

# **Advent 2013 at Christ Church**

*I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people*  
(Luke 2:10)

Christmas is coming, and up and down the country, children (and adults!) will be busy compiling their Christmas Present lists. There will be some things which are hopelessly optimistic, some which are genuinely wanted but not really expected, and some which are there just to fill up the list.

But in all of that, how many people will think of the gifts we will be thinking about on Sunday mornings this month? Hope, peace, joy and love. For most people, including I suspect many Christians, they seem hopelessly optimistic – they are the things which we all genuinely want, but have no real expectation of.

But these are the things which the coming of Jesus brings. A hope for the future, no matter how difficult the present might be. Peace with God, which can bring peace in our hearts and relationships. Joy that goes beyond mere circumstances. Love that is not dependent on our earning it.

In Advent, as we look forwards to the return of Jesus, we remember that when he comes again, his people will have perfect hope, peace, joy and love. But they aren't just for the future – they are gifts offered to us now as we trust in him. Sadly many of us will be rushing around so much in the next few weeks that we will be in danger of missing the wonderful things the coming of Jesus means. Much better to make time each day to focus on them – why not use our Advent readings each day?

And don't keep it to yourself. Our society is longing for hope, peace, joy and love, but is unable to find them. They need to see that we do have them; they need to see that difference. And when they do, they need to hear that Jesus can do the same for them.

Yours in Christ

Graham Cousins

## **Regular weekly activities:**

Monday - 9.30 am : Toddler Group  
- 1.00 pm : TLC

**(TLC will remain open on Mondays 23rd & 30th December)**

Tuesday - 9.30 am : Toddler Group  
**(Close Tuesday 17th December, reopen Monday 13th January)**

- 3.30 pm : S.O.S.  
- 1.00 pm : Needlecraft Group  
- 1.30 pm : Baby Bible Buddies

**(BBB close Wed 11th December and reopen Wed 10th January)**

- 5.15 pm : Rainbows  
Thursday - 9.45 am : Keep Fit  
- 11.00 am : Top to Toe Fitness

**(TTTF Close Thursday 5th December, reopen Thursday 9th January)**

- 1.00 pm : Craft Group  
**(Close Thursday 19th December, reopen Thursday 2nd January)**

- 5.30 pm : Brownies  
- 7.30 pm : Guides

Friday - 9.15 am : Mothers 'n' Others

**(Mothers 'n' Others Close Friday 13th December, reopen on Friday 3rd January)**

- 7.00 pm : Bowls

**All other activities will be closed during the Christmas holidays  
From Monday 16th December and will reopen week beginning  
6th January 2014**

**The Lighthouse will close on Tuesday 17th December and reopen on  
Monday 13th January.**

**Open Church will close on Friday 20th December and reopen  
On Monday 6th January 2014**

**NEW YEAR'S DAY 1ST JANUARY 2014  
WALK ACROSS THURSTASTON**

Blow the cobweb's away  
and keep your New Year Resolution

10.00 am from Car Park  
Christ Church Parish Centre  
(LIMITED TRANSPORT AVAILABLE)

Further details: Contact Bob Holmes



**CAROL SINGING OUTSIDE THE CO-OP.** We will again be joining with Moreton Baptist Church to sing carols in the Co-op in Moreton on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December between 11.00 and 11.45 am. If you would like to join us, please let Graham know.

**CHRISTMAS BOOKSTALL**

As Christmas approaches, and the search for presents hots up, why not give a Christian book? On Sundays 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> December we will have a bookstall at the back of church, 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**



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.

All the money collected will be given to Wirral Food Bank

**SERVICES FOR ADVENT**

Sunday Dec 1 <sup>st</sup>	Advent (BCP HC) <i>The Coming of Hope</i> Titus 2:11-14	Advent <i>The Coming of Hope</i> Titus 2:11-14	6.00 pm DEANERY SERVICE at ST.NICHOLAS', WALLASEY
Sunday Dec 8 <sup>th</sup>	9.00 am Morning Prayer <i>The Coming of Peace</i> Micah 5:2-5a	10.45 am Communion <i>The Coming of Peace</i> Micah 5:2-5a	6.30 pm Advent Praise
Sunday Dec 15 <sup>th</sup>	9.00 am Holy Communion <i>The coming of Joy</i> Luke 2:8-14	10.45 am Nativity Service <i>The coming of Joy</i> Luke 2:8-14	6.30 pm Café Church
Sunday Dec 22 <sup>nd</sup>	9.00 am Morning Prayer <i>The coming of Love</i> Matthew 1:18-25	10.45 am Family Communion <i>The coming of Love</i> Matthew 1:18-25	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		
Sunday Dec 29 <sup>th</sup>	10.45 am Christ Church together Communion <i>The coming of the King</i> Matthew 2:1-12		