

## **Bishop Sutton Community Church Letter**

The world is in crisis... a food crisis, an energy crisis, a climate crisis, a financial crisis, political crises with wars raging and diseases like covid and bird flu causing fear and devastation. "Do not be afraid, for behold I bring you news of great joy" was the message from the Angel to the shepherds on the hills of Bethlehem some 2,000 years ago against a backdrop of persecution, uprisings and Roman rule. Where is the joy today?

Last week I met a young man in a local shop, his face was radiant and full of hope, telling me about his work and how much he enjoyed it. That really blessed me for some 8 years ago he was part of a group of youths that were the likely cause of over 400 reports of anti-social behaviour each year but also met with us on a Monday night for a youth club in the Methodist Chapel. Two other members of that group went on to join the ambulance service, helping people in times of crises. One of these, Billy, also helped the homeless at Christmas but was disheartened at the little support the general public give. Tragically, he died in a motorcycle accident in Thailand in 2018 but in his memory, the Billy Chip Foundation was established to support the homeless with tokens for food and drinks as opposed to money that could be used buying drugs and alcohol... a brilliant idea and well worth supporting!

Amid all the crises we face there is hope: "For there is born to you this day in the City of David a Saviour who is Christ the Lord" the Angel continued to the shepherds. Jesus is God's gift to us to give us hope, to equip and empower us with the Holy Spirit to lead us in the way of everlasting life. He is the answer to all the challenges we face, He is Immanuel which means God is with us and will never leave us or forsake us if we invite Him into our lives. He is the reason for Christ-mas and is the best gift that we could receive.

Happy Christmas and God bless,

Dave & Jenny Dickerson, Tel: 01275 332746 Mob: 07766331146.

## **Bishop Sutton Community Church Activities:**

**Sunday gatherings:** 10:00am on Zoom for a time of worship, teaching, fellowship, encouragement and prayer; we can include live transcription for those with hearing difficulties.

**Connection:** 7:30-9:00pm ish on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays in the month on Zoom for going deeper together in worship, prayer and connecting with the Holy Spirit.

**Mid-week courses and fellowship meetings:** Our mid-week meetings take place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of the month at 7:30pm on Zoom.

**Billy Chip Foundation:** Christmas cards, stocking fillers, air fresheners, T-shirts, joggers, track suits and hoodies supporting the Billy Chip Foundation are available at <https://www.billychip.com/merchandise/>

**Ukrainian Hub:** Thank you to all who have been supporting in many different ways. Please continue to hold these broken families and the situation in Ukraine in your prayers.

**Keynsham Food Bank:** The following items are needed and can be donated at the Co-op in Chew Magna: Chick peas, Peanut butter, Squash, Sponge puddings, Instant custard sachets, Crackers, Mayonnaise, Razors, UHT milk (semi-skimmed, and whole). If you hear of people in difficulty, contact Dave/Jenny to help these needy people.

**Lonely or self-isolating?** If anyone is lonely or self-isolating and would appreciate a call, internet meeting or in need of help, please contact us.

**To join us online on Zoom:** Click on the link on our facebook page / web site or use the Meeting ID: 871 1725 3595 and Passcode: 578732.

Email: [bishopsuttoncommunitychurch@hotmail.com](mailto:bishopsuttoncommunitychurch@hotmail.com)

Web: [www.bishopsuttoncommunitychurch.com](http://www.bishopsuttoncommunitychurch.com)

Facebook: @BishopSuttonCommunityChurch