

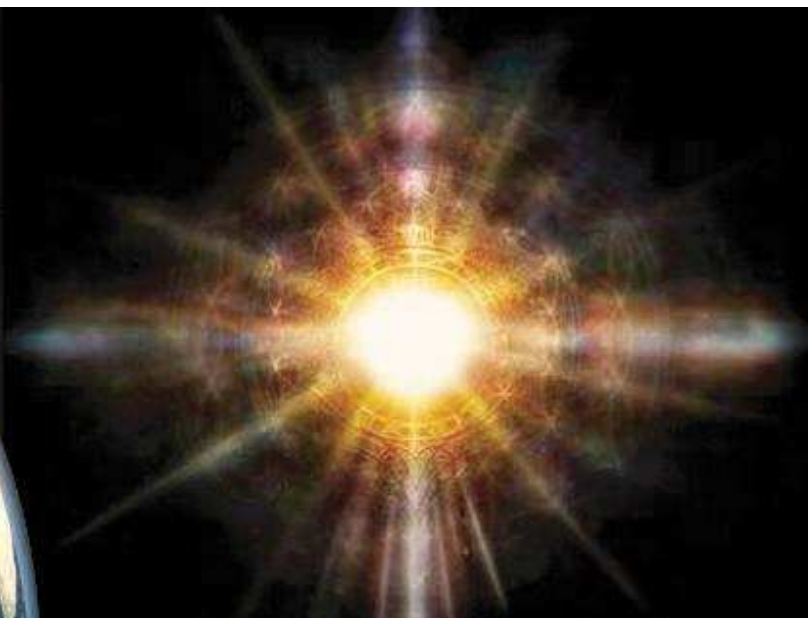
Poole Christian Fellowship

[www.poolechristianfellowship.org](http://www.poolechristianfellowship.org)



# THE BULLETIN

December 2009



"Light of the World you stepped down into darkness"

## "Glory to the Newborn King" - by John MacDiarmid

No story in history has captured the imagination the way that the account of the birth of Jesus has.

As we have been considering the events leading up to the birth of Jesus, from Luke's gospel, I have been struck again by the beauty of the story, a mixture of the ordinary and supernatural, the sheer humanity of the main characters, and the joys, anxieties and dilemmas they faced as they became players in the unfolding drama of God's intervention in the history of lost humanity. What a story!

And of course throw in a newborn baby or two, some humble shepherds and some kings bearing gifts - and you have a real crowd-pleaser!

The fact is that behind the beautiful story we have the events that have changed our lives forever. God entered the world in human form, lived the perfect life, and then took on himself the punishment that should have fallen on you and I. So Bethlehem leads us to the cross, and onto glory. No wonder the angels sang. No wonder shepherds worshipped.

No wonder pagan "Magi" crossed nations to pay Him tribute. No wonder Satan through the godless King Herod tried to have him destroyed at birth. And no wonder the news of the birth of Jesus has filled Christian hearts with joy for two thousand years. Our God has come to save us!

***Glory to the Newborn King!***

## "Month of Prayer"

It has come round quickly - here we go with a month of prayer in January 2010. With a new year ahead of us, and a new era of leadership at PCF as John, Nick and Richard continue as elders, it is a good time to be giving ourselves to prayer and seeking God together.

Full details will follow - but please start limbering up for prayer in the New Year.

The month of prayer will start with a time of Prayer and Praise at 7pm on Sunday 3rd January.

## "Day of Prayer"

Please note that our next Day of Prayer - the last one this year - will take place on Saturday 5th December.

As before there will be four one hour prayer meetings during the day, meaning that everyone will be able to come along to at least one!

Combine it with your Christmas shopping!

**Times are:-**  
7am to 8am  
10am to 11am  
2pm to 3pm  
7pm to 8pm

## Christmas Cards

So that we can keep the foyer tables for our tracts and information, Christmas cards will not be left for collection.

A "post box" will be set up on Sundays 6th and 13th December. If you do not wish to hand out your cards then please post your cards before the service and Linda will distribute them after the service.

For those wishing to give a card to the Church, please hand it to the person on the door who will hang it from a display in the foyer.

## Aberystwyth University Carol Service

John will be speaking at the Aberystwyth University carol Service on December 6th. Pray for him and for the Christian Union as they plan the event.



## A New Initiative for Overseas Missionary Information, Prayer and Interest

PCF has numerous overseas missionary interests; all are with real people working for the Lord in different countries and in a variety of churches and Christian projects.

It is difficult to keep up to date with all of these friends and we are planning to have more regular times for sharing of information and for prayer together. After a number of years it is important for us to reassess where our priorities lie and there will be some alterations to where our attention and giving is focused. We cannot sensibly think about, pray for and support every missionary! We shall need to get our priorities right,

I shall be taking responsibility for a twenty minute slot each Tuesday when we meet fortnightly for prayer when we can concentrate on one or two particular missionary, countries and projects. Most times we share there will be a fact sheet to take home so that prayer will not only be on a Tuesday evening once a fortnight. It will also mean that those who cannot make it to our Tuesday prayer nights can have a sheet the following Sunday and so be informed and join in prayer. Please do ask if you would like to have that on a regular basis and I will make sure that copies are available.

Overseas Missions giving has always been a part of PCF involvement and we want to continue to give at least a tenth of all regular giving to overseas mission work. We hope to be able to indicate in the Bulletin where various gifts are sent so that we can pray as well as give.

The use of the notice boards in the entrance porch has also been rearranged and we are in the process of making the right hand board into the Overseas Missionary information section with parts for various countries, missionaries and Christian Activities. Please do share anything you may have from the overseas mission scene that you think could be of a more general PCF interest and I will try to incorporate it when appropriate.—*David Foster*

## Christmas Outreach

This month sees the time of year when it is easier to talk about Jesus than at any other time. Let's be on the lookout for those opportunities to speak to neighbours, relatives and work-colleagues.

As a church we will have the following:

### 1. **Christmas Open Door**

On 15th and 22nd Decemembr Open Door will have a Christmas flavour with festive refreshments and festive music being a part of the buzzing Open Door scene.

2. Our annual **Carol Service** is on 20th December at 6.30pm. Don't be missing...and who will you be bringing?

3. **Baby Clinic** - the Baby Clinic (connected to the Doctors' surgery next door) has invited us in to do a small slot at their Christmas celebration on 21st December. Please speak to Linda if you would be able to help.

**Climate Change**—Diana Squire and Valerie Harrex attended a seminar giving a Christian view of climate change. A handout detailing points from the seminar can be found on the table in the foyer.

## A Time to say "Thank You"...

The first Sunday of the New Year will be a special day for PCF. On that Sunday we shall be having a bring and share lunch after our main meeting. After lunch we shall be saying "thank you" to our two outgoing elders, Nigel Green and David Foster.

As we have already said, this is not "goodbye", as David and Nigel will continue their service at PCF, but they are both laying down their eldership roles at the end of December 2009.

Make a note to be there - get it in your 2010 diary!

## Aberystwyth CU Houseparty

John and Helen were away at the Aberystwyth Christian Union houseparty in November. They found themselves amongst a deeply committed and slightly nutty group of young Christians who impressed with the depth of their commitment and the reality of their experience of God. Pray for them as they plan their Christmas Outreach and their Mission in the new year, at which John is also speaking.



## The Bible for 2010

Are you the sort who makes new years resolutions every year but forgets about them by the end of January?

Well, here's a chance to make a new years resolution with a difference. It involves doing the thing that will help you more than any of your other resolutions. We will be encouraging you to sign up to a scheme to read and think about a portion of God's word every day. Many of you have used Bible reading notes in past. We want to use a scheme together as a church that we can all sign up to, meaning that as a church we will be reading the Bible together during 2010.

There is also an additional option to read the Bible in a year. Let's make 2010 a year when we really get stuck into the Bible as individuals and as a church.

More details will follow.



**A Big Thank You** to all who contributed shoeboxes to the orphan children in Europe this year. We have donated 28 boxes to the Samaritan's Purse Appeal which I know will bring lasting happiness to the children who receive them

*Lynne White*

## PCF Contacts

<b>Elders</b>		<b>Website Webmaster</b>	
David Foster John MacDiarmid Nick May Nigel Green Richard Miles		Ben Lamb	
<b>Church Administrator</b>		<b>Youth</b>	
Linda Rose		Gez Jones	
<b>Sunday School</b>		<b>Daytime Bible Study</b>	
Helen MacDiarmid		Jean Edwards	
<b>"Open Door"</b>		<b>Housegroups</b>	
Margaret May Stephanie Lafferty		Central	
<b>Musicians</b>		East	
Caleb Green Tim Stone		North	
		West	
		<b>Please see one of the housegroup leaders or an elder if you would like to attend</b>	

## - Events Diary for December -

Tuesday 1st	10.30am 8.00pm	Open Door Housegroups
Wednesday 2nd	10.00am	Discipleship Explored—"Rejoicing in Christ"
Thursday 3rd	8.00pm	Elders Meeting
Saturday 5th		<b>Day of Prayer</b> 7am-8am 10am-11am 2pm-3pm 7pm-8pm
<b>Sunday 6th</b>	<b>10.10am 10.30am</b>	<b>Prayer Celebration led by:- Richard Miles Speaker:- Richard Miles John is away speaking at the Aberystwyth University Carol Service</b>
Monday 7th		Youth Group
Tuesday 8th	10.30am 8.00pm	Open Door All Together for Prayer
Wednesday 9th	10.00am	Discipleship Explored—"Content in Christ"
Saturday 12th	7.00pm	Youth Christmas Party at Tim and Karen Stone's home
<b>Sunday 13th</b>	<b>10.10am 10.30am</b>	<b>Prayer Celebration led by:- Nick May Speaker:- John MacDiarmid Luke 2:1-20 "The Day God Came"</b>
Tuesday 15th	10.30am 8.00pm	Christmas Open Door Housegroups
Friday 18th	8.00pm	Elders Meeting
<b>Sunday 20th</b>	<b>10.10am 10.30am 6.30pm</b>	<b>Prayer Celebration led by:- John MacDiarmid Speaker:- Gez Jones Carol Service followed by seasonal refreshments</b>
Monday 21st	11.00am	Baby Clinic, including a short Christmas Celebration taken by PCF
Tuesday 22nd	10.30am 8.00pm	Christmas Open Door All Together for Prayer
<b>Sunday 27th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>We will be breaking bread at a shorter than normal service. The children will be staying in with us.</b>

