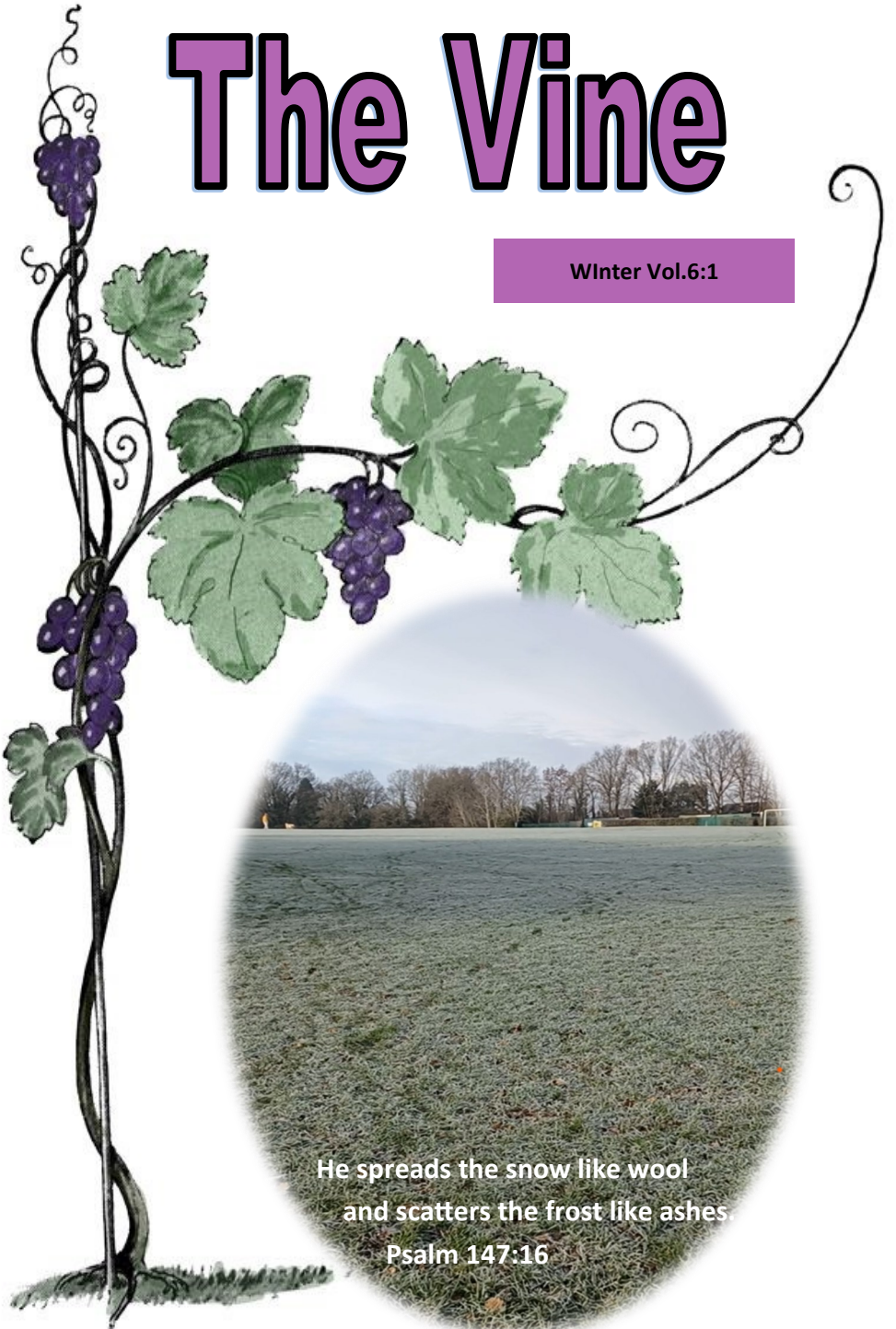


The Vine

Winter Vol.6:1



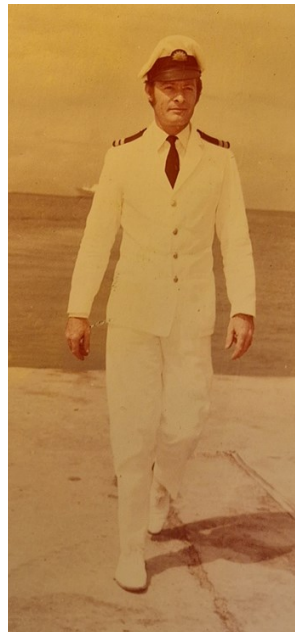
He spreads the snow like wool
and scatters the frost like ashes.
Psalm 147:16

How I see it...

It was my brother-in-law's uncle's funeral yesterday. He lived alone, opposite my sister and family, and she did much of the caring for him during the past few years. He was 92 and had been in ill-health for some time. He often fell, and mostly wasn't wearing the alarm he'd been issued. There were numerous problems with his pill "machine" and he, or the emergency services would ring at all times of the day and night, sometimes meaning she'd have to come back from work, she has a high-powered demanding job, to deal with whatever crisis had occurred. I never met him, and, only hearing about him from my sister, I just pictured him as a grumpy old man... lonely, longing to die, and feeling he was a waste of space and of his council home....

My sister then sent me the order of service and notes she had made. ..

- WWII he was aged 6-12-had to be man of the family
- Left school at 14
- RAF - national service
- Merchant navy - worked on Canberra (amongst others) in the purser's office whilst really interested in drama - wrote plays - went to a TV audition - "you'll never make it as an actor cos you can't keep the same accent!"
- Met all sorts - Peter Sellers amongst others.
- Then a theatre (operating) porter at RHCH



These notes, and the photos suddenly gave me a very different, and interesting picture of this man.

How often does this happen? We go to funerals and discover we barely knew anything about the person's history, even when they're a close family member. But more... how often do we look at someone and just see an "old lady", an "ancient man"? When we visit relatives who are older than us, or make friends with those already retired, do we ask about their early lives, their occupations, interests, where they have lived or travelled?

At other times, when we *do* find out things about people, do we look at them in a less positive light? We discover that they have had many partners, have had children out of wedlock, have been in prison... How do we then treat them?

Jesus looked deeply at people, but never condemned them. for who they were or what they had done. I loved the series of devotions we had recently that looked at unnamed people He had helped. These included the "woman caught in adultery"... forever known only by that epithet. But Jesus treated her with sympathy and respect, never condoning her sin, but not judging her. I was also thinking about the woman Jesus met at the well, as it is obvious that He knows her story, and offers her "living water".

So, let's look at people through different eyes. Let's chat about what makes us tick, how we come to be where we are, our histories and interests. Let's not label people with unhelpful one dimensional titles. And let's treat everyone with the respect and forgiveness that Jesus Himself showed to all He met.

Word from a minister	Revd Samuel Hearle	p.5
Our Charities...	Global Challenge	p.6
	BCT	p.9
Going Green...		p.11
	I'll just google that...	p.12
Our Church Family... Getting to know you...		p.14
Working for the Lord...	Fleur and Alex	p.16
Forthcoming events & groups at QRBC...		p.18
Reviews... "Aladdin" and "Christmas Carol"		p.20
Christmas quiz results		p.22
Caption Competition		p.23

The Vine is Queens Road Baptist Church's occasional magazine.

Next edition due out just before Easter

It is available as an online edition, and in hard-copy from the church & can be delivered to those unable to access it online nor able to get to the church.

Editor - lmyhill@live.co.uk

QRBC churchoffice@qrb.net

website - <https://qrbchurch.online/>

A word from a minister...

Choices

We are constantly making choices in life aren't we? Every day we consciously and unconsciously choose one thing over another. The bible often presents choices – decisions to be made, which way will I go? What will we choose?

In Jeremiah chapter 17 we find such a choice – a choice to be a 'stunted bush in the desert' or to be a 'flourishing tree planted by a stream'. These are two strong and contrasting images aren't they. Which are you at the moment? Which am I? Are you struggling in a desert, or are you flourishing by stream? Dry and empty or refreshed and full?

The choice presented to us in this chapter is whether we are going to live lives trusting in the Lord God or not, whether we are going to invest our time in a relationship with the Lord God, learn to listen to His wisdom for our life, or not.

For those who choose the Lord, for those who make a relationship with God a priority, Jeremiah records – 'They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.' Jeremiah 17:8

Are you in a drought at the moment? Are you feeling the heat and pressure at this time? Put your roots down in the Lord, draw deeply, and flourish.

Our charities...



Global Challenge are busy planning future trips to Soroti, Uganda. We are planning to go in October 2025 and would like to take a few extra people with us. Last year, just a small group of trustees went over. Brian went to assess and begin helping with technology in the school, Stephen to check on the land planned for a new school,



while Angela and Tracey

carried out Special Needs training around the district.

This year, we'd like to take up to ten people to carry out



maintenance work on the school. Crossroads Secondary School needs a bit of painting and work doing on the rain collection system they have there. We are hoping to take a few people who don't mind doing a bit of hard work. We are also hoping to take out a few younger people with us.

In 2026, we are hoping to do a slightly extended trustee visit for two or three weeks. Our trustees, Stephen and Brian, want to look at how we might develop a piece of land to extend Crossroads Secondary School.

In 2027, we are hoping to take a much larger group, possibly from St. George's Secondary School in Broadstairs.

If you think that this is something you might like to be involved in, in the coming years, then please come and talk to one of the trustees or send us a message through our [contact page](#) on our website. We really would like to encourage more and more people to come out with us.

We want to say a huge “THANK YOU” for all the support that we had last year. Over the Christmas period alone, we raised in the region of £2000. We are really, really, grateful for these donations. Global Challenge needs to raise £3,500 a month, every month, just to keep doing what we are doing. There are 350 students in Crossroads Secondary School, and we supply the ingredients for them to have a lunchtime meal. We pay for the teacher’s salaries and a Co Ordinator, Pastor Abraham, who makes sure everything runs smoothly. We also pay Billy, our Special Needs Co Ordinator, who, with his team of volunteers, identifies families who would benefit from support from Global Challenge. All these things wouldn’t happen without your generosity and the commitment we get from all our supporters. So, again, thank you!

Please look out for our [social media pages](#) to see if there are any children you would be able to support through our Special Needs Project.



We are still collecting recipes for a Global Challenge Recipe Book which we hope to publish later in the year.

Please send recipes, photos and drawings to: traceymason@globalchallengecharity.com

Check out our developing [Resources Page](#) on our website, to see if you can share your ideas to help our partners in Soroti with their work and care when working with children, namely with special needs.



Ecclesiastes 3:12 (NIV)

I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live.

Galatians 5:13-26 (NIV)

You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.

Peter 4:10 (NIV)

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.

If you’d like to know anything more about Global Challenge, please talk to one of the trustees and do look at our website and social media pages:



Bethany Children's Trust

A NEW SEASON FOR BCT

"Oh, sing to the Lord a new song! For He has done marvellous things." — Psalm 98:1

BCT has recently navigated a season of challenge and change, including a significant restructure. While the journey has been difficult, we have been sustained by God's unfailing loving kindness every step of the way. The vine has been pruned, cut back to make it stronger and indeed more fruitful. Today, we emerge as a smaller yet determined team, helped and guided by the unwavering support of our dedicated Trustees: Gill, Hazel, and Rose.

SAME VISION, RENEWED FOCUS BCT remains unwavering in its mission: "To equip the Christian Church to lead the way in building both local and global communities where children at risk are loved, valued, safe, nurtured, included, and free to reach their God-given potential." Over the years, we have witnessed profound transformations in the lives of children, churches, and communities as leaders apply the insights from BCT's training materials. These stories inspire us, whether it's children with disabilities being warmly embraced by church communities or broader cultural shifts that reflect greater inclusivity and care, the impact has been both lasting and life-changing.

As we move forward, we are attuned to God's voice and refining our focus to grow this transformation through three core priorities:

1. INFLUENCING CHANGE THROUGH BCT'S TRANSFORMATION

RESOURCES We are dedicated to expanding the accessibility of BCT's resources and training materials. Through our website and in partnership with other Christian sharing our vision, we aim to protect children at risk and promote meaningful change.

2. EQUIPPING AND ENCOURAGING THROUGH TRAINING AND

ACTIVITIES By providing grants to support training initiatives and local activities inspired by BCT's resources, we empower leaders and projects to create a lasting, positive impact in the lives of children and their communities.

3. TRANSFORMING CHILDRENS LIVES BY PARTNERING WITH

GRASSROOTS PROJECTS We are committed to walking alongside our project partners, offering ongoing support, guidance, prayer, and encouragement as they pursue their goals and steward their resources effectively.

As unrest and fighting has increased in Goma, we have been concerned for the welfare of the LVLE project there. The latest news we have was sent on Thursday, but I am in regular communication with BCT...

PRAYERS FOR Laissez Vivre Les Enfants (LVLE) - GOMA DRC

Dear BCT, greetings and peace from Christ. The war situation in the east of the country is still the most complex issue and requires much prayer. Please pray for peace in this part of our country. At the moment, apart from the fighting and the sounds of war, there are people who are very destabilised and children who are losing their lives as they flee or are displaced. I think this is the most worrying request.

Pray also for all the members of LVLE and the synergies who have been located and returned to areas of war turmoil.

Pray also that LVLE will continue its work, for it is there that the work will intensify more and more.

Thank you so much for this burden, my sister, and may God watch over you. Rev. Jean –Paul

Going green

Those of you in the services this morning (2nd Feb) will have heard Abi's thought-provoking and well-delivered sermon on the environment, our created world, and the part we have to play in looking after it. We were also honoured to hear from the Mayor of Broadstairs and St Peter's, and thank him for not only giving up his time to come and speak to us in both services, but also mingling afterwards to listen to church members' queries. He gave us some good practical, realistic ideas for making our own community greener. I am particularly keen to pick up on the idea of tasty planters, begun two years ago by the Town Team. I have since looked these up..

The project: to grow vegetables in a public space. The aim: to support wellbeing and social inclusion through this project. It's been great fun! From the beginning it was our plan to engage residents, local councillors, businesses and organisations in the development and sustainability of the project. Within a few weeks we were ready to plant. We had a wonderful response and were able to install the 6 planters in the park. The wooden planters were built by the members of Broadstairs Town Shed..

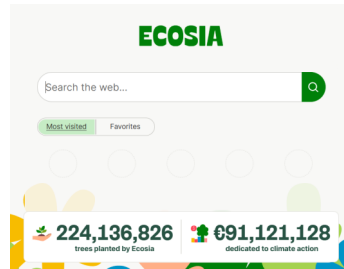
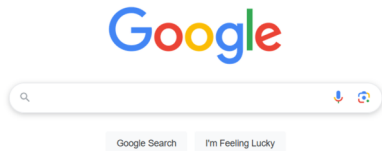
Then the fun really began. We filled the planters with yummy crops and immediately there were curious conversations being had with our volunteers on how to grow different vegetables and how could people have a go at home. One of the planters was dedicated to edible flowers, which raised a few eyebrows initially, and looked gorgeous! Four further planters have gone up in St Peter's.

Wouldn't it be great to have a QRBC tasty planter outside the church? I'm sure that would mark another step along our path to a gold award!

Meanwhile, a huge thanks to Rita for this... 'A teaspoon of healthy soil contains 40 billion micro-orgasms. For comparison, the population of the earth is about 8.2 billion. There is no doubt soil is amazing,'

We have been using the no dig approach to gardening for the last few years on our allotment and at home as we knew the soil had a lot of orgasms in it. We make our own compost and put that on, our soil is very healthy as we have lots of worms!

The power behind the search...



How many times a week, or even a day, do we hear the phrase 'just Google it'? It's probably safe to assume that 90% of people reading this will have used Google to search something at least once, but how many of us have stopped to think about the energy a Google search uses?

I'm sure most of us are guilty of a 'pointless' Google search every once in a while, perhaps: 'why is the sky blue?' Or, 'what's the meaning of life?'. Hands up how many of us thought that the answers were just 'there'. We may think these are harmless wonderings, if like me, you didn't realise what happened behind each search.

Here's the answer (guess how I found it):

The energy consumption of a Google search can vary, but on average, it is estimated to use about **0.3 to 1 kWh (kilowatt-hour)** of energy per search. This includes the energy required for running Google's data centres, processing the search query, and delivering the result to your device. To put it in perspective, 1 kWh is roughly the amount of energy consumed by a typical LED light bulb over 10-12 hours.

So, what can we do to reduce our impact?

1. Be more mindful - be clear and concise with each search, and don't ask pointless questions. If you're not itching to know, try writing them down until you have enough for a library visit.
2. Use an eco-friendly search engine like Ecosia, which uses 100% of its profits for the planet and produces enough renewable energy to power all searches twice over. I had heard of this a long time ago but had no idea (and I'll admit, no interest) about why it was 'green'. Such a simple change that us frequent Googlers can make, and there's even an app!
3. Bookmark frequently used sites - Directly access sites you use often instead of searching for them repeatedly. Saves time too!
4. Search during off-peak hours - Servers consume less energy when fewer people are searching, reducing overall demand. Maybe that 3am craving to know what the best washing machine is is justified!
5. Enable 'dark mode' or energy-saving settings - Many search engines and devices offer energy-efficient display modes.
6. Limit video searches - Streaming videos alongside searches uses significantly more energy.
7. Optimise your device - Stop ignoring those software updates! These can help your device run as smoothly as possible and minimise energy consumption.

Use offline resources - Instead of Googling, consult offline resources for information when possible. Or, be okay not knowing. Engage in fun conversations with friends or family and see if they can help you, they might surprise you!

So, before typing out your next query - whether it's to solve a trivia mystery, find a local tradesperson, or search for life's deeper meaning - consider an alternative. Reach for a book, strike up a conversation, or simply pause and look around. Sometimes, the answers we seek are closer than we think.

Our Church Family...

It has long been my aim to use the Vine to get to know our church family better. We are a large church, and there are many people whom I've known for years by sight, and maybe by name, but no more than that... I return to my opening spiel; too often we just see "someone in their 20s/40s/60s/80s etc" and think no more deeply about them than that.

Chris has taken this on as an ongoing project, having devised an interview template to be used with as many people as possible! Please see him if you would like to share your own story...

Our first interview response (guinea-pig) comes from Michael Jupp. Thank you Michael...

1. *How did you become connected with QRBC/The Gap Project?*

Moved to Ramsgate in 2018, tried a few other churches, welcomed at QRBC - settled!

2. *What subjects were your best and worst in school?*

BEST: English Lang & Lit. WORST: R.E.

3. *What was your first job?*

1961-63 Saturday shelf-filler at Tesco; just a little shop in those days

4. *Do you have any fears (irrational or otherwise?)*

Fear of going (more) doolally/being a burden

5. *What is your favourite work of fiction (book, film, play)?*

Varied interests... history/biographies/novels

6. *Do you have a favourite dish to cook (savoury or sweet)*

BBQ

7. *Where in the world would you love to go that you have not yet visited?*

Have travelled widely; am quite content

8. *What one piece of advice would you give to your 16 year-old self?*

Apply yourself a bit more

9. *What led you to become a person of faith?*

**Youth Club in the 1960s (not much else...) Great leaders
(Also, Girls!!) Slow process**

10. *What impact would you say your faith has on your life now?*

**Total... having to adjust following the death of my wife
Patricia in 2023... we had been together for 60 years. Very
difficult**

Working for the Lord...

Fleur & Alex

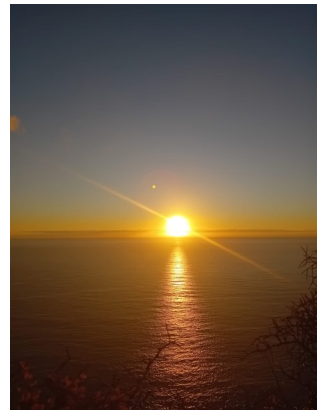


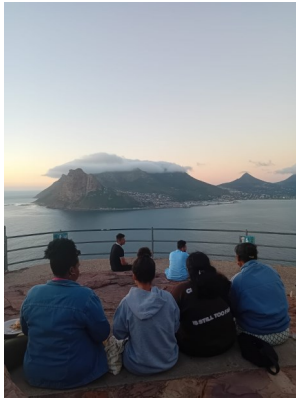
Fleur and Alex arrived in Cape Town on the 9th January, and began their three month YWAM Bible Course the next day.

I had a video call with Fleur last week. She was sitting in a sleeveless top in over 30° heat, whilst I sat, wrapped in jumpers and a blanket, in 4° ... But they're working really hard,

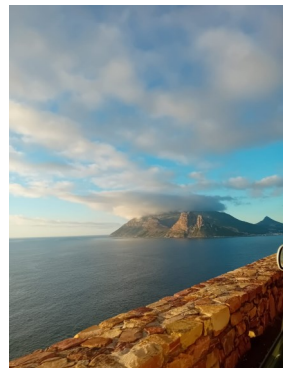
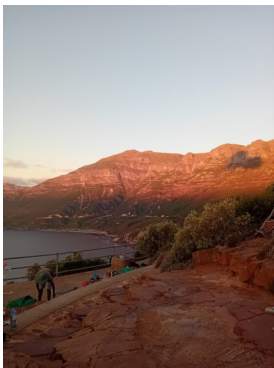
They are on a huge YWAM base with many separate buildings. They have their own room in a building shared by a few others, with its own reception room, but they all eat together elsewhere.

Their days begin with worship and prayer, continue with teaching sessions, and end doing homework .





They have assignments to complete every week, including sharing a summary of that week's books verbally with someone not on the course. Last week Fleur sent me her summary of all 5 books of the Pentateuch (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers & Deuteronomy) by voice note. I listened to them whilst playing with my 2 year old granddaughter, Olive. She suddenly looked up and repeated "Noah!" and then, a couple of minutes later "Moses!" Fleur's summary was so clear and concise... I look forward to the next ones.



Coming soon to QRBC...

February and March – Three Extra Opportunities that will help us as followers of Jesus.

Digging Deeper Sessions

Stephen Cave will be helping us think about 'Justice' – with his provocative title – 'Is God just or just bad tempered?'

Four sessions

7.30-9pm on Monday evenings in Feb – 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th

Or 1-2.30pm on Tuesday Afternoons in Feb – 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th

Making Disciples Course –

This eight-session course will help us think about and apply what it means to be followers of Jesus.

Come along on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays in February, March and April to find out more. The evenings will include some worship, a teaching video and a chance to talk together. Starting Feb. 10th at 7.30pm.

Resound Worship Event – Tuesday March 11th – 7.30pm

Resound Worship are bringing their latest worship project 'Downcast Souls – Expectant Hearts' to QRBC. This will be an evening of high-quality musical worship. The first half will focus on themes of 'Lament' - songs written about the struggles of life, drawing on the Lament passages in our Scriptures. The second half will focus on our Christian Hope.

Tickets will be on sale £10 for adults – under 18's free.

If you using a streaming service to listen to music, you can hear the album connected with this tour – search 'Resound Music – Downcast Souls Expectant Hearts'

QRBC Groups

Minus 1

Our new group for anyone who is widowed
(no matter when/how long)

If you are interested in joining the group, please do get in touch with me, Lynn, on ljmyhill@live.co.uk and I can tell you a little more.

We are meeting fortnightly; on one meeting a month we are following an 8 part well-being programme (beginning on Feb 3rd). On the other meeting, it will be more an informal gathering with a chance to chat and share.

Ladies' Group

Continental Breakfast (in support of 'Still Waters')

Saturday 8th February 2025. 9.00 am to 11.00 am

We would like to invite you to come along and hear about the work of 'Still Waters' counselling services and to hear Rita's testimony. There is no charge for this event, but donations are welcome on the day towards catering and the opportunity to support 'Still Waters'. This is an ideal time to invite your friends and neighbours, all ladies welcome. Please sign up on the notice board outside the Worship Area

Theatre Reviews... It's behind us...

Every year the JUST Group and friends have a trip to the Sarah Thorne Theatre to enjoy the pantomime, and every year we emerge into the winter afternoon exhausted but happy from shouting and losing ourselves in the crazy upside down world that we've been part of.

This year it was **"Aladdin"** so we booed the villain, applauded the dancing girls and marvelled at the Dame's costume changes.



This year the pace seemed faster than ever, but we still had time for all the traditional

routines. We looked behind us, sang the silly song and gave a splendid rendition of the Pizza Hut song.

Who's for "Dick Whittington" next year?

I usually book the seats in March!

John Simmonds

A Christmas Carol

I invited Dickens-loving friends to the opening night of A Christmas Carol, performed by our own Chris Matthewman and Brian Langsdon, and was a little worried if they would enjoy it. I shouldn't have doubted... the intimate venue of the refurbished Pierremont Hall was perfect for such a venture, and we were really impressed by the thorough professionalism of the whole production. Wittily adapted from the original, by Chris, it included song, poems and puppetry. Although there were un-Dickensian additions and anachronisms, these only added to the fun. Yet the serious message of the original shone through.

Highlights for me included the verbal exchanges between Chris and Brian, the Tiny Tim ventriloquism, and, of course, the very clever "Bell" song.

If you missed it, you'd better hope they perform it again this year!



Christmas Quiz

Huge thanks from Fleur and Alex, and me, to all who bought copies of the Christmas Song Quiz. I hope you enjoyed filling it in. I had two fully correct sheets handed back in.

Congratulations to Tim Attride and Margaret Tilbury (both members of my choir...)

For those still interested, here are the answers...

1. WIAWW Walking in a Winter Wonderland
2. OCAYF Oh Come All Ye Faithful
3. RTRNR Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer
4. OHN O Holy Night
5. TCS The Christmas Song
6. WTK We 3 Kings
7. ASCT A Spaceman Came Travelling
8. AIAM Away in a Manger
9. FONY Fairytale of New York
10. IENLDE Il est né le Divin Enfant
11. WSW While Shepherds watched
12. SB Santa Baby
13. WSGSUTC When Santa got Stuck up the Chimney
14. GRYMG God rest you Merry Gentlemen
15. GWK Good King Wenceslas
16. IBLTC It'll be Lonely This Christmas
17. DTH Deck the Halls
18. TSDC The Sans Day Carol
19. TSC The Sussex Carol
20. TWC The Wexford Carol



THANK YOU ALL! A good response!

Linda Watson's contribution this time is
"Oh I wish It could be Christmas every day"

Sheila Burke was on top form with
"I've got Christmas licked", and
"Santa looking dog tired after a busy night."

But it was also great to have another newcomer join the throng...

Sue Read's suggestion was

"It's not such a bad job being a food taster for the humans."

I asked Santa's little helpers to choose the winner, but they all argued about it for so long that Santa had to leave them behind when he went off on his delivery rounds. Later, we discovered that he'd also taken the prizes too, and delivered them down some chimney in Chessington. Sorry!

It's Susan's turn again!
(She's the dog...)

Please let's have lots of
entries for this one

Email me at
ljmyhill@live.co.uk
or drop off your entries
at QR reception



