

Pastoral Letter for December

Christmas is coming! People the world over will soon be celebrating this 2000 year old feast in a variety of ways – and here in the UK Christmas is traditionally celebrated as a time of joyous giving (well, yes, and eating!)

I remember learning an old folk song. I was very small. We performed it on the little stage in the assembly hall of my Primary school. Someone was definitely dressed up as a Christmas pudding.

You may know, it goes like this:

'Christmas is coming, the goose is getting fat

Please put a penny in the poor man's hat

If you haven't got a penny,

A ha'penny will do

If you haven't got a ha'penny then God bless you.'

(Apparently, the Muppets once recorded a calypso version of it with John Denver. I digress, but Google is your friend!)

The message is simple message:

If you can give a lot, give.

If you can give a little, give.

If you have nothing to give – then receive. (I am optimistic that the 'God Bless you' also came with the gift of a penny or a ha'penny!)

Just stop for a moment and imagine a world where we lived by those simple principles...

Many among us are approaching the winter this year with trepidation. Worrying about how to make ends meet. How will we feed the family? How will we stay warm? How many kettles can I afford to boil? All that brings enough worry in itself, let alone trying to celebrate Christmas too.

Perhaps this year, for those of us who are able, we might consider how we can extend our seasonal giving. As well as giving to friends and family, perhaps we might find it in our hearts to give a little (or even a lot!) to those for whom this is shaping up to be anything but a time of peace and joy.

Here are a just a few places to be found locally who are working to support those in need. I am sure they would be delighted to receive a gift from you. So, if you have a penny or a ha'penny to share, look them up?

Maidstone Churches Winter Shelter [Home | Maidstone Churches Winter Shelter \(maidstoneshelter.org.uk\)](http://MaidstoneChurchesWinterShelter.org.uk)

Salvation Army ([Maidstone | The Salvation Army](http://MaidstoneTheSalvationArmy.org.uk))

Samaritans (<https://www.samaritans.org/branches/maidstone/>)

Make a Difference Maidstone (<https://www.madm.org.uk/>)

The Princess Project (<https://www.princessproject.co.uk/>)

British Red Cross (<https://donate.redcross.org.uk/>)

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December 2022 **Holy Trinity Church**



Sunday 4th December Holy Communion 2nd Sunday in Advent
11.00am Led by: Rev David Jones

Readings: Isaiah 11. 1-10, Romans 15. 4-13, Matthew 3. 1-12

Sunday 11th December Morning Worship 3rd Sunday in Advent
11.00am Led by: Rev Lorna Faulkner

Readings: James 5. 7-10, Matthew 11. 2-11,

Sunday 18th December No Morning Service Carol Service
Please see below

Sunday 1st January Benefice Holy Communion at Hunton
no service at Coxheath

10.30am

Led by: Rev Lorna Faulkner

Christmas Services

Sunday 18th December
4.30pm CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT
(No Morning Service)

Saturday 24th December **Christmas Eve**
5.00pm CHILDREN'S SERVICE
11.15pm MIDNIGHT COMMUNION

Sunday 25th December **Christmas Day**
10.00am CHRISTMAS DAY FAMILY SERVICE
followed by HOLY COMMUNION



*To you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour,
who is Christ the Lord
Luke 2 v 11*

(Continued) (And if you are one of those who doesn't have a ha'penny, well, please reach out – let someone know you need help.) And, whoever you are, whatever you have or may not have; This year, may you receive this most precious of gifts: the priceless presence of Jesus, Emmanuel, God who is with you, in your heart and in your home. May God bless you. From Lorna

Diary Dates



Sunday 4th December 4.15pm Carols and Lighting of the Village Christmas Lights. This is a joint venture with Coxheath Parish Council where we as a congregation lead the carol singing around the Christmas tree outside the church. All welcome

Saturday 10th December 10.00am - 12.00noon Church Coffee Morning and the annual 'Christmas Food and Drink Raffle'

A warm and friendly welcome awaits you at the Scout HQ, Westerhill Road. Admission 70p which includes free tea/coffee and biscuits. As well as cakes, savouries and Christmas cards for sale there will be the popular annual 'Christmas Food and Drink raffle'. If you have any donations for the food and drink raffle please give to Jean Bartholomew or Sandra Baker. All welcome

Thursday 15th December 4.30pm Seekers end of term Christmas Nativity

Everyone is invited to the Seekers, after school children's group Service which is held in the church. Do please consider supporting the children as they have been busy preparing for the Nativity Service.

Saturday 17th December 3.00pm Messy Christingle at St Nicholas, Linton followed at 4pm with a Carol Service

A fun afternoon for families. Please let the organisers know if you are planning to take your family along to Messy Christingle so that they can cater for the right numbers. The contact person is Becky Parnham 07949 646865

Thursday 22nd December 6.00 – 7.30pm Lights of Love at Coxheath Church

A quiet space to light a candle and hang a special star to remember those precious ones who will be missing from Christmas this year.

Other News and Information

To find out more information about our Benefice and five Benefice Churches go to www.unitedbenefice.church on the updated website which also includes useful links.

Christmas Flowers

We will be decorating the church ready for Christmas & all its services. We would appreciate any donations of money towards the cost of the flowers by **Sunday 11th December**. Please give your donation to either Sandra Baker or Jean Bartholomew. Thank you

Christmas Invitations

Once again this year we are planning to deliver a card to every home in Coxheath with information about all the Christmas Services in all of our Benefice churches. These will be ready in church from Sunday 4th December for delivery as soon as possible after this date but before the Carol Services on the 18th December. We would be very grateful for your help so please take any of the packs that you are able to deliver.

If you're not able to be at church on the 4th but are willing to deliver invitations, please phone Marian asap on 743977 to let her know and make arrangements. Many thanks

Christmas Service Charities

The loose monies collected at all the Christmas Services will be divided between the Heart of Kent Hospice and Demelza Children's Hospice.

Christmas Cards - Church Posting Box (No Delivery, Collection Only)

The 'pigeon hole' post box will be at the back of the church for your Christmas Cards to friends at church from the 4th December until Christmas Eve. Please note there is **no delivery service** from the box.

Christmas Cards for Sale

Christmas cards which have been made in aid of church funds are available at the back of the church and will also be for sale at the December coffee morning. They cost 30p each or 6 for £1.50

Hunton Almshouse vacancy

There will be a vacancy for a non-smoking single resident in Peace Cottages Almshouses in West Street, Hunton. Those interested, over the age of 60, preferably with a connection to Hunton should contact Liz Oliver on 01622 820200 or liz.oliver@waitrose.com for an application form. Further criteria will apply.

Living Word Bookshop

Making a Difference to Maidstone (MADM) charity is pleased to announce that the The Living Word Bookshop is now open at 49 Church Street. Christian books, cards, gifts, jewellery and resources. A peaceful place to meet friends along with tea, coffee and refreshments.

Contact Details

Rev. Lorna Faulkner Rector 01622 747570

Rev. David Jones Hon. Associate Rector 01622 741474



Last Date for Items for the January News Letter

If you have an item for the News Letter please contact Marian on 01622 743977 or david.marian@btinternet.com by **29th December** (The January news letter will be available on Sunday 1st January)

