

Irthlingborough Methodist Church

A warm welcome is extended to all

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SPECIAL ANGEL NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2021

Luke 15: 10 'In the same way I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.'

Article from Barbara:

SINGING WITH ANGELS

Have you ever seen an angel? I haven't, or at least, I don't *think* I have! Even though I have never knowingly seen an angel, I believe they exist, and I know I shall be singing about them soon in many Christmas carols.

Here are just a few of the well-known carols that mention angels: "Angels from the realms of glory", "It came upon a midnight clear", "Hark the Herald angels sing", "While shepherds watched their flocks by night".

Angels played a leading role in the birth stories of Jesus in the Bible. The Angel Gabriel told Mary that she had been chosen by God to bear the Holy Child; an angel told Joseph that his betrothed, Mary, was pregnant; many angels appeared to shepherds on the hills near Bethlehem announcing the baby's birth and filling the sky with their praises - to mention just a few.

Christmas cards usually depict angels with halos and magnificent wings, but although on a few occasions the Bible describes angels as having wings, most often angels look so much like human beings, that they are not recognised to be angels.

Although we often hear about angels at Christmas time, they are by no means unique to the Christmas story, as they are mentioned nearly 300 times in the Bible and in 64 of the Bible's 66 books. Angels are shown to be God's messengers who are sent to do God's will, which often entails helping people and guiding them along the right path through life. We know from the Bible that there are thousands and thousands of angels, and they often appear in gatherings so enormous that no one can count them.

As Christmas approaches, look out for angels, you never know when one (or many!) may appear! Whether you see an angel or not, remember that in heaven, great choirs of angels are always singing the praises of God just as they did on the night Jesus was born. Remember too, that when we humans sing God's praise in hymns and carols, amazingly our voices join with the magnificent angel choir. You can't sing out of tune in that choir!

One of our favourite Christmas carols urges us to sing with the angels:

Silent night, holy night,
Wondrous star, lend thy light,
With the angels let us sing
Alleluia to our King.
Christ our Saviour is born!
Christ our Saviour is born!

Some of us may never see an angel but we can all *sing* with angels at Christmas and every day of the year if we want to! What a privilege!

**MAY YOU HAVE A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND MAY ANGELS
GUARD YOU, WAKING OR SLEEPING, SINGING OR SILENT!**

Barbara Smith

Revelation 14: 6 'Then I saw another angel flying in mid-air, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth – to every nation, tribe, language and people.'

A contribution from Monica:

Just thought I would tell you about my afternoon completing my design for the mosaic angel. I just presumed it would be a case of sticking the pieces on. However, it turned out to be something different, very thought provoking.

I sorted all the pieces to see what was there and then set about my design. I started with some haphazard words which if complete would say Happy Christmas, then found loads of different blues which made the sky with stars scattered over them. My centrepiece was a tiny square with a babe in arms which obviously was Mother Mary and baby Jesus. I then surrounded this with all the pieces with glitter to represent the commercialism that surrounds Christmas. Then around that I had found pieces of a cow to represent the cattle in the stall. I also found parts of angelic figures etc to represent the other characters in the manger scene but there were some plain squares which I dotted about, which I thought represented those who have nothing or very little, but it is still important to consider.

Hebrews 12:22 'But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly.'

The Angels

May angels rest beside your door,
May you hear their voices sing.
May you feel their loving care for you,
May you hear their peace bells ring.
May angels always care for you,
And not let you trip and fall,
May they bear you up on angel's wings,
May they keep you standing tall.
May they whisper wisdom in your ear,
May they touch you when you need,
May they remove from you each trace of fear,
May they keep you from feeling greed.
May they fill you with their presence,
May they show you love untold,
May they always stand beside you
And make you ever bold.
May they teach you what you need to know
About life here and here-after.
May they fill you always with their love
And give you the gift of laughter



Don't forget to keep an eye out for the angel invasion..... please take one home with you.

Angel Themed **coffee morning** will take place in the Chapel on Saturday 4th December from 9.30am – 12noon. There will be refreshments, a craft stall and an angel themed craft 'make and take' activity. In addition, there will be the opportunity to make a donation to the Chelsea's Angels Charity if you are able to do so.