

LONGFLEET United Reformed Church

# Newsletter

November 2009

**AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN  
AND IN THE MORNING**



**WE WILL REMEMBER THEM**

LONGFLEET UNITED REFORMED  
CHURCH

**NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER**

2009

**A WARM WELCOME AWAITS YOU  
And All your Family and Friends  
AT ALL OUR SERVICES AND  
EVENTS.**

Prayer Meetings are held at 9.15 A.M. on the  
first and third Sundays of the month.

Our Sunday services commence at 10a.m.

Monday Lunch Club 12—2p.m.

Café open on Thursdays and Fridays.10—12

Poole Food Bank open on Wednesdays,

Thursdays and Fridays at times as given out.

**REMEMBRANCE**

**SERVICE**

WE WILL JOIN THE SERVICE IN POOLE  
PARK on NOV. 8TH.

Church Secretary

Mrs J.A.Hunt

7, Heysham Road

Broadstone, Dorset

BH18 8LB

WORSHIP ROTA FOR NOVEMBER

C November 1st Revd Bryan George  
November 8th We join with the Remembrance  
Service held in Poole Park.  
November 15th TBC  
November 22nd TBC  
November 29th Mr Jeff Russell

WELCOME ROTA FOR NOVEMBER  
Mr George Hunt

LECTIONARY READINGS

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<u>1st</u> Ruth 1:1-18	<u>8th</u> Ruth 3: 1-15
Psalm 146	Psalm 127
Hebrews 9:11-14	Hebrews 9 24-28
Mark 12:28-34	Mark 12:38-44
<u>15th</u> 1 Samuel 1:4-20	<u>22nd</u> 2 Samuel 23:1-7
1 Samuel 2:1-10	Psalm 132: 1-18
Hebrews 10:11-18	Revelation 1: 4-8
Mark 13:1-8	John 18:33-37
<u>29th</u> Jeremiah 33:14-16	
Psalm 25: 1-10	
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13	
Luke 21: 25-36	

## Operation Christmas Child 2009.

Time to pack your shoe boxes!

Last year the generosity of adults and children throughout the UK meant that more than 1.2 million disadvantaged children in parts of Africa, Central Asia, and Eastern Europe were able to have a Christmas present—a shoe box full of small gifts from a stranger (here) who cared enough to send it (there)

Operation Christmas child is the world's largest children's Christmas appeal and began nearly 20 years ago. Suitable contents are:-

Toys: small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yos, jump ropes, toys that light up or make a noise. (with extra batteries), etc. .

School supplies:- erasers, pens, pencils and sharpener, crayons or markers, stamp and ink pad sets, writing pads or paper, solar calculators. Colouring and picture books etc.

Hygiene items:- toothbrush, toothpaste, mild bar soap (in a plastic bag) comb, washcloth etc

**NO** to war related items, food or chocolate, liquids, vitamins, aerosol cans or glass containers or snowglobes.

A note or photo in a separate envelope may be included and if you wish your name and address, you may get a reply!

## CHRISTMAS STAMPS

You may be forgiven for thinking that “Christmas Stamps” have always been issued by the post office in November. The truth is that, following an appeal to schoolchildren for stamp designs depicting Christmas Scenes the very first two stamps-value 3d & 1/6d– were issued  
On 1st December 1966.

In the following years, a whole variety of designs have been used, many sparking controversy, as they did not portray the Christmas message.

This year the stamps, to be issued on Tuesday 3rd November, depict Christmas 2009 seen through stained glass windows. Stained glass windows have been a feature of Britain’s churches since the beginning of the middle ages at least. The Venerable Bede himself mentions a stained glass window at St Peter’s Abbey in Jarrow in AD 674 their role has never been purely decorative however, as just like Special Stamp issues, every stained glass window is designed to tell a story. The 2nd class stamp this year features an Angel from the church of St James, Staveley, Kendal, designed by  
William Morris.

The following extract is from an article written for the William Morris Society in July this year:-

“It can’t be easy being the vicar of St James! At least not on Sundays when the sun shines! Try as one might to follow the Vicar’s sermon on a sunny Sunday morning, attention invariably wanders to the emerging kaleidoscope of colour that bursts through the east window and drenches the surrounding stonework.

It is truly spectacular and at its best in the spring and early summer when the sun is lower in the sky and its rays spray red, green and blue light onto the adjacent walls and across the church.

It is fascinating to contemplate whether this is exactly what William Morris and his business partner and friend Edward Burne-Jones envisaged as they worked on the original design. What lasting impression did they intend to leave worshippers and visitors? Could they possibly have predicted this aurora borealis effect? Certainly the reality of their likely aim of glorifying Christ through vibrant colour and engaging design never fails to draw admiration as the often repeated phrase-”beautiful and peaceful”- in the church visitors’ book testifies.

Other stamps in this year’s issue are 1st class– Madonna and child, church of Ormesby, St Michael, Great Yarmouth, 56p-Joseph, church of St Michael, Minehead, 90p-Wise Man, church of St Mary the Virgin, Rye and £1.35– Shepherd, church of St Marys, Upavon.

Also available is a Generic sheet which, alongside the stamps, contains Luke’s record as labels.

Also a First day cover can be ordered with a postmark “Bethlehem, Llandeilo”

All this and much more on

[www.royalmail.com/christmas2009](http://www.royalmail.com/christmas2009).

My thanks to David Meatcher of Sarisbury Green, United Reformed Church, near Southampton for this Article on the Christmas Stamps.



## **News from Bridging Communities**

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Alison Dalton is taking some leave during November.

Her daughter is expecting her first child in the New year and we wish her well. She has been having a few problems and Alison is anxious to see her.

We trust that all will go well for her daughter and that the baby will be strong and healthy.

We will be able to call Alison Grandma after the happy event!!!

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### ELDERS' MEETING

We meet at 7, Heysham Road on Thursday

November 12th at 7.15p.m.

Could I have short reports and financial statements from the Food Bank, Lunch Club and café please.

I need them by November 10th so that I can provide

The meeting with copies.

THANK YOU!!!

## FENCING IN GOD'S PEOPLE

This Christmas we shall be thinking about the "Little Town of Bethlehem" and its timeless place in the story of our redemption. It is a very different place now than it was at the time of Christ's birth.

As a result of the escalating violence between Israel and Hamas it is almost entirely surrounded by a huge Israeli "security fence" making it in effect a prison

We need to try to use words, music and action to reflect on wall-building and to pray for peace in the birthplace of Christ.

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We hope to share together in a Christmas Lunch on December 6th at SOUTH DEEP, Turks Lane, Parkstone. We sit down together at 1p.m. Please see Carol if you have not yet made your choices from the menu. All deposits of £10 need to be handed to her as soon as possible now so that we may make the Final booking arrangements. South Deep is down the lane by Latham's Boat yard. The lane is on the edge of Ladies Walking Field.

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## **DECORATIVE WINDOWS**

**We look forward to seeing the displays from Sunday 29th November as that is Advent Sunday. Our thanks to all who have volunteered to take part in this event.**

### **THAT VERY FIRST CHRISTMAS**

**To have witnessed that very first Christmas is beyond our imagination. The Christmas card scenes and Nativity Plays merely serve to challenge our visual senses. And yet, to have been in Bethlehem as Jesus was born created breathless excitement to the Shepherds as, having heard the Angels' message, they came and saw the Messiah in the Manger, Filled with excitement they left to tell the people they met about Jesus.**

**For the Wise Men bringing their gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh, it was a well worthwhile journey. They were to return home "another way" doubtless sharing the wonder of everything they had witnessed.**

The wonder of it all is what we seek to share with everyone who comes to see our window display. Around the world the message of the Angels still echoes out-  
GLORY TO GOD, PEACE ON EARTH, GOODWILL  
TO ALL MANKIND.

May you find all this, and more, as you view the scenes in our windows created by members, friends and hirers of the premises at Longfleet United Reformed Church  
Thank You All.