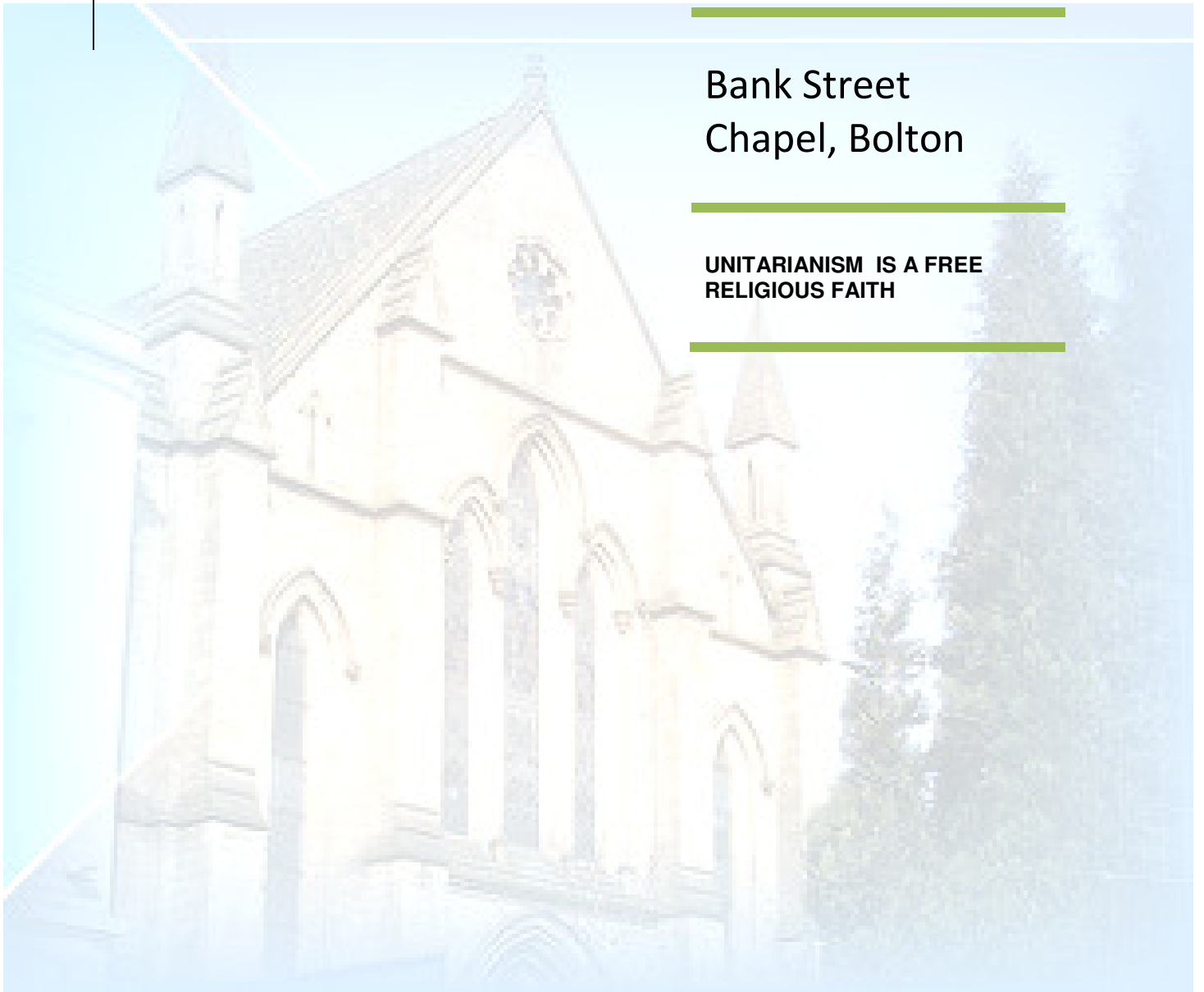


Calendar

December 2009

Bank Street
Chapel, Bolton

**UNITARIANISM IS A FREE
RELIGIOUS FAITH**



The Minister – Contact Details

Stephen Lingwood
Bank Street Chapel
Crown Street
Bolton BL1 2RU
Vestry: 01204 528633
Home: 01204 523192

E-mail: s_lingwood@hotmail.com

The Minister holds “office hours” every Tuesday afternoon in the Vestry.

Anyone is welcome to drop in to see him for any reason.

He is also happy to visit anyone in their home.

The Minister is not available on Friday – his day off.

Chapel Officers

President	Christine Leather
Chair of Council	Gaye Gerrard
Treasurer	Mary Frodsham
Correspondance Secretary	Granville Leather
Minutes Secretary	Janet Mack
Calendar Editor	Gordon Walker
e-mail: gordon.walker@ntlworld.com	
Webmaster	Anthony Mancini
e-mail: anthony.mancini@ntlworld.com	

Independent Organisations

Non-Chapel groups who meet in our hall include those listed below,

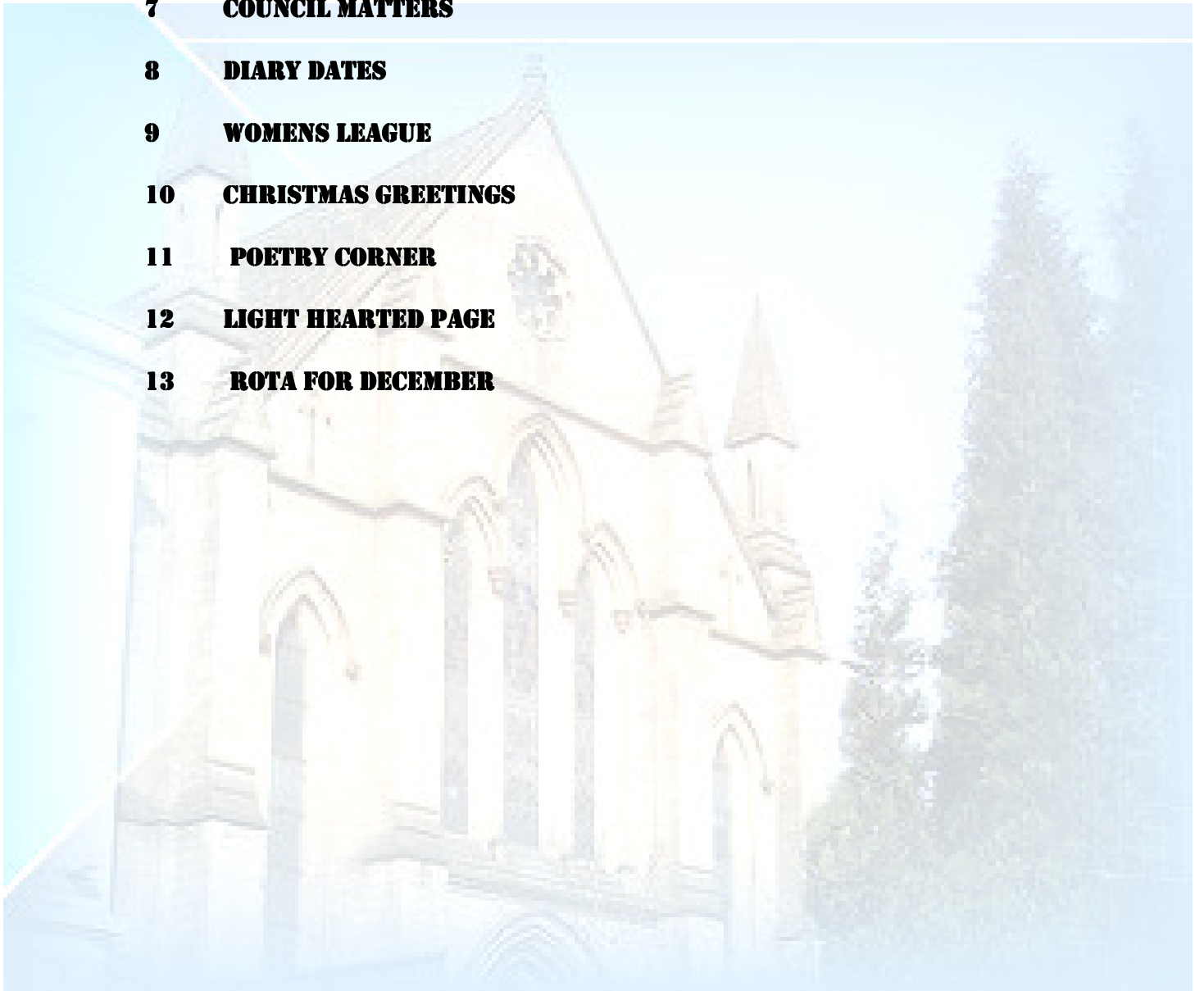
If you would like to make contact with any of these groups,
Speak to the Minister or a Council member,

Narcotics Anonymous	The Anglo French Society
Weight Watchers	The Bank Street Writers
Gamblers Anonymous	The Theosophical Society
Yoga	Lizze Jones’s History Group

**Our rooms are available for hire-
Contact Alec Bowman – 01204 594500.**

Contents

- 4 MINISTERS LETTER**
- 5 DATES**
- 7 COUNCIL MATTERS**
- 8 DIARY DATES**
- 9 WOMENS LEAGUE**
- 10 CHRISTMAS GREETINGS**
- 11 POETRY CORNER**
- 12 LIGHT HEARTED PAGE**
- 13 ROTA FOR DECEMBER**



Minister's Letter December 2009

“But not alone on Christmas morn
Was God made one with humankind:
Each time a girl or boy is born,
Incarnate deity we find.”

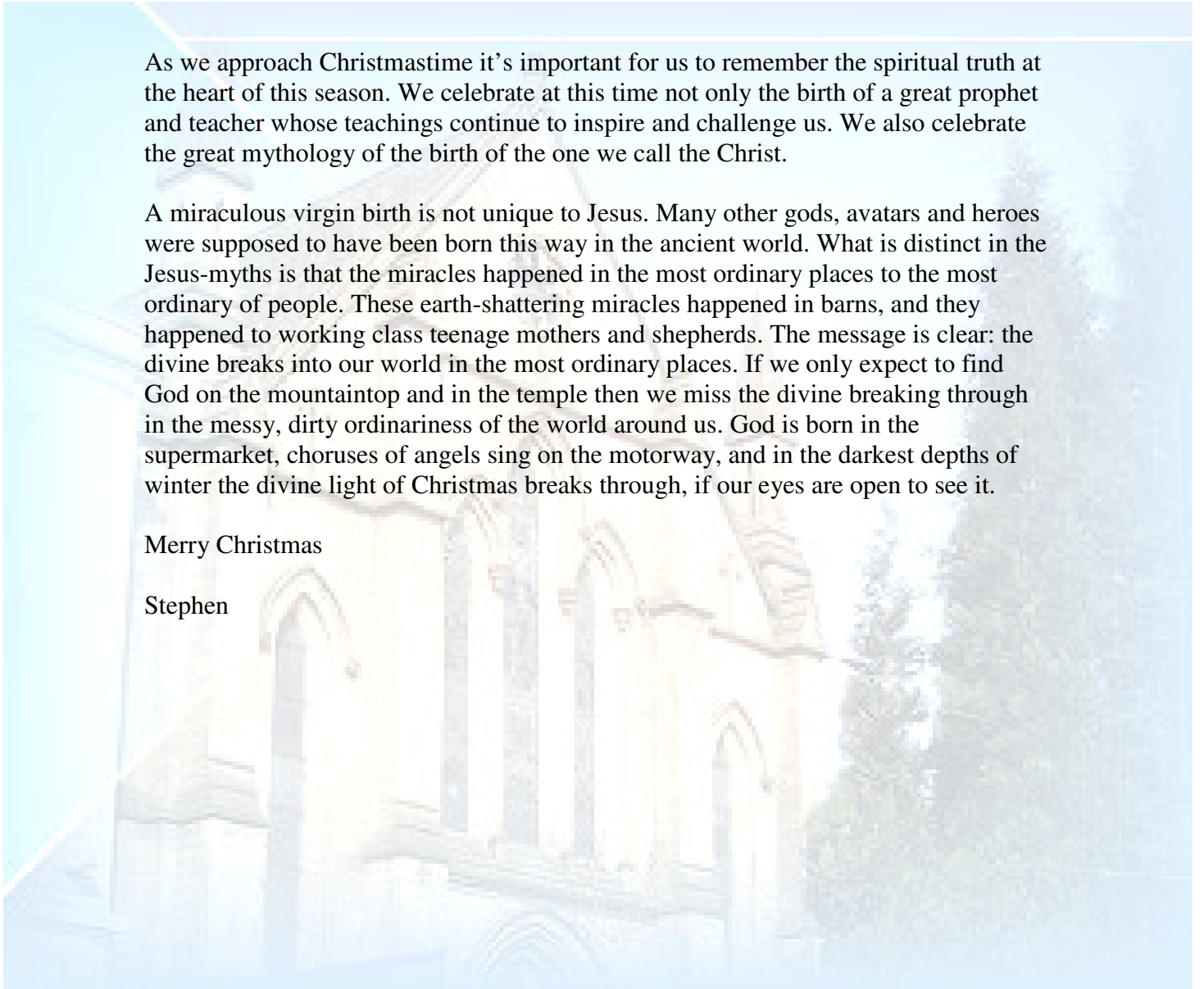
John Andrew Storey

As we approach Christmastime it's important for us to remember the spiritual truth at the heart of this season. We celebrate at this time not only the birth of a great prophet and teacher whose teachings continue to inspire and challenge us. We also celebrate the great mythology of the birth of the one we call the Christ.

A miraculous virgin birth is not unique to Jesus. Many other gods, avatars and heroes were supposed to have been born this way in the ancient world. What is distinct in the Jesus-myths is that the miracles happened in the most ordinary places to the most ordinary of people. These earth-shattering miracles happened in barns, and they happened to working class teenage mothers and shepherds. The message is clear: the divine breaks into our world in the most ordinary places. If we only expect to find God on the mountaintop and in the temple then we miss the divine breaking through in the messy, dirty ordinariness of the world around us. God is born in the supermarket, choruses of angels sing on the motorway, and in the darkest depths of winter the divine light of Christmas breaks through, if our eyes are open to see it.

Merry Christmas

Stephen



Dates

The last “Be” alternative worship will be on 3rd December. It will then take a break over the winter and will re-start again in February.

Sunday 13th December 10.45 morning service will be a gift service. Please bring gifts to give away at this service, preferably gifts for boys aged between 8 and 11, and also canned goods for the Salvation Army.

Sunday 13th December 3pm at Halliwell Road Free Church BDUREC Children’s Carol Service

Sunday 20th December 10.45 quiet and reflective morning service

Sunday 20th December 3pm Bank Street Carol Service – please invite friends and family to our main carol service.

Monday 21st December 3.50pm (Sunset) Winter Solstice Worship

Christmas Day 11am Morning Service

The Minister will be away from Christmas Day until 2nd January

Sunday 17th January 10.30am United Service at St Andrew and St George URC.

Please make every effort to attend this special service as we join together our Sunday worship with the other churches in Bolton town centre to show our unity.

Awareness: A Course in Meditation will now begin on Tuesday 2nd March at 8pm, not 27th January as previously advertised. It will run for five weeks. A second part of the course will run later in the year.

The Invite a Friend Service will now be held on 28th February not 14th, as previously advertised.

Consider being a GA delegate!

Every year Unitarians from around the country gather at our General Assembly Annual Meetings. These meetings offer a chance to worship, learn, celebrate and do the business of our national community. We are a democratic faith community and our decisions are made by our democratically elected Executive Committee and by congregational delegates voting at the Annual Meetings. This is a vital part of our Unitarian life.

Could you consider being a delegate for Bank Street Chapel at the meetings? This involves listening to the debates and voting on motions, representing our congregation. But not just that, it also involves going to lots of diverse workshops, worships and meetings, as well as lots of informal chatting over coffee or a pint. Attending the Annual Meetings helps you to appreciate just how vibrant and diverse our community is, and helps you to learn a lot more about what it means to be a Unitarian. It is an exciting and busy few days!

The 2010 meetings promise to be very stimulating with a new format, exciting outside speakers, and the theme of “youth.” If you would like to consider being paid to attend as our delegate see Stephen or talk to anyone who has gone before. The meetings will be held just after Easter, 8-11 April and will be held in Nottingham.

Discussion Meeting

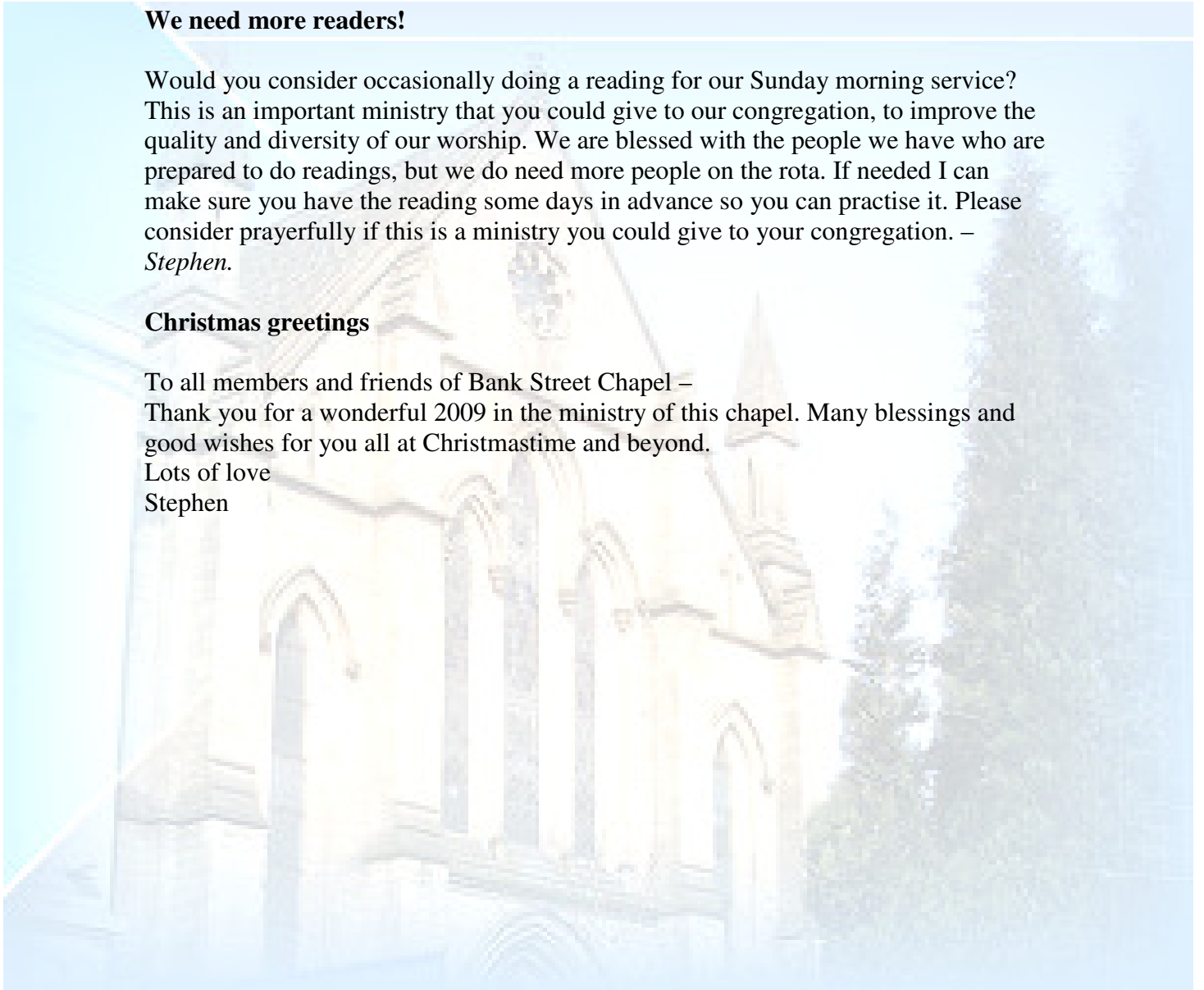
After the service on January 24th we will hold another of our occasional discussions. The theme of this meeting will be the words we use to describe our Unitarian community. This is an important discussion for us as a congregation as we consider the type of thing we want to put on our publicity and it is also a discussion that will be happening nationally at the Annual Meetings in April. Please stay a little longer after the service to discuss this important topic.

We need more readers!

Would you consider occasionally doing a reading for our Sunday morning service? This is an important ministry that you could give to our congregation, to improve the quality and diversity of our worship. We are blessed with the people we have who are prepared to do readings, but we do need more people on the rota. If needed I can make sure you have the reading some days in advance so you can practise it. Please consider prayerfully if this is a ministry you could give to your congregation. – *Stephen.*

Christmas greetings

To all members and friends of Bank Street Chapel –
Thank you for a wonderful 2009 in the ministry of this chapel. Many blessings and good wishes for you all at Christmastime and beyond.
Lots of love
Stephen

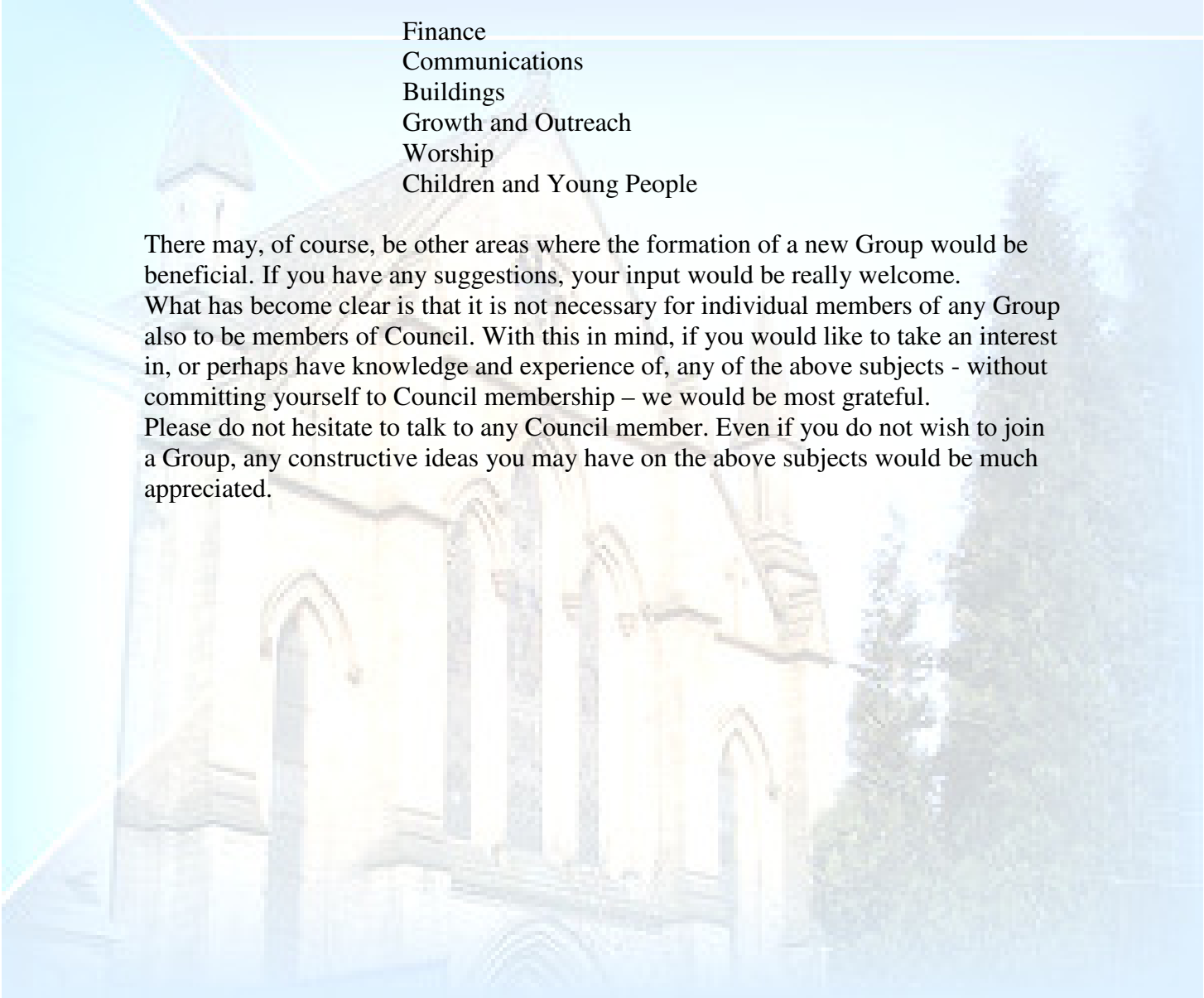


Council Matters.

Council has been giving a lot of thought to the management of our Chapel – with particular reference to improving efficiency, our efforts to grow, the prudent handling of our finances, and - not least - to the sharing of the workload.

A good start has been made by the formation of small Groups – each Group to look after a particular area of chapel life.

Groups formed, and already operating, include:



- Finance
- Communications
- Buildings
- Growth and Outreach
- Worship
- Children and Young People

There may, of course, be other areas where the formation of a new Group would be beneficial. If you have any suggestions, your input would be really welcome.

What has become clear is that it is not necessary for individual members of any Group also to be members of Council. With this in mind, if you would like to take an interest in, or perhaps have knowledge and experience of, any of the above subjects - without committing yourself to Council membership – we would be most grateful.

Please do not hesitate to talk to any Council member. Even if you do not wish to join a Group, any constructive ideas you may have on the above subjects would be much appreciated.

Diary Dates

In addition to those dates listed elsewhere in the calendar by Stephen, you should note the following:

Thursday, 3rd. Dec. at 7-30pm - Nelum Candlelight Carol Service at Todmorden

Friday, 4th Dec. – Switch on of Hucklow Village Christmas lights

Saturday, 5th Dec. – CTBTC Children's Activities in the Marquee at the Town Hall

Sunday, 6th Dec. – Carols at the Town Hall – 12-00 till 12-30 and 1-00 till 1-30

Sunday, 13th Dec. – Carols at the Town Hall – 12-00 till 12-30 and 12-30 till 1-30
- Candlelight Carols at Ainsworth.

Thursday, 17th Dec. – Christmas Brunch in Chapel Hall

Friday, 18th Dec. – Hucklow Christmas Weekend

Saturday, 19th Dec. – Hucklow Open Day

Tuesday Childrens Club Party -December 8th, 2009

The Bank Street Chapel AGM will take place after service on 28th March, 2010

Thursday, 31st Dec – New Years Eve Jacobs Feast Party at Bank Street.
Please put your name on the list on the Notice Board in Chapel Hall if you wish to attend. Bring what you can and share the goodies – it is terrific fun and only costs £10 each.

30th Jan.2010 – Jenny Woodward and Cliff Bowes will be married in Chapel – service starting at 1-00pm.

Barbara and Peter invite you all to come along to witness the wedding.

Women's League News

At our recent Women's League meeting we all took along something that was very special to us, and told the stories behind them. We had a lovely relaxing evening sharing beautiful music, poems, songs and writings, and explaining the reasons for our choices.

The final offering of the evening took the form of delicious home made cream cakes, from a member who shared her passion for baking – what a super treat to end a wonderful evening.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, 8th December, when we will hold a “Snowman Drive” This will be an open meeting (and likely to be quite hilarious) so bring your friends and menfolk along.

We are planning a full programme of events in the New Year, which will begin with our first (again open) meeting on Tuesday, January 19th when we will hear a light hearted talk entitled “Big Bangs”

Women's League Birthdays

Dec.3 rd	Joan West
Dec 4 th	Janet Winstanley
Jan 1 st	Nora Cockroft
Jan 2 nd	Sue Sarkar
Jan 6 th	Vera Rigby

Christmas Greetings.

A Merry Christmas and a Happy and Peaceful New Year to all our Bank Street Chapel Friends.

Marjorie and Lance

Best Wishes for Christmas and New Year to all our friends at Chapel.

Peggy and Brian Thornley

Christmas Greetings and all Good Wishes for 2010 to everyone at Bank Street.

Neville and Sheila

Best Wishes for Christmas and New Year

With love from Anne, Keith and Michael

Christmas Greetings and Good Cheer are wished for all the Congregation and friends of Bank Street for 2010. May the New Year bring better times in health and wealth, and safe keeping in God's love.

Christine and Granville

A Joyful Christmas and a Happy and Peaceful New Year to my dear friends at Bank Street, and my Unitarian friends everywhere.

Vera Rigby

All the very best for Christmas, and our good wishes for a Happy and Peaceful New Year to all our friends at Bank Street.

Stella and Alec

Christmas Greetings, and our best wishes for a peaceful happy and healthy New Year.

Judith and Dennis Crompton

We wish all our friends at Bank Street all the joy of a wonderful Christmas, and health, happiness and God's blessings in the New Year.

Veronica and Gordon

A joyful Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year to all our friends at Bank Street Chapel

Janet and Bill Poole and Family

Poetry Corner

This month we thought it would be good to print two of Lance Taylor's short poems – they are appropriate to the season, and serve to remind us of the often forgotten side of the Christmas and New Year celebrations.

Christmas is for Sharing

Giving is more blessed than receiving, we are told
But it isn't quite so easy if you're lonely, sick or old.
Or you've fallen on hard times and money's rather tight
Christmas doesn't seem so merry and your star is not too bright.

Then you need the kindly folk who look beyond the tree
And see the dreary world outside with all its misery;
The open hearted one who always help you carry on
Because they know the needy are God's children, every one.

So let us all be givers, with generous heart and hand
Like the fairy in the pantomime with magic in her wand
Sharing our blessings as the Lord would have us do
That the promised joys of Christmas may for one and all come true.

A New Year's Message

The New Year lies before us with its promises and hope,
It's pathways only charted 'neath God's great kaleidoscope.
The gateway stands wide open, and we cannot but pass through
What awaits beyond it's portals for folk like me and you?

Will our way be strewn with roses, our days with sunshine filled
Will the bells of peace be ringing, the drums of conflict stilled
Will our help and understanding be shared with all we meet
The coin of loving kindness be the gold that paves the street?

Too late to pine o'er failures, or languish in regret
To crave for second chance at the challenges not met.
No time for looking backwards at the things that might have been
But just to use the memories to make our zeal more keen.

We cannot see the future, we can only kneel and pray
For faith and strength and courage to guide us on our way.
Then firm in resolution we can let the old year go
And greet the new with confidence, what e're it may bestow.

Thank you so very much, Lance.

The Light Hearted Page.

An elderly gentleman went to the doctor for a checkup – he had not been feeling too good. After the examination, the doctor discussed the problem with the old chap's wife while her husband dressed in the other room.

“Your husband is severely stressed. If you do not do as I ask you, he will surely die,” said the doctor. “Oh dear. What must I do?” She said. The doctor replied “Make sure he gets plenty of relaxation, cook him a good breakfast each day – don't let him exert himself. After a light lunch, he should relax until you bring him his dinner. It would be good if you make love quite regularly, and keep him from doing household chores.”

On the way home in the car, the old chap asked his wife what the doctor had said. “You are going to die”, she replied !

Madge Harwood sent me the story of the very young office typist, who was just about to leave the office when she spotted the Managing Director with a document in his hand, hovering over the shredder with a bemused look on his face.

“Listen”, said the M.D. “My secretary has just gone home. Do you know how this thing works?” “Like this” said the youngster, switching on and popping the document into the slot.

“Excellent”, said the M.D. “I just need one copy!”

God was getting rather worried about the way things were going on earth, so he decided to send an angel to check up on things.

On his return, the angel reported back to God. “It is far worse than we thought. About 95% of the people on earth are behaving badly – only about 5% are making any effort to live as you would wish.

God could hardly believe his ears, and decide to send another angel to earth to confirm the first report. Sure enough, the second angel came back with the same terrible news – 95% misbehaving, only 5% being good.

“I know” said God “I will send an e-mail to the good 5%, to encourage them to keep up their efforts”

Do you know what God said in his e-mail?

OK, I was just wondering. I didn't get the e-mail either.

And finally – never forget that experts built the Titanic, but amateurs built the Ark.

Rotas for December and January

Preachers

Dec 6 th	The Minister
Dec 13 th	The Minister (Gift Service)
Dec 20 th	The Minister (10-45am) and Carol Service (3-00pm)
Dec 27 th	to be advised.
Jan 3 rd	The Minister - Agape Meal
Jan 10 th	The Minister
Jan 17 th	Chapel Closed – joint Service at St Andrew and St George
Jan 24 th	The Minister – service followed by discussion
Jan 31 st	The Minister

Welcomers

Dec 6 th	Sheila and Neville
Dec 13 th	Janet and Ron
Dec 20 th	Adrienne and Brian
Dec 27 th	Veronica and Gordon
Jan 3 rd	Dorothy and Roy
Jan 10 th	June and Margaret
Jan 17 th	Stella and Alec
Jan 24 th	Veronica and Gordon
Jan 31 st	Sheila and Neville

Refreshments

Stella and Alec
June and ?
Vera and Evelyn
Adrienne and Brian
Vera and Evelyn
Janet and Ron
Janet and Barbara
Adrienne and Brian
Dorothy and Roy

Flowers

Dec 6 th	Stella in memory of Mrs Marjorie Lee
Dec 13 th to Dec 31 st inclusive	– Christmas arrangements.

January flowers to be advised on the Notice Board.