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Christmas 09 Newsletter

Welcome to Purley Chase Centre Newsletter in which we will be keeping you up to date with what is happening here at the centre.



Hi Everyone

Well we have just had a great start to Christmas, on Friday we had a group in from Atherstone for a quiet day followed by a Carol Service with about 44 people attending. It was a lovely evening with lots of good singing followed by mince pies and other festive treats around the log fire. Sunday we had our monthly service and again some lovely Carols were sung. There will be no service in January but our monthly services will recommence on the 7th February. I wish you all a very Blessed Christmas Period and look forward to seeing you in the New Year at Purley.

Love Anne and all the Staff.

Is Bethlehem the 'human heart'?

Greetings! Historically, Jesus is said to have been born in Bethlehem of a Virgin called Mary, and I have no doubt that he was. The word Bethlehem is composed of two parts: 'beth' and 'lehem'. Beth means *house* and lehem means *bread*, so Bethlehem means 'House of Bread'.

When used in scripture, the word 'bread,' figuratively speaking means 'goodness.' So when Jesus said, "I am the bread of life..." he meant, "I am the goodness of life." The Lord is Goodness itself. Goodness should live in the human heart; the house of goodness or the house of God in us. No doubt you have heard sayings about 'good hearted people.' Since His resurrection, Our Lord's birth place is destined to be the human heart.

When we hear instruction spoken by the Lord through His Word, and endeavour to live by it then inevitably, we will struggle with our self-centered natures. If - with His help - we win, then the Lord descends by degrees into our hearts giving us new perspectives, inner joy and peace. I've heard it said that the longest journey in life is only eighteen inches; the distance from the head to the heart, the distance between intellectual faith and the kind of faith that

overcomes 'self' and is faith in action. May Our Lord advent in our hearts this Christmas.

I wish you productive thoughts on the subject: Rev. David Gaffney.

Events coming up over the next few months:

Young Adults – 22nd to 24th January 2010

<http://www.purleychasecentre.org.uk/centre-events/events/young-adults-weekend1.html>

Where is God in innocent suffering? – 19th to 21st February 2010

<http://www.purleychasecentre.org.uk/centre-events/events/where-is-god-in-innocent-suffering.html>

Taizé – 26th to 28th February 2010

<http://www.purleychasecentre.org.uk/centre-events/events/taize-style-music-weekend.html>

Writing TV Scripts - 19th to 21st March 2010

<http://www.purleychasecentre.org.uk/centre-events/events/writing-tv-scripts1.html>

If you would like to receive copies of the most recent brochure for yourself or to pass onto friends then please let us know.