



Monthly Newsletter  
**markyate**  
baptist church

January 2022

## Hope for the New Year

New Year is always a special and significant time. We tend to feel as though we are standing on high ground, looking back over the year that has just passed. It is a time for remembering the good things and perhaps the not so good things of that past year. We also look forward to the year to come with great hope. We hope for better things, we hope for new achievements. These hopes may prompt us to make New Year resolutions about how we will do things better or the bad habits we will give up.

We are also coming up to the 6<sup>th</sup> January. This is not just Twelfth Night, the time when we rush to get all our Christmas decorations down. In the Christian Church the 6<sup>th</sup> January is the Feast of the Epiphany; the time which commemorates the coming of the Magi, the three wise men. Although they were not Jews, but Gentiles, they still came to pay homage to Jesus the new-born King. This showed that Jesus was the saviour for everyone, not just for the Jews.

As the Magi passed through Jerusalem on their way to Bethlehem, they had stopped to pay their respects to Herod, the all-powerful despotic King of Israel. Hearing of this new-born King, Herod felt threatened. He commanded the slaughter of the innocent children, hoping to kill the infant Jesus and eliminate the threat.

Thinking back over those times you realise Herod's action turned Jesus, Mary, Joseph, and the little donkey, into

refugee asylum seekers. They had to leave Israel and flee to Egypt in the hope of safety. They remained there until the death of Herod restored political security and they could return home.

Not much has changed over the last 2000 years in some parts of the world. Today we see the dictator, President Alexander Lukashenko of Belarus, herding refugees to challenge the Polish border. He is exposing families and children to severe hardship, adverse weather conditions and using them as weapons against his Polish neighbours. He is the Herod of modern times. When it comes to refugees in the modern world, sadly, we still struggle to "make room for them at the inn". We see the desperation of asylum seekers risking their lives to cross the Channel, driven by the hope of a better life. Nations struggle to open their hearts and accept people who they perceive are different from themselves. Yet refugees are driven by the hope for a better future because they feel there is no hope for them in their own land.

Thinking about the New Year I always like the following short verses.

*And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:*

*"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."*

*And he replied:*

*"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."*

*So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night. And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.*

*Minnie Haskins - 1912*

So, let us go forward with God into 2022. Let us continue to pray to him that our hopes will be kept alive, that they will be fulfilled and that he will help us move from darkness into the light.

**Jim Salmon—Deacon—MBC**

**Our Vision Statment:**  
Growing Together by loving God loving others & serving our community

# What's On—January 2022

## Sunday 2nd

10.30am Communion Service  
with Pam Ruffhead

## Thursday 6th

10am CAP Course  
Contact Alan Poole for more info

## Friday 7th

10am-12pm MBC Cafe

## Saturday 8th

9.30am Zoom Prayer Meeting

10am-12pm WLTD0  
Contact Alan Poole for more info

## Sunday 9th

10.30am Morning Service  
Favourite Hymns

## Thursday 13th

10am CAP Course  
Contact Alan Poole for more info

## Friday 14th

10-11.30am Jack & Jills  
See Ruth Kieran for more info.

## Saturday 15th

9.30am Zoom Prayer Meeting

## Sunday 16th

10.30am Morning Service  
with Richard Palmer

## Thursday 20th

10am CAP Course  
Contact Alan Poole for more info

## Friday 21st

10am-12pm MBC Café

## Saturday 22nd

9.30am Zoom Prayer Meeting

## Sunday 23rd

10.30am Morning Service  
Sam Dallimore

## Sunday 30th

10.30am Morning Service  
with Jo White

### Minister:

Vacant

### Administrator:

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### Deacons:

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Steve McCurdy  
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