Christmas Starts With Christ

Advent and Christmas are times of preparation and celebration in the church calendar. Preparation for the coming King followed by celebration of the birth of our Saviour; Emanuel 'God with us'. It is at this time of year that we see the glory of God brought to earth in the birth of his Son Jesus Christ. It is all too easy for these celebrations to be overshadowed by secular celebrations, office parties, the 'school disco', nights out with friends. It is therefore our duty as Christians to make sure that the real reason for the season is not overlooked, "Christmas starts with Christ" should be our mantra.

December and Christmas are also times when we should think of others, those contemplating a first Christmas without a loved one at their side perhaps, those who are homeless or those suffering at the hands of terrorists, afraid to acknowledge the Christmas season for fear of persecution or attack.

However we are spending Christmas this year, let us do it in a way that is rooted in the nativity story, celebrating the birth of a King, but no ordinary King. Someone born in a stable who transformed the lives of those he came into contact with and who continues to transform lives today.

Of course, following on from Christmas comes the New Year, a time for reflection, for making resolutions and commitments to turn over a new leaf. Perhaps I could encourage you as you read this to try something new in 2017. Take a look at the many activities associated with Holy Trinity; why not go along to a fellowship group meeting, you will be made most welcome I am sure. Or go to the singing group as they make their 'joyful noise' each time they meet. The prayer workshops on Saturday mornings are a great way to get new ideas for developing your prayer life. Or perhaps you would prefer to make a more practical contribution and help with the gardening for example. The possibilities are many and varied so I would encourage you to step out in the name of our Father and make 2017

a year for growing; growing closer to God and growing personally as a follower of Christ.

Wishing everyone a joyful Christmas season and a peaceful New Year. God Bless.

Nick Miles

SERVICES AND SEASONAL DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date/Time & Service	Season / Theme	Readings to reflect on
4 th December 10 am Holy Communion	2 nd Sunday of Advent (The Prophets)	Isaiah 11:1-10
11 th December 9 am Holy Communion	3 rd Sunday of Advent (John the Baptist)	Matthew 3:1-6, 11-12
18 th December 10 am All Age Crib Service *with an invitation to dress up as characters from the Christmas Story*	4 th Sunday of Advent (The Virgin Mary)	Readings from children's bible
18 th December 6pm Traditional Carol Service		Various readings/readers
Saturday 24 th December 4pm Christingle Service	Christmas Eve	
Saturday 24 th December 11.30pm – Holy Communion		Luke 2:1-14
Sun 25 th December 10 am – All Age Communion	Christmas Day	Luke 2:8-20

Date/Time & Service	Season / Theme	Readings to reflect on
1 st Jan	Second Sun of Christmas	Ephesians 1:3-14
10 am New Year's	/ New Year	
Service		
8 th Jan	Epiphany	Isaiah 60:1-6
9 am Holy Communion		
15 th Jan	Epiphany 2	1 Corinthians 1:1-9
10 am Holy Communion		
22 nd Jan	Epiphany 3	Matthew 4:18-23
10am All Age Service		
29 th Jan	Epiphany 4 / Candlemas	John 2:1-11
10am HC Joint Service at		
Hartshill (5 th Sunday)		

WHAT ELSE IS ON IN DECEMBER/JANUARY				
Thursday 1st	7pm Singing Group in church			
Saturday 10th	9.30am Prayer Workshop			
Sunday 11th	4pm Atherstone Choral Society, "Christmas at Hartshill"			
Wednesday 14th	7pm Mothers' Union Christmas Party			
Wednesday 21st	3.30pm Messy Church in the Community Centre			
Thursday 5 th Jan	7pm Singing Group in church			
Saturday 14 th Jan	9.30am Prayer Workshop			
Wednesday 18 th Jan	3.30pm Messy Church in the Community Centre 7.30pm Mothers' Union in the library			

Prayer group takes place in Church every Tuesday at 9.15am

Children' groups take place on 1st and 3rd Sundays during Holy Communion Trinity Tots in the Community Centre every Monday during term time at 1pm Over 50s group in the Community Centre every Wednesday at 1pm – 3pm

<u>Christmas Services and events 2016</u> <u>at Holy Trinity Church, Hartshill</u>

Churches Together - Carol Singing

Oldbury Grange - Tuesday 6th December 6pm.

Linden Grange - Monday 12th December 6pm.





Messy Church

Wednesday 21st December 3.30-5.30 All age Christmas activities, crafts and food. All Welcome (in the community centre)

All Age Crib Service

Sunday 18th December 10.00am – in Church All age service re-telling the Christmas Story * <u>Please Note - you are invited to come dressed up</u> as a character from the Christmas Story *





Traditional Carol Service

Sunday 18th December 6.00pm – in Church A traditional carol service re-telling the story of Christmas with readings and carols. All Welcome

Christingle

Christmas Eve – Saturday 24th Dec. 4pm – in Church All age service reminding us of the meaning of Christmas (please note candles will be lit during the service – which may be unsuitable for very small children)





"Midnight Mass"

Christmas Eve — Saturday 24th Dec. 11.30pm — in Church A traditional Christmas Eve Communion Service

Christmas Day

Christmas Day – Sunday 25th Dec. 10am in Church All age Communion Service as we celebrate Jesus' Birthday





By the time you read this we will have already had our united Advent service (Sunday November 27th, 3pm at St Anne's.) – but we haven't finished our events for the year yet! We still have some singing to do – as we have been invited to sing Christmas Carols in two of our local residential homes – details are below. Do join us if you can – only enthusiasm is needed!

And thank you again for all who have supported the 'turn on the tap' water charity – with our loose change collection bottles. I am pleased to say that we have already raised over £100 – and the full total will be printed in the next edition of the magazine. Thank you so much.

So – to get you and our community in the festive mood – join us for some good old fashioned carol singing....

Churches Together Carol Singing

Oldbury Grange - Tuesday 6th December 6pm.

Linden Grange - Monday 12th December 6pm

Please do join us if you can.

...for... "How good and pleasant it is when brothers and sisters live together in unity...for there the LORD bestows his blessing, even life forevermore." (Psalm 133)

Heather

Praying for our Parish in December

- 1 At this time of peace, hope, joy and love we pray for those who are lost and lonely.
- We pray for Heather, the Church Wardens, the PCC, Lay readers and all involved in the Church.
- We pray for the church fayre and the wreath displays. May you bestow fun on the day.
- 4 We pray for peace. May we bring peace to our communities.
- We pray for Hartshill School and the year 7 school visits.
- We pray for all children in the uniform groups. Today we pray for Rainbow, Brownies, Guides and Senior Section and the leaders at their Christmas service at Holy Trinity
- We pray for the armed service at home and abroad.
- 8 We pray for faith, may we surround you with our faith.
- 9 We pray for families and friends
- We pray for the prayer workshop, may you help, support and guide us in our daily prayers.
- We pray for hope in this world, hope for our country, hope for our community and hope for our families.
- We pray for Michael Drayton School.
- 13 We pray for the beauty of world.
- We pray for the members of the Over 50 group

- We pray for Syria and the surrounding countries.
- We pray for Nathanial Newton School.
- 17 At this time of shopping, we pray for all people in the retail business. Give them strength.
- We pray for Carol Service at Hartshill, may it bring joy at this time.
- 19 We pray for people suffering with mental health problems at this time
- We pray for the police, ambulances, fire engines and coast service
- We pray for messy church, may you bring hope and wonder to the session.
- We pray for doctors, nurses, and the wider medical communities.
- 23 We pray for those travelling to visit friends and family.
- We pray for the Christingle Service, that the message of Christmas will be spread throughout the world.
- Of Christmas Day We celebrate the Birth of Jesus, the Saviour of the World.
- We pray for refugees and people displaced through natural disasters.
- We pray for all those who suffer with cancer, heart attacks, strokes and other medical conditions. Be with them when they are in pain and suffering.
- We pray for peace in our hearts this Christmas
- We pray for those who have suffered loss and bereavement this year,

- may you comfort and support them in the future.
- We pray for grace and hope in our lives.
- We pray for the New Year, the hope, the joy, the peace and the love that God will bring in the coming year!

Praying for our parish in January 2017

- We give thanks for the blessings of the past year and entrust the coming year to God's providence
- 2 Open our eyes to the magnificence of creation, that we may value and appreciate it
- 3 Help us to notice when people are going through difficulties and be there to help
- 4 May we be compassionate to those who are suffering, whatever form that may take
- We pray for wisdom and understanding and that we may use our knowledge well
- 6 We give thanks for those who have passed on their knowledge and experience to us may we, in turn, contribute to the wellbeing of others
- We give thanks for those who are precious to us and for the happy memories that have been created
- 8 Help us to live in such a way that we bring out the best in others
- 9 Bring any pain, sorrow or suffering you have experienced or may be experiencing to God and pray that good may come from these negative things
- Pray that God will transform you to live with a positive attitude, looking for the best in people and situations
- Lord, help us to do the ordinary things of life in an extraordinary way

- Help us to live in wonder and appreciation of all that is around us from the mighty planets and stars to the smallest living creatures
- Help us to recognise what is important and which things are not
- Show us how best to use the time and talents that you have given us.
 Help us to use all opportunities wisely and in service to others.
 Remember the Prayer workshop taking place today for those leading and those attending
- 15 Help us to value each individual person, made in God's image and likeness. Help us to show appreciation to all who are part of our lives. Please pray for the family involved in the baptism today that they will seek God's guidance and love as they raise their child
- We pray for those starting a new job, those going to work for the last time today and for those looking for work
- We remember those in hospital, those waiting to go into hospital or awaiting test results and for all those who work in the medical services caring for the sick
- We pray for our young people at school, college and university. We think especially of those who have problems at school through bullying or lack of understanding of their needs. Remember especially Messy Church today
- We think of all those in prison and their families who are also affected. We think also of the victims, and their families, of crime and pray that justice will be done
- We pray for strength and courage for those who face danger or risk their lives for others, thinking especially of those in the emergency services and armed forces
- 21 Remember those facing persecution or torture for their beliefs
- Help us to appreciate the different skills that others have. To learn to co-operate with others, to work together, being positive and having respect for all

- 23 Give wisdom to all those who have to make important decisions today
- 24 Help us not to build barriers due to race or colour, religion or class
- Help us to be generous in forgiving those who have done wrong. And help us to forgive ourselves for the wrongs that we do
- We pray for peace and goodwill in our world. Remembering especially all those who are suffering due to the many conflicts taking place
- We remember all those who are seriously ill and also those who care for them
- Help me to inspire and encourage others by rejoicing with those who are happy and sharing the sadness of those in sorrow. Pray especially for the coffee morning taking place today
- 29 May we show genuine concern for others so that they feel valued, loved and appreciated for the person they are
- 30 Open our eyes that we may always value and appreciate all who are part of our lives
- Inspire us to treat others as we would like them to treat us. And may we always give our best and be welcoming and generous to others

Prayer workshop dates



Prayer workshops run from 9:30-11:00 am and breakfast is included so that attending should not impact too much on your time during a busy Saturday. Do come and join us, you will be very welcome.

Here are the remaining dates. They are all Saturdays and the time is 9:30 to 11:00 am:

10th December 14th January 11th February 18th March



Holy Trinity Church Hartshill Christmas Fayre And Wreath display

Saturday 3rd December

2.00 - 4.00pm

Free Admission



Refreshments

Crafts

Games

Raffle

Tombola

Cake stall

Father Christmas



And more.....







All are welcome

Our NEW dates for the next year are:

Come along for fun, crafts, food and a little mess!!!

Messy Christmas - December 21st 2016

and dates for 2017....

January 18th February 15th March 15th April 19th May 17th June 21st July 19th August 16th Sep. 20th October 18th Nov. 15th December 20th

All at the usual time of 3.30 pm - 5.30 pm

*** At Hartshill Community Centre ***
(next to Holy Trinity Church, Church Road)

<u>Children must be accompanied by an adult.</u> Cost? <u>Free</u> – but donations are welcomed.

Invite your friends too & hope to see you there!



NUNEATON NIGHT SHELTER

Although not a specific charity, nevertheless it is a Christian venture set up a few years ago in Nuneaton by a variety of town centre churches of different denominations working together to enable homeless people to come in off the streets and park benches and sleep in a warm, dry building for 3 months over winter. Each night a different church opens its doors in the evening and the guests are welcomed in for an evening meal before later settling down in a bed for the night in a safe environment. In the morning a breakfast is served before the guests leave for the day.

As you can imagine, this takes a lot of organizing and many volunteers are required. The churches involved need to find people who are willing to cook and serve the evening meal, some to stay overnight and supervise and others to come in early for the breakfast shift and to clear the beds and duvets away and transport them to the next church on the list for the following night's shelters. Although each church does just one evening each week, it is still a big commitment for the volunteers to sign up for 3 months.

For some guests, sleeping out is a way of life and some find it too difficult to be confined to a building, but welcome the hot meal before going out into the night. For others, circumstances have made them temporarily homeless and they really appreciate a warm, dry bed for the night in a safe place. One man who used the shelter one year, came back the next year to tell the volunteers that he now had a place to live, but wanted to offer his services at the shelter to help others - how lovely is that!

This working together of churches of different denominations puts into practice the Bible message of helping our fellow humans in need, locally.

This year the Night Shelter runs from 1st December till the end of February and you may like to pray for all the guests and for the many volunteers.

Thank you

Many thanks to everyone who gave a shoebox, donated items or gave money for Operation Christmas Child. This year, 54 boxes have gone off to the warehouse. Please pray for the safe delivery of the boxes as they journey across the countries to reach the child that each box is meant for.

Also thanks to everyone who bought cards and gifts from The Leprosy Mission catalogue which is very much appreciated.

Lynda Kelly

Church Flowers November 20th for Mrs E Taylor December 4th for Ben Percival December 11th for Ron Taylor January 15th for Edward Kelly January 22nd for Douglas Foster Thank you for your generous donations towards the flowers. If you would like sponsor the altar flowers, perhaps to celebrate an event or remember a loved one. please see Jan in church or telephone her on 02476 395467.



Over 50s Club celebrate their 10th Anniversary



On Tuesday 2rd of November, the over 50s celebrated its 10th year with a lovely party and afternoon tea, catered by Mrs Sandra Smith, which was excellent as usual, then entertained by the Nuneaton Ukelele band which was well received by all.

The club was started 10 years ago when local people asked the then vicar Laurie Beard if the Church would do something for the older people of the parish.

When Laurie asked the congregation, Christine Sharp came forward and said she was willing to run it and, after she had raised funds, the club was started in November 2006. Christine asked for help and Beryl and Rodger Todd volunteered.

Our first couple of weeks we had about 6 members; we have now got a full complement of 60. After about 18 months Christine had to leave which was very sad, so Beryl and Rodger, with a committee of 5, carried on. We now have a committee of 8 running the club and all of us, including the members, are looking forward to the next 10 years.

Our Favourite Carol

On Christmas Eve in 1818, a blizzard stranded the tiny village of Ogledorf, nestled in the Austrian mountains. That same day, the people of St. Nicholas' church found their organ broken. So the priest and organist began composing a song that could be sung without an organ, yet beautiful enough to express their Christmas joy. All day and all night long they worked and, at midnight, the gentle carol Silent Night was born. The pure clear tones echoed through the hills and the world has been captured by the beauty of that simple song ever since.



Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright.
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,
Christ the Saviour is born!
Christ the Saviour is born

Silent night, holy night!
Son of God love's pure light.
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth

By Joseph Mohr and Franz Gruber

Sharon's December Recipe - Mild Creamy Turkey Curry (Serves 4)

Ingredients	Μe 1.	ethod In a flameproof casserole heat up the oil and	
2 tbsp groundnut oil		soften the onion for 5 minutes	
1 onion, roughly chopped	2.	Add chopped celery and green pepper and	
2 sticks celery		soften these for 5 minutes more	
1 large green pepper, chopped	3.	Add the chicken and toss with other ingredients	
1 lb Cooked turkey (or chicken) cut into bitesize pieces	4.	Stir in spices, curry powder and garlic	
1 heaped tbsp Madras curry powder	5.	Add flour and continue to stir to soak up the juices	
1 level tsp ground ginger	6.	Gradually add stock stirring after each addition	
1 level tsp turmeric	7.	Make sure that the curry comes to the boil to avoid health risk from reheated turkey.	
1 pint turkey or chicken stock			
1 clove garlic, crushed	8.	Season with salt and pepper	
2 tbsp double cream	9.	Put lid on and simmer very gently for 20-25	
Salt and freshly -milled black pepper		minutes or until vegetables are just tender	
4 portions of Pilau Rice	10.	Remove from the heat and stir in cream	
to serve	11.	Serve with Pilau rice and mango chutney	

Note: Any left overs must be discarded and not be re-heated as re-heating again poses a health risk.

Sharon's January Recipe - Faggots, Neeps and Tatties (Serves 8)

You can buy a haggis or faggots and just make the Neeps and Tatties for an authentic Burn's Night celebration. If you really can't face the offal, substitute the Haggis or Faggots with savoury mince, or quorn mince for a vegetarian option.

Note: Prepare the Neeps and Tatties the day before you want to serve them.

Ingredients Neeps and Tatties

8 large baking potatoes cut into bit-sized pieces 6 tbsp light olive oil 1 swede weighing about 1½ lb 675g peeled and roughly chopped

2oz/50g butter plus more to serve

Method Neeps and Tatties

- The day before you want to serve, preheat the oven to fan oven 200C/conventional 220C/gas
 Put the potatoes into a pan of lightly salted water, return to the boil and cook for 5 minutes. Drain the potatoes, put them back into the pan and place it back on the heat for a couple of minutes to dry out
- Meanwhile, pour the oil into a large roasting tin (you may have to use two) and heat it in the oven until smoking hot. Now stir the potatoes into the hot oil and return to the oven to roast, turning occasionally, for 55 minutes
- Cook the swede in boiling salted water for 50-55 minutes, or until very soft. Drain and add to the roasted potatoes. Roughly mash everything together, keeping quite chunky, then cool, cover and keep in a cool place.
- 4. To serve, preheat the oven to fan 180C/conventional 200C/gas 6. Uncover the potatoes and swede, dot with the butter and put in the oven to reheat for 25-30 minutes, stirring now and again until piping hot. Serve with lots of butter.

Ingredients Faggots

8oz/220 g unsmoked bacon in one piece, then cut into 1 inch / 2.5cm cubes

2 lb/900 g pig's liver cut into 1 inch/2.5cm cubes

12oz /350g fat belly pork cut into 1 inch/2.5cm cubes

4 medium onion, quartered

30floz/850ml stock

½ tsp dried thyme

11/2 tsp dried sage

½ tsp powdered mace

4oz/100g fresh white breadcrumbs

Salt and freshly-milled black pepper

Method Faggots

- 1. Preheat oven to gas mark 5 / Fan 180C / conventional 200C
- 2. Put bacon, liver and pork and onions in a casserole, add stock
- 3. Cover the casserole and cook in the oven for 45 minutes
- 4. Drain meat and onions in a sieve (reserving the liquid)
- Using fine blade mince the meat and onions in a food processor or mincer and place in a mixing bowl
- 6. Add breadcrumbs, herbs and spice. Season with salt and pepper, mix to combine thoroughly.
- 7. Use hands to shape into 16 balls
- 8. Grease a shallow baking dish and arrange the faggots in a single layer in it. Pour over ½ pint/275ml of the reserved liquid and bake uncovered on a high shelf of the oven for 45 minutes
- **9.** Serve immediately with the Neeps and Tatties

Hartshill Community Library

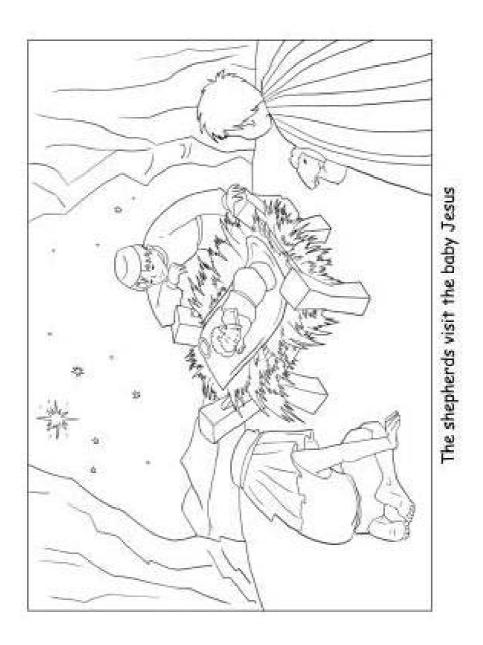
Your Warwickshire Library card works here!



Tuesday 10am to 2pm Wednesday 2pm to 4pm Thursday 2pm to 4pm Friday 10am to Midday Saturday 10am to Midday

The following sessions are also held in the library: Family History Group Mondays 1.30pm to 3.30pm Book Club first Tuesday of the month 10.30am

December Colouring Page



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January Mouse Makes



From the Registers in October/November/December

Baptisms

6th November- Daisy Florence Ball 27th November – Willow Angela Darlison

Funerals

31st October – Don Gledhill 9th November – John Young 17th November – Mavis Gunn 18th November – Marlene Varden 2nd December – Barbara Rollason

From the Editor

Thank you to all contributors to the magazine.

If anybody has anything they would like to share with readers of the magazine, please either write it down and give it to me or email it to me at susan.foster@bcs.org.

The deadline for articles for the February edition is 22/1/2017

Magazine Price

From January 2017, the price of the magazine will be increased to 35p per issue. There are 10 issues per year and the subscription price is £3.50. This is the first price increase this millenium and the magazine is still significantly cheaper than most church magazines, and so I hope you will agree that this is still excellent value for money.

Sue

Who's Who?

Vicar	Revd. Heather Barnes	02476 392266
Curate	Revd. Michael Brandsma	01827 437292
Church Wardens	Mr Nick Miles	02476 394339
	Mrs Sally Young	02476 397276
PCC Secretary	Mrs Carol Miles	02476 394339
Treasurer	Mrs Wendy Albrighton	02476 397183
Planned Giving	Mrs Wendy Albrighton	02476 397183
Mothers' Union	Mrs Susan Foster	02476 319943
Verger	Mr David Hodson	07773 992270
Weddings	Mr Nick Blamire-Brown	02476 395467
Flowers	Mrs Jan Blamire-Brown	02476 395467
Baptism	Revd. Heather Barnes	02476 392266
Community Centre Bookings	Mr John Randle	02476 392856
Sunday School	Mrs Ruth Kinderman	02476 395326
Magazine editor	Mrs Susan Foster	02476 319943

Church website: http://holytrinity.avexi.co.uk/

 $\textbf{Facebook} \ \underline{\text{https://www.facebook.com/groups/holytrinityhartshill/}}$

Hartshill Mothers' Union website: hartshillmu.uk