

Plymouth Unitarian Church



December/January Newsletter

Reflecting on the last year, Reverend Kate has continued to give us interesting, thoughtful, reflective services with others stepping in occasionally. We have, as always, supported the Food Bank. As well as donating food, £150 was also raised at the carol service. £130 was raised for Macmillan through our yearly coffee morning. A fun time was had at the Xmas fair - good music, great cakes and a variety of stalls. We raised £513.91, which was very good in this economic climate. Sometimes what we do as a community is forgotten, so here are just a few things that we have enjoyed:

Community cafe - we work closely with Hazel a community worker. We have enjoyed Craft sessions led by Linda, Word games led by Mike, Food for Fun - showing us how to cook cheaply and nutritiously. These are just a few, there have been many more and we will continue these throughout 2023.

One of the things we have really appreciated so much is the calming Oasis of Calm. Sheila has been doing this, I think for 9 years. It is the first Wednesday of each month from 1-1.45. Music and silence, what more could you want. The next one will be 4th January.

January Services

1st will be Soothing Sunday led by Sheila. Kate will take 8th, 15th and 22nd.

The service on 29th will be led by Ann.

Nb: There will be no zoom services on 1st or 29th.

Cafe

This will be closed the week before and the week after Christmas and will reopen on Wednesday 4th January.

A Christmas story for you to ponder on

Once again the story I tell is mainly set at a bus station but starts at the Xmas tree festival in Tavistock. Beautiful display of trees, live music and me sitting having coffee and cake with a young woman and her son about three years old. It briefly crossed my mind, why was she eating and drinking and he wasn't. It was a fleeting thought, just that. She told me his name and that her and her husband had saved to take him to Lapland just for one day. They couldn't save enough for two days. We parted company but then saw each other at the bus stop. We were sitting waiting for a bus. The little boy was in his pushchair but this time he wasn't lively, he was tired and she was feeding him through a tube in his stomach. Our conversation continued about all the palaver to get agreement to take his milk on the plane. He would die without it. Along came an elderly man, he just stood and stared at the boy. The mum said she hates that and how it happens all the time. I asked her if she wanted me to speak to the man. He walked away and came back three times. He kept saying how he had recently lost his wife.

A lost, lonely man and a mum with a child with life limiting needs and me. What was the end of this story? What would Jesus have taught us to do? What would you have done?

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Ann