

ALL HALLOWS NEWS



allhallows-church.org.uk



December 2022

A Poor Christmas

For so many people across our country this Christmas is going to look different to any other. That is saying something because the past few Christmases have also been different to what we have experienced in the past. But, the cost of living crisis means that people are watching their wallets a little more, and maybe as a society we are being a little bit wiser than we have been in recent years.

There is a bit of an irony here though. In our British context the festival of Christmas has

become a very indulgent time, with lots of presents, so much food that we all ending up putting loads of weight on, booze, chocolate, cake and a seemingly endless supply of turkey after Christmas Day.

Now, those things are all good and fun in moderation and it is really nice to be able to have parties and celebrate with families and friends. These are precious times of the year for us and give us a bit of light in the middle of the darkest period of winter. So, do enjoy these things if you are

able to (just not too much of them).

But, I said that there is an irony with all of that. Because the story of the birth of Jesus is most definitely not a story of indulgence.

It is a story of the God who created the universe stepping down into the world in human form, as a precious but defenceless baby. It is a story of him living as one of us and working out his way in the world. Not only that, but his family were common people, just making their own way in the world.



It is a story of parents probably being outcasts as the baby was born out of wedlock. So, it is a story where the first visitors to this new born king were shepherds, even more commoners.

I just wonder if this year, of all years, we are able to reach into the story that little bit better; that it's relevance is all the more stark.

The God of the universe being born as a commoner, for you and me. We speak of Jesus being 'incarnated' as 'Immanuel, God with us'. Christmas actually has more to do with poverty than riches.

Whatever your Christmas may look like this year, may God bless you and your family and may you get a new grasp of why he came to the world—for you.

Paul

Christmas at All Hallows

www.allhallows-church.org.uk

Friday, 9th December (6:30-7:00pm)

Carols on the Green' (by the Councillor Lane Post Office)

Saturday, 10th December (2:30-5:30pm)

Fun at Christmas

Sunday, 11th December (6:30-7:30pm)

Carols by Candlelight

Sunday, 18th December (10:00-11:00am)

Nativity Family Service (with a part to play for every child)

Tuesday, 20th December (6:30-7:15pm)

Blue Christmas Service

Christmas Eve (4:00-4:30pm)

Christingle Service

Christmas Day (10:00-11:00am)

Christmas Day Family Service



What's Happening in December?

There are lots of special things happening throughout December. We have the usual special services and one-off events, such as Carol Services and Carols on the Green. There will also be special activities at each of our regular groups, such as Christmas parties for children's and youth groups, and there will be some special carol singing around the piano during the final Light Café before Christmas. But, here are a few extra details of a few of the special events that are coming up:

Carols on the Green takes place just along the road from the Councillor Lane Post Office (near to Cheadle Chippy). It takes place in the open air and lasts for about half an hour. We sing verses from a range of carols, tell the Christmas story through some set readings and everybody is welcome. (Carol sheets are provided.)

Fun at Christmas is an idea that came after a very well attended Fun Day in the summer. Because of the pandemic we had not been able to meet together for large community activities for some time. Those who came to the Fun Day really enjoyed it and so we wanted to do something again at Christmas. There will be Christmas fun available for all the family.

Carols by Candlelight is being held a week earlier than usual this year because Sunday 18th is the day of the Men's Football World Cup Final (and we just know that some people will want to stay at home—especially if England are playing). As with every service at All Hallows, this very special service is open for anybody of any age to attend, but do be aware it isn't specifically aimed at children.

Nativity Family Service will take place the following Sunday (also swapped due to the World Cup Final). Tea-towel head scarves will be available and there will be a part to play for any child who is present and wants to be involved, even if they just turn up on the day. There's even going to be some singing for everybody, with new words to some old favourite Christmas songs.

Blue Christmas Service is a special service for those who like Christmas, but find the razzmatazz of the season difficult for a variety of reasons. This is a simple, calm and gentle service that is full of hope and has been a real source of comfort for many in recent years.

Christingle Service lasts for about half an hour on Christmas Eve and is a great way to start Christmas. You don't need to bring anything as everything will be provided. As the sun goes down on Christmas Eve this is a 'magical' service for many.

Christmas Day Family Service actually falls on a Sunday this year, but it will be the same type of service that it is any other year. We get to see some of the children's presents and join in their excitement, and Holy Communion is available after the main service for those who would like to receive it.

Sunday 4th

10:00 Morning Worship
6:30 Evening Communion Service

Tuesday 6th

Rainbows Visit

Wednesday 7th

9:00-4:00 Warm Space
9:00-2:00 Light Café
10:00-11:30 Messy Toddlers
1:00-1:15 Pause for Thought
7:00-8:30 Youth Club

Friday 9th

10:00 Decorating the Church
2:00-6:00 Warm Space
6:30-7:00 Carols on the Green

Saturday 10th

2:30-5:30 Fun at Christmas

Sunday 11th

10:00 Morning Worship
6:30 Carols by Candlelight

Wednesday 14th

9:00-4:00 Warm Space
9:00-2:00 Light Café
1:00-1:15 Pause for Thought
7:00-8:30 Youth Club
7:30-9:00 Carols at Ladybridge Club

Friday 16th

2:00-6:00 Warm Space

Sunday 18th

10:00 Nativity Family Service
6:30 Evening Service

Tuesday 20th

6:30-7:15 Blue Christmas Service

Wednesday 21st

9:00-4:00 Warm Space
9:00-2:00 Light Café
Ladybridge School Visit
1:00-1:30 Carol Singing in Lounge
2:00-2:30 BCP Communion
7:00-8:30 Youth Club Christmas Party

Friday 23rd

2:00-6:00 Warm Space

Saturday 24th

(Christmas Eve)
4:00-4:30 Christingle Service

Sunday 25th

(Christmas Day)
10:00-10:45 Christmas Day Family Service followed by Holy Communion
6:30 NOTE: No Evening Service

Christmas at All Hallows

www.allhallows-church.org.uk

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Christmas Day Family Service



M E R R Y			ALL HALLOWS CHURCH ★ DECEMBER 10TH ★ 2.30-5.30PM
CHRISTMAS		M E R R Y	
FREE ENTRY			
Join us for an afternoon filled with Christmas fun			
Café	Cake Sale	Tombola	Carol Singing
Kids' Zone with bouncy castle, toys, games and crafts			
Christmas Card Making	Gingerbread House Decorating		
<small>Any money raised on the day will be given to the Children's Society working to give every young person a good childhood</small>			

6:30-7:15
Tuesday, 20th December

Blue Christmas

Special Service of Remembrance and Hope

A special service for people who like Christmas,
but struggle at this time of year because things have changed.

Jesus Christ The Light of the World

[The Bible]

allhallows-church.org.uk

Christingle Service

4:00 Christmas Eve
Everybody Welcome

Sleepers Wake: Getting Serious About Climate Change

In our morning services throughout Advent we are using a book called 'Sleepers Wake' as a basis for our sermon series. It helps us to consider some of the ways in which we each impact the environment.

And being realistic we can probably all see that our environmental impact increases at this time of year. Not just because it is winter, but because it is Christmas. We celebrate the birth of Jesus in special ways (as we should), but we should also try to be a little more aware of the environmental impact that our celebrations are having and reduce it.

This is a journey we have been on as a family over the past few years and we definitely have more steps to take. But we realised that many of our own Christmas family traditions we wouldn't be so happy with at other times of the year. So, we have decided to keep looking at what new changes we can make each year. Maybe your household could look at how your celebrations impact the environment too, and try to take some steps to improve that each year.

There are a number of great websites which have suggestions to help us to have a greener Christmas. Maybe you could do some of these:

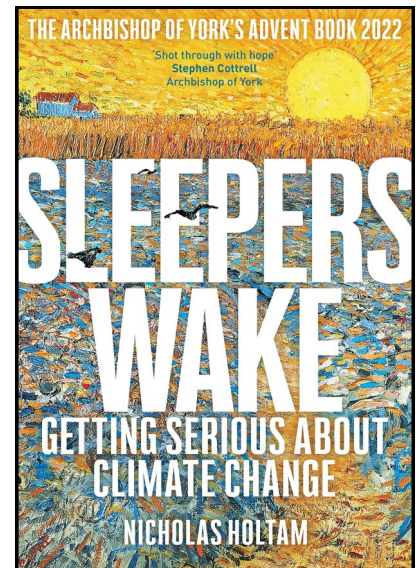
1. Buy less quantity but more quality presents (don't buy lots of things that people are not going to use after Christmas).
2. Look at buying 'Alternative Gifts' such as an experience or paying for something for a community in a poor area of the world.
3. Look at what the gifts are made from and how they got here. Are they made from sustainable products and did those who picked them / made them get a fair wage?
4. Try wrapping presents in paper that can be recycled, and use less tape.
5. Cut food waste. (What is it with people shopping like the shops are closed for weeks in the build up to Christmas?) One of the biggest causes of carbon in the atmosphere is food waste.
6. Eat seasonally, as a traditional Christmas Dinner would be anyway.
7. Meet up with family and friends a lot. This will mean that less houses need to be heated.
8. Don't buy extra things that you don't actually need. (One of the biggest threats to the environment is that everybody constantly wants more stuff).

I could give you more ideas but I don't want this to feel like a list of things that we should not be doing. The important thing is that we each identify as much as possible what the impact of our celebrations are and that we go on the journey to minimise that impact. But, why is this so important?

The Prophet Isaiah wrote about God's coming Messiah and said that he will reign with justice and righteousness.

We are realising more and more that issues to do with the environment truly are issues of climate justice. Our actions impact other people in other parts of the world. The way of Jesus is the way of justice and so we should not abandon the way of Jesus ever - especially at Christmas time.

So, let's have a great Christmas and let us be a people of justice, as we follow the Messiah.





Bronze Eco Church Award Certificate

This is to certify that

All Hallows Church, Cheadle

has won a Bronze Eco Church Award in recognition of their efforts to care for God's earth in each of the following areas (as applicable):

Worship and Teaching
Management of Buildings and Land
Community and Global Engagement
Lifestyle

Signed

Date

9th November 2022

CEO, A Rocha UK



ecochurch.arocha.org.uk
arocha.org.uk



What else is on?



THE
LIGHT
CAFÉ

ALL HALLOWS CHURCH
CHEADLE

OPEN WEDNESDAYS

9:00AM - 2:00PM

**SERVING BREAKFAST,
LUNCH, HOME MADE
CAKES & FREE DRINKS**



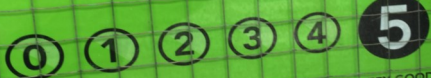
All Hallows Church
Cheadle

MESSY TODDLERS

10:00-11:30

Wednesday 8th December

FOOD HYGIENE RATING



christians
against
poverty

CAP

**Christians
Against Poverty**

Free Debt Help Available

All Hallows has recently partnered with CAP in order to help people out of debt.

If you need support to get out of debt then contact the CAP Enquiries Team on **0800 328 0006** and they will get you booked in for your first appointment.

**CAP
DEBT
HELP**

Warm Space

WEDNESDAYS

9:00-4:00

FRIDAYS

2:00-6:00

The heating is on in the church hall. You are warmly welcomed to come and share it, and enjoy cake and a cuppa, and some good company while you are here. Further activities will be available to enjoy at these times too.

(Other times may become available too.)

[You can find us at All Hallows Church, Councillor Lane, Cheadle.]



All Hallows Church
Cheadle

Please note that the Warm Space will not be open between Christmas and New Year, but will be from 4th January.

AGE: High Schoolers

DAY: Wednesday (term time)

TIME: 7:00-8:30

**VENUE: All Hallows
Church Hall**

COST: Free + money for tuck shop

A youth group with great activities available.



Commissioning Family Service

A service for anybody and everybody

Refreshments before the service

Thinking about God's call for us to serve Him

And the bouncy castle too!

10am, 8th January 2023



Kintsugi Hope

In the early months of 2023 we will be looking at the themes from the Kintsugi Hope course in our morning Sunday services. We are also looking to host a weekly group.

'**Kintsugi**' is a Japanese technique for repairing pottery, where instead of trying to hide the cracks the pieces are fixed together with seams of gold - making the object more beautiful.

Kintsugi Hope Wellbeing Groups are safe and supportive spaces where people can talk about the cracks in their mental health that they live with. Topics include disappointment, loss, anxiety, perfectionism, shame and so much more.

A free 12-week course will be available, although days and times are yet to be confirmed. A separate a 7-week course for teenagers can be made available too if requested. More information will be available towards the start of 2023.



Discovering treasure in life's scars

New or Visiting?

First Time Here?

If it's your first time here then welcome! It's great to have you with us. Here are a few short notes that you might find helpful.

Relax - You're our guest, so make yourself at home. If there is anything that you would like to know then ask a member of the Welcome Team.

Sign the kids in - The Welcome Team can show you where to take your children. Sometimes we are all in church together, but on other weeks... **Pre- School**; There are green tables in church with some activities for young children. Please, please don't be embarrassed if they make any noise during the service. **Ages 4+**; Sunday School meet in rooms at the end of the hall, down the ramp. **Sunday Youth** meet in the room off from the main worship area. All leaders have proper DBS checks.

Fill in a Communication Card - Drop it in the box on the Welcome Desk in the foyer or give it to the service leader on the way out. Please use it to ask questions, offer feedback or request prayer.

We don't expect guests to give - For those who are members or regular attenders of our churches there is usually an offering, but we don't ask our guests for any money.

We have a Loop System - Switch your hearing aid to T-coil. You might find it useful to sit towards the middle.

Hang around afterwards - Come and join us for a cup of tea or fresh coffee, and for a chat.

Prayer Ministry - If you would like somebody to pray with you about something for yourself or somebody that you know then there are people who would love to do so after the service. Please make yourself known to the service leader.

Next Steps

We are all on a journey through life, and our faith is no different. Depending upon where you are on your journey with God here are some 'Next Steps' you could take

COMMIT YOUR LIFE TO CHRIST
Commit to follow Jesus today!

RE-COMMIT TO CHRIST
It's never too late for a fresh start with faith.

DECLARE YOUR FAITH THROUGH BAPTISM
If you feel you've made a commitment to God but have never been baptised, then this could be a great step for you.

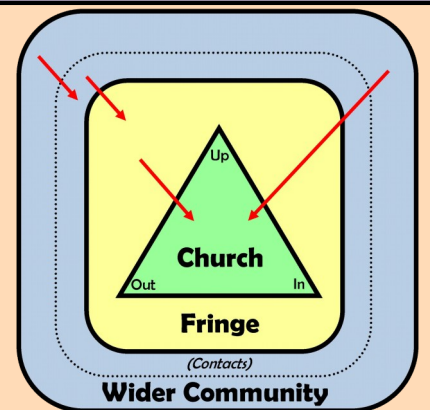
JOIN A HOMEGROUP
If you're not in one, there are a number of groups that meet in homes throughout the week to get to know each other better, look at the Bible and pray together.

BE PART OF THE MISSION
There are lots of ways you can use your gifts to serve God, his Church and the wider community.

Loving God.

Loving each other.

Loving the people of Cheadle.



Contact Details

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