

DECEMBER

2018



All Saints' Church
Preston on Tees

Great Expectations...

'How many sleeps is it to Christmas?' 'How many shopping days?' 'I can't wait!' As you read this at the beginning of December, where are you on the spectrum of 'Done Christmas'?

Have you bought all your presents? Planned your Christmas dinner with military precision? Located the stockings stuffed in the dark recesses of your cupboards?

Or have you not even started thinking about it? Are you already fed up with hearing Wham's 'Last Christmas' or East17's 'Stay Another Day'... or worse, the Pogues' 'Fairytale of New York'?

Or are you someone who has already cracked out the Elf DVD and has been watching it non-stop since the middle of November?

I am one of those people who loves Christmas. I love the presents, both giving and receiving. I love the magic of carols and mulled wine, turkey and mince pies, and Christmas films that are so bad that they are good.

But I can't help thinking that in our impatience to get to the destination, our need to sleep and shop our way to Christmas Day surrounded by Wham and tinsel, we forget the altogether separate joy in the journey of waiting.

As we have yet another work Christmas dinner, or mutter about decorations in November, do we take time to experience expectancy? The same expectancy that a pregnant young woman had 2,000 years ago, the expectancy of the world waiting for its saviour, of a mother waiting for her child.

In that moment is sheer intimacy with God. So, take some time this season to be expectant and not impatient.

Paul Arnold
Curate



** This year we will have a number of #Follow the Star booklets to take away that are designed to help you connect with God over Christmas and New Year.*

DATES - DECEMBER 2018

CHRISTMAS

Carols by Candlelight

Sun 16 Dec, 6pm
Service Leader: John Lambert
Preacher: Bishop Paul Butler

Christmas Eve Family Special

Mon 24 Dec, 4pm

Midnight Holy Communion

Mon 24 Dec, 11.30pm
Holy Night
Isaiah 62.10-12 and Luke 2.1-7
Service Leader: Paul Arnold
Preacher: Paul Clayton

Christmas Morning Celebration

Tues 25 Dec, 10am
Jesus Came to Save
Luke 2.4-14 and John 3.17
Service Leader: Kathryn Belmont
Preacher: Paul Arnold

PRAYER

Ablaze

Sun 2 Sep, 6pm - Meeting Room

Morning Prayer

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri, 9am - Chapel

LEADERSHIP

PCC

Tues 11 Dec, 7.30pm - Meeting Room

Pastoral Care Team

Thu 13 Dec, 7.30pm - Karen Snowden's

REACH Steering Group

Mon 17 Dec, 7.30pm - Vicarage

CHILDREN/FAMILIES

Toddlers

Thurs (term-time), 9.30am - Centre

Play and Praise

Fri (term-time), 10.15am - Centre

Puppet Practice

Tues (term-time), 7pm - Centre

Christmas Eve Family Special

Mon 24 Dec, 4pm - Church

YOUTH

Ablaze (Youth Theme)

Sun 2 Dec, 6-7.30pm - Meeting Room

Refresh Youth Service

Sun 9 Dec, 6-8pm - Centre

Youth Leadership Life Group

Mon 10 Dec, 6-8pm - Meeting Room

Café Church

Tues 11 Dec, 7-8.30pm - Yarm Costa

Doulos Christmas Special

Mon 17 Dec, 7-9pm - Church/Centre

Youth Life Groups

Wed (term-time), 6-8pm - Youth Room/Meeting Room

Youth Club

Fri (term-time), 7-9pm - Centre

Equip Leaders' Meeting

Mon (term-time), 9am-12pm - Church

MIDWEEK

3G

Mon 10 Dec, 7.30pm - Centre

Connect Lunch Club

Tues 11 Dec, 11.45am - Centre

Connect Seated Exercise

Tues 12.45pm - Centre

Treasure Seekers

Once a month *see Karen Snowden*

Informal Holy Communion

Wed 9.30am - Meeting Room

Life Groups

Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs
See notice board in Centre

SUMMER

New Wine United (Week 2)

4-10 August - East of England Showground, Peterborough

Soul Survivor (Week B)

17-22 August - East of England Showground, Peterborough

SUNDAY SERVICES - DECEMBER 2018

2 DECEMBER

9am Holy Communion

Jesus Came to Bring a Sword
Isaiah 9.6-7 and Matthew 10.32-39
Service Leader: Paul Arnold
Preacher: John Lambert

10.30am Morning Worship

Jesus Came to Bring a Sword
Isaiah 9.6-7 and Matthew 10.32-39
Service Leader: Sandra Griffiths
Preacher: John Lambert

6pm Ablaze Prayer (Praying for Youth)

9 DECEMBER

9am Holy Communion (Toy Service)

Jesus Came to Destroy the Works of the Devil
1 John 3.7-10 and Luke 10.17-24
Service Leader: John Lambert
Preacher: Michael Davison

10.30am Morning Worship (Toy Service)

Jesus Came to Destroy the Works of the Devil
1 John 3.7-10 and Luke 10.17-24
Service Leader: Donna Levin
Preacher: Michael Davison

6pm Refresh Youth Service

Preacher: Shane Taylor

16 DECEMBER

9am Morning Worship

Jesus Came to Call Sinners to Repentance
Acts 26.9-20 and Luke 5.27-32
Service Leader: Andrew Killick
Preacher: Erin Bunford

10.30am Morning Worship

Jesus Came to Call Sinners to Repentance
Acts 26.9-20 and Luke 5.27-32
Service Leader: Kathryn Belmont
Preacher: Erin Bunford

6pm Carols by Candlelight

Service Leader: John Lambert
Preacher: Bishop Paul Butler

23 DECEMBER

9am Holy Communion

Jesus Came to Bring Light
1 John 1.5-10 and John 12.37-46
Service Leader: Brian Wake
Preacher: John Lambert

10.30am Holy Communion

Jesus Came to Bring Light
1 John 1.5-10 and John 12.37-46
Service Leader: Paul Arnold
Preacher: John Lambert

For CHRISTMAS EVE and CHRISTMAS DAY services please see over the page



30 DECEMBER

9am Morning Worship

Nations Will Come to Your Light
Isaiah 60.1-6 and Matthew 2.1-12
Service Leader: Sue Ireland
Preacher: Brian Wake

10.30am Morning Worship

Nations Will Come to Your Light
Isaiah 60.1-6 and Matthew 2.1-12
Service Leader: John Lambert
Preacher: Stuart Levin