

## Many Thanks Today Goes To . . .

### Sunday 23rd December

Serving Tea & Coffee today are . . .

**Elaine Carrington**

Flowers today were provided by . . .

Our Stewards today have been . . .

**Hilary Lambert & Rene Duff**

### Tuesday 25th December

Serving Tea & Coffee today are . . .

Flowers today were provided by . . .

Our Stewards today have been . . .

**Paula Bashford & Rene Duff**

### Sunday 30th December

Serving Tea & Coffee today are . . .

**Elaine Carrington**

Flowers today were provided by . . .

Our Stewards today have been . . .

**Sheila Rayner & Rene Duff**

We give a warm welcome to everyone who has joined us today, especially if you are new here or are just visiting us for the day.

If you are visiting then please take the opportunity to sign our visitor's book before you leave today. If you are new to the church and wish to find out more of what we do here, then please make yourself known to our Minister or one of the Welcome Team.

Please stay seated throughout the service if you prefer. Refreshments are served at the end of the service in the vestibule and you are very welcome to stay and fellowship with us.



## PRAYERS POINTERS FOR OVER CHRISTMAS

- Pray for those who hear the Christmas message that they will meet with Jesus.
- Pray for those who live on their own. Pray that they would not be 'alone' on Christmas Day.
- Pray for those who will be working over the Christmas and New Year period.
- Pray for the church here at Sandown as one year ends and a new year begins.
- Pray for those who are suffering ill health at this present time.
- Give thanks to God for Jesus who is both Lord and Saviour of all.

## WHAT IS CHRISTMAS ALL ABOUT?

### ROMANS 8 v. 39

That first Christmas, God did something extraordinary. Max Lucado puts it this way: 'Stepping from the throne, He removed His robe of light and wrapped Himself in skin: pigmented human skin. The light of the universe entered a dark, wet womb. He whom angels worshipped nestled Himself in the placenta of a peasant, was birthed into the cold night, and then slept on a cow's hay. Mary didn't know whether to give Him milk or give him praise, so she gave Him both – since He was, as near as she could figure, hungry and holy. Joseph didn't know whether to call Him junior or father. But in the end he called Him Jesus, since that's what the angel said, and since he didn't have the faintest idea what to name a God he could cradle in his arms.'

Lucado continues: 'Don't you think their heads tilted and their minds wondered, "What in the world are You doing, God?" Or better phrased, "God, what are You doing in the world?" "Can anything make Me stop loving you?" God asks. "You wonder how long My love will last? Find your answer on a splintered cross, on a craggy hill. That's Me you see up there, your Maker, your God...That's how much I love you.'" Paul asks, 'Can anything separate us from the love of Christ?' (**Romans 8 v. 35 CEV**).

Then he answers his own question: 'Nothing can separate us from God's love – not life or death, not angels or spirits, not the present or the future, and not powers above or powers below. Nothing in all creation can separate us from God's love' (**Romans 8 v. 38 - 39 CEV**).

**And that's what Christmas is all about!**

Let us remember that the Christmas heart is a giving heart, a wide open heart that thinks of others first. The birth of the baby Jesus stands as the most significant event in all history, because it has meant the pouring into a sick world the healing medicine of love which has transformed all manner of hearts for almost two thousand years... Underneath all the bulging bundles is this beating Christmas heart -- **George Matthew Adams (The Christmas Heart)**

Christmas gift suggestions: To your enemy, forgiveness. To an opponent, tolerance. To a friend, your heart. To a customer, service. To all, charity. To every child, a good example. To yourself, respect. -- **Oren Arnold**

## Our Church Text for 2018

I will praise you, O Lord, with all my heart;  
I will tell of all your wonders.  
I will be glad and rejoice in you;  
I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.

Psalm 9 v. 1 - 2

### A thought for Christmas:

**CHRISTmas isn't CHRISTmas without CHRIST at the centre of it all!**

### CHURCH FINANCES FOR THE MONTH TO 16th DECEMBER 2018

Budgeted offerings needed (incl. Gift Aid) for the month of December =  
**£3,479.17**

Cumulative offering for December = **£1,871.59**

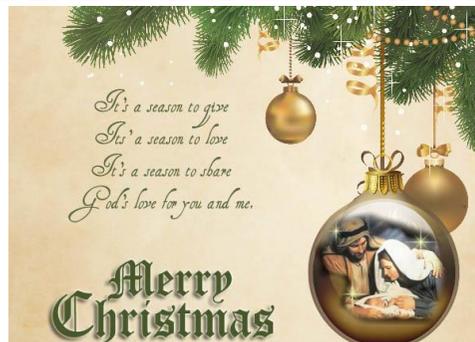
Gift Aid still to be claimed for December = **£358.48**

**SHORTFALL** from budgeted offerings for the month of December = **£1,249.10**

Ability Dogs 4 Young People, Christmas Tree Festival & Knitted Craft = £180  
Christmas Tree Festival Refreshments, Christmas Tea & Knitted Craft = £277.67  
Christmas Post box To Spurgeon's Child Care = £96.65

FOR UNTO US  
*a child is born,*  
unto us a son is given:  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder:  
and his name shall be called  
\***WONDERFUL**\*  
**COUNSELLOR,**  
THE MIGHTY GOD,  
*The everlasting Father,*  
THE PRINCE OF PEACE.

Isaiah 9:6



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# Welcome to SANDOWN BAPTIST CHURCH

Our Vision is to . . .  
Reach others with Christ's love as we learn to follow Him



## SUNDAY 23rd DECEMBER 2018 Fourth Sunday In Advent

### TODAY'S SERVICES ~ 23rd December

10.30 am      Morning Worship ~ Carols Around The Christmas Tree

**Worship Leader:**      Rev. Ian Lovell  
**Preacher:**      Rev. Ian Lovell  
**Bible Reading:**      Mathew 2 v. 1 – 12  
**Theme:**      Journey To Bethlehem ~  
Wise Men End Up In Bethlehem

### CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE ~ 25th December



10.30am      Christmas Morning Family Celebration Service

**Worship Leader:**      Rev. Ian Lovell  
**Preacher:**      Rev. Ian Lovell  
**Bible Reading:**      Luke 2 v. 1 – 10  
**Theme:**      Journey To Bethlehem ~  
All Together At The Manger

### LAST SUNDAY OF 2018 ~ 30th December

10.30 am      End Of Year Service

**Worship Leader:**      Rev. Ian Lovell  
**Preacher:**      Rev. Ian Lovell  
**Bible Reading:**      Luke 17 v. 5 – 10  
**Theme:**      Journey To Bethlehem ~  
Where Will Our Journey Take Us?

