

METHVEN MESSENGER



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DECEMBER 2017

www.goodnewspertshire.com

Merry Christmas from **M**ETHVEN **M**ESSENGER

Welcome to the Christmas edition of the **Methven Messenger!** The magazine is produced by **Good News Perthshire** (which was set up in 2017 by some of the Christians who meet at **Perth Gospel Hall**) and its aim is simply to bring **good news** to the people of Methven.



In this edition, amongst other things, we tell you about one of our exciting new ventures on **page 3**, provide you with a delicious Christmas recipe to try out on **page 7**, and invite you to our Christmas Carol Service in Perth on **page 8**.



In the last month we've also begun visiting **Glenhelenbank Care Home in Luncarty** to conduct short services for the elderly residents, singing some hymns and sharing a short message from the Bible.



Our **Good News Trailer** has made further monthly visits to Perth High Street, and we're now busy distributing invitation cards to Christmas carol services we're conducting in the **Bridge of Earn Institute** (7pm on Fri 22nd December) and **Comrie White Church** (7.30pm Sun 24th December).



More information on our activities, including the aforementioned Christmas services, can be found on our **website**. Why not join over 200 others who follow us on **Facebook** for regular updates.

We hope you like the **free calendar** we distributed alongside this month's magazine. Please **get in touch** to let us know what you think of the Christmas edition of the Methven Messenger. Have a great **Christmas** and a **Happy New Year!**



 info@goodnewspertthshire.com

 07584099498

 www.goodnewspertthshire.com

 [goodnewspertthshire](https://www.facebook.com/goodnewspertthshire)



INTRODUCING...

THE 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 **Thimblorow 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.goodnewspertshire.com



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). 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

'METHVEN' - WHAT'S IN A NAME?

There are several suggestions as to the origin and meaning of the name '**Methven**'.



One suggestion is that the name came from two words, '**medd-faen**', which means '**middle-stone**', referring to some nearby boundary or marker stone that existed in those days. Another is that it came from the Scottish Gaelic word '**meadhan**', meaning '**middle of**', perhaps referring to the fact it was in the middle of Strathmore, or mid-way between Perth and Crieff. A third suggestion links the name with that of **Hungarian** family called, '**Methuen**'.

Nearby **Perth** was originally known as '**Bertha**' to the Romans, meaning '**Mouth of the Tay**'. It then became known as '**St John's Toun**' due to the presence of St John's Kirk dedicated to **John the Baptist**. Eventually it was re-named, '**Perth**', from a Scottish Gaelic word meaning '**woods**'.

While the names of towns and cities may carry some historical significance, much more interest is taken nowadays in the names people give to their **children**. In **2016** the most popular baby names in **Scotland** were **Jack** (meaning 'God is gracious') and **Olivia** (meaning 'olive branch').

At this time of the year we remember the birth of a child who was named, '**Jesus**'.

The name '**Jesus**' comes from the Hebrew name '**Joshua**' and essentially means, '**Saviour**'. The Angel Gabriel informed Joseph that this was to be His name, because He would '*save His people from their sins.*' (*Matt 1:21*)



The Bible explains that this was the real **purpose** behind Jesus coming into the world. '*God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.*' (*John 3:17*)

Jesus was sent on a mission to **rescue** the human race which had been separated from God by its **sin**. He came to provide **forgiveness** by personally paying for our sins on **the cross**. Having **died** for our sins, He **rose** from the grave on the third day.

Today the **Lord Jesus Christ** is able to save anyone who is willing to **repent** of their sinful living and **receive Him** as their Saviour and Lord.

'The Father sent the Son (Jesus Christ) to be the Saviour of the world.' (1 John 4:14)

The question is... is He **your** Saviour?

KITCHEN CORNER...

The ladies from Perth Gospel Hall share some of their favourite recipes...



Gwyneth's Christmas Truffles!



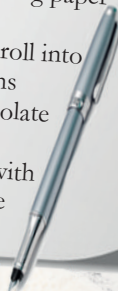
INGREDIENTS

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 Good News Perthshire...



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 20th December

TEXT OR CALL: 07584099498
WITH YOUR NAME & ADDRESS

PLEASE JOIN US AT PERTH GOSPEL HALL
HUNTINGTOWER ROAD, PERTH, PH1 2LH

CHRISTMAS EVE CAROL SERVICE

12.30 - 1.15 PM
SUNDAY 24th DECEMBER

TRADITIONAL
CHRISTMAS CAROLS

* * *

SHORT CHRISTMAS
MESSAGE

* * *

REFRESHMENTS SERVED
AFTERWARDS

* * *

ALL WELCOME

GOOD NEWS PERTHSHIRE



info@goodnewspertshire.com



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