

Advent 2011 at Christ Church

SERVICES FOR ADVENT / CHRISTMAS 2011

Sunday Nov 27 th	9.00 am Morning Prayer Matthew 25:1-13 – Be alert	10.45 am Holy Communion Matthew 25:1-13 – Be alert	6.30 pm DEANERY SERVICE at ST.PAUL’S, SEACOMBE
Sunday Dec 4 th	10.00 am Holy Communion Matthew 25:14-30 <i>Be at work</i>		6.30 pm Luke 1:26-38 <i>God of the unexpected</i>
Sunday Dec 11 th	9.00 am Morning Prayer Matthew 25:31-46 <i>Be prepared</i>	10.45 am Church Family Nativity (<i>in the Parish Centre</i>)	6.30 pm Evening Praise Luke 1:39-56 <i>Salvation song</i>
Sunday Dec 18 th	9.00 am Holy Communion Isaiah 9:1-7 <i>What child is this?</i>	10.45 am Family Service Isaiah 9:1-7 <i>What child is this?</i>	6.30 pm CAROL SERVICE
CHRIS T-MAS EVE		5.00 pm Twas the Night before Christmas	11.00 pm Holy Communion
CHRIS T-MAS DAY	10.00 am Family Communion		
Sunday Jan 1 st 2012	10.00 am Family Communion Luke 2:21-35 <i>Named and recognised</i>		

Getting ready for the King

With Christmas seeming to start earlier and earlier each year, Advent, which starts today, has largely been forgotten. And that is a great shame, because for Christians it should be a significant time.

Advent is a time of preparation – looking forward to celebrating the coming of Jesus. So on one level we need Advent to help us not to be swamped by the commercial pressures of the secular Christmas. We need to make an effort to remember what the coming of Jesus really means, and to make time for worship.

We need to remember that Jesus came to this earth to do something for us that we could not possibly do for ourselves – to restore the relationship with God that we were created to enjoy, but which we had all turned our backs on. And it is a time when we need to demonstrate to the world around us the difference which that truth makes.

But Advent also looks forward to the second coming of Jesus, when *he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him* (Hebrews 9:28). Jesus will come again, and when he does, it will be the beginning of a new world for those who love him. And it will be the end of hope for those who don't know him.

And that's where the challenge of Advent comes. It's not the challenge of making sure that all the presents are bought, the cards sent, the Christmas cake iced. It's the challenge of making sure that we are ready for the return of the Lord Jesus – living as if we truly are expecting his return. And it is the challenge of making him known to the thousands around us who, whether they realise it or not, need him more than anything else they could hope for this Christmas.

Yours in Christ *Graham Cousins*

Regular weekly activities:

Monday	-	9.30 am Play Buddies
	-	1.00 pm TLC
Tuesday	-	9.30 am Play Buddies
	-	3.30 pm Shine
Wednesday	-	1.00 pm Needlecraft Group
	-	5.30-6.30 pm Rainbows
	-	5.45 pm-7.00 pm Brownies
Thursday	-	9.45 am Keep Fit
	-	11.00 am Keep Fit
	-	1.00 pm Craft Group
	-	5.00 pm Brownies
	-	7.30 pm Guides
Friday	-	9.15 am Mothers 'n' Others
	-	7.00 pm Evening Bowls

Please note all activities will not be meeting during the Christmas Holidays.

TLC will be open on Boxing Day (26th December) between 1.00 pm and 2.00 pm only. They will be closed on 2nd January and open as normal on 9th January 2012.

CAROL SINGING IN THE COMMUNITY



Carol singing is a much loved part of preparing for Christmas, and this year we have 2 opportunities to join with others in sharing the Good News of Christmas in song in our community.

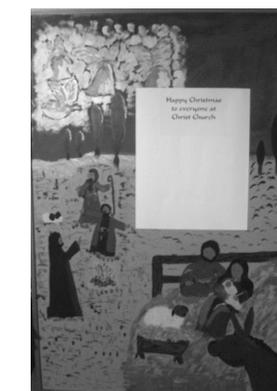
CHRIST CHURCH SCHOOL have their Christmas Fair on Friday 2nd December at 3.45 pm, and will be following it with a 150th Anniversary Carol Service on the playground at the front of school. It starts at 6.00 pm, and is a great chance for us to join with the school community.

CAROL SINGING OUTSIDE THE CO-OP. We will again be joining with other churches to sing carols outside the Co-op in Moreton on Saturday 17th December between 11.00 and 12.00 am.

THE BIG CHRISTMAS CARD

Once again our Big Christmas Card is at the back of church. Instead of sending cards to one another at Christ Church, why not just sign the card, and then make a donation.

This year we have a **Big Christmas Card Challenge**. Christian Aid partner Ukamba Christian Community Services works in the poorest areas of Kenya, digging



wells and helping families grow food and access clean water.

A well costs **£327**. So our challenge this Christmas is – can we donate that much through our Big Christmas Card?



(If we don't reach that target we will buy items of lesser value from their list)