

Christmas 2007

*spire*

*spire* provides news about the Church with the spire in the Strand. It is delivered by members of the Church.

*news from Dawlish United Reformed Church*

# SPECIAL CHRISTMAS EVENTS

## Christmas Day Lunch

Christmas Day can be a bit strange for some older people. We can get several kind invitations to go to someone else's home for the day—but we are hesitant because there



can be more noise than we are used to, and we do not like to be away all day. So the church is arranging a **Christmas Day Dinner** for those on their own (singles or couples). It starts at noon; there is the traditional Christmas meal and a chance to talk with people like ourselves. And then home in time to watch the Queen at 3.00. We are arranging lifts to and from the church. It is by invitation only (for catering purposes). If you would like an invitation or know someone else who might like one, give Revd Roger Whitehead a ring on 889 098. We promise a really good time.

## Dress up for Crib Service

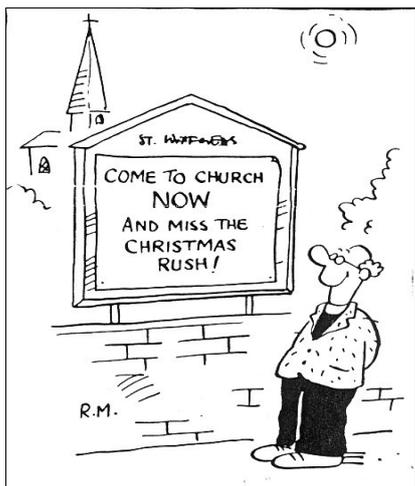


At 4 pm on Christmas Eve we hold a 30 minute Crib Service mainly for the under 6s and their parents (and grandparents). If possible we want children to come dressed as shepherds or

angels to take part in the tableau. We sing traditional well known Christmas carols and re-enact the Christmas story with the children. It's great fun and we hope to see you!

## CHURCH GETS NEW ROOF

As Christmas approaches our church will be encased in scaffolding in preparation for our £150,000 re-roofing which starts early in January. The work is expected to take four months, and it will take about six weeks to remove the scaffolding. Because there is only a small passage on either side of the church, the scaffolding has had to be built out from Lawn Hill posing interesting engineering problems.



Turn over for:  
**Children Craft Day**  
(8 Dec)  
**Regular activities**  
**Our minister writes**  
**How to contact us**

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## Christmas Services

Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	10.30	<b>Family Service</b>
	6.30	<b>Carol Service</b>
Christmas Eve	4.00	<b>Crib Service</b>
	7.00	<b>Candle-lit Carols</b>
Christmas Day	10.00	<b>Family Service with the Methodists</b>

**Roger Whitehead, minister of the church,  
shares his thoughts**



I have mixed feelings about Christmas. I hate the shopping (so I mainly leave that to my wife) and the crowds and the enforced heartiness

of total strangers. But I love the familiar carols and the services in the dark, lit by candles, and the excitement of the annual Crib service as children come dressed in ingenious clothes to look like angels or shepherds.

There was plenty of pushing and shoving as Mary and Joseph arrived in their ancestral town of Bethlehem, and

the shepherds were dressed in dirty, working clothes. In the midst of it a baby was born with a make-do bed in a feeding trough. Some people noticed, but most did not. Not what you would expect of the Son of God.

But as we know, God's like that - around in the crowd, in the ordinary things of life, easily overlooked, but there for us when we look for him. Perhaps, especially in the seasonal bustle, we should try to take a little time to thank God for family, home, friends and expressions of love and care. That's what we will be doing at our Christmas Services—which are all planned for the whole family.

**Children's Christmas Craft Day**

**Sat 8 Dec 10.00-2.00**

for all 7- 11 year olds; Methodist Church, Brunswick Rd

**Christmas  
Story  
Midday lunch  
Crafts  
Fun**



*concentrating on the crafts*

Maximum 30 children—**book early, numbers are limited.**



**MEET OUR YOUTH LEADER**

Marie Whitehead brings a natural enthusiasm and thirty years teaching experience to her involvement in the church's youth work. She leads the Sunday group and is a leader of the Christmas Craft Day. For further details, email [marie@whiteheadfamily.info](mailto:marie@whiteheadfamily.info) or phone 88 90 98.

She says, "I was a bit surprised when one of our Sunday group said, 'This church is wicked', but then I realized he and the others were enjoying themselves. We are always glad to welcome new children from 10.30-11.30."

**Regular events**

**Sundays**

10.30 **Service & Junior Church**  
Communion 1st Sun  
Healing Service 3rd Sun

*Afterwards fair trade tea & coffee*

**Tuesdays** (alternate weeks)

2.00 **Knit & Chat**  
knitting for an orphanage  
in Malawi

**Wednesdays**

10.00 **Coffee Morning**  
10.00 **Parents & Toddlers**  
children from 0 - 3 and  
their parents  
2.30 **Friendship Hour**  
Talks, videos & members'  
contributions

**Thursdays**

2.30 **Keep Fit**  
exercises to enjoy for  
keeping the body and  
mind alert

**Saturdays**

10.00 **Choir practice**  
The choir leads the singing at  
each Sunday service

**Baptisms, Weddings & Funerals**  
by arrangement with the Minister

**Minister**

Revd Roger Whitehead  
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Visit our website:

**[www.DawlishURC.org.uk](http://www.DawlishURC.org.uk)**