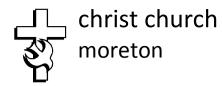
# Advent 2015 at



# O come. O come Emmanuel!

The start of Advent, and once again as God's people we face the challenge of making the most of this special time of year. Inside this newsletter are some suggestions of ways in which you might do that, and below is a prayer which we have used regularly in Advent for the past few years.

At the heart of Advent has to be recognising who Jesus is, why he came, and how we can have hope through him. Following our series 'God's story, my story', on Sunday mornings we are starting a series on Luke's gospel, showing us how our story can only be complete through Jesus. That should be good news for us – and it is good news which we need to take every opportunity to share. So don't waste Advent 2015 – use it to get ready for the King!

Yours in Christ Graham Cousins

## An Advent Prayer by Henri Nouwen

Lord Jesus, Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.

We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.

We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us.

We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom.

We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence.

We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.

To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!" Amen.

# Regular weekly activities:

**Monday** - 9.30 am : Toddler Group

(close on 15<sup>th</sup> December – reopen on 11<sup>th</sup> January)

- 1.00 pm : TLC

**Tuesday** - 9.30 am: Toddler Group

- 3.30 pm: S.O.S. (restarts 12<sup>th</sup> January)

6.00 - 8.00 pm Foodbank

**Wednesday** - 5.15 pm: Rainbows

(close 16th December - reopen 13th January

Thursday - 9.45 am : Keep Fit

11.00 am : Keep Fit

(close on 3<sup>rd</sup> December – reopen 7<sup>th</sup> January)

- 1.00 pm : Craft Group

(close on 17<sup>th</sup> December – reopen 7<sup>th</sup> January)

- 5.30 pm : Brownies

(close on 17<sup>th</sup> December - reopen on 14<sup>th</sup> January)

**Friday** - 9.15 am : Mothers 'n' Others

(close 18th December – reopen 8th January)

- 2.00 - 4.00 pm Foodbank

Open Church will close on 22<sup>nd</sup> December and reopen on 5<sup>th</sup> January TLC will remain open during the Christmas holidays except for Monday 28<sup>th</sup>December

Foodbank will be open except for Christmas Day

# Not such a Silent Night!

Christ Church School are holding community carol singing round the Christmas Tree on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 5.00 pm. This will be a great opportunity to share with the community



at this special time of year. Everyone is welcome.

#### CAROL SERVICES

Several Schools will be holding their Carol Services in Christ Church:

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> Dec (morning) – Orretts Meadow School Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December (afternoon) – Sandbrook School Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December (morning) – Christ Church School

### **MAKING THE MOST OF ADVENT 2015:**

#### CHRISTMAS BOOKSTALL



As Christmas approaches, and the search for presents hots up, why not give a Christian book? On Sundays 29<sup>th</sup> November, and 6<sup>th</sup> & 13<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!

We also have a wide range of Christmas Cards, and

### calendars for 2016.

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.

**LIGHT HAS COME** – Readings and Prayers for advent. Produced by the Evangelical Alliance and Mission Aviation Fellowship. Copies are available on the Welcome Desk.

**ADVENT READINGS**. Christian publisher IVP offer a daily e-mail through Advent. Each day will consist of a Bible verse and a short extract from a recent IVP book. Sign up at http://www.thinkivp.com/advent

### SERVICES FOR ADVENT / CHRISTMAS 2015

· .			
Sunday	9.00 am	10.45 am	6.30 pm
6 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Holy Communion	Family Worship	Holy Communion
	(BCP)	Zechariah's story,	Reclaiming Xmas
	Zechariah's story,	my story?	(i) Trees and lights
	my story?	Luke 1:5-25	John 1:1-14
	Luke 1:5-25		301111 11
Sunday	9.00 am	10.45 am	6.30 pm
13 <sup>th</sup>	Morning Prayer	Nativity Service	Evening Praise
Dec	Mary's story, my	(Luke 1:26-38)	Reclaiming Xmas
	story?		(ii) Presents and
	Luke 1:26-38		Parties
			Isaiah 9:2-7
Sunday	9.00 am	10.45 am	6.30 pm
20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Holy Communion</b>	Family Service	CAROL SERVICE
Dec	Christmas songs	Christmas songs	
	Luke 1:46-55, 68-	Luke 1:46-55, 68-	
	79	79	
CHRIST-		5.00 pm	11.00 pm
MAS		Twas the Night	Holy Communion
EVE		before Christmas	
CHRIST-	10.00 am		
MAS	Family Communion		
DAY	Luke 2:1-20		
Sunday	10.45 am		
27 <sup>th</sup>	Christ Church Together Communion		
Dec	Long wait finished		
	Luke 2:22-40		
Sunday	9.00 am	10.45 am	6.30 pm
3 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	<b>BCP Communion</b>	Family Worship	Holy Communion
2016	Vision 2016	Vision 2016	Vision 2016
	Luke 2:41-52	Luke 2:41-52	