# WHAT'S HAPPENING in December/January

## Stewards for Sunday worship:

Date	Time	Vestry	Worship Leader	P.A/A.V.	Door
Dec 3 <sup>rd</sup>	10.30am <b>HC</b>	Helen Belsham	Doreen Siame	Glenys Magill	Maggie Woolcock Margaret Hyam
	6.30pm <b>Advent</b>	Hugh Bradley		Glenys Magill	
Dec 10 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Hugh Bradley		Cari Rayner	Wendy Bradley Sheila Shackleton
Dec 17 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am <b>Carols</b>	Iris Walker		Jane Vinall	Ruth McCulloch Janice Marshall
	6.30pm <b>HC</b>	Hugh Bradley		Glenys Magill	
Dec 24 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Suzanne Burnham	Gillian Varley	Glenys Magill	Joyce Goodall Janice Marshall
Dec 25 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Helen Belsham		Cari Rayner	Ruth McCulloch Glenys Magill
Dec 31 <sup>st</sup>	10.30am	Iris Walker		Jane Vinall	Sheila Shackleton Janice Marshall
Jan 7 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am <b>Covenant Service</b>	Joan Wells	Doreen Siame	Glenys Magill	Maggie Woolcock Margaret Hyam
Jan 14 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Suzanne Burnham		Jane Vinall	Ruth McCulloch Wendy Bradley
	6.30pm <b>Alt.S</b>	Hugh Bradley		Glenys Magill	
Jan 21 <sup>st</sup>	10.30am	Helen Belsham		Cari Rayner	Sheila Shackleton <small>Joyce Goodall</small>
Jan 28 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Joan Wells	Gillian Varley	Jane Vinall	Maggie Woolcock Margaret Hyam
	6.30pm <b>HC</b>	Joan Wells		Glenys Magill	

## **Forward notice : Feb 4<sup>th</sup> 6.00pm A Circuit Service at Woking**

### Communion stewards:

	Preparation	Assisting
Dec.3 <sup>rd</sup>	Doreen Siame & Suzanne Burnham	Doreen Siame
Dec 17 <sup>th</sup>	Glenys Magill	
Jan 7 <sup>th</sup>	Doreen Siame & Suzanne Burnham	Helen Belsham
Jan 28 <sup>th</sup>	Glenys Magill	

### Flower Rota:

Dec. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Doreen Siame;	Dec.10 <sup>th</sup>	Ruth McCulloch
Dec.17 <sup>th</sup>	Margaret Hills		
Dec 24/25 <sup>th</sup>	Gill Vinall/ Gordon McConnell/ Margriet Rasker		
Dec.31 <sup>st</sup>	Pauline Daniels		
Jan. 7 <sup>th</sup>	Glenys Magill;	Jan. 14 <sup>th</sup>	Wendy Bradley
Jan 21 <sup>st</sup>	Iris Walker;	Jan 28 <sup>th</sup>	Suzanne Burnham

**Organ Rota:** Gillian Varley: Morning services; Jan 21<sup>st</sup> – Mark Hargreaves

### **Sunday Morning Coffee Rota:**

Hugh and Wendy Bradley. 3rd Dec  
Maggie Woolcock and Margaret Hyam. 10th Dec  
Glenys Magill and Suzanne Burnham 17th Dec  
Pauline Daniels and Sheila Shackleton. 24th Dec  
Joan Wells and Jan Walker. 31st Dec  
Julie Wallis and Helen Belsham. 7th Jan

### **Charity Collections**

JMA  
Transform Trade  
Action For Children  
Bible Society  
MHA  
Mission Aviation Fellowship  
Embrace the Middle East  
Coffee Funds  
Transform Trade

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Women's Fellowship Carol Service**

Monday 4th December 2pm  
led by Rosemary Lee  
followed by a Christmas tea

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Bible Studies**

Our two Church Bible Study groups are open to all.  
One is held, usually on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday mornings of each month, at the home of Pauline Daniels; The other, monthly, in the evening in the church.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Morning Bible Study**

at Lavender Cottage, Marlyns Drive, Burpham.

On Tuesdays Dec.12<sup>th</sup>; January 10<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> at 11.00am

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Evening Bible Study**

at Merrow Methodist Church  
January 18<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Weekly Coffee Morning**

Thursdays from 10.30 - 11.45

All are welcome - no charge

If you are free, do drop in for a drink and a chat with others from the church and local community

*However*

Each month, usually on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday, we will be raising money for a different charity with a Charity Coffee Morning,

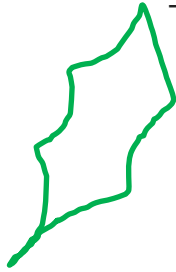
Come along and enjoy a choice selection of cakes to accompany your coffee

# Outlet

December 11th - **7.30pm start** for **Christmas Outlet**

Gillian Varley(Brierley) will take us on a "Journey into Christmas".

This will be followed by a festive finger buffet.



*There will be no meeting in January*

February 12th

7.30 refreshments and 8pm start.

**"Guildford: The Rock 'n' Roll Years"**

David Rose will give an illustrated talk about the live music scene in Guildford in the 50's and 60's. Two musicians from the local scene at the time will add personal memories and the three of them will finish by playing a few hits from the era.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Shoe Boxes for Samaritans Purse.

In the past as a Church we collected Shoe Boxes for Samaritans Purse.

We can still do so individually on line at

[Shoebonline.samaritans-purse.org.uk](http://Shoebonline.samaritans-purse.org.uk)

Pack a shoe box on line for £20 which includes projects costs of £5  
Suzanne

\*\*\*\*\*

## Action for Children

- the Methodist Church Children's charity -

The theme for this year is 'The gift of joy'

The magic of Christmas begins in childhood. It's a time for children to make precious memories. For them to feel happiness and love - the kind of magic that lasts a lifetime. For vulnerable children across the UK, Christmas is anything but magical. No stockings. No presents. No festive food - maybe no food at all.

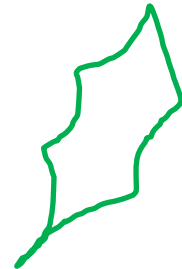
AFC are there when families cannot afford the basics. They top up the gas meter when the house feels cold; put food on the table so no one in the house goes hungry; buy a Christmas present when a parent cannot. They are a vital lifeline for desperate families with nowhere to turn.

You could help a vulnerable child feel the magic of Christmas - a magic that will last them a lifetime.

TheOne4all gift vouchers will be collected on Sunday 3rd December at the morning service. We have delivered them to Jamie Heane in the past at Fostering Wessex in Fareham. Please support the children again this Christmas. The minimum is £10 which should be written on the envelope.

In 2022/23 AFC helped 765,905 children, young people and families across the UK. Thank you once again for your continuing support for this very worthwhile charity  
Suzanne

OR





**Be a  
Secret  
Santa**  
for a vulnerable child



The magic of Christmas begins in childhood. Hanging stockings. Sharing festive food. Presents under the tree. It's a time for children to make precious memories. For them to feel happiness and love – the kind of magic that lasts a lifetime.

For vulnerable children across the UK, Christmas is anything but magical. No stockings. No presents. No festive food – maybe no food at all.

But you could help change that.

**Become a Secret Santa and you could help a vulnerable child feel the magic of Christmas.**

**[iamsanta.org.uk](http://iamsanta.org.uk)**



and

let's not forget

## Number 5 and Mulberry House

Thank you for all your generous donations for Number 5 and Mulberry house.

They are very appreciative of the support we give to them.

Number 5 specifically asked for Biological washing powder

when I dropped donations off this week

so please leave any donations in the foyer as usual and I can pass them on.

**Thank you Ruth McCulloch**

# Dates for your Diary

Thursday  
10.30am

## Charity Coffee Morning

14 December 2023  
- 12 noon

In aid of the UK's leading end of life charity



Tea/Coffee and Home-made Cakes

(You may be surprised by who is 'manning' the cake stall this month)

All are welcome

Merrow Methodist Church Bushy Hill Drive GU1 2SH

\*\*\*\*\*

**Marie Curie**, (born in Poland in 1867) was famous for her work on [radioactivity](#) and twice a winner of the Nobel Prize. She was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize, and she is the only woman to win the award in two different fields.

In 1891 she went to Paris and to study at the Sorbonne. There she worked far into the night in her student-quarters garret and virtually lived on bread and butter and tea. It was in the spring of 1894 that she met Pierre Curie. Their marriage the following year marked the start of a partnership that was soon to achieve results of world significance

Her pioneering work goes on supported by the charity which bears her name.

She once said: *"One never notices what has been done; one can only see what remains to be done."*

# JUNIOR PAGE – for the young and young at heart

## A Christmas Crossword

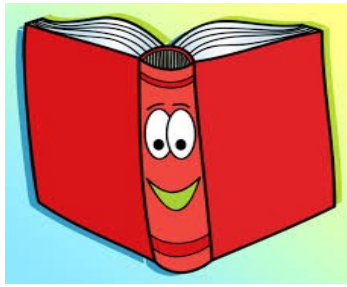
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	■		■		■		■	■
5					6		■	7
	■		■	8				
	■	■	■	■		■	■	
9				10		11		
	■	■	■		■		■	
	■		12					
13		■	■		■		■	
	■	14					■	

### Clues across:

1. You may throw these when it snows
5. They drop from fir trees
8. Do you make your present 4down early, or leave it until -----?
9. With 11down, a wish for the season.
12. One kind of this animal pulls Santa's sleigh
13. Opposite of down
14. Another seasonal greeting ----- New Year

### Clues down:

1. He gets more Christmas post than anyone else.
2. This is where you roast the turkey.
3. One that jingles
4. To lean over or a memory jogger!
6. The Magi were looking in this direction.
7. We exchange these at Christmas
10. Santa comes when children have gone to -----.
11. With 14across, a wish for the season.



## Story time

### **The Lion and The Mouse**

When a lion was resting in the jungle, a mouse began racing up and down his body for amusement. The lion's sleep was interrupted, and he awoke in a fury.



The lion was going to eat the mouse when the mouse begged him to let him go. "I assure you, if you save me, I will be of immense help to you in the future." The lion, amused by the mouse's self-assurance set him free.

A group of hunters arrived in the forest one day and captured the lion. They had him tied to a tree. The lion began to roar as he struggled to get out. Soon, the mouse passed by and spotted the lion in distress. He dashed up to the poor lion, biting on the ropes to free him. Once free the two hurried off into the woods, safe from the hunters.

**MORAL: Small acts of kindness will be rewarded greatly.**



# Gill's trills

Christmas is past; where though that baby now?  
Still lying in a manger on the hay,  
Or journeying back to Nazareth mayhap,  
Cradled in Mary's arms along the way?

Is Christmas just a half-remembered dream?  
Farewell December, now the New Year starts.  
Is Jesus parcelled up and packed away?  
Or is that babe now nestled in our hearts?

\*\*\*\*\*

# Ken's Pen

An appropriate quotation for the Christmas period, bearing in mind the situation in the Holy Land.

“Into this world, this demented inn, in which there is absolutely no room for him at all, Christ has come uninvited. But because he cannot be at home in it, because he is out of place in it, his place is with others for whom there is no room, with those who are rejected, discredited, denied the status as persons, tortured, bombed and exterminated.” THOMAS MERTON

.....

The junior church teacher was telling the story of Elijah and his sacrifice of a bull, on which he ordered 8 jars of water to be poured over it. “Can anyone tell me why water was poured over the bull?” Little Mary piped up “To make the gravy.”

.....

The next week the subject was the creation of Eve from Adam's rib, which interested young Mike. A few days later his Mum found him lying on the floor, crying. “What's the matter?” she asked. He replied “I've got a pain in my chest. I think I'm having a wife.”

.....

With greetings from Rosemary as well as me, Ken Mills

\*\*\*\*\*

## News from St. Mary's

In 2019-20 during the construction of a new north entrance to St Mary's Church and the installation of under-floor heating in the Church a quantity of disarticulated human bones was found outside and inside the building. A typical number were

dated to the eleventh century so these were the bones of people who had lived in Guildford in the years before the Norman Conquest.

On 4<sup>th</sup> November 2023, the bones were buried in a small grave close to the North Entrance in a special Service for the Re-interment of Human Bodies that had been exhumed after having previously been given Christian burial.

PEY

4/11/23

\*\*\*\*\*

## Did you know?

### **January 1<sup>st</sup> 2024 – New Year’s Day, is only 442 years old.**

In order to realign the Roman calendar with the sun, Julius Caesar had to add 90 extra days to the year 46 B.C. when he introduced his new Julian calendar. As part of his reform, Caesar instituted *January* 1 as the first day of the *year*, partly to honour the month's namesake, Janus, the Roman god of beginnings, whose two faces allowed him to look back into the past and forward into the future.

Romans celebrated by offering sacrifices to Janus, exchanging gifts with one another, decorating their homes with laurel branches and attending raucous parties.

In medieval Europe, Christian leaders temporarily replaced January 1 as the first of the year with days which carried more religious significance, such as December 25<sup>th</sup> (the anniversary of Jesus’ birth) and March 25<sup>th</sup> (the Feast of the Annunciation). Pope Gregory XIII re-established January 1 as New Year’s Day in 1582.

# POETRY

## A Christmas poem

Love lay in a manger  
Swaddled in the hay.  
Birthed in lowly stable,  
On that first Christmas day.

Oxen crowded round him,  
Puzzled by his birth.  
Just a tiny baby,  
Yet Heaven, here on earth.

Naught like this had happened  
Since the world began.  
Yet in this Bethlehem stable  
God had come to man.

---

## In Memoriam A.H.H by Alfred, Lord Tennyson

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,  
The flying cloud, the frosty light:  
The year is dying in the night;  
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

Ring out the old, ring in the new,  
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:  
The year is going, let him go;  
Ring out the false, ring in the true.

Ring out the grief that saps the mind  
For those that here we see no more;  
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,  
Ring in redress to all mankind.

Ring out a slowly dying cause,  
And ancient forms of party strife;  
Ring in the nobler modes of life,  
With sweeter manners, purer laws.

Ring out the want, the care, the sin,  
The faithless coldness of the times;  
Ring out, ring out my mournful rhymes  
But ring the fuller minstrel in.

Ring out false pride in place and blood,  
The civic slander and the spite;  
Ring in the love of truth and right,  
Ring in the common love of good.

Ring out old shapes of foul disease;  
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;  
Ring out the thousand wars of old,  
Ring in the thousand years of peace.

Ring in the valiant man and free,  
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;  
Ring out the darkness of the land,  
Ring in the Christ that is to be.

# SCAMS

The NCSC is urging shoppers to look out for:

1.

**Urgency:** Are you told you only have a limited time to respond? Criminals often threaten negative consequences or costs.

2.

**Scarcity:** Is the message offering something in short supply? Fear of missing out on a good deal can make you respond quickly.

3.

**Current events, such as Black Friday:** Criminals will often exploit current news stories or specific times of year to make their scam seem more relevant.

Shoppers are also being reminded that while scams are increasingly convincing, it is even more important to have basic security measures in place when it comes to email security, including switching on 2-step verification (2SV) and have a strong password made up of three random words.

Where possible, use a credit card when shopping online as this will offer you more protection if anything goes wrong, and follow our practical advice to help you shop online safely.”



## Prayers worth sharing



### A New Year Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for making all things new! As another new year begins, help me live each day for You.

Give us the wisdom to make the best choices, fill us with a desire to seek after you more than anything else in this world.

Let your Spirit and power breathe in us, through us, again, fresh and new.

May I continually have a new song in my heart to sing to You, no matter what comes my way.

I trust in You because I know that Your mercies are new every morning, and nothing ahead of me will take You by surprise.

In Jesus' Name

Amen.

### Crossword Answers

Across;

1.Snowballs; 5.Needles; 8.Later; 9.Christmas; 12.Deer; 13.Up; 14.Happy

Down:

1.SantaClaus; 2.Oven; 3.Bell; 4.List; 6.East; 7.Presents; 10. Sleep; 11.Merry