



# The Signpost

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



If you're reading this - **congratulations**! You've almost made it to the end of 2020, which feels like quite an achievement given the kind of year that it's been! We take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Christmas and God's blessings for the new year.

In this issue of **The Signpost** there are some Christmas related articles, a simple but mouthwatering recipe, a fun competition, details of our Christmas activities and a giveaway for those needing some festive cheer!

**Good News Perthshire** was set up in 2017 by Christians from **Perth Gospel Hall**. To stay up to date with all the latest news, please visit our **website**, follow us on **Facebook**, or subscribe to our **YouTube** channel. Please get in touch if you have any questions, or if we can be of any help to you!



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# Christmas 2020: the same, but different...

Christmas will no doubt be slightly different this year, but some long-standing traditions will remain!

## Christmas Cards

The very first Christmas card was produced back in 1843 by Sir Henry Cole and over 1 billion of them are sent every year in the UK! We send them to people we love, to show that we're thinking of them.



The Christmas story reminds us that God showed how much He cared about us, not by sending a card, but by sending His only Son. The Bible says **"God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son"**.

The baby in Bethlehem's manger was God's Son, sent from Heaven to be the Saviour of the world. That's great news because, as people who have broken God's laws and who deserve God's punishment, a Saviour is what we all need! Thankfully, **"Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners"**. The Angel gave the instruction - **"call His name Jesus for He shall save His people from their sins"**.

## Christmas Trees

The tradition of the Christmas tree originated in northern Europe in the 16th century and was brought to the UK



by members of the Royal Family at the start of the 1800s. The tallest ever tree (238ft!) was erected in Sri Lanka, while the most expensively decorated tree (£7m) was found in Dubai!

The most important tree in history, however, wasn't a Christmas tree. It was Calvary's Tree (another name for the cross on which Jesus died). The Bible says Jesus **"bore our sins in His own body on the tree"**. On the cross Jesus paid the penalty for our wrongdoings, so that by putting our trust in Him we can be saved from the punishment our sins deserve.

## Christmas Gifts

Over the years we've no doubt all received some memorable Christmas gifts from family and friends.



The greatest gift of all, though, is one which God offers to each of us today. The Bible says **"the gift of God is eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord"**. This gift of eternal life is what we all need if we want to get to Heaven.

Sadly, it's a gift that's often unwanted. Just like the innkeeper at Bethlehem all those years ago, many today are saying **"there's no room in my life for Jesus"**. What about you? Will you open the door of your heart and let the Lord Jesus Christ into your life this Christmas?



# THE CHRISTMAS STORY:

1

Details of Jesus birth are predicted in the Old Testament centuries before it takes place. Isaiah predicts that Jesus will be born of a virgin. Micah predicts that He will be born in Bethlehem.



2

The Angel Gabriel visits Mary to tell her that despite being a virgin she will shortly fall pregnant and give birth to a son who will be named Jesus.



5

A decree is announced by Caesar Augustus that people must return to their home towns to be registered. Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem, the home of his ancestors.



6

After arriving in Bethlehem and finding there's no room for them in the inn, Mary brings forth her firstborn son and lays Him in a manger.



9

King Herod hears about the birth of Jesus and flies into a jealous rage, instructing that all of the young boys in the region are to be killed in an attempt to assassinate Jesus.



10

An angel appears to Joseph in a dream to warn him of the danger and to instruct him to take Mary and the child and flee to safety in Egypt.





# A TIMELINE OF EVENTS

3

Mary goes to visit her older cousin, Elizabeth (who is also pregnant, and subsequently gives birth to John the Baptist). Mary spends three months there before returning home.



4

An angel appears to Joseph in a dream reassuring him that Mary has not been unfaithful and that the child was conceived by the Holy Spirit and should be named Jesus, because "He will save His people from their sins".



7

Angels appear in the night sky to announce the birth of the Saviour to a group of local shepherds. They are filled with joy as they visit the baby in the manger.



8

A little later wise men from the east follow a star to the house where the child is. They bring gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, and worship the child, realising who He really is!



11

Herod eventually dies and the angel appears to Joseph again to tell him that it's now safe to return from Egypt. They settle in Mary's hometown of Nazareth, where Jesus remains until He is 30 years old.



12

Jesus leaves Nazareth and after 3 years of miracles, teaching and helping others, He dies upon a cross to pay the penalty of mankind's sin, before rising from the dead 3 days later!



# *Christmas Activities...*

## **VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 7.30pm, Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December**

Join us on our Facebook page where we'll be streaming a virtual service with Christmas carols and messages for adults and children. The service will also be available to watch on our website and YouTube channel.



## **CHRISTMAS GIFT BOX GIVEAWAY**

**Deadline, Friday  
18<sup>th</sup> December**

More details on the  
back page!

**FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK, OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE,  
FOR MORE DETAILS ON OTHER CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES!**



**WEBSITE: [www.goodnewspertthshire.com](http://www.goodnewspertthshire.com)**



**FACEBOOK: [facebook.com/goodnewspertthshire](https://facebook.com/goodnewspertthshire)**



**YOUTUBE: [youtube.com/c/perthgospelhall](https://youtube.com/c/perthgospelhall)**



## *Fab Festive Microwave Fudge...*

1. Break **400g** of chocolate into small pieces and pour **395g** condensed milk into a large microwavable bowl.

2. Microwave on high. Remove **every 30 seconds** and stir well **until the mixture is smooth**.

3. Pour the mixture into a **lined baking tray or tin**, then leave it in the fridge to set.

4. Once set, slice it up, eat and enjoy! Yum yum!

PS - you can experiment with other flavours, and by adding marshmallows or nuts!



## *Christmas Competition...*

The celebrities are back in a socially distanced Perth Gospel Hall (we've allowed them to take their masks off for the photo!) How many can you name? Email your answers to [info@goodnewspertthshire.com](mailto:info@goodnewspertthshire.com)



# CHRISTMAS GIFT BOXES

KIDS' BOX  
(AGE 3-8)

ADULTS'  
BOX

We've got some **Christmas gift boxes** to give away to those who could do with a bit of cheering up this Christmas! Claim your **FREE** box by texting or emailing us (contact details below) with your name and address! **DEADLINE: FRIDAY 18<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER**



## GET IN TOUCH...

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