



## Altofts Methodist Church

[www.altoftsmethodist.org.uk](http://www.altoftsmethodist.org.uk)

### Advent and Christmas Services

Tuesday 7 Dec	7:00pm	<b>Women's Friendship Group Carol Evening with refreshments</b>
Sunday 12 Dec	4:00pm	<b>Prince of Wales Hospice: Light up a Life Service at St. John the Baptist, Normanton</b>
Sunday 19 Dec	10:45am	<b>Carol Service</b>
	4:00pm	<b>Christingle &amp; Carol Service</b> <i>Refreshments served afterwards</i>
Tuesday 21 Dec	7:00pm	<b>Circuit Carol Service</b> <i>at Featherstone Methodist Church</i>
Christmas Eve	11:30pm	<b>Christmas Eve Communion</b>
Christmas Day	9:30am	<b>Christmas Day Family Service</b>
Boxing Day		<i>There will be no Sunday services at Altofts Methodist Church on Boxing Day</i>

**HAPPY CHRISTMAS FROM EVERYONE AT  
ALTOFTS METHODIST CHURCH**

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## Growing Through Sharing

Altofts Methodist Church Newsletter



### Minister's Letter

"... and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins" (Mt 1:21).

For Advent and Christmas this year, the lectionary takes us into the Gospel of Matthew, which begins with Jesus' genealogy. Fortunately, this is not a passage we read often (Mt 1:1-17). With all those difficult names, and besides, why should we read it? What is the point?

As it happens, it will be read (every year on 17 December – this year a Friday), but not in many Methodist churches. We usually go directly to the more interesting passages, beginning with the annunciation to Joseph in a dream in which he is instructed why Mary is pregnant. Joseph certainly seems to have had nothing to do with it – "the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit" (1:20).

And herein may lie some of the scandal of the genealogy – you can be sure there is scandal lurking in there. The descendants listed are mostly fathers and are presented in the format "... the father of, the father of, the father of", (we used to say "who begat") and we recognize that it is patriarchal. But there are four women who have special mention in this genealogy and they are Tamar (1:3 see Gen 38

– she dresses as a sex worker and tricks her brother-in-law into giving her a child), Rahab (1:5, see Joshua 2 – a notorious sex worker in Jericho), Ruth (1:5, see Ruth – a foreigner) and Bathsheba, who is not named but rather coyly called "the wife of Uriah" (1:6, see 2 Sam 11-12 – David's desire for her is so extreme that he connives to have her husband killed in battle). Each of these women has a pedigree that is, well, not quite right. Each one has a story that is a little complicated, who, if one is worried about a good family, is not quite good enough to be included in the family line of one who is "the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham" (1:1).

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## Minister's Letter

Last of all, there is a fifth woman, Mary who is named (1:16) and we are offered a summary by the author, where a pattern of three epochs, each of 14 generations is discerned, first from Abraham to David, then from David to the deportation to Babylon (the exile) and finally from the deportation to Jesus. Who would have thought to begin the story of the Messiah with Abraham and then carefully recount the family tree which consists of some of the most significant names in the biblical story of God's dealing with humanity? It is quite right we should remember these names as much as we remember any of the names of those who have gone before us. These are the ones whose faith we inherit and in whose footsteps we travel. We now express our own faith, but it did not start with us. Nor will it end with us.

And then, immediately we are told the story of Jesus', well, not quite legitimate birth (1:18). It is not only the red-tops who are interested in a bit of sleaze. So Mary joins the list of women who, with their men, are just a little bit suspect, and who are our forebears in faith.

The Gospel we inherit is not shy to tell us all this, even point it out to us. And while we are being told that the pedigree or provenance of this baby is suspect, yet he is called the Messiah (or "Christ", depending on which translation you read – it is the same word, just that in Greek it is "Christ" and in Hebrew it is "Messiah" and is usually taken to mean "the anointed one", usually anointed for the purpose of ruling over the people of God, just as David and the kings of Israel were

anointed as a sign of their being chosen by God for their task).

Jesus' task? Joseph is told Jesus "will save his people from their sins" (1:18). In Hebrew the name "Jesus" is "Joshua" and means "the Lord saves/helps". But there is more, much more. Next thing we are asked to read a passage from the prophet Isaiah and Jesus is called Emmanuel – God with us (1:23). And we will all spend the rest of our lives taking part in this remarkable event, no matter who we are or where we come from.

*Rev. Barry Lotz.*

Altofts Methodist Church

# Christingle



Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December

4:00pm

*Refreshments served afterwards*

*All Welcome*

## The Plan

The details of Sunday services for December 2010 to February 2011 are detailed below. Please note the alterations from the circuit plan

	5 Dec	12 Dec	19 Dec	26 Dec	
	<b>Advent 2</b>	<b>Advent 3</b>	<b>Advent 4</b>	<b>1 Christmas</b>	
8:30	P Aitchison HC			<b>No Services at Altofts</b> <b>10.45</b> services at Central, Micklegate and Upton <b>6.00</b> service at Ferrybridge	
10:45	Bradley	Lotz FC*	Lotz X		
4.00		Light up a Life @St. John's	Lotz CT		
6:00	Walmsley	Brook			
	2 Jan	9 Jan	16 Jan	23 Jan	30 Jan
	<b>2 Christmas</b>	<b>1 Ordinary</b>	<b>2 Ordinary</b>	<b>3 Ordinary</b>	<b>4 Ordinary</b>
8:30					
10:45	Hatherley F	Lotz C	Cookson	Lotz F*	P Aitchison
6:00	Cookson	Gordon	P Aitchison HC	U @ Normanton	U @ St John's
	6 Feb	13 Feb	20 Feb	27 Feb	
	<b>5 Ordinary</b>	<b>6 Ordinary</b>	<b>7 Ordinary</b>	<b>8 Ordinary</b>	
8:30	Lotz HC				
10:45	Sadler	Lotz FC*	Preacher TBC	WL F	
6:00	Wadsworth	Harrell	Lotz	Lotz HC	

A	Junior Church Anniversary	U	United Service
C	Covenant Service	WL	Worship leaders to take the service
CT	Christingle Service	X	Carol Service
F	Family Service/All age worship	*	Coffee served and fair-trade stall after the service.
FC	Family Service with Holy Communion	^	Coffee served after the service
H	Harvest Festival		
HC	Holy Communion		
M	Memorial Service		

## Church Activities & Services

### Sunday Services

8:30 am

#### Monthly Communion Service

10:45 am

#### Morning Service Junior Church

*This service will either be a Family Service or Junior Church will run at the same time.*

6:00pm

#### Evening Service

Please see the plan (opposite) for details of services.

**Please see the weekly notice sheet for details of the week's events. These are available in church or on the website at [www.altoftsmethodist.org.uk](http://www.altoftsmethodist.org.uk)**

### Weekday Activities

#### Mondays

Mums and Toddlers: 9:15am  
Prayer Meeting: 11:30am  
Shell Group (Children's group): 6:30pm

#### Tuesdays

Tuesday Fellowship: 6:00pm (closes in winter)  
Indoor Bowls: 7:00pm  
Women's Friendship Group (Monthly): 7:30pm

#### Wednesdays

Midweek Break (Fortnightly): 10:30am  
'Live at Home' afternoon: 12:30pm  
Table Tennis: 7:30pm

#### Thursdays

Indoor Bowls: 10:00am  
Mums and Toddlers: 1:15pm  
Cubs: 6:00pm  
Scouts: 7:30pm

#### Fridays

Pilates Classes: from 5.45pm

#### Saturdays

Hailey Black School of Dance: from 10:00am

## Contact Details



**Minister** Rev. Barry Lotz 01924 311726  
barry.lotz@gmail.com

**Senior Steward** Mrs. Hazel Millington 01924 892213

**Property Steward (room bookings)** Mr. David Whittingham 01924 891761



**Notices/GTS** Mr. Tom Ferguson 01924 893004  
tomferg80@gmail.com

## Desert Island Discs: Mr Peter Glover

I was born and bred in Altofts and at 3 years of age first attended Sunday School at Upper Altofts Methodist. Following Army National Service my career was with the National Coal Board as Accountant/Administration Officer. I am Chair of Governors at Normanton Junior School and, (probably because they couldn't find anyone else) I soon became elected Chair of a number of committees relating to education. Throughout my life I have two major interests, sport and music and have sung with many choirs and operatic societies in the area. I played football, tennis and cricket (which is still my first sporting choice). I am proud to be a Yorkshireman and maintain a true Yorkshireman should have five loves: The Lord his God; his wife and family; Cricket; Handel's "Messiah" and fish and chips. (not always in that order!)

### 1st Record

**Title:** "I know that my Redeemer Liveth"

**Composer:** Handel ("Messiah")

Reason for choice – "Messiah" is a wonderful oratorio covering the prophecies to be found in Isaiah and the birth and death of Jesus. Every Christian believes in the life hereafter and that Jesus has gone to prepare a place for them in His Father's House. This aria tells me that even though

worms can destroy this human body, yet in my flesh shall I see God. It goes on to reinforce the message that Christ is risen from the dead.

### 2nd Record

**Title:** Symphony No.9 "The New World"

**Composer:** Dvorak

Reason for choice—This symphony was written by Dvorak when he was in America and has beautiful melodies running through the composition. The music was used in the musical show "Summer Song" and it is because of this that I have chosen it. Normanton Operatic Society were performing this in the late 70s and I was asked to play the part of Feeney, an Irish barman. Imagine my surprise at my first rehearsal I saw a lady who I hadn't seen since I was about 15 – June, who is now my wife. We got talking which led some months later to going out together and eventual marriage.

### 3rd Record

**Title:** Pomp and Circumstance March No.1 in D

**Composer:** Elgar

Reason for choice—This is the famous "Land of Hope and Glory" tune which, I have to admit always gives me a feeling of pride when I hear it. Being a loyal and proud

## Desert Island Discs (continued)

Yorkshireman I would have liked to have chosen a Yorkshire tune amongst my selection, but I didn't feel that "On Ilkla' Moor ba'ht 'at" would be appropriate. The next best thing is to be a proud Englishman – I can never imagine myself being referred to as a "European".

### 4th Record

**Title: Symphony No. 6 in F "The Pastoral"**

**Composer: Beethoven**

Reason for choice - Beethoven, in my opinion, wrote some beautiful music in spite of all his physical handicaps, and any of his symphonies could find a place in my list. The one I find to be one of the most descriptive pieces of music ever written is "The Pastoral".

### 5th Record:

**Title: Moonlight Serenade**

**Composer: Glenn Miller (played by the Glenn Miller Orchestra)**

Reason for choice - My taste in music is varied and diverse and I love the "Big Bands" of the 20's and 30's, 40's and 50's. Glenn Miller produced a distinguished sound with his orchestra which delighted audiences in both America and Britain. I still have a feeling of nostalgia when I go to a Syd Lawrence concert – Syd being the band leader who got the Glenn Miller arrangements thereby making the same sound as G.M.

### 6th Record

**Title: We've Only Just Begun to Live**

**Composer: Roger Nichols**

The Carpenters, a brother and sister duo, hit the pop world in the 70's – their first 'hit' being "Close to You". Karen originally played the drums and sang, and what a voice. A beautiful rich deep sound coming from this slip of a girl who eventually died through anorexia nervosa. Her breath control and phrasing are unbelievable. Brother Richard played the keyboard and made all the arrangements, which in their own right are worth listening to.

### 7th Record

**Title: The 1812 Overture**

**Composer: Tchaikovsky**

I could have chosen any number of his compositions but I have chosen this one because of the thrill I got when I first heard it played. The background to the piece is war, the French attacking the Russians and how descriptive this overture is. Starting off with a Russian folk tune which then changes to the French Marsellaise and ends with cannon being fired. Wonderful. I went along, with June, to the Royal Albert Hall a few years ago and this overture was played (the canons were up in the "Gods"). What an experience.

## Desert Island Discs (continued)

### 8th Record

**Title: April in Paris**

**Composer: Vernon Duke (played by Count Basie and his Orchestra)**

A lovely arrangement of a well known tune. The orchestra are enjoying it so much that when they reach the end someone in the orchestra shouts "one more time" which is what they do. I could listen to it over and over again.

If I could only take one record it would have to be The New World Symphony because it brings back so many happy memories and it lasts longer than the others!

My book (the Bible and Shakespeare are already on the island) would be: "A History of

Yorkshire County Cricket" by Derek Hodgson

My luxury would be a never ending supply of Sugar-free Polo mints because I love mints and always have a packet on my person.

THANKYOU Peter for being my guinea-pig for what I hope will be a regular feature of the GTS. I'm sure everyone will have been interested in your choice of music which as a music lover you found very hard to choose.

NB. We all know Peter and June and greatly appreciate their worthy efforts in Midweek Break. .... So folks - is it your turn next??? Contact me – Brenda Walmsley - before I contact you !!

## Church Family News

### Funerals

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| 6 October 2010   | <b>Mr Kenneth Caswell</b> , age 93 of Snydale Nursing Home.    |
| 12 November 2010 | <b>Mrs Audrey Perkin</b> , age 90 of Haven Lodge Nursing Home. |
| 12 November 2010 | <b>Mrs Marie Senior</b> , age 65 of Altofts Hall Road.         |