

Connected

Sunday 24th December 2023

Fourth Sunday Of Advent

We are writing this during that marathon fortnight when we sing carols pretty well every day! The carols themselves probably fill us with memories of Christmases past but they also speak of the most wonderful truths about God: "Mild He lays His glory by, born that man no more may die. Born to raise the songs of earth, born to give them second birth...". These truths have been held by the church for some 2,000 years but does that mean they are out of date? They are just as relevant today. We hope that you have a wonderful Christmas but also recapture something of the wonder of a God who came to us. God bless you.



Tom & Larissa

Sermon Snippets

Christ Church

Luke 1: 67-79

How did Tudor Church Wardens follow the example of John the baptiser? What is the salvation thing this Zeke guy is so excited about? Why do I need good examples to follow anyway?



Are you really, really, really trying to spoil my Christmas old man?!

Emmanuel

Isaiah 9: 6-7

Some rescue missions hit the headlines. The incredible skill and bravery involved in the rescue of the Thai football team of young boys was rightly praised. The man who headed it up came from the West Country and the idea that the boys came out clinging to the bodies of the rescuers showed the crucial importance of the team rescuing them.

On Christmas Day we celebrate the start of another Rescue Mission. Jesus leaving heaven and coming to this earth with all its good and bad people. This time, not a team, but just one person - Jesus Christ. Born as a baby with all the risks, living his life in an occupied country, and then being crucified.

John 3 v 17 says 'For God did not send his Son to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through Him.'

Can we look through the glitz and see the real Jesus starting out on His Great Mission to save you and me.



Verse For The Week

" Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. "

Luke 2: 11

Sermon Snippets

Christ Church John 1: 1-14

The theological word used to describe what happened at Christmas is that it was the "incarnation". But what did that mean – and not just theoretically? What difference does it mean to us today living out our lives as Christians?



Emmanuel Luke 2: 21-35

Ring Out Wild Bells!

Wow! Where did that last year go? This is the end of 2023. What are you looking forward to in 2024? Does your view of what lies ahead depend upon your age? How does your past experience and your present experience affect the way you see the future?

We will not be making predictions or resolutions this morning. Any predictions are bound to go wrong and most New Year's resolutions only last until the second week in January!

Instead we will be looking at how one man used his past and present understanding of God to help him approach an uncertain future. It may help us to make commitments about what we can look forward to in this next year.



Watch the Morning Service

at www.ccwsm.org.uk

Go to the 'Church Life' menu and click on the 'Sunday Services' page

Prayer Pointers

Monday.

Please pray for all the Christians in Jerusalem and for the Bethlehem Bible College and its students and staff this Christmas and for real peace.

Tuesday.

Please pray for all who we know who will be lonely and sad this weekend and ask God's special love and peace for them.

Wednesday.

We prayed for CAP last week. May we pray for the distribution of their Christmas Hampers and for the work of the Foodbank.

Thursday.

Please pray with thankfulness for our Church Office, Church Wardens, and Church Cleaners who have all worked so hard to prepare for this weekend.

Friday.

Please pray for God's inspiration for all those who will be preaching and leading our services over this coming weekend. Pray especially for our clergy & families.

Saturday.

Let us think of five things, one for each finger, that we wish to thank God for in this past year.

Sunday.

May we ask God to bless our two churches and our town this Christmas time.

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What's On This Week

Sunday 24th December

Nativity Service at 4pm at Christ Church
Midnight Communion at 11:15pm at Christ Church

Monday 25th December

Christmas Day Communion at 10:30am at both
Christ Church & Emmanuel

Monday 25th - Saturday 30th December

No groups/events being held this week

Monday 1st January

No Ladies Together this week

Tuesday 2nd January

Parish Prayers at 9:30am at Emmanuel
The Beacon at 12noon at Emmanuel

Wednesday 3rd January

No Seedlings Toddler Group this week

Thursday 4th January

No Craft & Chat this week
No Welcome Group this week

Sunday 7th January

Evening Prayer Service at 6pm at Christ Church

Christmas Notices!

Church Office Closed

Please note that the Church Office will be officially closed from Thursday 21st December til Wednesday 3rd January inclusive (although it will be intermittently manned during this period).

Volunteers for Nativity Service

There are still a couple of volunteers needed for the Nativity Service on Sunday at 4pm (Christ Church). If you are able to either help welcome people or help with tidying/vacuuming afterwards, please speak to Nicky or Tom. Thank you.

Christmas Cards

Please check the pigeon holes at Christ Church for any remaining Christmas cards!

Congregational Christmas Cards

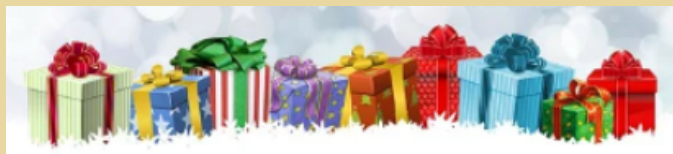
Please do take a look at the Christmas cards on the 'message board' at the back of Christ Church (near the south door).

Coffee after the Service...

Christmas Morning At Christ Church

Everyone is welcome to join us for our Christmas Day Family Communion at 10:30am as we celebrate the birth of Jesus all together as a Church family.

If you would like to bring along one of your Christmas presents to the service on Christmas morning to show Tom, Larissa & the congregation please do so!!



Between The Past & The Future...

Our next Evening Prayer Service will be at 6pm on Sunday 7th January at Christ Church.

It will be a gentle time for us to reflect back as individuals upon our past year and to pray for the New Year we are entering. Coming along could be the New Year's Resolution you can easily keep!

CAP Client Christmas Hampers

We were able to send £390 to CAP for Christmas Hampers for their clients! Many thanks to everyone who donated.

Carl



The funeral for Pon Duchesne will be taking place at 11:30am on Thursday 11th January at Emmanuel for anyone who would like to attend

Carol Service...

For anyone who wasn't able to make the Carol Service at Christ Church last Sunday evening, it is now available to watch online from the Home page (under 'Sunday Services')

Don't forget...

Two courses starting in the New Year:
Alpha - Wednesday afternoons at 2pm starting 17th January
Bereavement - Monday evenings at 7pm starting on 22nd January
See Tom or Larissa for further details