

Welcome to Museum Street Methodist Church

A town centre Christian Church committed to enriching individual lives
and the wellbeing of community.



4th SUNDAY in Advent. 23rd December 2018

This morning's Carol Service at 10.45 a.m. will be led by

Maggie Finbow

Our ADVENT PRAYER for All.

LORD OUR GOD, PURIFY OUR HEARTS WITH THE FIRE OF YOUR LOVE.
LORD OUR GOD, BEAR IN US THE FRUIT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.
LORD OUR GOD, MAY WE GROW DEEPER IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF YOU.
COME LORD. TRANSFORM OUR HEARTS AND MINDS.
SET US ABLAZE WITH YOUR LOVE, THAT NOTHING MAY CAUSE US TO FALL.

AMEN

Minister: Revd Derek Grimshaw
Tel: 01473 805486

Order of Service

Carol Service. 23.12.18

Advent Liturgy

Reading: Isaiah Ch9 vv2,6&7

Carol: StF 214 Once in Royal David's City

Prayers

Reading: Luke Ch 1 vv 26-35 & v38

Carol: StF 205 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Reading: Luke Ch2 vv 1-7

Carol: StF 197 Cradled in a Manger Meanly

Meditation: "Christmas Letters"

Reading: Luke Ch 2 vv 8-18

Carol: StF 216 See Him Lying on a Bed of Straw

Christmas Reflections

Carol: StF 213 O Little Town of Bethlehem

Reading: Matthew Ch 2 vv 1-12

Prayers.

Offering

Carol: HSW 15 Christ Jesus Came to Earth at Christmas

Reading: John Ch 1 vv1-14

Carol: StF 202 Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Benediction

"The Miracle of Love"

Notices for Sunday 23rd December 2018

Stewards this morning: Betty and Catherine.
Technical help will be given by Chris Finbow.

Welcome to everyone who is worshipping with us today, whether you are a regular worshipper at Museum Street, or visiting us for the first time. Please stay and continue fellowship over a cup of tea or coffee at the end of the service.

We ask you to pray for those who are unable to join us for worship, especially those who are ill in hospital or at home. We also remember those who are mourning the loss of a loved one.

Preachers who are taking services elsewhere today.

Martin Ellis is at Brantham 11.00
Derek Grimshaw is at Elmsett 9.45
Derek Grimshaw is at Bramford Road 6.30

Notices for the week commencing 24th December

24 Monday 11.30pm Communion Service led by Derek Grimshaw
25 Tuesday 10.00am Christmas Day Morning Service led by Martin Ellis
26 Wednesday NO COFFEE MORNING
29 Saturday NO COFFEE MORNING
30 Sunday 10.45am Service led by David Welbourn

Next Week's Service at Museum Street

10.45 a.m. David Welbourn

Preachers taking services elsewhere next Sunday

Preachers taking services Christmas Day

Colin Westren is at Bramford Road 10.00

Items for inclusion in next week's notices should be with Mike Parker by 8 p.m. on Thursday Telephone 01473 274321 email: parker.mj@btinternet.com

"God bless us every one!"

Charles Dickens work is celebrated all over the world for his championing of the poor. Dickens charts the life of Pip in *Great Expectations*, the orphan boy brought up by his sister until an unknown benefactor wishes for him to become a gentleman. He also created the iconic *Oliver Twist*, another orphan who found wealth. As a man from humble beginnings Dickens always took a keen interest in London's numerous cases of physical and mental incapacity and suffering.

Dickens used his journalism skills to spread news of Great Ormond Street Hospital and to gain support for it. He wrote *Drooping Buds* in 'Household Worlds Magazine' in 1852. In the article he emphasizes the importance of the hospital in "this great city of London". Dickens also uses powerful images of children's graves, "those little graves two or three feet long, which are so plentiful in our churchyards" to conjure up public sympathy and interest.

The article also enables the reader to see the interior of the hospital and gain an idea of its environment. He describes the "neat and new appearance of the hospital walls" and a "woman with a child in her arms was finding ready admission in the great hall". The opening description of the hospital allows the reader to imagine the new hospital ready to serve its purpose of helping sick children.

Dickens continues to describe his journey within the hospital and describes what he sees in the wards. 'little eyes looked up from little beds, was quite a cheerful sight. The walls were painted, in panel, with rosy nymphs and children; and the light laughter of children was our entrance. Nothing was sad here.' The repetition of 'little' emphasises that the hospital is for children. The tone of the article changes here, it becomes more light-hearted and cheerful, which echoes the tone of children. An ideal scene is depicted of the children through the sounds of their laughter. This would appeal to any mothers reading the magazine and therefore is a good way of drumming up support and therefore financial contributions to the hospital.

One Christmas, with the hospital facing bankruptcy and with more patients than there was room, Charles Dickens read passages from his celebrated work, *A Christmas Carol*. The character of Tiny Tim could well have been a patient of the hospital. This act meant that all the funds needed to not only save, but expand the hospital were met. Without the authors commitment, there may not have been a Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children.