

On **Remembrance Sunday** a good number of people gathered at the village War Memorial for the two minutes silence. This was followed by a service in the church, where there was a special display (right) showing how World War I affected West Camel.

On Sunday November 25th we had another of our popular **"Sing Sankey"** services. Our congregation was swelled by a number of visitors Songs were accompanied by a music group from Southville Elim Church, Yeovil.



PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

Did you know the word 'joy' appears 8 times in the Christmas Story? And if we aren't careful, we will miss out on the joy that God promises us this Christmas. —Rick Warren

At Christmas we decorate our trees with festive lights and ornaments. But the real "tree" in the Christmas story wasn't beautiful at all; it was a cruel instrument of execution, used to bring about the death of God's Son. —Greg Laurie

We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity

and its first chapter is New Year's Day.

—Edith Lovejoy Pierce

A NEW YEAR PRAYER

Our Father and our God, we confess our need of Your presence and Your guidance as we face the future. Only You can give us the strength and the wisdom we will need to meet its challenges. We thank



You for the promise and hope of this new year. In the name of our Lord and Saviour, who by His death and resurrection has given us hope both for this world and the world to come.

—Dr Billy Graham



SMILE

The Sunday School teacher looked at the little boy's drawing of a manger scene. A large dog was among the animals.

The teacher looked puzzled.

"Oh," said the child, "That's a German Shepherd."

An irate woman burst into the baker's shop and said, "I sent my son in for two pounds of cookies this morning, but when I weighed them there was only one pound. I suggest that you check your scales."

The baker looked at her calmly for a moment or two and then replied, "Ma'am, I suggest you weigh your son."

CHRISTMAS SMILES

How did Mary and Joseph know how heavy Jesus was when he was born?

They had a weigh in a manger!

Why are there only 25 letters in the Christmas alphabet?

Because there's no 'L'.

What is every parent's favourite carol? Silent night.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR DUMMIES?

American Airlines Peanuts:

Open packet, eat nuts.

Marks & Spencer Bread Pudding:

Product will be hot after heating.

Wrapper of a Fruit Roll-Up snack:

Remove plastic before eating.

**West
Camel
Methodist**



MESSENGER

**Our services are
held at
All Saints Church**



REGULAR ACTIVITIES:

Sunday: 2nd–5th Sundays 6pm. Evening worship.
1st Sunday 4pm. "Sunday @ Four" (United)

Wednesday: 7.30pm United Bible study. First and third Wednesday of the month at the Davis Hall.*
(*Not December 19th or January 2nd)

MINISTER: Rev. Craig Manley, Broadclose,
Station Road, Ansford, Castle Cary.
(Tel. 01963 351598)

STEWARD: Mrs Elizabeth Chapman, Mead Farm,
Downhead. (Tel. 01935 850838)

**WORSHIP
CO-ORDINATOR:** Mr Geoff Chapman, Mead Farm,
Downhead. (Tel. 01935 850838)

EDITOR: Mr Geoff Chapman.

This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. (1 John 4: 10)

EDITORIAL

THE VISITED PLANET

The NASA Mars lander "Insight", launched in May 2018, touched down on the red planet on 26th November. The aim of this £734m project is to further explore the surface of Mars and "pave the way for human exploration." For decades, scientists have dreamed of landing men on Mars. If this plan succeeds it will be the first time that humans have visited another planet.

However, a visit to Mars wouldn't be the most important or exciting planetary visit ever to have taken place. Just over 2,000 years ago a planet received a visitor from another sphere. This is not science fiction, but refers to what happened at the first Christmas, when Someone from outside our planet came to dwell among human beings. Very few people were aware of it at the time — just a few humble shepherds and some star-gazers from a far-off land. Yet, without doubt, this was the most significant event in the history of the world. God Himself — the Creator of the universe — entered His creation in the person of Jesus Christ!



Crowds watch the launch of the Mars *Insight* mission



It may be difficult for us to grasp this tremendous fact, but by faith we can enjoy the results of this divine visitation. In many science fiction films, extraterrestrial visitors pose a threat to the inhabitants of earth, but what we call the Incarnation was God coming to extricate us from the sorry mess we have made of His world. This makes Christianity unique among all the world's religions. In one way or another, other belief systems rely on human efforts or good works to reach God — something it's impossible for us to do. By dying on the Cross, Jesus took the penalty of our sin upon Himself

so that we could be forgiven and reconciled to God. People sometimes ask why God doesn't do something about the evil in the world. At the first Christmas God *did* do something, and it's now up to us whether we use the free will God gave us to accept what He has done.

After His resurrection, Jesus left this planet, but promised to return. Belief in His second coming is an essential part of the Christian faith, the future hope of all believers. In contrast to His first coming, no one will miss His glorious return. This will be the final chapter of God's plan, a time of judgment, and the total restoration of creation. The One born in obscurity will reign as King for ever. If our faith is in Him, we will be part of His eternal kingdom.

We wait for the blessed hope — the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness (*Titus 2: 13-14*)

SUNDAY SERVICES



Dec.	2nd.	6pm	Rev Craig Manley (H.C.)
"	9th.	9.30am	All-age "Christingle Service" (U.S.)
		6pm	Rev. Robert Channon of North Cadbury
"	16th.	3.30pm	United Carol Service
"	23rd		No service
"	30th.	6pm	The Rev Rose Hoskins (U.S.)
Jan.	6th.	4pm	"Sunday @ Four"
"	13th.	9.30am	All-age "Three Kings Service" (U.S.)
		6pm	Rev. Craig Manley (Covenant Service)
"	20th	6pm	Mrs Jacqueline Cobb of Havyatt
"	27th.	10am	Rev. Craig Manley (U.S.)
		6pm	Mr Peter Trenchard of Street

(H.C.= Holy Communion. U.S. = United Service)

"Carols on the Village Green"

Friday 21st December 7pm. Followed by hot drinks and mince pies in the Church. Collection for children's charities.



NEWS FROM THE PAST

From *The Western Gazette 50 years ago*

On Friday at the Methodist Church two films were shown: "A Boy and his Bible" — an American Christmas story, and "Anatomy of a Disaster", an Oxfam film about relief work in Pakistan. Mr K Moore operated the projector, and the Rev. A R Burch presided. Carols were sung, and a sale of Christmas gifts, with refreshments, followed. The proceeds were £40 10s for church funds. (*13th December 1968*)

Christmas services were held at the Methodist Church on Sunday. In the morning, the preacher was Mr J Wiltshire, and lessons were read by Brian Swain. In the evening over 50 people

attended a candlelight carol service organised by the young people. The service was conducted by Geoff Chapman, and lessons were read by Peter Moore, Jenny Sweeby, Patricia Martin and Nicholas Woodman. Sunday School scholars sang items, and the Young People's Group also sang to guitar accompaniment. A Nativity scene was displayed at the front of the church. A collection in aid of Oxfam realised £3 10s. (*27th December 1968*)

Members and friends of the Methodist Church and Youth Club spent two evenings carol singing and collected £17 10 for the National Children's Home. (*3rd January 1969*)

We wish all our readers a blessed Christmas and Happy New Year