

A Word in Season . . .

Little Billy wanted a bright-red wheelbarrow for Christmas, and he began to pray several weeks before December 25 asking Jesus for it. On Christmas morning when Billy awoke in his rural home, sure enough, there was the bright-red wheelbarrow! Pushing his pride and joy into his parent's bedroom, he cried excitedly, "Look what Jesus sent me! Look what Jesus sent me! I asked Him for it and He gave it to me!"

Quickly Billy dressed and asked his parents if he could push his beautiful, red wheelbarrow around the village green. On the corner of the green stood the church that Billy and his parents attended each week. Early that morning, the priest came over to the church to check everything was in readiness for the special Christmas service. Passing the nativity scene, he noticed that the statue representing Baby Jesus was missing. He learned from the church warden that a little boy pushing a red wheelbarrow had been seen in the church a short while before.

Hurrying out onto the village green, the minister found Billy pushing his new, red wheelbarrow with the statue of baby Jesus in it. He was singing, "Away in a manger," at the top of his voice. The priest stopped him. "Why did you steal the Baby Jesus from His crib?" he began rather sternly.

Billy looked up, surprised: "I didn't steal Baby Jesus," the little boy replied with a hurt tone in his voice, "I prayed and asked Jesus to give me a new, bright-red wheelbarrow for Christmas. I promised Him if He did, I would give Him the first ride. That's what I'm doing!"

The apostle Paul says that not only should Jesus be the head of the Church but that He should "have the first place in all things" - Col.1:18; - that means everything in our lives.

Somehow it seems that little Billy understood what Paul was talking about. Even though Billy had a new, red wheelbarrow, Jesus was the centre of his simple love and devotion. Christ should have first place in everything in our lives

as well. Why not make that decision this Christmas? Give Jesus the first place in your life. - Submitted by Pearl Walker.

"Food for Thought . . .

"The angel said, 'Don't be afraid. I'm here to announce a great and joyful event that is meant for everybody, worldwide: A Saviour has just been born in David's town, a Saviour who is Messiah and Master'"

- Luke 2:10,11, The Message Bible.



Monday Night Bible Study

At 7:30 each Monday evening, A Bible Study group meets in the upstairs Function Room of our church. Several folks from the local community now join us for study and informal discussion over light refreshments. In fact, the attendance has been increasing recently. Currently we have been studying through the Book of Romans. If you wish to join in the discussion, please come along. All are welcome. There is a short recess period over Christmas but will recommence on Monday 6 January 2020.

Services of the Church: -

Bible Study/Discussion

Saturday 10:00 am

Children's Class . . . Saturday 10:00 am

Family Worship . . . Saturday 11:15 am

Church Family Fellowship . . .

First Saturday afternoon in each month after the Worship Service and a fellowship meal.

Bible Study & Prayer

Monday 7:30 pm

We operate a child protection policy.
Marriages – Child Dedications – Believers
Baptisms – Funerals

The Link is produced by your local Seventh-day Adventist Church in Burnt Lane, Gorleston, NR31 0PG as a community service.

Editor: Michael I. Walker – email:

mwalker08@btinternet.com

Minister: Mark Borrett – 07729 997699

Visit our Church Website:

<http://greatyarmouth.adventistchurch.org.uk/>



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**A Very Happy
Christmas to All Our
Readers**

**We are inviting you to come to our
Christmas Carol Service this Saturday
evening
at 7pm**

**and afterwards to enjoy warm mince pies
and mulled berry punch**

**Christmas Community Carol Service
by Candlelight
Saturday 21 December at 7pm**

Immanuel
GOD WITH US

**Adventist Church, Burnt Lane, Gorleston
A Warm Welcome Awaits You
Charity collection for East Coast Hospice**

"Jesus is the reason for the season"

Editorial

Another year has almost come to its close and will soon drift into the past as the new year comes into port. Before then, however, we celebrate Christmas; but unfortunately, the significance of this event has been forgotten by so many. We celebrate the birth of Jesus Who came to save us. Yet so many today have no concept of what salvation is really about. That is so sad. We all enter this world as sinners whether we admit it or not; but Jesus entered the world as our Saviour from sin and its penalty. He offers peace and happiness for eternity - what an offer!

Why not come along to the evening Carol & Candlelight Service on the 21 December. Several visitors have attended from our local community each year. An open invitation and a warm welcome awaits you all.

Meanwhile, enjoy reading the enclosed newsy articles in this issue of *The Link*. May you be blessed this Christmas!

- Editor.

Fellowship at the Wherry . . .



On Sunday 15 December, members and friends of the Seventh-day Adventist Churches in Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft came together for a festive lunch at the Wherry Hotel in Oulton Broad. On this annual event, it was suggested that this time, the two churches celebrate the season together rather than making separate arrangements. It was a beautiful day, weather-wise, food-wise and fellowship-wise! The meal was excellent and everyone enjoyed the opportunity to share a lovely meal together. Much appreciation is given to our pastor and his wife for arranging this event.

Baptismal Service . . .

On the afternoon of Sabbath (Saturday) 7 December, we had the privilege of witnessing a baptismal service in our church in Burnt Lane. The church was filled to capacity along with some visitors from the community - in fact, for those who came later, there was standing room only! We also had the privilege of a return visit from our previous minister who is now serving in the West Country. Pastor Rio Espulgar, together with his wife and daughter, travelled across from his parish in Weston-super-Mare to be with us for the baptismal service.

He had baptized Tania Overton several years ago when she accepted Jesus as her Saviour. Since that time, her husband Justin and their daughter gave their lives to Jesus and prepared to be baptized. Pastor Espulgar had the privilege of baptizing Justin.



Pastor Rio Espulgar baptizes Justin Overton

Three pastors were actually involved in this baptismal service. Our minister, whom some of the community have become acquainted with, Mark Borrett baptized Shauna and her grandmother, Ana Nunes; and he invited retired minister, Pastor Michael Walker to immerse Sharnie-Ann Bright in the waters of baptism.



Pastor Mark Borrett baptizes Shauna Overton

Seventh-day Adventists practice the baptism of repentance for believers according to the Biblical method - i.e. by immersion. The word *Baptizō* in Greek, means 'to dip', 'to plunge', 'to immerse'. The Biblical symbolism is explained in the New Testament Book of Romans chapter 6. It likens immersion to the death of the old, sinful life by burying it in the watery grave; and the raising of the new life (i.e. New Birth) by rising out of the watery grave. That death, burial and resurrection is by faith "in Christ" Who died for our sins, was buried and rose again to put us right with God. It is a very beautiful service that is full

of meaning. By faith in Jesus, we are made new again by being united in Christ our personal Saviour.



Ana Nunes is baptized by Pastor Borrett



Pastor Michael Walker baptizes Sharnie-Ann Bright

These four individuals, along with Maureen Doggett, were given the right-hand of fellowship into our church family. It was truly a heart-warming experience. They each received a special gift from the church to mark this occasion.



The new church members pose with the three ministers

After the service, everyone was invited to the upstairs function room for refreshments, including a piece of the specially prepared 'Happy New Birthday Cake'.



The 'Happy New Birthday Cake' bearing their names
It also has a picture of Jesus Who was baptized as our Example to follow