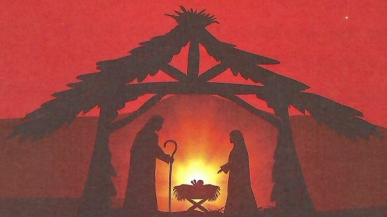




Christmas

"And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn."

Luke 2:7, New Revised Standard Version



St Andrew's Methodist /URC Sedgley, Dudley DY3 1JA

Dear Friends

Once the clocks go back and the daylight hours become shorter I suddenly realise that Christmas will soon be with us. Another indication of the closeness of Christmas is the sound of fireworks and the sky being lit up at night as people celebrate Bonfire Night either in their gardens or at organised bonfire parties.

Many people will have bought Advent Calendars for children in the family that contain sweets and chocolates as treats that are opened daily and then on Christmas Day something special is revealed.

The Church journeys through the season of Advent that begins on Sunday December 3rd and looks forward with great expectation to once again celebrating the birth of Jesus. During our approach to Christmas Day many things take place at St. Andrew's, and I would like to invite you to come and join us at any of these events; come to as many as you are able. Please remember that our Café and Shop is open four days a week, between 10.00am and 2.00pm; closed on Wednesdays. The Café is an ideal warm place to meet up to chat as well as having a hot drink and a piece of cake or a sandwich, or even both.

God's only son, Jesus, came into the world when the people were looking out for a Messiah, someone who would change things for the people living in Jerusalem and the surrounding areas at the time. Someone who would free the country of the occupying Roman soldiers. Jesus told the people that they should love one another and cast aside all hatred for others. Today's world is no different. We should be attempting to live in harmony alongside one another and watching out for those in need.

Christmas is a time when we meet with family and friends and then we celebrate by having lots of fun, conversations and games. It may be the one time of the year when we visit others that we have not seen for quite a while. Whilst we may be enjoying ourselves there will be neighbours and others in our community who may be lonely and sad at this time of the year for many reasons of which we are often unaware.

Let us use this season to look out for others in need and give them the assurance that they are loved and not forgotten.

May God's blessings be with you this Christmas.

Christopher Parkes

Christmas Events at St. Andrew's

- * 3rd December 10.30am Christmas tree dressing
- * 10th December 10.30am Holy Communion
- * 13th December 2.00pm Carols & Christmas Songs
- * 16th December 6.00pm Christmas Concert
- * 17th December 10.30am Morning Worship
- * 17th December 6.15pm Carols by Candlelight
- * 24th December 10.30am Christmas Praise
- * 24th December 4.00pm Christingle Service
- * 25th December 10.00am Christmas Day Service
- * 31st December 10.30 am Christmas Café Service

Please join us as we celebrate Jesus' birthday.

www.methodist.org.uk

Facebook | Twitter | YouTube | Instagram | Flickr | Google+