



It's Christmas Time

Dear Friends

It is fast approaching Christmas, no-one can fail to see! with the Christmas Ad's on TV now boring us with their familiarity – they started months ago. The shops filled with glitter and tinsel from late September is it all too much? People are struggling through everyday events, the bills keep coming and costs are rising, yet the media and social media are enticing us to spend. The pressures placed on people to buy the latest gadget or game, the newest perfume or expensive gift, coupled with the peer pressure to get what everybody else has. It is all heart-breaking when we know there are many out there will get into extreme debt to provide, and pay the price with their mental health perhaps for years to come.

At the risk of being called a scrooge I don't want this kind of Christmas.

Christmas is about accepting God into our lives. God who came as a tiny vulnerable baby into this world of fear and of danger - He was a baby of Love. He came to show us how to live in Love, to care for each other including the most vulnerable, including the stranger, including the outcast. He showed us how – have we forgotten? Christmas should be about Love, not Love as the world gives, but Love as Christ gave. In that he gave his very life for us. He sent his spirit to be with us, to enter every loving heart.

This tiny fragile child grew to teach, to love as no-one but God had ever loved. He healed, he cared and he died for us. And we turn all this into glitz, parties turkey and tinsel in overabundance.

This Christmas let us celebrate the coming of Love at this time. Love that is unconditional, Love that shares, cares and heals. That is worth celebrating with Joy and Thanksgiving. By singing songs old and new, lighting candles to shine the light into the darkness, to remind ourselves that the darkness cannot survive whilst the light is there. Even dance if we feel like it.

Yes follow tradition and gift our friends and family with affordable gifts given in Love but most of all let us share the true meaning of this season.

The birth of a tiny fragile vulnerable infant who grew into Love itself and showed us how to do the same to make this world a different place.

*Wishing you all a very Happy Peaceful and Joyous Christmas with
Christ right in the heart of it.*

With Love
Lynne

The Church in Hope Street LEP



CHURCH NOTICES

DECEMBER 2022



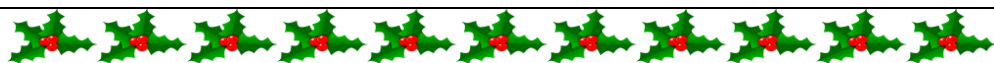
*The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.
We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only,
who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

John 1:14

Mission Statement

*Our mission is to help all people understand and respond
to the depth of God's love for them*





CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

Friday 2nd December 9:30am - 11:00am In the Alec Stride Hall
Refreshments - Raffle - Instant Draw - White Elephant and more
ALL WELCOME

Morning Service 10:30am **Sunday 4th December**
2nd in Advent Lynne le Masonry

Prayer & Care 9:30am-10:00am **Tuesday 6th December**
Coffee Morning 10:00am-11:30am *All welcome* Church
Alec Stride Hall

Morning Service 10:30am **Sunday 11th December**
3rd in Advent Rev Gareth West
Holy Communion

Prayer & Care 9:15am - 9:45am **Tuesday 13th December**
Coffee Morning 10:00am - 11:30am *All welcome* Church
Alec Stride Hall

Dementia Carol Service 2:00pm **Thursday 15th December**
Lynne le Masonry

Christingle 2:00pm **Saturday 17th December**
Janet & Lynne

Morning Service 10:30am **Sunday 18th December**
Carol Service 6:30pm *4th in Advent* Martin Smith
Lynne le Masonry

Prayer & Care 9:15am - 9:45am **Tuesday 20th December**
Coffee Morning 10:00am - 11:30am *All welcome* Church
Alec Stride Hall

Morning Service 10:00am **Sunday 25th December**
CHRISTMAS DAY Lynne le Masonry

Notices for December should be available from Sunday 18th December

Please let me know if you would like something included

Dates for your Diary

Taketime is a series of relaxing guided meditations
based on the stories of Jesus and the tradition of St Ignatius

Taketime Together *taketime* is now meeting on Fridays, 11:15am in Church
Please speak to Margaret for more information

Living with Dementia

Meetings are on 1st 3rd and any 5th Thursdays in the month.
Please contact Janet for more information.

Contributions welcome for FOOD BANK & COMMUNITY BUS

Thank you for donating food items - packets, tins etc. and toiletries
for the food bank and the Community Bus.



CHRISTMAS EVENTS

DEMENTIA CAROL SERVICE Thursday 15th December 2:00pm
CHRISTINGLE Saturday 17th December 2:00pm
CHURCH CAROL SERVICE Sunday 18th December 6:30pm
CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE Sunday 25th December 10:00am



NEXT CHURCH MEETING

Monday 16th January 2023 at 2:00pm in the Church. All are invited

BIRTHDAYS

10 th December	Diana	24 th January	Lynne
27 th December	Brian		
28 th December	Stephen		

MESSAGES

Heather would like to say a big thank you to all of you who sent cards and messages for her birthday. Also thank you to everyone who sang Happy Birthday so beautifully xx

Maureen would like to thank everyone for their kind messages and cards sent to her on her birthday. She had a lovely day.

The Coffee Shop and Centre will be closed from
Friday 23rd December until Tuesday 3rd January

SEASON'S BLESSINGS TO YOU ALL

