

### Some thoughts in the run up to Christmas

In the last few days I have been privileged to attend the carol services in two of our local prisons (in the coming week I will also be going to another one). Both have been really joyful services with a lively gospel choir singing in one, and a Salvation Army band playing in the other! Speaking to some of the men afterwards about their Christmas is a reminder that we often don't get the picture book Christmas we would like, or think we are planning for.




This is also the time of year when many are falling victim to coughs and colds and it is a struggle to get everything done in time for Christmas that needs to be done. But.....hang on there.....what really needs to be done? The TV and radio adverts can make us think we are missing out on Christmas if we haven't bought this or that, or if we haven't done this or that. But is that really what Christmas is about?

Wherever you are and whoever you are with, and whatever you will be eating, make sure you do just this one thing – open your heart to Jesus and receive him in the way that he came to us – with no frills humility. If you stay focussed on Him, the rest won't matter, and you will have the best Christmas. JP

### Request for Yorkie bars



We can brighten the Christmas Day of some of those men who will be apart from their families. This year we are supporting the chaplaincy at HMP Springhill and Grendon by asking for 46g Yorkie Bars. These will be given out on Christmas Day to the men who attend the chapel service. There is a marked box at the back of the church for the Yorkies. Thankyou!!




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**BELONG - BELIEVE - BUILD - WITH CHRIST AS THE CORNERSTONE**



SJB

## Sunday 15th December

### Notices for the week

*Our church is a member of the Wychert Vale family of churches*



SJB

### 3rd SUNDAY of ADVENT



9:00am

**MATINS** led by Raymond Medhurst

10:30am

**FAMILY COMMUNION**

led by Revd Sue Smith & Richard Smith

The third Sunday of Advent is also called Gaudete (Latin: "Rejoice") Sunday because we recognise the joyful anticipation of the season that will culminate in the birth of Christ on Christmas Day. Those of you who pay close attention to the pewsheets will have noticed that for the last two Sundays we have used violet colouring for the services, but this week we have switched to pink. This reflects the change in liturgical colour to rose. **Rose is a "brightening" of the ordinary violet and thus symbolises joy.**

### A prayer for Gaudete Sunday

*Lord, the good news of Jesus' arrival brings such joy to our world!  
May the message of hope that we have through the Messiah reach  
those who are lost and searching.*

*Lord, allow your message of peace to bring comfort to our anxious  
World, and let the message of great joy pierce through all the noise  
of this busy season, and into people's hearts.*

*Amen*



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### Next week

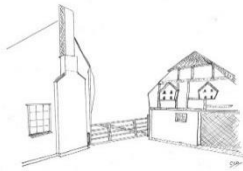
10:30am **FAMILY WORSHIP**  
4:00pm **SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS**  
**(with the choir)** led by Revd Phil Groves

(Please note that the carol service starts at **4:00pm** even though other publications may say a different time)

### The week ahead

Tue 17<sup>th</sup> 11:00am **CAFÉ IN THE PARK** in the Jubilee Pavilion  
7:30pm **CHOIR PRACTICE** at 29(b) Eythrope Road  
Weds 18<sup>th</sup> 6:00pm **CAROLS IN THE COURTYARD** (see separate notice)  
Thur 19<sup>th</sup> 9:00am **LITTLE WRIGGLERS** in the Jubilee Pavilion  
Sat 21<sup>st</sup> 10:30am **CHOIR PRACTICE** in the church

## Carols in the Courtyard



Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> December from 6pm

Please will you, family and friends join us to celebrate the Christmas season at Vicarage Farmhouse on Church Way. We will serve hamburgers, hot dogs and a vegetarian chilli and rice as well as hot and cold drinks both leaded and un-leaded. Please just bring yourselves (dressed in your winter woollies), your singing voice and a healthy appetite and we will do the rest.

During the evening we will have a collection for the Free Christmas Day Dinner hosted at St Mary's Church in Aylesbury. The free dinner is available to anyone who might be alone at Christmas, or homeless, or whose home circumstances might be difficult in some way.

RSVP Terry on 07968 368524 or [terrycooper@gmail.com](mailto:terrycooper@gmail.com)

With love, Terry and Clare xx

### Coffee Cup Collection

Our Coffee Cup Collections in SJB this month will be sent to the **Community Christmas Lunch** project that offers a free Christmas Day meal in St Mary's Church in Aylesbury on Christmas Day.

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### Luke 3:7-18

<sup>7</sup> John said to the crowds coming out to be baptised by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?" <sup>8</sup> Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. <sup>9</sup> The axe is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."

<sup>10</sup> "What should we do then?" the crowd asked.

<sup>11</sup> John answered, "Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same."

<sup>12</sup> Even tax collectors came to be baptised. "Teacher," they asked, "what should we do?"

<sup>13</sup> "Don't collect any more than you are required to," he told them.

<sup>14</sup> Then some soldiers asked him, "And what should we do?"

He replied, "Don't extort money and don't accuse people falsely—be content with your pay."

<sup>15</sup> The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. <sup>16</sup> John answered them all, "I baptise you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." <sup>18</sup> And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them.



### CHRISTMAS SERVICES



24<sup>th</sup> Dec 4:00pm **CHRISTMAS EVE CRIB SERVICE**  
for all the family  
11:30pm **MIDNIGHT COMMUNION**  
25<sup>th</sup> Dec 10:00am **CHRISTMAS DAY FAMILY COMMUNION**  
**at St Peter & St Paul DINTON**  
29<sup>th</sup> Dec 10:30am **MORNING WORSHIP**

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