

## December at Christ Church

*Come and join the celebration!*

Today sees the start of Advent – a time for preparing to celebrate the coming of Jesus to Bethlehem around 2000 years ago, and to look forward to his coming again.

But we live in a society which over the coming few weeks will be throwing itself into preparing for a very different festival. Despite the credit crunch, huge sums of money will be spent, houses will be decorated, cards sent, food and drink bought, parties thrown. And all to celebrate ... nothing. The modern 'Xmas' is actually an appropriate name for these secular festivities – 'X' often stands for an unknown, and most people will be celebrating without having any reason.

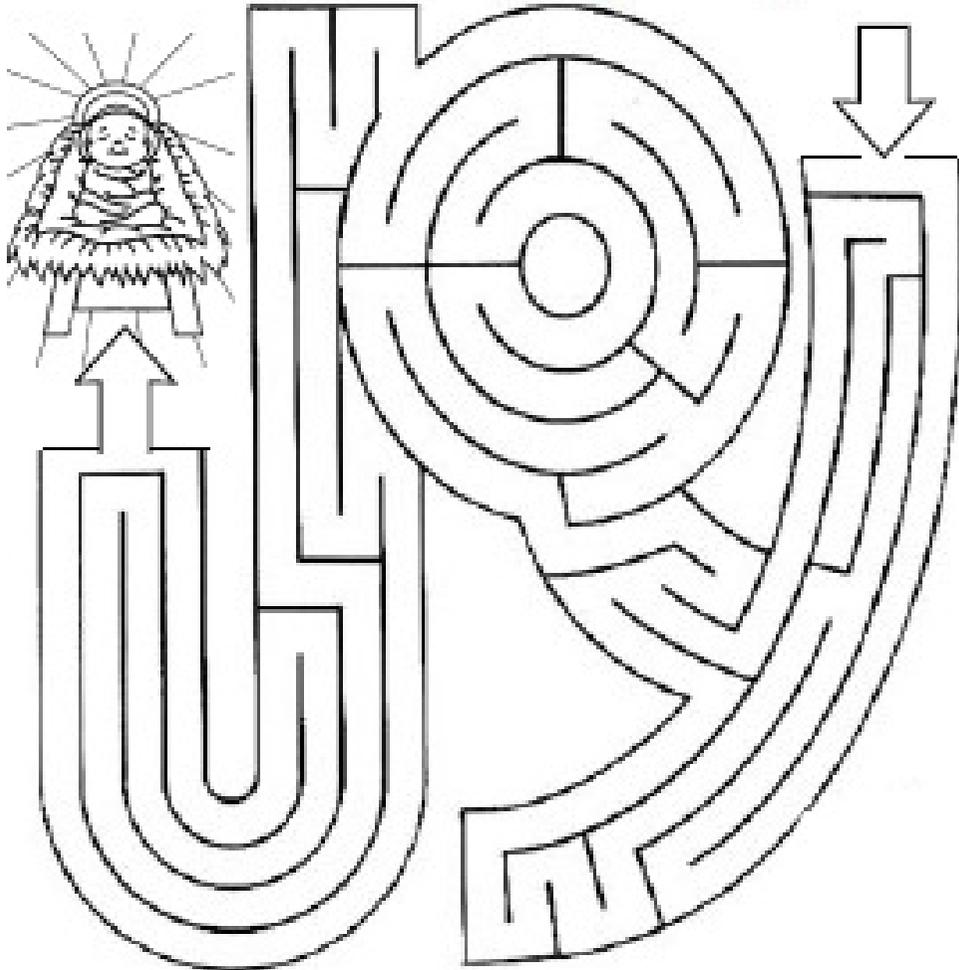
We don't celebrate Xmas, we celebrate Christmas. Or at least we should. But living in an Xmas society, we can all too easily get sucked along by all the meaningless commercialism. We can all too easily keep the next month as the season of Advert, rather than Advent. When we do that, we miss out on the wonder and the joy that are at the heart of Christmas, and we miss out on the hope that is ours as we look forward to the return of our Lord Jesus Christ, who *'was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.'* (Hebrews 9:28)

So how are you going to spend the next few weeks? As the season of Advent, or of Advert? Joyfully looking forward to Jesus' return, or too busy to give him more than a passing thought? Will you spend the time getting ready for Xmas, doing the same as the people around you? Or by preparing to celebrate Christmas? And then, will you celebrate Xmas this year, by finally crashing out after all the hectic preparations? Or will you celebrate Christmas, by joining with others at Christ Church to welcome the new born King?

Yours in Christ

# Jesus is coming!

*Can you find  
your way to him?*



### ***Regular weekly activities:***

Monday	-	9.30 am Toddler Group
	-	1.00 pm TLC
Tuesday	-	9.30 am Toddler Group
	-	1.15 pm Art Group
	-	4.00 pm Shine
Wednesday	-	9.30 am Toddler Group
	-	1.00 pm Needlecraft Group
	-	1.30 pm Toddler Group
	-	4.00 pm Rainbows
	-	5.15 pm Rainbows
Thursday	-	1.00 pm Craft Group
	-	9.45 am Keep Fit
	-	11.00 am Keep Fit
	-	5.30 pm Brownies
	-	7.30 pm Guides
Friday	-	9.15 am Mothers 'n' Others
	-	7.00 pm Evening Bowls

*Please note the Centre will be closed for two weeks from Monday 22nd December and will reopen on Monday 5th January*

*'Carry each other's burdens'* (Galatians 6:2)  
Remember that our new Pastoral Care Course starts in January.

This is a 10 session course produced by the Open Bible Institute. Each session involves around 5 hours work at home, and then a group session to talk through what you have learned. The course costs £30. If you are interested, or would like to know more, please speak to Graham as soon as possible.



### **The Big Christmas Card**

Christmas is coming - which means lots of Christmas Cards to write. But this year instead of sending cards to one another at Christ Church, we have again got our Christ Church Christmas Card - on which we can all wish one another Happy Christmas. Just sign the card and give your best wishes to everyone in the church. There is also a box for donations so that the money you would normally spend on cards can be given to one of the mission projects we support.

***Please note that on Sunday 28th December we will only be having one service at 10.00 am in the morning.***

**Hope 2008  
Community Carol Service  
Sunday 14th December  
4.00 pm  
(outside Moreton Library)**



***Big Open Air  
Community Carol Service  
Brass Band - Carols,  
Short Christmas message***

***We wish all our readers a very  
Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year***