

# The Vale

The magazine for Selsdon Vale



## The Generosity Issue

Inside:

- **Gifts of Compassion**
- **Better to give than receive?**
- **Delicious Christmas Recipes**
- **Kidz Klub & Messy Church**

# Hello!

## Welcome to the third edition of The Vale!

Wishing all of the Greenvale residents and friends a very happy Christmas!

We've got lots going on this season, so why not come along to one of the events. The Christmas Craft afternoon is on Saturday 18th December (more details on page 5) and look out for us as we'll be coming to a road near you with our carol singers on the 14th and 20th December - why not come and join us for a sing-song (wrap up warm)!

Also in this edition, check out Rev. Dave's message, a challenge to be joyful givers this Christmas and always.

On page 5, get to know a special SBC @ Greenvale lady, our very own Mim. And get to know others from the congregation on the back page, telling us about their Christmas family traditions.

We hope that you have a wonderful Christmas, and we look forward to meeting you at one of our events or services soon!

### The Editors



**Madeleine Traies**  
Madeleine works for NHS Croydon.



**Jo Thomson**  
Jo is a Graphic Designer.



**Anna Mayne**  
Anna works for the BBC.

## Our Services:

**24th December 11.30pm**  
Addington Road | Christmas Eve

**25th December 10.30am**  
Greenvale | Christmas Day

**2nd January 10.30am**  
Greenvale | A New Start

**30th January, 27th February, 27th March 10.30am**  
Greenvale | Messy Church

**3rd April 10.30am**  
Greenvale | Mother's Day

**10th April 10.30am**  
Greenvale | Lent Prayer and Praise Morning

**24th April 10.30am**  
Greenvale | Easter Extravaganza

## Dates for your Diary:

**14th December 7.30pm**  
Carol Singing  
Meeting at Greenvale School and singing around Selsdon Vale

**20th December 7.30pm**  
Carol Singing  
Meeting at Greenvale School and singing around Selsdon Vale

**29th January 2-4pm**  
Greenvale | Kidz Klub

**26th February 2-4pm**  
Greenvale | Kidz Klub

**26th March 2-4pm**  
Greenvale | Kidz Klub

**23rd April 2-4pm**  
Greenvale | Kidz Klub Easter Fun & Games with Egg Hunt!

## Gifts of Compassion

What do you buy a person that has everything this Christmas? What can you choose that is a little different? You can now buy a gift that is not only special for the person you buy it for, but it is also a gift that will make an impact on someone else.

We are pleased to be able to present our new Gifts of Compassion catalogue which is full of new and exciting gift ideas for this coming Christmas season. We've split the gifts into five new categories based on the areas of interest you may have. There's loads of choice from chicks, pigs and cows to umbrellas or trees - gifts to suit all budgets, ages and interests.

Remember though, a Gift of Compassion is not just for Christmas, so do keep your catalogue handy throughout the year for birthdays, weddings and all special occasions. Why not take a copy to your Church group, work place or club and start fundraising for a BIG gift, or a bundle? The possibilities are endless!

So, plan your Christmas shopping from the comfort of your own home. What a unique way to send your love

to someone special and at the same time give a gift to change someone's life. One gift purchased, two people smile!

Take a look at our website [www.giftsofcompassion.org.uk](http://www.giftsofcompassion.org.uk) to explore all the possibilities or call our office on 020 8688 3939 to request a catalogue. For each purchase you will receive an attractive gift card plus a fridge magnet picturing your gift to send on to your chosen recipient. This Christmas you really can help to make a world of difference.

With many thanks from all of us here at International Needs.



## Selsdon Community Day at Greenvale School, Saturday 7 May 2011

SBC is organising this event to give local people an opportunity to get together and have some fun with family, friends and neighbours. Various agencies will be taking part to give information about their services and leisure activities. There will be a puppet show, a fire engine for the children to explore, a Hog Roast and a beer tent, along with teas, coffees and cakes. International Needs will be organising a fun run for the children along with a more challenging 5k or 10k run through the Bird Sanctuary and woods. Do put the date in your diary and help to make this day a success by bringing along as many people as possible!

# Kidz Klub and Messy Church!

In January 2010 Kidz Klub started at Greenvale Primary School. Over the past year we've had over 70 children come along and join in all the different activities. We've made suits of armour, trumpets, badges and banners, we've learnt some new songs together, and played all sorts of games.

In November we were really thrilled to have the Psalm Drummers come and lead a drumming workshop for the afternoon. We banged the djembe drums and hit the cow bells with all sorts of different rhythms, including We Will Rock You!

In all we do at Kidz Klub we try to make sure it's fun and friendly. There's always lots of laughter, and we always enjoy seeing whether it's the boys or girls team that goes home with the sweets...



If you've been before, or you've never come along, you're very welcome to come and join us as we start Kidz Klub 2011 on Saturday 29th January.



Kidz Klub is a fun filled afternoon including art, craft, DVDs and games! Open to all children at Primary School (and younger siblings if parents are willing to stay). Last Saturday of each month, 2-4pm at Greenvale Primary School.



Messy Church exists to create an opportunity for parents, carers and children to enjoy expressing their creativity, sit down together to share some breakfast, experience worship and have fun! Last Sunday of each month, 10.30am at Greenvale Primary School.

# A cuppa with... Mim

Every issue we get to know SBC @ Greenvale members a little bit better!

**1. Tell us a little about yourself. Who are you and what do you do?**

I'm Mim ...real name Miriam, and I will answer to it if that's what you'd like to call me.

**2. How long have you lived in the area?**

Well I live in Shirley (next door to Selsdon) and have lived there for around 12 years.

**3. If you had a free hour to do anything you wanted what would it be?**

I would have a posh coffee with George Clooney - a magnificent example of the skill in God's handiwork!

**4. What is your favourite film of all time?**

I think it would be 'Local Hero'. It's very gentle and funny, and I notice something different in it everytime I watch it. Anybody want to come round and watch it with me? Or I can bring it to you.

**5. What's your favourite holiday destination?**

Actually, I'd take a cruise in June; the one where you get to see the Northern Lights. Also, a cruise offers some serious pampering ...they put chocolates on your pillow each evening, you know! I like that.

**6. What's the most exciting thing that's happened in your 2010?**

Moving on to a new level with God and knowing that He's lifted my depression which I had for years. It's gone. Praise Him!

**7. What is the most the generous thing you've ever seen or done?**

A friend who stumped up the £5000 (all her savings) to finance the IVF treatment for her son and daughter-in-law. We now have little Benjamin David in the world!



## Christmas Craft Event

**Saturday 18th December 2010**  
2pm-4pm  
Greenvale Primary School

Come and enjoy designing and making cards, decorations, presents, and more!

Refreshments provided.  
*Join us when you can, leave when you must!*

**A free event for all the family!**  
All ages welcome.

All children must be accompanied by an adult.



## Better to give than receive?

A colleague in need could do with a phone call, but you're tired and decide to call it a day instead. There's a new face at your sports club, but you'd rather stay and chat with your friends. A good cause is appealing for funds, but there's a CD you've really set your heart on. Surely you can't be generous all the time...

A few years ago my wife, Anna, and I travelled to India. We went to visit friends who were running a hospital in one of the poorest parts of the country. People would queue for days to see the doctor. One afternoon the leader of the local church, Pastor G, insisted on taking us out and about into the villages to meet some people. The poverty was striking. Home was a simple, one-room, mud and brick building. Large families all lived together, getting by on whatever wage they could earn labouring in the fields. The furniture was limited to a rough bed, some pots and pans, and few other simple things. Yet, our hosts welcomed us like royalty. They insisted we sat on the only two chairs in the village. They brought us tea. They insisted we stay and talk with them. These wonderful people were determined not to let this moment pass without serving us and giving their very best. It was so very humbling to be with them, and to be blessed by such amazing generosity from those who had so little. Even more humbling was the way they gave with incredible joy and, big, big smiles.

Most of us will never know what it is like to have that little, but it seems to be so very hard to be like Pastor G's friends in India who delighted to be generous. It's supposed to be better to give than receive, but how often do we put that to the test? I know I'm full of good intentions - I think of all sorts of ways I can do things to bless people; calls to make, gifts to give, time to put aside, but then reality hits home. I'm tired, I'm stressed, I could really do with someone looking after me! All of us will know people who are in need of some generosity. It is just as likely to be time, or a listening ear, or being made to feel special that the people around

us need, and that can't be done with a quick fix. Sometimes we don't have a way of being able to make it better, we don't have anything we can give or say, all we can do is be there. Being willing to be there and give up some of our plans and our time is an amazing gift each of us has the capacity to give.

For those of us who are trying our best to follow Jesus, Christmas is a fabulous time to think about being generous. It is a time to remember that God was prepared to send his son to show us the way to live and to make it possible for us to have hope, joy, healing and freedom. Jesus didn't come from the right side of town, he didn't have the right clothes, he ate with the wrong people and he spoke with the wrong accent. He would spend time eating and drinking with the people shunned by everyone else. He welcomed anyone who would welcome him. He was generous to the point of giving his life for each of us.

Perhaps you'd like someone to be generous to you, to go the extra mile for you, to give you some quality time. I think most of us feel like that sometimes. The good news is that this is exactly what Jesus offers to each of us. He's kind, loving and values us more than we will ever be able to fully appreciate. Jesus came so that we don't just have to get by, but so that we could have life in all its fullness. We don't need to know everything about religion to receive all the things God has for us. All you need to do is ask God to be your God this Christmas, and receive the amazing gift that is Jesus - and may God bless you richly as you do.



**David**

Minister, Selsdon  
Baptist Church  
@ Greenvale

## Recipes for the whole family!

Children will love making Peppermint Creams! Christmas recipes by Val.

### Christmas Pie

1 Onion  
2tbsp Olive oil  
500g Sausage meat  
100g White breadcrumbs  
85g Chopped, ready to eat dried apricots  
50g Chestnuts  
100g Cranberries  
500g Chicken breasts cut into 3 lengthways  
Mixed herbs  
500g Shortcrust pastry  
Beaten egg to glaze

*You'll need a 8/9inch loose bottomed cake tin.  
Preheat oven to 190c, Gas 5, fan 170c.*

Chop onion and fry in half the oil for 5 mins until soft. Leave to cool. Mix sausage meat, breadcrumbs, apricots, chestnuts & herbs in a bowl, add onion and cranberries and season.

Heat the rest of the oil in frying pan and brown the chicken.

Roll out two thirds of the pastry and line tin, press in half the sausage mixture, add a layer of chicken and cover with remaining sausage mixture. Roll out remaining pastry for lid, brush edges with beaten egg, cover with lid, seal and trim edges. Brush the top with egg.

Bake for 50 - 60 minutes. Cool in tin for 15 minutes. Remove and cool.



### Iced Berry Pudding

284ml Double cream  
500g Ready made custard  
100g Caster sugar  
100ml Dark rum  
170g Berries, cherries or any other dried fruit

Softly whip cream in bowl, stir in custard, put in freezer for about one and a half hours until it starts to freeze around the edges. Meanwhile, put sugar in pan with rum, heat slowly to dissolve sugar, tip in the fruits, simmer gently for one minute. Pour into a wide bowl and leave to cool for about an hour.

Stir the cream mixture with a balloon whisk to break it all up, the stir in the cooled fruit. Pour into a 2 pint pudding basin or bowl. Cover and freeze overnight (or for up to one month).

To serve, dip basin quickly into boiling water, loosen the sides with a rounded blade knife and turn pudding out.

### Peppermint Creams

450g Icing sugar (sifted)  
1/2tsp Cream of Tartar  
4-5tbsps Evaporated milk  
2tsp Peppermint essence  
Red food colouring

Put icing sugar, cream of tartar, evaporated milk and peppermint essence into a bowl and stir together until smooth. Use hands to bring mixture into a ball. Knead on surface dusted with icing sugar to make a smooth fondant. Cut in half, wrap one piece in cling film and set aside. Roll one half of fondant into a round about 5mm thick. Cut into rounds, transfer to baking sheet lined with parchment paper. Unwrap second portion of fondant, add a small amount of colour and knead. Cut into rounds and place on top of white ones. Put in sweet cases.

# What's your Christmas family tradition?

Every issue we get to know SBC @ Greenvale members a little bit better!



## **Ward Family**

We always have an advent candle burning each evening from 1st December to Christmas Eve while we have dinner, watching Christmas Day getting nearer.



## **Madeleine**

On Christmas Eve when I was a kid, my family would get a little book out of the centre of the Christmas tree and Dad would read us the story of 'Rudolph, The Red Nose Reindeer'.



## **Harding Family**

We always leave out mince pies and carrots for Santa and his reindeer on Christmas Eve (and our stockings!!!)



## **Ross & Jo**

This is our first Christmas as a married couple! We always buy our dog more presents than anyone else. We also give her a silly hat!

## **Champagne Competition Winner!**

Congratulations to Michelle who entered our competition in the last issue of The Vale and has won a bottle of Champagne!

# The Vale

## **Contacts**

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**We meet at Greenvale school every**  
**Sunday at 10.30am**