

SERVICES FOR ADVENT / CHRISTMAS 2010

	9.00 am BCP Communion <i>He will be called the Son of God</i> Luke 1:32	10.45 am Morning worship <i>He will be called the Son of God</i> Luke 1:32	6.30 pm Communion <i>The sign of Immanuel</i> Isaiah 7:1-17
Sunday Dec 12 th	9.00 am Morning Prayer <i>You will give him the name Jesus</i> Matthew 1:21	10.45 am Church Family Nativity (in the Parish Centre)	6.30 pm Evening Praise <i>A new King is coming</i> Isaiah 9:2-7
Sunday Dec 19 th	9.00 am Holy Communion <i>They will call him Immanuel</i> Matthew 1:23	10.45 am Family Service <i>They will call him Immanuel</i> Matthew 1:23	6.30 pm CAROL SERVICE
CHRIST -MAS EVE		5.00 pm Twas the Night before Christmas	11.00 pm Holy Communion
CHRIST -MAS DAY	10.00 am Family Communion <i>He is Christ the Lord</i> Luke 2:11		
Sunday Dec 26 th	10.00 am Family Communion <i>The Word became flesh</i> John 1:14		
Sunday January 2 nd 2011	9.00 am BCP Communion Matthew 2:1-12	10.45 am Family Service Matthew 2:1-12	6.30 pm Communion <i>My eyes have seen your salvation</i> Luke 2:25-35

December 2010 at Christ Church

Hark the glad sound, the Saviour comes

Once again it is 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. It is one of the great times in the Christian year!

But the society around us will spend the coming few weeks throwing itself into preparing for a very different festival. Despite the big cuts in our economy, 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 swept along by the crowd, and end up keeping the next month as the season of Advent, 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 Advent? 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

Graham Cousins

Regular weekly activities:

Monday	-	9.30 am Play Buddies (*Tuesday 14th December)
	-	1.00 pm TLC (* Open on Monday 27th December closed 3rd January)
Tuesday	-	9.30 am Play Buddies (*Tuesday 14th December)
	-	3.30 pm Shine (* Tuesday 14th December)
Wednesday	-	1.00 pm Needlecraft Group (*Wednesday 8th December)
	-	5.15 pm Rainbows (* Wednesday 16th December)
Thursday	-	1.00 pm Craft Group (*Thursday 16th December)
	-	9.45 am Keep Fit
	-	11.00 am Keep Fit (* Thursday 9th December)
	-	5.30 pm Brownies (* Thursday 9th December)
	-	7.30 pm Guides (* Thursday 16th December)
Friday	-	9.15 am Mothers 'n' Others (* Friday 3rd December)
	-	7.00 pm Evening Bowls (* Friday 17th December)

**These are the last dates before the Christmas holidays*



**CAROL SINGING
OUTSIDE CO-OP
SATURDAY 18TH DECEMBER
10.30 AM - 11.15 AM**

A great opportunity to share the Good News
of Christmas with our community.



BOOKSTALL

As Christmas approaches, and the search for presents heats up, why not give a Christian book? The bookstall will be available at the back of church, on Sundays 5th and 12th December, with books for children, books for adults, and books for you! While buying presents for others, why not pick up a book to read yourself during Advent, to help you keep Jesus at the centre of your Christmas preparations.

Our Bookstall is provided by Birkenhead Christian Bookshop – if you can't find what you are looking for here, why not give them a visit at 14, Grange Road West, Birkenhead.



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 Ipusukilo.

LOOKING AHEAD – JANUARY 2011 at CHRIST CHURCH

CAFÉ CHURCH

Sundays 9th, 16th,
23rd & 30th Jan
6.30 pm
in the Parish Centre

E100 Bible Reading Challenge

The Challenge is to read 100 carefully selected, essential Bible passages – 50 from the Old Testament and 50 from the New Testament. The passages are usually 1 or 2 chapters in length, and can usually be read in 10-15 minutes.

ARE YOU UP FOR THE CHALLENGE?

More details in January newsletter