



*The Good Shepherd Church*  
*Park Road Loughborough*  
*December Focus 2016*



Please see the reverse for Services, meetings and other events.

Ok, so now we can use the 'C' word! Christmas is almost upon us. Cards, tinsel, turkey, mince pies, trees, presents and maybe Christ somewhere in amongst it all?

For us in the Church it is a time of celebrations: we have a wide variety of services that take us from our normal patterns and fill us with a myriad of memories, opportunities and excitement.

For families, it is a time of buying, baking, wrapping, even panicking? Have we got enough, of this, that or the other – fill in your own blank! Trees, tinsel and parties keep us occupied from the end of November or even earlier right through to the great day itself! But I wonder, which is actually the great day? Is it Christmas Eve with the anticipation of presents and great food, Christmas Day with the cooking and the eating, or maybe it is Boxing Day when it is all over and you can put your feet up or venture to the Sales?

For many people the rhythm of Christmas' past has long gone. People handle their 'Christmas' today very differently to when I was a child. I would spend mine mainly in the car as we travelled from one set of grandparents to the other and then home again, several different sleeping arrangements later. More recently though people have begun to spend their holiday from work away in hotels; many others though may have to work through it all; more and more will go out to eat their special dinner rather than sit around a family table; whilst others are slaving over the question of 'will the turkey actually fit into the oven' and yet others will be dealing with the issue of having enough money for the gas/electric etc. for that day. It seems to me that what we might previously have described as a 'traditional family Christmas' is now so varied as people adapt their lifestyle to the creation of their 'family traditions' at this time.

But for Jesus the tradition is exactly the same as it has always been. He will feature in Crib and Carol Services all over the world, his story will be told in a myriad of different ways, in many different languages, but it always comes down to the basic fact that he is: the first son of a young mother, just married to a very confused fiancé; born during a sort of holiday come registration trip just because some Roman Emperor wanted to know exactly how many people he had power over; and into such a poor situation that the only place to safely lay him down on that day is in an animal's feeding trough.

Whatever Christmas traditions you and your family might have, I pray that you might know the real truth of Jesus' tradition, not the tinsel and the turkey, carols and nativity plays; but the amazing fact that the Saviour of the World has come to us and loves us so much that his journey of life will take him from a makeshift crib to a crucifying cross for us – for God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have everlasting life – the very best gift ever!

**A VERY HAPPY AND BLESSED ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL**

*For Further Information please contact our Vicar*

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### Children's Society Boxes.

For those of you who have a Children's Society collection box, could we ask you to bring them into Church during December ready for emptying? If anyone would like a box please see Sue who will arrange it.

Thank you for your financial support over the year to help under privileged children.



### Stage Group Pantomime.

Just as a reminder the Stage Group Panto "Rumble in the Jungle" will held on December 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> 7.30 pm with the Saturday matinee at 2.30pm. Make sure you are ready to boo and shout at the villain.



# Christmas Services 2016

Saturday December 17<sup>th</sup> 4.30pm Messy Christingle



*Everyone is welcome*

## Christmas Eve

7pm Carols for Christmas followed by refreshments

9pm Communion for Christmas Eve

## Christmas Day

8am Christmas Communion (Prayer Book - said)

10am Christmas Communion for everyone



Join us on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December for  
Sing Christmas 2016 with  
BBC Radio Leicester in the Church Hall  
from just before 7pm to 8pm

*The Good Shepherd Church  
would like to wish you all  
a Peaceful and Happy Christmas.*

## December 2016 News, Views and Calendar

### Church Services in December Every Sunday Morning

**8am**

Holy Communion Traditional Prayer Book  
(BCP)

### 10am Services

Dec 4th Holy Communion & Sunday Club

Dec 11<sup>th</sup> Morning Worship

Dec 18<sup>th</sup> Holy Communion & Sunday Club

**Please see additional information for  
Christmas Services.**

### Sunday Prayer Meeting

December 11<sup>th</sup> 4pm

### Every Wednesday Morning

**9.30am**

Holy Communion (said)



### Wednesday Friendly meets at 2.30pm

December 7<sup>th</sup> Carol Service  
December 14<sup>th</sup> Christmas Lunch  
December 21<sup>st</sup> NO MEETING

**No More meetings until January 2017**

### Christmas Market

The Christmas Market was held on **November 26<sup>th</sup>**. The social committee would like to say a big thank you to all those who donated items for the event, those who helped in many different ways, and of course those who came along to support us. At the time of going to print we are unable to give a report on the amount raised for the work of the Church. This will be reported separately. This was our last fund raising event for the year, and thank everyone for their support.

We wish you all  
**a Happy Christmas**



### Home Groups

#### Thursday Ladies' study group

2-3.30pm Please  
contact Jackie for  
details 01509  
212207. New  
members Welcome.

#### Tuesday Group 8pm (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays)

8 Freesia Close.



#### Christian Aid Lunch

will be at  
Baxtergate  
Baptist Church,  
Loughborough on  
December 18<sup>th</sup>  
at 12.30pm.



**The next  
Messy Church  
will be on  
17<sup>th</sup> December**

#### SING CHRISTMAS

19<sup>th</sup> Dec at 7pm  
in Church Hall

**Stage Group  
Rehearsals every  
Wednesday 7.30pm**

**Toddler Group**  
Meets every Friday  
Morning 10am –  
11.30am.

The  
**ATC Carol Service**  
will take place in the  
Church on  
5<sup>th</sup> December  
at 7.30pm.  
Refreshments in the  
hall afterwards.

### Shoe Box Appeal.

This year's shoe box appeal generated 150 boxes from the Church all packed with items for children overseas who would not receive anything at Christmas time if it were not for these boxes. Our 150 will be added to numerous other boxes from across the County and shipped overseas in a container. Our thanks go to Edie Smithson and her husband Dave who spend a considerable amount of time working on the project collecting items for the boxes and covering them all in Christmas paper. Also thank you to the people who make and donate items for the boxes and finally pack them all ready for shipment.

