

The

# Welcome Times



December 2015



## The Circus comes to Town



On a sunny afternoon in September if you had taken one step off the Chevin Road, a world of the Circus would have opened up before your eyes.

Enter the world of the Family Fun Day. Okay so there were no flying trapeze artistes, lions or elephants, but there was a clown and loads of fun to be had.



Over a few sun filled hours young and not so young learned to



stilt walk, plate spin, juggle, walk on four wheels and balance on an impossible piece of wood.



### In the Picture

*In a place beyond time, the Master Artist looks at his canvas. It is blank; there is no picture, because there is no-thing. The Master is completely alone. In the beginning there is only the one who creates: nothing*

## In the beginning...



into creation; creation into life; life into a picture of love, freedom and choice.

He gathers his colours and the picture forms. But the picture will have only three parts to it.

First he draws a man and underneath he writes the name Adam.

Then a woman - she is called *Eve*

The backdrop is a place of splendour.

The artist draws them so they are the image of him. They are perfect, beautiful, enjoy laughter, love, can themselves create things of wonder and are full of joy.

From these two will come countless Adams and innumerable Eves all created in the artist's image. Created individually: not by chance, not by accident. Created for a reason.

The reason is for love. The master loves them as though there is only one of them to love. He chooses to love them with every part

of his being and he longs that they will choose the same for him. So he gives to each a canvas, each able to create their own picture using magnificent colours.

Oh, even now, the artist feels such pain. How much safer it would be to draw their picture for them. To paint, in a vibrant glow, the loveliness he wants for everyone, rather than colours some will choose that are dark and cold. But love can't be love if it prevents freedom and choice.

Then he places a small, final image on his canvas. A baby.

The Master is drawing his own self-portrait, entering his own picture. He knows how it will end. But in order to have life there must be death and such is his love that he will give each Adam and each Eve a final chance.

He steps back and looks at what is before him. None of this has to be. The painting could be abandoned. But how can love not love? So he finishes the work, places it for all to see until the end of the time he has created and begins the beginning.



## December



**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> Come Sing With Us. 6.30pm-8pm**  
**Carol singing in the Village**

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> Carol Service at Milford House 6pm**

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> Family Christmas Service 10.30am**  
**Milford Baptist Church**

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve Carol Service by Candlelight**  
**6pm**  
**Milford Baptist Church**

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day Service**  
**10.30am**  
**Milford Baptist Church**





Here for you



### From one Crackpot....

An elderly Chinese man had two large pots, each hung on the ends of a pole that he carried across his neck.

One of the pots had a crack in it while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water. At the end of the long walk from the stream to the house, the cracked pot arrived only half full.

For a full two years this went on daily, with the man bringing home only one and a half pots of water.

Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable that it could only do half of what it had been made to do.

After 2 years of what it perceived to be bitter failure, it spoke to the man one day by the stream. "I am ashamed of myself, because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your house."

The old man smiled, "Did you notice that there are flowers on your side of the path, but not on the other pot's side?" "That's because I have always known about your flaw, so I planted flower seeds on your side of the path,

### We are here



and every day while we walk back, you water them." "For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate the table. Without you being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace the house."

Each of us has our own unique flaw. But it's the cracks and flaws we each have that make our lives together so very interesting and rewarding. You've just got to take each person for what they are and look for the good in them.

★ Meet in the Mill House Car park 6.30pm ★

## Come Sing with Us

Carol singing in Milford

This year we'll be singing in The Woodridge, Milford House area, Sunny Hill, Well Lane, Chevin Alley and Chevin Road

★ Finish at the Church at 8pm for coffee and mince pies ★



Jesus is the Reason for the Season

**Advent Family Event Sunday**  
**20<sup>th</sup> December | 10.30am**  
**Milford Baptist Church**

Come and join us in thanking God for his indescribable gift

**Here for you****Sometimes we go  
Aaarrrghh!**

At Milford Baptist you'll find a group of ordinary, everyday people who strive to live out our lives in the way Jesus taught.

There will be times when we think, say or do something that makes us lift up our hands and go aarrgghh!

But the good news of the gospel is that Jesus knows what we're like and still loves us.



**A warm welcome is always waiting if you join us on a Sunday. Or come along to the Wednesday Group, Bible Study or Coffee Morning. Go to our website to see details**

**Here for You**

We all go through tough times - loneliness, illness or loss.

If you would like one of us to visit, even simply to chat, then get in touch.

Contact one of our pastoral team on 01773 822370.

**What Else**

As well as meeting every Sunday at 10.30 there are other events you can come along to and enjoy the company.

**Wednesday Group** meets alternative weeks. Visiting speakers talk on a topic of interest. See the programme on the website at [www.milfordbaptist.org.uk/whats-happening/wednesday-club/](http://www.milfordbaptist.org.uk/whats-happening/wednesday-club/)

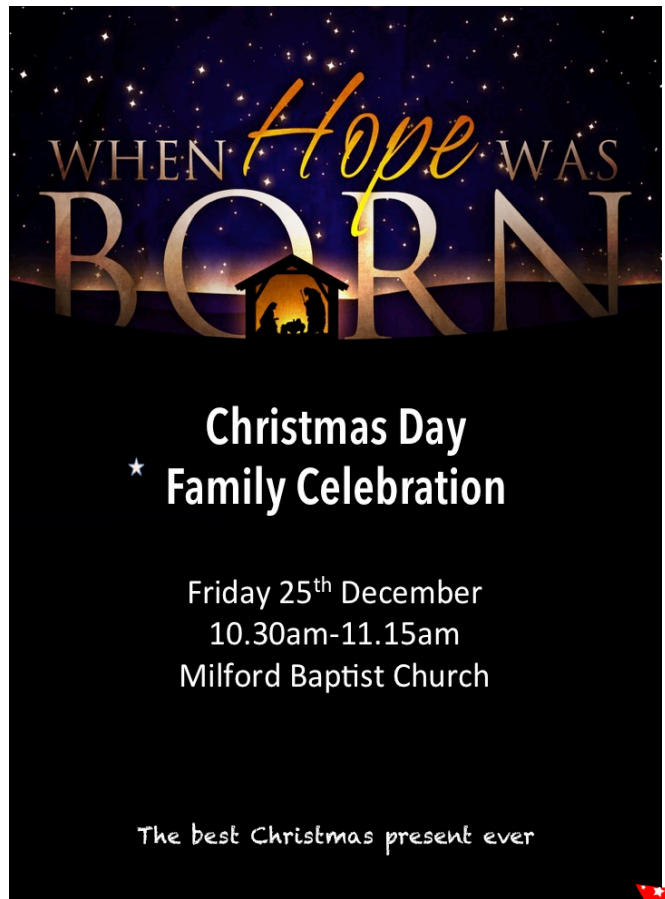
**Bible Study Group** meets on a Thursday at 7.30pm in the church

**Coffee Morning** is held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of each month. From 10am to noon in the church.

**Christmas Eve  
Carol Service**

**Thursday  
24<sup>th</sup> December | 6.30pm  
Milford Baptist Church**

Join us for this time of Christmas worship  
as we praise  
our great God for His amazing gift



**WHEN *Hope* WAS  
BORN**

**Christmas Day  
★ Family Celebration**

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> December  
10.30am-11.15am  
Milford Baptist Church

The best Christmas present ever