



Benefice News – Sunday 22nd December 2024

So, the season of Christmastide begins; in the words of Edward Pola and George Wyle, “it’s the most wonderful time of the year”. But I wonder if that is really true. As I talk to (a lot of) people, I hear the theme “Christmas isn’t what it used to be” coming up time and time again, and I get a sense that a lot of effort (and money) is put in to create something special which doesn’t quite add up.

At the heart of Christmas is the birth of Jesus, God’s own Son, and it is a time to reflect on his incredible arrival as our saviour; a gift of love, peace and goodwill that we can’t help to delight in and also to share with others.

I think that the true meaning of Christmas is to rejoice in the gift of Jesus – in our services; with our friends; and in our hearts. The other Christmas stuff can only be a reflection of this truth.

May I wish you, and all your loved ones, a very Happy **Christ**-mas, when it comes.

Our services and events are as follows:

Sunday 22nd December (Fourth Sunday of Advent)

- 11.00 Whitchurch – Sunday Praise.
- 11.00 Wyesham – Holy Communion.
- 3pm Whitchurch – Carols on the Green (by Grange Park).

Today’s Bible readings – Mic 5.2-5a; Heb 10.5-10; Luke 1.39-45 (46-55)

Monday 23rd December

- 10.00 Whitchurch – Funeral of April Hassell.
- 2pm Ganarew - Care Home Carols and Communion at Ganarew House.
- 2.30 Bishopswood – Christmas Carol service at All Saint’s church.
- 5pm Dixton – Candlelite Christmas Carol service at St Peter’s church.

Tuesday 24th December (Christmas Eve)

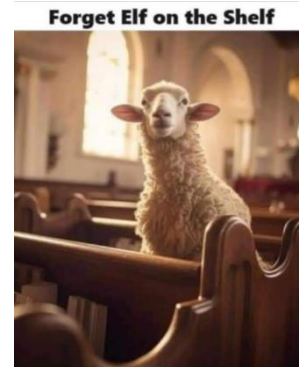
- 11am Whitchurch – Care Home Carols and Communion at Whitchurch House.
- 5pm Whitchurch – the first Holy Communion of Christmas.
- 5pm Wyesham – the first Holy Communion of Christmas.

Wednesday 25th December (Christmas Day)

- 09.30 Ganarew – Christmas Day Holy Communion.
- 11.00 Bishopswood – Christmas Day Holy Communion.
- 11.00 Dixton – Christmas Day Holy Communion.

Sunday 29th December (1st Sunday of Christmas)

- 11.00 Whitchurch – Holy Communion.
- 11.00 Wyesham – Holy Communion.



Jesus wants Ewe in a Pew



I never, O God, want to live in complacent sloth, soggy in religious routine, smug in pious satisfaction. I want to be expectant and ready for the new thing you are doing today, and again tomorrow. Amen. (Eugene H Peterson)



Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth: accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you, our Saviour and our eternal God. Amen (Church of England: Common Worship)

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