

## The Origin of the Christmas Tree

About 500 years ago the German theologian Martin Luther was walking through some woods near his home. It was the week before Christmas. He was thinking about the Coming of the Christ-Child Jesus and wondering how he could celebrate the Saviour's birth at Bethlehem.

Looking up at the beautiful fir trees laded with sparkling snow, Martin had a wonderful idea! He would chop down a little fir tree, take it indoors and decorate it with candles, in honour of JESUS the LIGHT of the WORLD. And so originated the first decorated Christmas tree.

At the start of the nativity play, five children to come on, in order, holding cards which spelt "HELLO".

Unfortunately, the child with the fifth letter became confused and went on first.

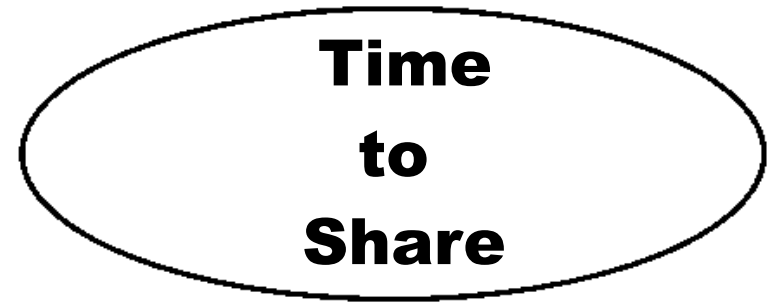
May Peace be your gift at Christmas and your blessing all year through.

Merry Christmas and Happy NewYear

To be continued in the next ...

Cheers Jody

December 2014



## Greetings and Salutations



This is the last Share until February. It has been a pretty busy year and better than the last. Hopefully 2015 will be even better and good changes happen in the church.

### **Vale Dorothy Thomas**

We are so saddened. Dorothy passed away on 9<sup>th</sup> November. Dorothy, Allan and family became members of the Alexander Road congregation 50 years ago. Dorothy soon became a Sunday School teacher, joined the Fellowship and, after Church Union, was one of the first members of the Craft Group at Oxley Uniting. Her talents were many. We will always remember her beautiful sewing, knitting, cake decorating and flower arranging to mention but a few.

Dorothy was a dear, humble and caring friend. We thank God for her and we miss her.

### **Samaritan's Purse**

2014 marks the 15<sup>th</sup> year that Oxley Uniting Church has been part of this wonderful activity. In 2000, under the enthusiastic guidance of Margaret Richards, 31 boxes were packed. In 2014, we sent 167 boxes and this brought the grand total over 15 years to 2,321 boxes. As well as Church folk, work colleagues and friends of members, schools and kindergartens also contributed boxes.



Talented people have made hundreds of skipping ropes, knitted beanies and dolls, sewn bags and items of clothing – truly a labour of love. The finances have been capably looked after, firstly by Dorothy Thomas, and over recent years by Jody Clarkeson.

This project is one that brings joy to children in many places around the world, but it is also a happy time for those who are involved in the organization required. Special thanks to every one for their hard work and dedication over many years. Margaret would like to step back from her organizing role in 2015, so if you would like to be part of the planning team, please speak to her or to Jan Thompson.

God bless you all.

### **Arana Hills Choir Visit**

For some months now, Arana Hills Uniting Church has lent us one of their members, Charlie Greer, to be our supply minister.

On Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> November, they went further in their generosity. They lent us their choir, of which Charlie is a member.

At a joint 9:45am service, the Arana Hills Choir sang a Christmas cantata. Conducted by Judy Scholes and accompanied by Joyce Skelton, they gave an exuberant rendition of a number of joyful Christmas songs.

Alternating with the songs, scripture passages telling the Christmas story were read by Gordon Fuller.

For the worshippers, it was a moving experience. The Word sung and the Word narrated combined to stir our hearts with the wonder of the Incarnation, of the Word becoming flesh and living among us.



Thank you brothers and sisters of Arana Hills.

### **Garden Lovers** closed for the year on a high note.

Harry and Jan Thompson showed photos of their overseas jaunts and these were enjoyed by all. Everyone received a plant and there were lots of goodies to eat. Meetings resume in February.

### **Did you know?**

Barbara and John Cansdale celebrated their 62<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary this year. My goodness – and they only get 20 years for murder!!

