

Heatherside Church



Issue No. 3
December 1984

A NEWS SHEET FOR EVERYONE ON HEATHERSIDE

FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT

Doesn't time fly past? Hallowe'en and Bonfire night have passed so quickly, with broomsticks and fireworks in the sky and faces glowing round a bonfire - eyes lifted up to see the vivid flashes, and hear the bangs and whooshes as rockets and mortars streak across the black background. Tiny pinpricks of light from distant stars appear between clouds, and the moon moves slowly across the heavens.

SKY LIT UP

I wonder what reaction there would be if suddenly the sound of trumpet fanfares and strings emerged from the darkness, getting louder by the minute. Then the darkness would explode as brilliant white figures started to sing and float across the sky. Would we blame it on the drink or modern technology projecting laser images into the air, backed up by loud-speakers without a volume control?

MESSAGE

Then suddenly silence, but the figures are still there with one stepping forward. The silence is broken only by the soft-spoken yet powerful voice. "Don't be

afraid" he said. (Nice re-assuring touch that.) "I bring you glad tidings of great joy. To-night in Basingstoke there is born a Saviour. You will find him wrapped in rags in a battered pram in the basement of a block of flats. Peace on earth; goodwill to men."

TALK

Then, just as suddenly as they appeared, the forms are gone. Not a sound! Not a whisper! Hearts beating fast and knees weak you look at those around you. Then it dawns on you; everyone else saw it, heard it, and is just as dazed. But there is no panic, no screaming, no jeering. Nothing. No comment. Perhaps it was an elaborate hoax. Let's go home and talk about it.

People start to talk. It can't really have happened, can it? What did someone say about shepherds and angels? But that all happened 2000 years ago. Yes, and they went and found the baby - wondered, praised and remembered.

She will have a son, and you will name him Jesus - because he will save his people from their sins.
Matthew 1:21

NEWS FROM THE CURATE'S LODGE

A Happy Christmas to you from Heatherside Church!

Do you remember looking forward to Christmas as a child? Sending letters up the chimney and dreaming of that present that you wanted - waking up when it was still dark on Christmas Day to see what you had been given. What happened to all that wonder and excitement? Will it still be there for you this Christmas?

The sense of expectation can begin to wear off and the superficial Christmas tinsel soon tarnishes, but the one who is at the heart of Christmas - God's Christmas present to us - the Lord Jesus Christ, can still fill us with wonder and excitement if He is at the focus of our festivities. Christians worship not just a baby in a manger but the crucified and risen Lord who is King of the Universe. We wonder at God coming down to live as one of us; we are excited by His offer to share our lives to-day.

Come and share with us in the Christmas joy at Heatherside Church.

SERVICES ARE HELD IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE EVERY SUNDAY

Morning - 11am to 12 Noon (A creche is provided for children under 4)

Evening - 6.30 to 7.30pm

HELP

Over the past few years Heatherside Church has supported a Christian Missions charity in London called the London City Mission. Its purpose is to help anyone to learn more about the Faith, but it also gives practical help whenever it can. It runs centres for the poor and destitute, the drop-outs and the homeless.

We have previously helped them with gifts of food from Harvest and clothing for those in need, and this Christmas we want to help them with food, clothing, and toys for children who would probably not receive any gifts other than these.

If you feel you can help by donating any surplus warm clothing in reasonable condition, any packets or tins of soup, vegetables, fruit or meat, or books and toys in good condition, then please give them to any church member or take them along to 119 Cumberland Road.

A representative from the Mission will be at our service on Sunday 16th December to receive these gifts and take them to London, but gifts received after this date will still be welcome and will be delivered to the Mission in London.

AFTER EIGHTS

This is the name given to our two midweek fellowship groups - one on Wednesday evenings and the other on Thursdays. It appeals to young and old Christians alike, who find this time of sharing together through praise, Bible study and prayer, helpful in their Christian lives and growth. We meet in each other's homes and commence our meetings informally at 8pm, or just 'After Eight'.

Marge Morris writes, "I started going to the midweek fellowship meetings some years ago, and for the first time I saw and heard people who lived the Christian faith day by day. I wanted that sort of faith in God too. Now I'm committed to the group, the members and the meeting, because in studying the Bible together we have grown closer to God and to each other".

We always like to see new faces, and listeners are just as important to any group as talkers. Coffee and biscuits are provided and we will make you feel welcome.

Anyone interested in joining the Wednesday group can contact Pete Harlow (Tel.61170), or for the Thursday group ring Geoff Taylor (Tel.21402).

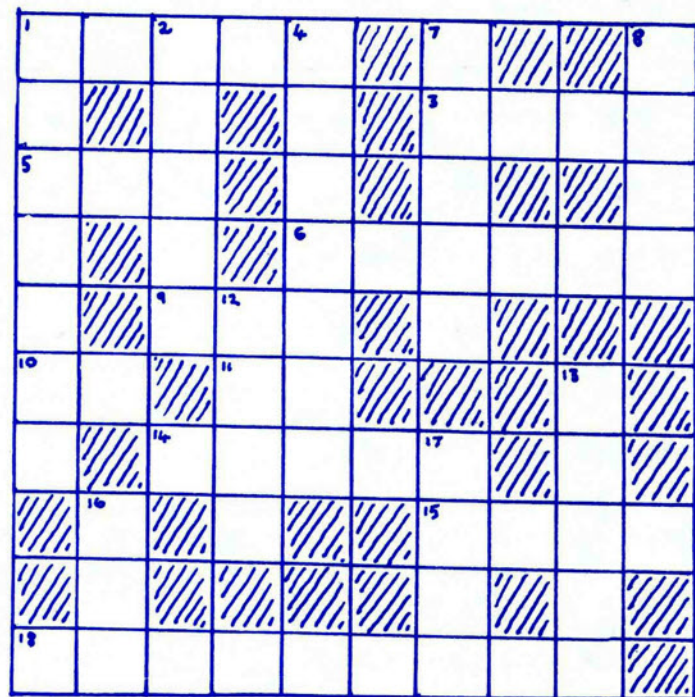
NOT SO CROSS-WORD

Across

1. David looked after these
3. ---- and Eve
5. Hens --- eggs
6. Second book of the Bible
9. The good Samaritan used --- pennies
10. The wizard of Oz
11. Jesus rode -- a donkey
14. He was hidden in the bulrushes
15. Made of ivory
18. They look after sheep

Down

1. This king had some mines
2. Mary and Joseph went there to get away from Herod
4. Mary took two of these birds to the Temple
7. Esau's brother
8. One of the prophets
12. The ark was made of gopher ----
13. And Mary named him J----
16. Left after a fire
17. The wise men followed this



HEATHERSIDE CHURCH welcomes everyone from all denominations. It was founded as an ecumenical venture between the Methodist Church and the Parish of St. Paul, Church of England. Minister in Charge: The Rev. Neil Barker, Curate's Lodge, 119 Cumberland Road, Heatherside. Tel. Camberley 20897 (Day off Wednesday)