

# The Outlook

December 2005



**Magazine of Hope Baptist Church**

*Our mission is to be Christ's body in the community, demonstrating the Kingdom of God and calling others to become his disciples.*

## **Bringing people to Jesus.....the best gift of all?**

In Matthew's gospel Chapter 2 we find the story of the Magi coming to find the baby Jesus and bringing with them gifts fit for a King. We will be remembering this story again over the coming weeks, as Christmas approaches and we all stop to wonder and worship at the coming of the Son of God into the world.

This year we are NOT asking you to plan to bring gold, incense or myrrh with you to church (although the Building Fund would certainly benefit from the first!). Instead we are challenging every congregation member, young and old, new and long-timer to think about this question.....

### **WHO WILL I BRING TO WORSHIP JESUS THIS YEAR?**

In the calendar year, Christmas is possibly a unique opportunity when friends, family and neighbours will think about coming to church when they most probably would not at any other time. For this reason we must not miss the chance to share with them the wonderful story of what God has done in sending Jesus into the world as a sign of his love for us.

In a survey a couple of years ago in the USA they asked non-churchgoers why they never went to church on Sundays. The second most popular answer was that "no-one has ever invited me". Let's not have the people we are in contact with saying that of us!

Yes it's risky....yes it costs us something...we may have to explain our own faith journey to them ! But it has got to be worth it. At least we are not inviting them to a cold, half-empty building with no signs of life !!!!

Let me encourage you to do something NOW!....Stop reading the Outlook and write the names of 3 individuals or families in the box below. Then pray for them each day, that God will help you to find the right words to invite them, and that they will respond positively.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

John 1 v 41 & 45

*Andrew Gardiner*

## Running through the rain

A little girl had been shopping with her Mum. She was about 6 years old, with beautiful red hair and freckles - the image of innocence. It was pouring outside - absolutely pelting down! Lots of people stood there sheltering just inside the shop door

They waited, some patiently, others irritated, until the girl's voice broke the hypnotic trance they were all caught in. "Mum, let's run through the rain," she said. "What?" Mum asked. "Let's run through the rain!" she repeated.

"No, honey, we'll wait until it slows down a bit," Mum replied.

This young child waited about another minute and repeated: "Mum, let's run through the rain." "We'll get soaked if we do," Mum said.

"No we won't, Mum. That's not what you said this morning," the young girl said as she tugged at her Mum's arm.

"This morning? When did I say we could run through the rain and not get wet?"

"Don't you remember? When you were talking to Daddy about his cancer, you said, 'If God can get us through this, he can get us through anything!'"

The entire crowd stopped dead silent. You couldn't hear anything but the rain. No one came or left in the next few minutes. Mum paused and thought for a moment about what she would say.

Now some would laugh it off and scold her for being silly. Some might even ignore what was said, but this was a moment of affirmation in a young child's life. A time when innocent trust can be nurtured, so that it will bloom into faith.

"You are absolutely right. Let's run through the rain. If God lets us get wet, well, maybe we just needed washing," Mum said.

Then off they ran. Everyone stood watching, smiling and laughing as they darted past the cars and through the puddles. They held their shopping bags over their heads just in case. They got soaked, but they were followed by a few who screamed and laughed like children all the way to their cars.

Circumstances or people can take away your material possessions, they can take away your money, and they can take away your health, but no one can ever take away your precious memories. So, don't forget to make time and take the opportunities to make memories everyday. To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under heaven.

### MAKE TIME TO RUN THROUGH THE RAIN.

They say it takes a minute to find a special person, an hour to appreciate them, a day to love them, but then an entire life to forget them.

Keep in touch with your friends, you never know when you'll need each other - and don't forget to run in the rain!

Yes, it continues to be juggled with the rest of our busy lives, but what opportunities it brings for new friendships and links with families within our church! We regularly pray for all the families who have links with Parent and Toddler groups and there are occasional opportunities for deeper conversations as they arise. Mums really miss the groups when they are not on during the holidays (except the babies group which mostly continues) and are a real source of support and friendship.

However, all of the groups are looking for extra helpers. Kate's baby group on Tuesday morning has fulfilled a great need and continues to be a source of friendship and support. I really need someone to work with me on Tuesday afternoons and be another person to chat to the mums and get alongside them, and be able to lead the group if necessary. Mary Simpson has been my answer to prayer for some occasions when I have been working and has been able to run the group for me, which is great. Beryl needs help on Wednesday afternoons as there are various times when she needs back-up. Jenny may need help in the future on a Wednesday morning.

If anyone is interested in coming along just to see what we do and think about helping, or if you always wanted an excuse to get your hands in some play-dough, here is your opportunity!"



Harry and Karine Yuen have moved.  
Their new address is:

25 Caradon Close,  
Derriford  
Plymouth  
PL6 6AJ



## The Five Finger Prayer

Place your 2 palms together and pray as follows:

- The thumb nearest to my heart reminds me to pray for the ones I love
- The pointing finger reminds me to pray for those who are in authority
- The middle, the tallest finger, reminds me to pray for the Church
- The ring finger, the weakest, reminds me to pray for the most vulnerable people in our world
- And lastly, the little finger reminds me to pray for myself.



*Taken from a 'Care' publication*

THINGS GOD WON'T ASK ON THAT DAY....

God won't ask what your highest salary was.

He'll ask if you compromised your character to obtain it.

God won't ask what your job title was.

He'll ask if you did your job to the best of your ability.

God won't ask how many friends you had.

He'll ask how many people to whom you were a friend.

God won't ask in what neighbourhood you lived,

He'll ask how you treated your neighbours.

God won't ask about the colour of your skin,

He'll ask about the content of your character.

## Christmas 2005 – it's almost on us!

Just a reminder that there is still an alternative option available for giving Christmas presents that benefit someone less materially blessed than your friend or relative.



Through World Vision's latest "alternative gift catalogue" you can buy from a range of 57 gifts, all of which have life-changing effects for children and families living in material poverty. You can buy anything from a mosquito net (£5) to a flock of 6 sheep (£80) to building a water dam giving gallons of water to whole villages (£5,689). Many of the gift options are under £50. The gifts go even further if they are gift aided.

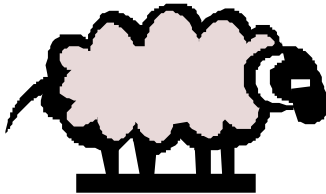
Your friend or relative receives a personalised Christmas card with a message telling them how their gift is helping people out of poverty.

Surely this idea beats the stress of Christmas shopping, is counter-cultural in an increasingly materialistic society and provides a great opportunity to witness to friends and relatives about the living hope we have in Christ. After all, that is what we should be about as a church, isn't it?

You can obtain a gift catalogue from Contrasting Horizons or myself and Hilary. You could also phone World Vision on 0845 600 6445 or go to the website at [www.greatgifts.org](http://www.greatgifts.org).

**The last date for ordering Christmas gifts is Wednesday 14 December 2005.**

*Tony Jopson*





Anyone who's ever written dozens of individual Christmas cards to friends and colleagues knows just how much of a headache that can be.

So here at Hope we shall once again be using the World Vision idea of having one or maybe two giant cards that we can all sign. Then all the money that we are not spending on cards can be put to good use helping some of the world's poorest people. Next to the cards at the back of the church there will be a container for donations.

For every £13 donated World Vision can buy 1 goat, so if we can manage to raise enough for a dozen nanny goats World Vision will be able to help a family to start a small goat herding business.



## Sermon CDs

Copies of each week's sermons are now available on CD. They are in a box on the top of the pigeon-holes, near the door of the church.

These CDs are available to loan or buy - a price has not yet been fixed so donations are accepted. The money should be put in the box with the CDs.



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Whose idea was it to put an "S" in the word "lisp"?



Why doesn't glue stick to the bottle?

Can you cry under water?

## Mission 21

Did you know...

- At the end of the 90s two UK churches closed for every one that opened?
- Between 1995 and 2000 church attendance dropped by 1,600 people every week?
- 40% of the population has never been to church, except for weddings and/or funerals.

But what if....

- You could hear good news about where churches are started and growing?
- You could discover what really works and what doesn't in church planting?
- You could learn from the experience of some of the UK's top church leaders about how to plant and grow new congregations?

Mission 21 is a major conference organised by Wycliffe Bible Translators to look at these issues. It will take place in March 2006 in Sheffield. Look out for more information at the back of the church or log on to the website [www.wycliffe.org.uk](http://www.wycliffe.org.uk).

## Christmas Stamps



The first stamp to refer to Christmas was issued by Canada in 1898. Great Britain did not issue commemorative Christmas stamps until 1966, so were rather latecomers in this theme.

Most countries in the world have special stamps issued to commemorate Christmas. Many also issue Easter stamps as well.

Many aspects of religion have been depicted on the world's first postage stamps, from religious leaders, churches, bibles, etc.

There is a society for collectors of the religious theme called the Guild of Saint Gabriel.

*Submitted by Trevor Fray*

## Prayer Focus



### **Praise God!!**

- \* For the very positive press coverage that we have had over the last month.
- \* For the signs of God at work in our church...those coming to explore faith, making commitments to Christ and growth in others.
- \* For a record level of baptisms in the church this year... probably the highest number since the church opened in 1928!
- \* For an amazing increase in tithes and offerings this year. Our Treasurer anticipates an 18% increase over the 2004 figure!!
- \* For the Buildings Development Project finally getting underway.

### **Let's pray.....**

- For those who will be baptised on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December, Tim Hart, Tim Saunders and possibly others.
- For the 4 men currently doing the Alpha course on Sunday evenings with Mark, Lynda and Andy.
- For those having to cope with illness and infirmity in their families...particularly the Hedges family, the Smiths, and John and Judith Pinch.
- For the Adeney family on the death of Anne's mum. Also pray for Anne's ongoing health difficulties.
- For the many teenagers enjoying the 'Quest' course on Thursday evenings. That they may find faith in Christ.
- For our Christmas services, and for the people who WE, and others, will bring to church during the month of December.
- For the Buildings Development Committee – for all the challenges and decisions they will face in the next 9 months.

**THAT MANY WILL COME TO FAITH IN JESUS  
THROUGH OUR MISSION VENTURES DURING 2006!!**

## We wish you all ice cream!

Last week I took my children to a restaurant. My six-year-old son asked if he could say grace. As we bowed our heads he said, "God is good, God is great. Thank you for the food, and I would even thank you more if Mom gets us ice cream for dessert. And liberty and justice for all! Amen!"

Along with the laughter from the other customers nearby I heard a woman remark, "That's what's wrong with this country. Kids today don't even know how to pray asking God for ice-cream! Why, I never!"

Hearing this, my son burst into tears and asked me, "Did I do it wrong? Is God mad at me?"

As I held him and assured him that he had done a terrific job and God was certainly not mad at him, an elderly gentleman approached the table.

He winked at my son and said, "I happen to know that God thought that was a great prayer." "Really?" my son asked. "Cross my heart," the man replied. Then in a theatrical whisper he added (indicating the woman whose remark had started this whole thing), "Too bad she never asks God for ice cream. A little ice cream is good for the soul sometimes."

Naturally, I bought my kids ice cream at the end of the meal. My son stared at his for a moment and then did something I will remember the rest of my life. He picked up his sundae and without a word, walked over and placed it in front of the woman. With a big smile he told her, "Here, this is for you. Ice cream is good for the soul sometimes; and my soul is good already."



The End  
(anon)

## The Sermon on the Amount

Last Saturday night on the God Channel I watched evangelist J John's talk to the New Frontiers 2005 leadership conference. He referred to the fact that many Christians had not heard "the sermon on the amount". He was referring to the fact that in his experience many Christians evidently have not grasped the responsibility (and benefit) of giving into the church and other Christian projects.

J John reminded the conference that as we can't take money with us when we die, we would be wise to "send it on ahead". We can do this by investing in the commission Jesus gave us by financially supporting organisations that seek to evangelise, make disciples, work for justice and against poverty, baptise and heal the sick in Jesus' name, cast out demons and generally work to "overcome" the powers of darkness and usher in the Day of the Lord.

I am greatly encouraged that giving into Hope Baptist Church this year is currently projected to be some 18% higher than the 2004 figure. This appears to be largely due to new members and first time givers in 2005, although I am sure some faithful long standing members continue to give generously too.

However, on current information 2005 still shows a projected shortfall on budget of between £3,000 and £4,000 but I am quietly confident that we can make this up before 31 December 2005.

We have another challenging budget for 2006 but I am sure we can rise to it. As long as we keep asking for the Holy Spirit to empower us, God will keep His word, bless our work and we will see his Kingdom grow here in Peverell.

Hope Baptist Church is God's witness in this area – let's continue to invest!

Tony Jopson  
Treasurer

## Women's Rendezvous

The **Fashion Show**, which was held on Saturday 12th November raised £210. The evening was greatly enjoyed by those who attended, many commenting what a great fun evening it was.

We would like to thank all those people who supported this event to raise funds for the church building project. We would especially like to thank all the models, who did a splendid job. Our 'Catwalk Queens' were Sandra, Jackie, Beryl, Cherry, Janet and Jean. Well done girls! Watch out Naomi and Kate; you may soon have some serious opposition!

A big thank you to John, our church caretaker, for all the work he did in preparing the hall for the fashion show and for putting the chairs back for us afterwards. God bless you, John.

This fashion show had great potential to raise a lot of money for the church building project had more people felt able to support it.

**Visit to theatre.** On Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November fifteen people went to the Devonport Playhouse to see the musical 'Little Me', a musical performed by the Plymouth Theatre Company. PTC is an amateur theatre company which performs plays, musicals, revues, pantos, etc in their own theatre at Devonport. Anyone who is interested in joining us on our visits to the Devonport Playhouse, please pass me your name so that I can add it to our list. The cost of tickets for their productions is usually £8 to £10. We are hoping to go to the Devonport Playhouse on Friday 9th December to see the Christmas Festivities production by the Plymouth Theatre Company. Anyone wanting to go please let me know ASAP so that I can book the tickets. Prices £9 and £8 (OAP).

**The 14<sup>th</sup> December meeting** will be our Christmas Party. Meet at 7pm and bring along something to eat that can be shared. We plan fun and games and singing a few carols to get us in the Christmas mood.

For our annual **New Year's Get-together** on 18<sup>th</sup> January we shall be going to The Ship Inn and Restaurant at Elburton. The meal costs in the region of £5 to £10 depending on what you order. Ladies in the church are invited to join us for this evening out. Transport can be arranged if required. Speak to Merrilyn for further details.

Jenny Weeks

## University life in Swansea...

*“I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who gave me strength, because he trusted me and gave me this work of serving him” - 1 Timothy 1:12*

When I first arrived at University here in Swansea, there was so much going on that I struggled to find time to really get deep with God and his word. When I finally took the plunge, I hit the book of Timothy and there I found refreshment and revival – God is good!

I’m sitting here now in my room, amazed to see sunshine and watching the mould grow. As I look back on the past seven weeks of my university life, I can’t help but praise God for his incredible blessings and support. From day one God has been walking with me, the best companion, because he’s been there so many times before!

When people tell you starting at University is the most daunting experience, they’re right, but sometimes they fail to mention it’s the most exhilarating! A mixture of nerves and excitement make a crazy enough cocktail - who needs alcohol?

As I met my flatmates over the Saturday and Sunday, something soon became clear; that I was the only Christian in my flat. It was cool though, because I had only wanted Christians in my flat if that was what God had wanted. I was still a bit nervous about being the only Christian, but my excitement at this incredible mission field soon took control.

God will not abandon us, and I experienced that on day one as God introduced me to Johannah and Jenny, two Christians living here in the village. Over the proceeding weeks they were to become incredible friends and incredible blessings. For Johannah had been here for a few weeks already, as the nurses started earlier than the more ‘hard working’ students. Therefore she had already visited one of the local churches, and we soon built our own ‘church hopping’ squad. God had got the ball rolling on church selections and he wasn’t going to waste any time.

Yet the biggest area I have seen God working in, is our flat and particularly my room which has been nicknamed ‘the chaplaincy’. During freshers fortnight a number of the flats in our block would go out to the various ‘socials’ together, before coming back for the 2.30 am theological debate. From suffering to Genesis, abortion to Christ’s life, our debates were from hungry, questioning people - university students. Praise is to God for his support in these debates, whether it is in the form of fellow Christians, or as was the case a few weeks ago, taking control of my words, so that my flatmates understood completely

Of course things have started to cool down, God and I haven't been listening to people's problems at 3am for a few weeks now. But the scene has been set, people feel comfortable to come and open up to me, I cannot thank God enough for this. For in these few weeks, a number of the girls and guys in our block have joined us at the Christian socials, debates and church services. Others have joined me for a 'chat over cappuccino' about suffering, God and general hurts and pains. Many of them haven't made a commitment and may not for a while, but seeds are being sown.

In particular I would ask you to pray for guidance for me, my flatmate Dan has moved on incredibly over these past few weeks and comes to church with us every week. He is yearning to get deeper into the Bible, but struggles with the depth of some of the Bible studies. We have discussed having our own discipleship course, but please pray for God's confirmation.

So has it all been prayer and praise in these few months? Sadly not. God has richly blessed me here at Swansea, and I have let him down so often, and it is here that I feel most encouraged, and wish to encourage you. ***"My grace is enough for you. When you are weak, my power is made perfect in you. So I am very happy to boast about my weaknesses."*** (2 Corinthians 12:9-10)

I have struggled and failed so many times to pray, to praise, to learn, and yet distractions are always there and I have let them take control. Yet once again God stepped in, not only did he continue to work in me, but he led me to a church where I would be challenged time and again. A number of us have settled at Elim Swansea, where every week we are challenged to keep fighting and do better. God is here, he knows our weaknesses and yet he uses us even more once we realise and acknowledge them.

So praise be to God, revival is ringing out here in Swansea, each and every new student from the Christian Union is fighting the same battles, but with God on our side, who can stand against us?

Please pray for the teaching we receive from the Christian Union and churches, that we would be challenged and fired up for saving souls. I would ask you to pray that I would be fired up with a passion to pray, to read and most importantly to praise.

Grace be with you!

James Houston

**We would like to thank everyone who contributes regularly on a Sunday morning, this month we would particularly like to add our thanks for the co-ordinators of each rota (shown in brackets):**

## **December**

### **Coffee**

(Sheila Boddington, formerly Annie Pearce)

- 4 Pat Dodd and Tim Hart
- 11 Nick Beard and Pat Taylor
- 18 Claire Worrall and Nicky Hatherell
- 25 no coffee

### **Transport**

(Ann Munson)

- Mike Munson
- Mike Lummis
- David Brown
- Peter Brown

### **Crèche** (Jackie May, formerly Katharine Gardiner)

- 4 Ray and Cindy Hedges, Karen Beard
- 11 Family service – no crèche
- 18 Jerry/Amanda, Linda Snell, Kelly Hopwood
- 25 Family service – no crèche

### **Flowers** (Pam Smith)

- 4 Mr Mike Holland and Mrs W M Shelton  
*In loving memory of Mr Charlie Shelton*
- 11 -
- 18 -
- 25 Carol  
*In loving memory of Mrs Gwen Pidsley*

### **PowerPoint**

- Cherry Robinson
- Tim S and Dom D
- Sheila Boddington
- Tim S and Dom D

### **Communion** (Ray and Cyndy Hedges)

- |                   |                |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Set-up            | Wash-up        |
| 18 to be arranged | Peter Man      |
| 24 to be arranged | to be arranged |

### **3s-5s leaders and helpers** (Ann Munson)

- 4 Sandy Lashbrook, Shirley Man, Katherine Beard
- 11 Family service – no group
- 18 Ann Munson, Claire Knight, Melanie Hatherell
- 25 Family service – no group

### **Stewards** (Ann Munson)

- 4 Marian Brown, Estelle Robertson, Andrew Jones, Pat Taylor, Robert Canning.
- 11 Ron Dalton Sheila Boddington, Trevor Fray, Sheena Kingdom, Holly B-P.
- 18 Nick Beard, Mike Lummis, Salli Lummis, Tim Hart, David Simpson.
- 18 (pm) Nicky Hatherell, Marian Brown, Pam Smith, Beryl Chun, Jemma Aldersley
- 25 Wilf Smale, Pat and Graham Dodd, Margaret Underdown, Dominic Dalton

Anne-Marie writes

re Tuesday afternoon Parent and Toddler Group...

"In January this year I had heard there was a need for a new Toddler leader as Kate had been doing her 'superwoman' bit and needed to be relieved of the Tuesday Afternoon Toddler Group.

"Help!" I thought, "How can I take something else on?" The more I prayed about it and thought about it, the more I thought it could be manageable. I started to go to a few sessions and really enjoyed the whole atmosphere. God seemed to confirm that it was the right thing to do, so I said I would take it on for a term and see how it went.

Since then I have had a great time, learning names, making new friends, holding babies, playing with toddlers, playing with play-dough, singing songs, breaking guitar strings, tidying toys, cleaning rattles, sweeping up biscuit crumbs and all that jazz. I have had the joy of working alongside Pat, Kelly and Melanie S. Sarah Q, Lisa D and Nicola E have helped and been part of the team where they could, which has been great. Jenny W has recently been helping us on occasions with the tea-making, and Andy and Andrew have been a great support too.

We have occasional 'get-togethers' with the mums. We recently had a cosmetic evening and there are more coming up. The Prayer Labyrinth was well attended by parents and toddlers and stimulated a lot of thought and conversation. We had a Sponsored Toddle for a North Devon Children's cancer charity, which brought people together and support to a particular family we had links with. Several mums have been doing the Alpha Course and it has been a great opportunity for them to discover a new-found faith. It is such a privilege to be involved and build community. We have a night out on November 30th to Cuisine Spontanee for our Christmas 'do' and a trip to Pennywell Farm for a Nativity outing on 7<sup>th</sup> December Mums are regularly invited to family services and of course any other activities in the church that may be of interest. The Christmas services, especially the Toy Service, are going to be a great opportunity to invite families along.



## **SERVICE 2005**

On **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December** we have the chance to come together to celebrate the wonderful Christmas story, and the news that Jesus has come into the world, to seek and save people who are lost without Him.

As seen through the eyes of animals in the stable, the truth unfolds as we enjoy our wonderful singing group HY-FI, HYDROS dancers and drama group DACOS and many others of all ages, playing parts and telling the story.

At this event we will be pleased to receive wrapped gifts, which will go to the children at the Plymouth Women's Refuge Centre. Please would you make sure that your gifts are marked as to whether they are for a boy or girl, as appropriate. An age guideline would be helpful too. Children at the Refuge range in age from birth to 16.

We really want these children, who are living in very difficult circumstances, to know that we love and care for them. Last year the number of presents was enough to fill several large bags. Let's see if we can even out-do that this year!!

If you would like to make a gift of money to the Refuge instead, or as well, envelopes will be available to collect from Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November.

**Please bring your gift along in an envelope to the Toy Service.**



## December Diary

- Fri 2 7.00 While Shepherd Watched 'the musical'  
at Pennycross Methodist
- Sun 4 10.00 Prayer in the Lower Guildroom\*\*  
10.30 'Peace and Justice' Isaiah 11:1-9  
(Baptismal Service)
- Mon 5 7.30-8.30 Prayer meeting in the Guildroom
- Tues 6 10.00 Mums and Baby Group\*\*  
This group finishes for Christmas on Dec 20<sup>th</sup> then meets next on Jan 10<sup>th</sup>)  
1.30 Prayer Group, \* venues vary, please ask
- Wed 7 Parent & Toddler Nativity trip to Pennywell Farm  
(P&T does not meet again until 10/11<sup>th</sup> January 2006)
- Thurs 8 10.00 Coffee Morning\*\*  
6.30-8.00 H-Y-Powered \*
- Fri 9 7.00-8.30 The Hype, youth group, years 7 to 9\*  
8.15-10.00 Re:Act, youth group, years 10 to 12\*
- Sun 11 10.30 Toy Service
- Mon 12 7.30-8.30 Prayer meeting in the Guild Room
- Tues 13 6.30-8 Carol singing around Peverell
- Wed 14 7.00 Women's Rendezvous Christmas Party
- Sun 18 10.30 'Destiny's Child' Isaiah 9:1-7  
6.30 Carols by Candlelight
- Sat 24 11.15pm Midnight Communion Service
- Sun 25 10.00 Christmas Day family service  
Please bring along a present to open during the service



\*These meetings are held weekly **during term time only**

\*\*These meetings meet weekly **all through the year**

Fellowship groups now meet on various nights and in different weeks so check with group leaders when yours is meeting.

## **Advance notices**

### **January 2006**

Sun 1 Joint Family Service with St Pancras and Pennycross Methodist (at Hope)

Mon 2 New Year Walk

### **February**

12 Community Quiz Night, more details to follow.

### **BMS Birthdays**

6<sup>th</sup> December - Margaret Tripp



# CROSSLINE

**Would you like to improve your listening skills?**

## ACORN CHRISTIAN LISTENERS COURSE

In response to Crossline's urgent need to recruit additional new listeners to cover our 24-hour telephone listening line, we are hosting an Acorn Mini Course.

**There will be an introductory session on  
9<sup>th</sup> January 2005 from 7.30pm to 9.30pm.  
The course will then run at this time for four  
consecutive Mondays commencing 23<sup>rd</sup> January.**

*Venue: Crossline, 37-41 Grenville Road, St Judes, Plymouth*

If you are already involved in a Listening Ministry, or feel called to be, possibly with Crossline, then this course is for you.

Three aspects of listening will be covered:

**Listening to God  
Listening to ourselves  
Listening to others**

For further information please ring Kathryn McGuinness  
any weekday morning on 01 752 664243

# While Shepherds Watched.....

*A Christmas Musical by Roger Jones*

Mustard Seed Choir - with HY-FI

Friday December 2<sup>nd</sup>

7 pm

at

Pennycross Methodist Church



Free entrance  
(A collection will be taken)



Why do we press harder on a remote control when we know the batteries are flat?

Why do banks charge a fee on 'insufficient funds' when they know there is not enough