



## Angels from the Realms of Glory

Each year as Christmas approaches I find myself pondering something about the Christmas story. Maybe that's an occupational hazard as I'm going to do a number of various talks in different settings. Either way, it does mean that I find myself reflecting on something new each year.

As I type, this Christmas is still a good month away, but I've already found myself thinking what it must have been like for the angels in the story. Now, in most ways I cannot understand because I do not have the experience of being an angel. What I do know is that, whilst little girls dressed in white with tinsel halos on their heads look really cute, a real angel is nothing like that. The very look at an angel made rough and ready, grown men terrified. Hence, the angels' regular opening line of, "Do not be afraid."

Throughout the Christmas story the angels are the messengers from God. The angel Gabriel appears to Zechariah to tell him that his wife Elizabeth is going to have a baby, and that they are to call him John. Gabriel then visits Mary, to tell her that even though she is a virgin she is going to have a baby, that he will be God's Son, and that she is to call him Jesus. An unnamed angel visits Joseph in a dream and reassures him, telling him that the baby in Mary's womb is indeed from God. Then we get the angel who appears on a hillside to a bunch of shepherds, and delivers the news that the Saviour of the World has been born in Bethlehem. As the angel finishes telling them that he is joined by a 'company of the heavenly host' - more angels, together worshipping God.

A few angels delivering really important messages and then a large number of soldier angels (a company of the heavenly host) appearing and praising God, all there at the Christmas story.

But those angels had come from heaven to earth. I wonder how they would have felt to be chosen for such monumental tasks. The angel Gabriel's name has literally gone down in human history and he would have known that at the time. Did his angel buddies pat him on the back and tell him how deserving he was of such an honour? I have no idea.

What I do know is that in this area in our day we pick up the mantle left by the angels. We do not need to tell anybody called Zechariah, Elizabeth, Mary or Joseph that they are going to have babies (unless you are a health care professional of course). But, it is up to us to tell people that the Saviour of the World has been born to us; that the Prince of Peace has come. And, it is our duty to worship him and to bring praise to God this Christmas time. So, let's be the angels of 2024 (tinsel halos not included).

God bless,

*Paul*

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# 5 Ways You Can Bring Light & Hope

christians  
against  
poverty

CAP

We are Christians Against Poverty (CAP) so it won't surprise you that, as Christians, we love Christmas! However, winter can be really challenging for families living in poverty. Together with local churches, CAP provides free debt advice and other services, alongside emergency aid to households struggling to heat their homes and afford food. More than ever, the values of Christmas – like kindness, being a cheerful giver, and spreading hope and joy in your community – are so important. Here are five ways you can be a light to others in need.

## 1. Host a Christmas open house

Consider what you can do for your neighbours and friends. Inviting them round to an open house, to a place of warmth with food and good company, could be just what they need to lift their spirits. You could give out little favours or gifts – they don't have to be lavish presents, but some homemade treats to show you care can go a long way to making people feel valued and supported.

## 2. Volunteer at a charity

This Christmas, many across the UK won't even have access to a hot meal or a roof over their head. Charities and churches with soup kitchens, food banks, shelters and other outreach programmes are always looking for willing volunteers to help them out. If you have some time to spare, why not give it away and contribute to bringing vital relief to others in your local area?

## 3. Make Christmas hampers to give to those in need

Making Christmas hampers is a fun and rewarding thing to do as a family – even the children can take part and contribute. Giving a hamper can be as simple or elaborate as you like, and serves to provide practical help to those struggling financially. Such a gesture eases the loneliness and despair that those grappling with debt may be feeling, and sends a message of hope and goodwill this Christmas.

## 4. Encourage people to seek free support

Encourage those who are struggling financially to get in touch with a local church and see what support they can provide, as many churches offer a range of practical and emotional help to ease financial pressure and see lives transformed. In partnership with CAP, churches provide free debt help, budgeting guidance, job clubs and life skills groups. Many also offer food shops, warm spaces and emergency aid. Visit [capuk.org/help](https://capuk.org/help) to find out more.

## 5. Help provide emergency aid

In partnership with CAP, hundreds of churches are providing emergency aid this winter, such as energy top-ups, food shops and school uniforms to families in desperate circumstances. But they urgently need your support. If you're in a fortunate position to be able to give financially, you can make a huge difference this Christmas. To make a donation, please visit [capuk.org/winter](https://capuk.org/winter).

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) is a UK charity working with over 800 affiliated churches to deliver debt help, budgeting guidance, support to find work, life skills education and more. Visit [capuk.org](https://capuk.org) to find out more.

# The Green Zone



This month's idea to be more environmentally friendly at home is to check your home for draughts. We need to be careful with sealing our homes too much and not opening doors and windows etc. for ventilation, as that can lead to condensation and mould growing. However, as long as we ventilate our homes when it is a convenient time to do so then keeping our draughts to a minimum will mean that our homes are warmer during the winter months.

It also means that we don't need to use as much fuel for heating, which saves carbon emissions. Plus, it goes without saying that saves us money too. So, all in all, it's a win-win-win to check our homes for draughts and seal them up.



# Special Events Coming Up

## Christmas at All Hallows

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

Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> December (6:30-7:00pm)

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

Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> December (10:00-11:00am)

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

Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> December (6:30-7:30pm)

*Blue Christmas (for those struggling at this time of year)*

Sunday, 22<sup>nd</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*



# 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 2024

### Sunday 1<sup>st</sup>

10:00 Morning Service & Sunday School

6:30 Evening Communion Service

### Monday 2<sup>nd</sup>

10:00 Zoom Prayers

### Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup>

9:00-1:30 Light Café

1:00-1:15 Pause for Thought

7:00-8:30 Youth Club

### Friday 6<sup>th</sup>

9:30-10:00 Prayer Meeting

6:30 Carols on the Green

### Sunday 8<sup>th</sup>

10:00 Morning Communion Service & Sunday School

6:30 Evening Service

### Monday 9<sup>th</sup>

10:00 Zoom Prayers

### Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup>

9:00-1:30 Light Café

9:30-11:00 Messy Toddlers

1:00-1:15 Pause for Thought

7:00-8:30 Youth Club

### Friday 13<sup>th</sup>

9:30-10:00 Prayer Meeting

### Sunday 15<sup>th</sup>

10:00 Nativity Service

6:30 Blue Christmas Service

### Monday 16<sup>th</sup>

10:00 Zoom Prayers

### Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup>

9:00-1:30 Light Café

1:00-1:30 Café Carols

7:00-8:30 Youth Club

### Friday 20<sup>th</sup>

9:30-10:00 Prayer Meeting

### Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup>

10:00 Christmas Worship Service & Sunday School Party

6:30 Carols by Candlelight

### Monday 23<sup>rd</sup>

10:00 Zoom Prayers

### Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Eve

4:00-4:30 Christingle Service

### Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Day

10:00 Christmas Day Service (followed by Holy Communion)

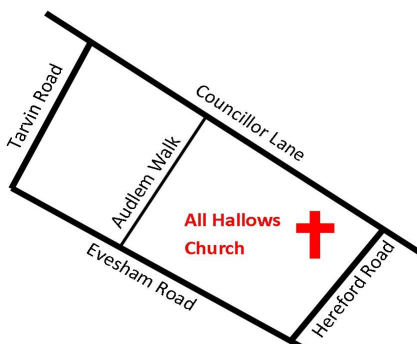
### Sunday 29<sup>th</sup>

10:00 Morning 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.