



## Good St. Nicholas

Saint Nicholas was a Christian man, who became a priest and then a bishop in what we now call Turkey. His parents died when he was young. They were said to have been very wealthy and he inherited their fortune. This, coupled with Nicholas' desire to follow the teachings of Jesus and be kind to the poor meant that he ultimately gave away their fortune to those who were in need.

There are a number of stories and legends as to how that took place, which historians are less confident in saying are historically factual. However, they do tell the story of a kind and generous Christian leader who saw what he owned as something given to him by God which he could then go on and bless those in greater need with.

The story and legend of St. Nicholas spread across Europe over the centuries and his name got slightly changed due to the languages and accents who spoke it. St Nicholas became Sinterklaas in northern European countries, and then when some of those people emigrated to the now English speaking United States his name changed slightly again to Santa Claus. And it all starts with a kind bishop who's heart is to use what he has to bless those in greater need.

As I think about the way that we treat St. Nicholas in the Western World I realise that we have actually turned the legend on its head so much. We have taken a fabulous story about giving to those in need into something about receiving things for ourselves. Of course, gifts to each other are good things and should be celebrated. But, if our Christmas celebrations become about what we receive or what those closest to us receive as opposed to who we can help then we have totally missed the point.

And then there is the greatest sense of giving at Christmas, from someone's riches to bless those with significantly less. Jesus was already God the Son in heaven before he was born. He came into the world by his own choice, living as one of us, showing and teaching us the best ways to live and then giving his life for us so that our sins can be forgiven. This is all about giving rather than receiving. Jesus is the ultimate model of this and St. Nicholas followed the example of the Lord whom he served.

I wonder this Christmas, who could you bless in some great and significant way? How might you and your family approach things differently in order to be a blessing to those in greater need? Would you be willing to forego something and give that money to a worthy charity for instance? That would definitely be in keeping with the model that Jesus gives to those who follow him.

Happy Christmas!

*Paul*

## IN THIS ISSUE

### Low Cost Kids Activities Over Christmas

This month's article from Christians Against Poverty (Page 2)

### The Green Zone

This month's top tip of something we can do better to look after the environment. (Page 2)

### Special Christmas Events

Special dates for your diary this December. (Page 3)

### New or Visiting

The back page has some pieces of information about our church and services that you might find helpful (Page 4)

# Low Cost Kids Activities Over Christmas

christians  
against  
poverty

CAP

December is a wonderful time in the year to enjoy festive activities with the family. The great news is that you don't need to spend a fortune to make the most of the Christmas season. Here are some ideas for free or cheap Christmas activities that you can do this Christmas time.

## Discover your winter wonderland

Looking for a fun Christmas day out? Wrapping up warm and going out for a winter stroll is a great way to spend time as a family and get in the Christmas mood. Whether gazing at your local Christmas lights or exploring areas of natural beauty, there are plenty of free places decked out for Christmas. Local parks can feature festive decor and some may have special Christmas nature trails, which can be a wonderful activity to do with the children. Check community Facebook groups or council websites to see what's in your area. For an extra treat, pack a flask of hot chocolate and some snacks from home for a fun winter picnic!

## Get crafting for Christmas

There's definitely something special about making your own homemade decorations. Look out for free Christmas craft events in community centres, libraries and local churches. A quick internet search should help you find what's nearby. Or why not have a special crafting session at home? Natural materials can be foraged from the garden, and inexpensive craft supplies found online or from charity shops. You could even download free Christmas activity sheets or colouring pages to keep children entertained. Put on some Christmas music, and you'll be in the Christmas spirit in no time!

## Attend free church events

From Christingle services to nativities and carols by candlelight, many churches in the area will be hosting free Christmas events this month and some may even be running warm welcome hubs. Head over to one of these for the chance to meet new people, spend time together as a family, and celebrate the reason for the Christmas season.

## Access a free Christmas Dinner

Many families struggling with poverty might not be able to afford a Christmas meal this year. Thankfully, there are organisations that provide free hampers, Christmas dinners and warm spaces for people that need them. Try your local church, foodbank or CAP centre to see what's available in your area.

CAP is committed to fighting poverty and helping people to gain control of their finances. We urge people who may be struggling financially to seek free debt help.

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) is a UK charity working with over 1000 affiliated churches to deliver debt help, budgeting guidance, support to find work, life skills education and more. Visit [capuk.org](http://capuk.org) to find out more.

## The Green Zone



As we approach Christmas and with the opening article from Page 1 in mind, this month's suggestion to helping to protect our physical planet and the people living in it is to consider financially supporting organisations that seek to restore the natural world and environments in which other people and creatures live.

One example is Planet Wild (see [planetwild.com](http://planetwild.com)) which describes itself as 'a nature protection organisation, building a global community of people that care deeply about the planet and want to give back to nature'.

Another example is the internet search engine Ecosia, which uses its profits to plant trees.



# Special Christmas Events

## Christmas at All Hallows

[www.allhallows-church.org.uk](http://www.allhallows-church.org.uk)

Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> December (6:30-7:00pm)  
'Carols on the Green' (by the Councillor Lane Post Office)

Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> December (10:00-11:00am)  
Nativity Family Service (with a part to play for every child)

Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> December (6:30-7:30pm)  
Blue Christmas (for those struggling at this time of year)

Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> December (6:30-7:30pm)  
Carols by Candlelight

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

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



## Christingle Service

4:00 Christmas Eve  
Everybody Welcome



3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
**14<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**  
**NATIVITY SERVICE**



## Blue Christmas

A special service of remembrance and hope,  
for those who like Christmas but are  
struggling because things have changed.

6:30PM, SUNDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER



## Candlelight SERVICE

6:30PM, SUNDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER





# 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 one of the Welcome Team by the front door.

**We don't expect guests to give** - For those who are members or regular attenders there is an offering plate at the back, 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—drinks are served in the hall and we usually gather in the lounge to chat.

**Prayer** - If you would like someone to pray with you — either prayer for you or for someone you know — there are people who would love to do so after the service. Please make yourself known to the service leader.

**Children & Youth** - Once a month, the whole church worships together. On other weeks, there is a Sunday School for primary aged children. One of the Welcome Team can show you where Sunday School meets. For pre-school age children, there are green tables at the side of church with activities. Please don't be embarrassed if your children make any noise—they are welcome here and are part of the service, too! All our children and youth leaders have DBS checks and have undergone safeguarding training.

## 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 LIFE GROUP

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. Speak to one of the church team to find out more.

## DECEMBER 2025

### Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup>

9:00-1:00 Light Café

1:00-1:15 Pause for Thought

7:00-8:30 Youth Club

### Sunday 7<sup>th</sup>

10:00 Morning Service & Sunday School

6:30 Service to Remember

### Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup>

9:00-1:00 Light Café

9:30-11:00 Messy Toddlers

1:00-1:15 Pause for Thought

7:00-8:30 Youth Club

### Friday 12<sup>th</sup>

6:30-7:00 Carols on the Green

### Sunday 14<sup>th</sup>

10:00 Morning Nativity Service

6:30 Blue Christmas Service

### Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup>

9:00-1:00 Light Café

1:00-1:30 Café Carols

7:00-8:30 Youth Club

### Sunday 21<sup>st</sup>

10:00 Christmas Worship Service & Sunday School Party

6:30 Carols by Candlelight

### Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup>—Christmas Eve

10:00 (TBC) Christingle Making

4:00-4:30 Christingle Service

### Thursday 25<sup>th</sup>—Christmas Day

10:00-11:00 Christmas Day Family Service, followed by Holy Communion

### Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> (First Sunday of Advent)

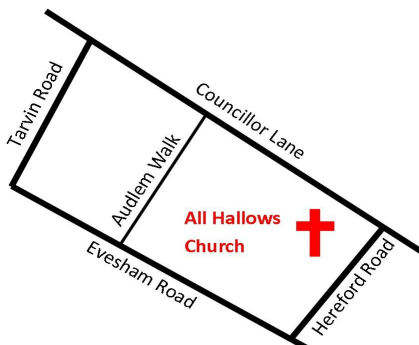
10:00 Morning Service

6:30 NO Evening Service

## Contact Details

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If you would like to make a one-off donation to the work of All Hallows Church you can do so by using the QR Code.

## PRAYER MEETINGS

### Monday

10:00-11:00 Zoom Prayers

### Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

9:30-10:00 Morning Prayer in Church

### Saturday Prayer Relays

Book a half hour slot during the day to pray, before somebody else takes over