



Sometimes, if the opportunity occurs, I like to listen to Radio 2's 'Pop Master' quiz. I'm certainly no expert at it, but I like to be challenged by the questions, although I

must admit the questions on the 'more modern' songs I fail on. Think I'm showing my age here!

However, today one contestant shared one of the highlights of her life was going to the first 'Live Aid' concert at Wembley in 1985 which was organised by Bob Geldof and Midge Ure. If you remember, the event was to raise funds for relief for the terrible Ethiopian famine experienced at that time. This event was televised globally, and it was estimated that there was a global audience of 1.9 billion located in over 150 nations that watched the live broadcast.

Do you remember the song that is mainly associated with this concert? A point if you do! It was 'Do they know it's Christmas'? The record became the fastest selling single in UK chart history, selling a million copies in the first week alone and passing 3 million on the last day of 1984. So, if this question comes up on 'Pop Master' you will know the answer!

But the contestant said she remembered it because it was strange to be singing the song about Christmas in the scorching summer heat of that day.

I can well imagine it felt very odd. However, as she said it, I wondered how many people really know what Christmas is? I guess my version of the song would be 'Do you really know Christmas'?

Every year I become more and more concerned about what Christmas has become. I could not believe that Christmas goods were on sale at the end of August this year! I was expecting Easter Eggs to be available to buy in the shops in October!

But do you really know Christmas? What is it really about? Is it the gifts under the tree, the lights in the windows, the cards in the post, turkey dinners with family and friends, and shouts of "Merry Christmas". Lovely as all these things are, and how wonderful that people come together, but there is an incredibly awesome reason as to why we celebrate Christmas.

Sadly for some people, Christmas is a time of sorrow. They don't have the extra money to buy presents for their children, family, and friends. Many are saddened at Christmas time when they think of their loved ones who will not be able to come home for various reasons. Turkey dinners may be only a wish and not a reality for some.

Yet, Christmas can be a season of great joy. It is a time of God showing His great love for us. It can be a time of healing and

renewed strength.

Christmas is when we celebrate the birth of Jesus. God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to be born. His birth brought great joy to the world. Shepherds, wise men, and angels all shared in the excitement of knowing about this great event. They knew this was no ordinary baby. The prophets had told of His coming hundreds of years before. The star stopped over Bethlehem just to mark the way for those who were looking for this special child.



But why did Jesus come? Why did God send His son to this sometimes cruel and hard world? He sent Jesus to us so that one day He would grow up to become a very important part of history. His story (history) is one of truth, love, and hope. It brought salvation to all of us.

In John 3:16-17 it says:

<sup>16</sup>For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup>For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

Jesus was born so one day the price could be paid for the things we have done that are wrong. Jesus came so He could die on the cross for ALL of our sins. If we believe that Jesus died for our sins, we can ask Him to come into our hearts and forgive us. Then, we are clean and made whole. We can know that heaven is a place where we can go to when this earthly life is over. Jesus came not to condemn, but to give eternal life. How marvellous! This is the awesome reason why we celebrate Christmas.

Why not look at Christmas in a new way this year? My prayer is that you will be in awe of the real reason why we celebrate Christmas. Why not let Jesus into your heart at this time for Jesus is for life (eternal life), not just for Christmas!

Jesus Is The Reason For The Season! Rejoice!  
With every blessing

*Vanessa*

Rev'd Vanessa Appleton  
Minister, Hooe Baptist Church



Lake Reflections Old and New  
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## What's Christmas all about?

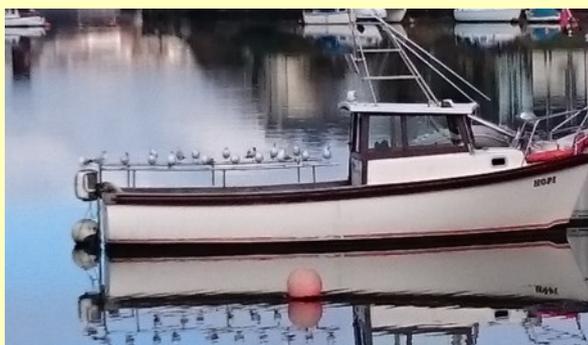
Now's the time of Christmas,  
we remember what was said  
Of a baby born called Jesus,  
and his birthplace was a shed.  
A star above was shining so brightly in the east.  
Emmanuel, the King of Kings,  
was born the least of least.  
Yet when it comes to Christmas,  
we tend to leave Him there,  
Just thinking of a baby in a stable cold and bare.

But Jesus grew to manhood  
and in Him was no sin.  
He gave His life that we might live  
and bids us follow Him.  
But do we really understand  
just what He came to do?  
And do we really want to know  
what we have put Him through?

We pack the church at Christmas  
till it's bursting at the seams;  
We love to sing the carols and  
dream our Christmas dreams;  
But our dreams are not of Jesus,  
they're of cakes and Christmas trees,  
Of dressing up for parties and doing as we please.

Yet Jesus didn't please Himself,  
he gave up all He had,  
That He might bridge the gap of sin  
to bring us back to God;  
And this should make us happy,  
so when Christmas time does fall,  
Let's share it all with Jesus –  
it's HIS birthday after all.

*Julie Troy*



Hooe Lake Bird Perch!  
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## Barton Road Estate Neighbourhood Watch.

The Barratts/Wilson estate off Barton Road is covered by an extension of 'Neighbourhood Watch (Plymouth)' and now has its own voluntary NW Co-ordinator, Mr Stuart MacPherson. This in no way diminishes or takes away from the tremendous job that John (NW Turnchapel, etc.) does for the local community (and has been doing for many years). Stuart says "I hope we can work together, his local knowledge is of great value." The next 'Have Your Say' meeting is on Weds. January 18th 2017, 7pm at Hooe Baptist Church Hall. Stuart can be contacted on 01752954421 whilst the Plymouth Watch Office and your Neighbourhood Policing Team are on 01752487668. Happy Christmas!



## Local Christmas Services

**at Hooe Baptist Church**  
**Sun 18th Dec 6pm Carols by**  
**Candlelight**  
**Christmas Day Service 10.30-11.30am**

**at St John's C of E, Hooe**  
**Sun 18th Dec 10.45am Christingle**  
**Nativity Carol Service**  
**Christmas Eve 11.45pm Midnight**  
**Communion**  
**Christmas Day 10.45am Christmas**  
**Family Communion**

## A Christmas Treat!

There are particular characters or occurrences which will always remain with me from my time as a village Policeman. One of these took place the week prior to Christmas, many years ago.

Fred lived on his own with his two very much-over-fed dogs in a caravan by the towpath of the Grand Union Canal in Hertfordshire. He was approaching his 90th birthday and decided that to mark the occasion, he would give a special treat to the local people who had been kind to him in past years. With limited knowledge and equipment (which was somewhat past fit-for-purpose), he set about cooking Christmas puddings and other goodies.

Two days prior to Christmas day, I was presented with a sample of his wares with my morning elevenses (a mug of stewed tea). He also generously gave me a tray of various other items which, Fred instructed, were for my family. Sitting on a stool between Fred and his dogs, I decided to try one of his home-made biscuits, with Fred watching my every move. He dipped one of his biscuits in a bowl of hot water whilst I took a small bite of my biscuit. Hoping he would not notice my difficulty in digesting the small portion, I congratulated him on his efforts and assured him I would enjoy the remainder on my way down the tow path, and I put the rest of his offerings in my saddle bag. When I was clear of the lock gates, the only course of action that seemed appropriate was for me to feed the ducks and fish! Giving a sigh of thanks, I threw the samples into the water, where they landed with a resounding splash! I hoped that after they had soaked through, they would bring some benefit and blessing to the recipients!

Chris Kirby

Sunrise over Hooe Lake

Copyright: Jill Dimond



## Where in Hooe are these? Can you get out and find them?

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### Paid in Full

A young man was graduating from University. He had been admiring a special sports car for some time. His father is a very rich man, so the young man asks his father for the car as his graduation gift.

As graduation day approached the young man looked for signs that his father had bought the car. Finally, on the day of his graduation, his father called his son into his office and told him how proud he felt about him. Then, he gave his son a beautiful wrapped gift box.

Curious, the young man opened the box and found ..... a lovely leather Bible. Angrily he shouted at his dad and said "With all the money you have you gave me a BIBLE?" and stormed out of the house leaving the Bible behind.

Many years passed .....

The young man became very successful in business, had a beautiful home and a wonderful family.

One day, he suddenly thought of his father .....

He thought that perhaps he ought to go to visit him since he hadn't seen him since is graduation day. Just as he was making the arrangements, he got a phone call telling him his father had passed away and left all his possessions to him.

When he arrived at his father's house, a sudden sadness filled his heart. He began to search for his father's important papers and .....

saw the still new Bible, his graduation gift, just as he had left it years ago. With tears in his eyes he opened it and began to turn the pages. As he read the words, a set of car keys dropped from an envelope hidden inside the Bible. It had a tag with the dealer's name on it, the same dealer who had the car of his desire.

On the tag was the date of his graduation, and the words . . .

### PAID IN FULL

Jesus Christ is the Word of God, who has "PAID IN FULL" the price .....

..... to make you and me wholesome in body, soul and spirit.

**The "keys" for all you have been looking for are in the BIBLE.**

Please contact us if you want to know more.

### Mia's testimony.

In autumn 1999, after I had been ill for some time, an MRI scan confirmed the diagnosis of Multiple Sclerosis (MS). I was offered treatment which would not cure the condition (there is no known cure) but which might prevent further deterioration. I decided to receive this treatment - a weekly injection. I responded really well during this time but, as I am a Christian, I was trusting God to heal me.

The following summer, I was to go on a week's holiday, and I requested permission to stop the treatment. I was told it was not advisable to do so, especially as I was doing so well on it. In fact I was told I would have to get used to the idea that I would need the treatment for the rest of my life.

I experienced many battles within my spirit and my emotions as I believed that God's promises in the Bible are for health and not for sickness. Jesus said "I have come that [you] may have life and have it to the full." (John 10 v10). I felt that having treatment for MS for the rest of my life was not what Jesus had promised. The Bible also told me that God's plans for me are good and his desire was to give me a hope and a future (Jeremiah 29 v11). So I concluded that God really wanted me in good health.

One day, some time later, I sensed that something had lifted from me, but I did not experience any healing at that time. In spite of discouragement and the temptation to despair, I held onto the belief that God really had done something significant and refused to believe that I would be suffering from MS for the rest of my life. In August 2003, I felt God wanted me to trust him a step further, and I informed the hospital that I did not wish to take any more medication and I returned my remaining medication to the pharmacy. It was a big leap of faith, but I trusted God to take care of me.

Since that time, I have not needed any medication! I have plenty of energy and I am able to climb up stairs and to walk any distance I need to. My 3 children are no longer at home but my situation remains stable and sure in an uncertain world.

Since coming to Plymouth in 2014, this has continued. Please let God have your heartfelt needs in the name of Jesus, He will surprise and delight you!

Mia MacPherson

### Anagrams for Christmas

Potted plants and bulbs that can be grown indoors are very popular gifts at Christmas. Can you unscramble these words to discover ten popular Christmas plants?

- |                      |               |
|----------------------|---------------|
| 1. SOAP ENTITI       | 2. RICHDO     |
| 3. TOIL VIA FRANCE   | 4. ALICE YELP |
| 5. SATCH CARTS MUSIC | 6. MARY SILLA |
| 7. LANC MYCE         | 8. A THY INCH |
| 9. STORM RASH CISE   | 10. EALAZA    |

by Chris Kirby and Jean Mintoft. Answers over page.

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**If you wish to follow up on anything in this newsletter, please contact the Church Secretary on (01752) 480247.**

## One last time!

After eight and half years as a Street Pastor, much of that time in a leadership role, God decided to bring this aspect of His calling for me to an end. During this time in His service there have been many opportunities to reach out to people in need, not just the drunk by choice, but those who are ill; those who are lonely; those who work the night time economy; and those who chose to avoid the 'system' or the 'system' seems to let down. There have also been many, many instances to experience the power of God's intervention in real time, leading to answered prayer and even saving lives! To bring to an end my role in this amazing work was not easy but, by the time my final patrol arrived, I was comfortable with His guidance and decision.

On this last night, where would He take us? What would He have in store for us? We never know but with the support of our prayer team we step out in faith and trust in Him. After some preparation time, refresher training and prayer we leave Shekinah at 10.30pm heading for the Barbican. There are four in my team this week and as we walk down Notte Street towards the Barbican we share news, say hello to revellers as they move into the city centre and are continually on the lookout for issues, situations and people that might need us. We also look out for that nastiest of incidental weapons – the glass bottle!

Southside St on the Barbican is quiet tonight, there's just a small (and noisy) queue at the cash machine. We walk up to the Pilgrim Steps and arrive just in time for the last ferry's arrival and share a joke or two with some of the travellers, one of whom had even managed to smuggle a bottle on board! We return to the quayside bars and two of us meet up with a group of visitors to the city. They had sailed into Plymouth for the weekend, had enjoyed the Barbican's atmosphere, and were returning to their boat. They were extremely interested in what we were doing and asked a lot of questions about motivation and purpose. How strange that God placed us in a conversation of this nature when this was my last patrol (and this 'fact' even came up in the conversation!).

At the same time, and only 20 feet away in an alleyway, my other 2 colleagues were engaged with a street sleeper with real needs, especially an injured leg that he had sought help with but then declined the treatment! A long time was spent with him offering caring communication and support but ultimately he declined any offer of further intervention. One for the prayer team.

Having been alerted to the possibility that the former bus station at Bretonside had become a 'haven' for street sleepers we made our way there. Last week the section on duty found 10 people in the covered area, this week there was just one person – already asleep. We chose to not disturb him and began to make our way back to base, stopping to have a long conversation with the owner of a burger van who was known to be struggling financially. After a stormy day we also found and removed several versions of that other well known stabbing weapon, the broken umbrella!

After a short break (great toast!) it was our turn to go to North Hill near the University. Here some door staff seemed to indicate that the students were not out in the numbers expected or experienced in previous years and suggested money issues and/or a change of policy at the University might be the most likely causes. There were, however, plenty of students out and about, especially around the Student Union night club and the Cuba/Switch area. We met and had a conversation with two second year students who were really interested in what we did and why, but couldn't grasp the basic principle that it was God-led. One did say she was brought up in a Christian home but had since 'lost' her faith and become 'agnostic'. As soon as they had moved on this

was immediately shared with the prayer team - we didn't get their names but God knows who they are! This was followed by a long conversation with the manager of a bar surrounded by student flats – he was outside measuring the pub noise level. There was real interest in what we do and we, in turn, were informed about some of their plans to secure their future.

The final patrol was in Union Street, circulating between the Octagon and Derry's Cross. Several clubs in this area close around 3am and there are, therefore, a lot of people milling around or moving to those clubs near the Octagon that stay open longer. We help a lady with glass stuck in her foot, chat to a couple of street sleepers sitting in doorways, and chat to and try to help a young man who seems to be the subject of some abuse because he is quite drunk (he refused some water and assistance and staggered off. We didn't see him again on any of our circuits). A long running police incident outside one nightclub/bar attracted a lot of attention but our services were not required. In fact, throughout the whole night, not one club called on the radio for us to attend – this compared to 7 calls during our previous month's patrol!

That's it! The final 6-hour patrol is done! Over 70 bottles removed; over 20 conversations; some flip flops, water and gloves handed out (it was something of a 'nippy' but dry night); and some incidents of assistance and first aid. Yes, the night was reasonably quiet compared to other nights. Yes, the atmosphere did get a little bit aggressive around 2.30 to 3am, but it did quieten down again. But yes, we made a difference, and yes, the presence of God and the power of prayer is needed. All that remains is to clear up, say goodbye to my friends in His service (one of the great things about Street Pastors is that it does not recognise artificial denominational barriers – it is God's work and brings together all who He calls), to lock up and secure the base and to arrange (on Monday!) to hand over the keys to the Section Leader on duty next week.

There is one final 'duty'. As section leader I get passed a mobile phone that another team had found on the street around 3am. The only police around, to whom we would normally pass these things to, were those dealing with the incident at the Union Street club - a 'physical' incident requiring their absolute attention and more important than us 'interrupting' for a mobile. I work in the city centre, so agreed to report the find to 101 and then hand it in to the police on Monday. On Sunday I received a call from an anxious owner who lived in Bodmin and who had had the phone stolen (it was missing its case). She was keen to get it back before travelling home so a hand over was arranged. (I have simplified the actual process!). Had the phone been handed in to the police, this would not have been possible in such a timely manner!

God serves and is in service to His people, regardless of their belief, situation or circumstances. Street Pastors is an example of that service in action – a powerful demonstration of how much He cares for you and I. Please contact us if you would like to know more about God's love for you.

**Graham Titley**



### 'Where in Hooe are these?' Answers

- A. Slipway to Hooe Lake, Yonder Street.
- B. Spring, Shute Quay, Hooe Road (next to Pasty shop).
- C. Gates to Hooe Manor, Belle View Road.
- D. Yonder Street, behind the Royal Oak pub.
- E. Raleigh Stile, near top of Hexton Hill.



### 'Plant Anagrams' Answers

- |                     |               |
|---------------------|---------------|
| 1. Poinsettia       | 2. Orchid     |
| 3. African Violet   | 4. Peace Lily |
| 5. Christmas Cactus | 6. Amaryllis  |
| 7. Cyclamen         | 8. Hyacinth   |
| 9. Christmas Rose   | 10. Azalea    |

