



Olive Tree News January 11th 2022

**Baptists and Methodists united in Christ serving our community.**

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The Olive Tree is a registered charity, number 1196158

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### *Message from Joanne*

When Christmas and New Year fall on a weekend, I find it hard to keep track of what day of the week it is half of the time. As the month of January kicks in, it is sometimes hard to get back to a routine; taking the decorations down and packing them away for next year is all part of the process. I have ventured up into the loft for the first time since I moved to Kingsley Road to use it for storage, making a bit more room for me to set up my model railway in due course.

I spent Christmas with Alison and Sarah which was an improvement on the Christmas before last. After dinner on Christmas day, I visited Dad in the Archer Unit, of Bedford Hospital to give him his presents. Each patient received a small gift from the hospital charity which was a kind gesture. According to Dad, the Christmas dinner was not quite up to scratch but at least they had made the effort to create some Christmas spirit.

Alison has received the good news that she is clear from cancer after her annual scan in December which is great. Dad's rehabilitation is rather slow, added to which he has tested positive for covid, although he is not unwell, thank goodness. However, the ward has been closed to visitors for the time being.

On the wildlife front, I spotted a Little Egret on the river Lea at Limbury, which I was pleased about. It seemed an unlikely spot for him/her to be, but it obviously didn't mind people passing by. I'm getting ready for the Big Garden Birdwatch at the end of the month, let's hope I have more than one bird visit my garden this time around.

The Wise Men persevered in seeking the Christ Child despite the difficulties on the way. At the beginning of their journey, they weren't sure what or whom they were looking for, but they trusted their observations of the night sky and knew that they were being led to an extraordinary event that could have life changing implications.

Looking ahead they would have known the pitfalls of embarking on such a journey, but God's inner prompting compelled them to leave their familiar home country in pursuit of a new meaning and purpose to their lives. Hope was their companion, as they arrived in Jerusalem and were redirected to Bethlehem having been granted an audience with Herod the Great. Their motives remained pure and very soon they realised that Herod had a very different perspective on the whole new-born king gig.

At the beginning of a New Year, it is like stepping into the unknown, we can try and make plans for ourselves, some of which might occur or not. We cannot know what lies around the corner for any of us. One thing is for certain though, we do not travel alone, we have each other as members of the church family and ultimately, we have the Lord Jesus, our constant companion who walks by our side.

May 2022 be a year filled with hope and peace for each one of us.

Reverend Joanne

## Future Dates

### This month the services will be on YouTube

**Christian Aid lunch** 12.30—everyone welcome to come for a simple soup and sandwich lunch and give a donation to Christian Aid

Thursday 13th January 7.30pm Zoom **Homegroup**—contact Mary if you would like to join

Sunday 16th January **Service** led by Robin Wright

Fellowship Club 18th January has been **cancelled**

Sunday 23rd January **Service** led by Peter Baker (Methodist Local Preacher)

**Funeral of Peter Loughborough** Wednesday 26th January 11am at the Branch

Saturday 29th January—**Foodbank collection** 11am -12

Sunday 30th January **Service** led by Martin Owen

### *Peter Loughborough*

If you would like to write a few sentences with your memories of Peter Loughborough to be read at his funeral, please send them to Madit .

If you can make cakes for the refreshments after the funeral please let Madit know.

07790 495122 or email [maditgrant@gmail.com](mailto:maditgrant@gmail.com)

This week members should receive their **Olive Tree membership cards**. Also letters about giving with forms to transfer your standing orders to the Olive Tree bank account. Please complete the form and send it to your bank.

If you pay tax, please complete the gift aid form and return it to Madit or to the church.

Please let Helen know if you haven't received your letter. 07903 349429

**Foodbank** Thank you to everyone who has supported our collections for the Luton Foodbank . Please continue to put your contributions in the box at church. We are going to keep a supply of food that Mary can give to some of the people who come for help.

**There will be an opportunity to bring your food donations on Saturday 29th January between 11.00am and 12.00 noon.**

Suggestions for donations: pasta and sauce, tinned vegetables, tuna, soup, tinned fruit, beans, long life milk, fruit juice.