

# insideOUT

An update on Crockenhill Baptist Church's news and events

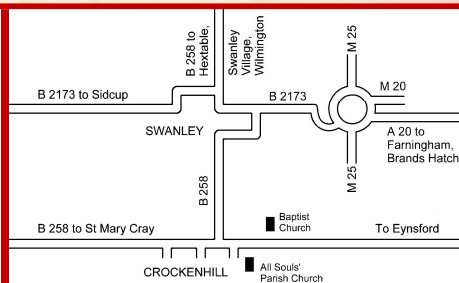
## WELCOME TO THE CHRISTMAS EDITION OF *INSIDE OUT*, THE NEWSLETTER FROM CROCKENHILL BAPTIST CHURCH

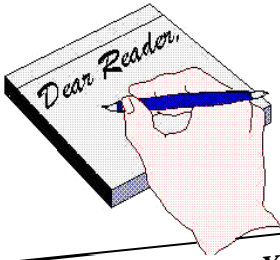
Our Christmas celebrations stretch over 2½ weeks this year, kicking off with a special carol morning at Coffee Cup on Thursday 8th December, and running right through to Christmas morning. Please see the back page for a full listing of our Christmas programme.

You would be most welcome to celebrate Christmas with us at any or all of these events. But whether or not you can find the time to join us, please take the time to read our special Christmas message, for a reminder of exactly what we're really celebrating.

### **How to contact us:**

- ☎ phone the pastor 01322 663995
  - ✉ email [cbc@crockenhill.org](mailto:cbc@crockenhill.org)
  - 🌐 visit our website [www.crockenhill.org](http://www.crockenhill.org)
- or come to one of our Sunday services





## A Letter from our Pastor

### *Christmas or Xmas - does it really matter?*

Have you prepared everything for Christmas yet? What tremendous expectations many of us feel are placed on us at this time of the year! Therefore, we endeavour to write cards, purchase and wrap up presents, decorate Christmas trees, buy food, invite round all the family, fill stockings, visit Santa's Grotto with the kids ... and so one could go on ... and all of this in the midst of what, for many of us at least, are already busy lives! Perhaps some of us will feel we need a holiday in January to recover!

But why do we do it every year? What is this Christmas time all about? I wonder, have we stopped to ask such questions?

Of course, some people are determined to remove the 'Christ' from Christmas, and we've all seen the cards and signs that say 'Xmas'. But once we do this, what does this festive season then become all about? What are we celebrating? Are we not in danger of engaging in a festival with little or no meaning? Can we really get excited about an 'X', whatever the 'X' may be?

You will not be surprised to read that those of us at Crockenhill Baptist Church are concerned to retain the 'Christ' in Christmas, for the simple reason that He gives each Christmas meaning and a reason to celebrate.

Now we know that Jesus wasn't born on 25<sup>th</sup> December, but this is the day we celebrate God's indescribable gift to our world. Indeed, we want to give thanks for a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord - a Saviour who we believe died and rose again to give us peace with God and the certain hope of a life with Him in heaven!

Perhaps you will want to think about what Christmas really means this year? Perhaps you will be tempted to come along to one of our Christmas services and find out more? You would be more than welcome!

Whatever you decide, may we take this opportunity to wish you all an enjoyable Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Mark

## Crockenhill Baptist Church Christmas Appeal

Starting with the Coffee Cup Carol Morning (see below) and continuing through all our special Christmas events, any money we collect will be going to the *Ellenor Lions Hospices*.

Every week, Ellenor Lions provides hospice care in the family home for 300 adults and 80 children; and each year 250 people receive in-hospice care.

This means that, in the course of a year, they are in contact with over 2500 people.

These services are free of charge to patients, but cost about £4.8 million a year, the vast majority of which is raised by the local community.

We might not quite be able to get to this figure, but we do hope we can count on your usual generous support for this worthwhile cause.

You can find out more about the care provided by Ellenor Lions hospices from their website ([www.ellenorlions.org](http://www.ellenorlions.org)).



**EllenorLions Hospices**

*'without them we would have been lost'*

## CBC FOLiO

- a guide to what goes on 'inside'

The main purpose of this issue of *InsideOut* is to tell you about our Christmas programme, and to encourage you to take some time out during this busy time of year to think about the true meaning of the season.

But remember - we are here all the time, not just for Christmas, with activities and meetings for all.

Why not make a New Year's Resolution to come along to one of our regular events. There is no room to tell you about everything here, so please contact us for more information, or look at our website ([www.crockenhill.org](http://www.crockenhill.org)).

While you are on our website, take a look around to find out what we believe, and why we do what we do.

And if you have ever thought that you would like to come to a Sunday service, but have not been able to for whatever reason, you can even listen to a sermon online.

Just follow the *Listen to a Sermon* link from the homepage, and you will find most of the last year's sermons to choose from.

### COFFEE CUP CAROL MORNING

Thursday 8th December



10:45 - 12:00

CHURCH HALL



All Welcome for Coffee and Carols

CROCKENHILL BAPTIST CHURCH

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PLAY

## “Midnight”

SUNDAY 11 DECEMBER 10:30 a.m.

## Carols at The Chequers

WEDNESDAY 14 DECEMBER 8 p.m.

## Carols by Candlelight

SUNDAY 18 DECEMBER 6:30 p.m.

## Christmas Day Service of Praise

SUNDAY 25 DECEMBER 10:30 a.m.

EVERYONE WELCOME!