



Rehoboth Baptist Church

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**Newsletter
December 2006**



This is how God showed his love among us: he sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

1 John 4 : 9

**Visit our Website -
www.rehoboth.org.uk**

The Heart of the Matter

Our Christmas advertising this year uses the statement, '**Jesus at the heart of Christmas**'. When you think about it, it's sad that such a statement should be necessary, isn't it? Surely the 'heart of Christmas' must be Jesus Christ. Certainly lots of carols will be sung about his birth by lots of people. I mean, I can count 16 occasions in my diary this month when I shall be singing &/or playing carols at different venues. To some people the words have significance, enabling them to express praise to God for sending us a Saviour. For others it's just nice to sing them because they are part of the Season of Goodwill.

What's at the heart of Christmas for you? Is it the carols, or the festive fare, or the giving and receiving of presents? Certainly for many the heart of Christmas is money – no more, no less. Shops and stores have to survive, of course, and they depend on us spending lots of it on their premises. But, apparently, the 'High Street' is facing its worst Christmas for 25 years. Analysts forecast that spending this month will be up by a mere one per cent on last year. And with two in five Christmas gifts likely to be bought over the web, spending on the internet over these four weeks is predicted to hit £7billion, up by forty per cent on last year, but potentially knocking the heart out of traditional trading. Yes, the heart of Christmas seems to be money, i.e. whether

there's enough being spent and where.

What a tension there is for us between the pull of Christmas shopping and celebrations, and the pursuit of knowing Christ – of putting him at the heart of our Christmas. I believe we need to seek his heart afresh this season. Martin

Smith, the song writer, puts it like this:

***Lord, you have my heart,
And I will seek for yours.***

And words of an old gospel song come to mind:

***Into the heart of Jesus deeper
and deeper I go,
Seeking to find the reason why
he should love me so.***

It's if we desire to seek his heart, that we will find Jesus to be at the heart of this Christmas.

May I wish you a Christ centred Christmas and a Spirit filled new year, with my love.

Steve Piggott

Mobile: 07712 685 336

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Fellowship news - Please remember in your prayers the various Carol Services being held this month in the care homes with which we have regular contact. We give thanks for the Open Air Service being held in the Carfax on Saturday 2nd December and even more exciting is the news that we have been given the opportunity to sing carols in the New Street Gardens on Thursday 21st December at 7pm. Please come along suitably attired so that we can all make it a joyful celebration.

We are thankful that Steve has been given the all clear after his angiogram and continue to remember in our prayers those who are unwell at this time. Including our friend Irene from Page Court and Hannah who is still signed off work.

HORSHAM CHRISTIAN SINGERS



Invite you to an evening of Seasonal choral music

A Christmas Celebration

At

Broadbridge Heath Village Centre

On 4th December 2006 at 8 pm

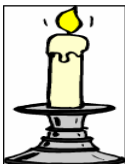
There will be a retiring collection in aid of St Catherine's Hospice



HighWay and Pathfinders would like to thank everyone who helped raise over £50 toward the restoration and running of the Nutley Windmill by supporting the recent Disney Singalong evening.

The time has come, the kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!
Mark 1:15

★
★ **Carols by Candlelight**
★ **Sunday 17th December at 5.30pm**
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As well as being a very special time of praise and worship this is also a great opportunity to invite friends or family who don't usually attend a church service. Make sure you come early to get a seat.

★
★ **Thursday 21st December at 7pm**
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We are holding our first celebration "ever" in the recently opened New Street Gardens (half way up New Street on the left). Please spread the word among friends and family and come wrapped up warm for a short time of carols in celebration of Christmas.

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★ **CHRISTMAS DAY**
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We invite you all to join in the celebration of the birth of our Saviour on Christmas morning at 10am.

Steve will be leading our worship and the service is planned to finish by 10.45am.

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★ **NEW YEARS EVE**
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Please note that this year as New Year's Eve falls on a Sunday we will not be holding our normal 6.30pm Evening Service. Instead we invite everyone to come along at 11.15pm for a time of reflective praise, worship and prayer followed by a hot drink to see the New Year in.

“Go... and make disciples”



It was a great challenge to meet with Matt Gamston over Friday/Saturday the 17th/18th November and to hear of the work in Cubao, Metro Manilla in the Philippines. Matt met with HighWay and Pathfinders on Friday evening and shared his personal testimony. This generated some searching questions and we pray that those who were asking them will have been inspired by the answers received. After the serious stuff Matt enjoyed a game of football saying that it's the main thing he misses in the Philippines!

On the Saturday morning we held an open breakfast and around 40 people got up early and came to listen to Matt's presentation about the work with street families living in the area around the Cubao church. Matt highlighted many stories of people in great need not only for material things such as food and shelter but also spiritually of the gospel. Whilst great efforts are being made in evangelism Matt was at pains to point out that the fruits of the labours have not always been evident. This is not a story of a "quick fix" and we were all urged to uphold Matt and the other workers constantly in prayer as well as in our practical support.



Tearfund & Traidcraft Sale

Thank you to everyone who supported the Tearfund and Traidcraft Sale on Saturday 4th November. The sale was well attended and overall a total of around £500 sales were made for Tearcraft and £100 for Traidcraft.

It's not too late to buy Traidcraft food before Christmas. Please speak to Stuart if you want to make a pur-

DECEMBER CALENDAR

SUNDAY	3rd	10.30am 6.30pm 6.30pm	Steve Piggott + Communion Stuart Beadle Bryce Lodge Carol Service
Tuesday	5th	8.00pm	Elder's & Deacons Prayer Meeting
Wednesday	6th	8.00pm	Prayer & Bible Study : Littlehaven Cottage
Thursday	7th	10.00-12.30	OPEN HOUSE : Rehoboth
Friday	8th	10.00am 8.00pm	WAM Bible Study : 54 Blakes Farm Road Pathfinders & HighWay
Saturday	9th	8.30am	Early Prayer Meeting : Rehoboth
SUNDAY	10th	10.30am 6.30pm 8.00pm	David Ansell Andrew Cooke Home Evangelism Prayer Meeting
Tuesday	12th	2.30pm	Tuesday Fellowship : Carol Service
Wednesday	13th	10.00am 8.00pm	Gillett House Carol Service Prayer & Bible Study : 18 Swan Close, Southwater
Thursday	14th	10.00-12.30 7.30pm	OPEN HOUSE : Rehoboth The Upper Room : 59 Oak Tree Way
Friday	15th	10.00am 8.00pm	WAM Christmas get-together at Church Pathfinders & HighWay
Saturday	16th	8.30am	Early Prayer Meeting : Rehoboth
SUNDAY	17th	10.30am 5.30pm	Steve Piggott Carols by Candlelight
Wednesday	20th	10.30am 8.00pm	Greenways Carol Service Prayer & Bible Study : 30 Cambridge Road
Thursday	21st	10.00-12.30 7.00pm	OPEN HOUSE : Rehoboth Carols for New Street—New Street Gardens
Friday	22nd	11.00am	Page Court Carol Service
Saturday	23rd	8.30am	Early Prayer Meeting : Rehoboth

SUNDAY	24th	10.30am	Stuart Beadle
Monday	25th	10.00am	Steve Piggott—Christmas Morning Service
Saturday	30th	8.30am	Early Prayer Meeting : Rehoboth
SUNDAY	31st	10.30am 11.15pm	Kevin Borrett New Years Eve Service
Wednesday	3rd	8.00pm	Prayer & Bible Study : 186 New Street

Preaching out this month (as advised by 30.11.06)

3rd: David Ansell—Charlwood 3pm
17th: David Ansell—Charlwood
31st: David Ansell—Rudgwick



CHURCHES ON THE ASSOCIATION PRAYER DIARY

3rd December—BERMONDSEY (S Baker)

10th December—TOTTENHAM (G Childress) We praise God for several new members last winter. One was saved aged 79; another, who had lived for nightclubs, aged 19. God is able!

17th December— EAST HAM (N Lacey) We give God the praise as 2 recent converts were baptized and joined the church as members in June.

24th December—BRENTFORD (R Lindie) We praise God for 2 men baptized this year and up to 40 children attending the midweek children's meeting. Please pray for spiritual growth and commitment within the fellowship.

31st December—MARGATE (M Swales)



GENERAL INFORMATION

Sunday Morning Worship

Our young people join us for the first part of our Sunday morning services and then have their own groups:-

Crèche: Babies and Toddlers
Primary: Pre-school, Reception & Years 1 & 2
Junior: Years 3, 4 & 5
Intermediate: Years 6, 7 & 8
Senior: Years 9, 10 & 11

For further information phone 01403 250021

Prayer & Bible Study meetings

These meetings are held on a Wednesday evening at 8pm, either at the church or in various members' homes.

For further information phone 01403 266193

WAM—Young Mum's Group

This group meets at 10am on Friday mornings in various homes and a crèche is provided for children.

For further information phone 01403 241067

Women's Fellowship

This group meets fortnightly on Tuesday afternoons at 2.30pm.

For further information phone 01403 263397

Open House The Church is open each Thursday 10am—12.30pm for any to drop in for a chat - tea, coffee, biscuits, papers, Fair Trade Stall.

Pathfinders

This Group, for young people in school years 6, 7 & 8, meets at 8pm on Friday evenings.

For further information phone 01403 250021

HighWay

This Group, for young people in school year 9 upwards, meets at 8pm on Friday evenings.

For further information phone 01403 256525

Pastoral Elder: Steve Piggott, **Mobile:** 0771 268 5336
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