

Pew News



spearwoodchurch.org

SUNDAY 10th 2017 **Second Sunday in Advent**

A warm welcome to St. Michael's Spearwood. Children are especially welcome. We do hope that you will find the worship uplifting and that your relationship with Jesus Christ is enriched through it.

If you have any questions about what we do here or about the Christian Faith in general I would be happy to make time to discuss them or any other issues with you.

Gluten free wafers are available for Communion, if you require these please speak to the service leader.

Revd Debbie

Prayer of the Day:

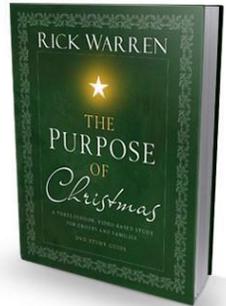
Merciful God, you sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. ***Amen.***

The Purpose of Christmas: Our Study for Advent

Wednesday 10.00am at Revd Debbie's
Last week we looked at Christmas as being a
'Time for Celebration'.

This week we will explore Christmas as a 'Time
for Salvation' The course is entitled The
Purpose of Christmas by Rick Warren and
covers the following.

2. **Christmas Is a time for Salvation**
3. **Christmas Is a time for Reconciliation.**



Christmas Services:

Sunday 24th 8.30am at St Edward's

Sunday 24th 10.30am at St Michael's

Christmas Day Communion combined Service 9.00am Spearwood

Carol Services THIS WEEK!

There will be Carol Services on:

Wednesday 13th December 6.30pm at St Michaels Spearwood
and on **Saturday 16th** December 6.00pm at St Edwards Hilton.

Please come and join in the Christmas celebrations and don't
forget to invite your friends. There will be an
opportunity to hear the Christmas story and
lots of Christmas Carols. Following the
services there will be light refreshments and
maybe even a mince pie or two!



Christmas Service Posters

There are some Christmas service posters and flyers at the rear of
the church. Please take one or two to display in the community.

Christmas and St Luke's Gospel

It is to St Luke's wonderful gospel that many Christians turn as the year draws to a close and Christmas approaches, for it is to St Luke that we owe the fullest account of the nativity.

Luke alone tells us the story of Mary and the angel's visit to her, and has thus given the Church the wonderful Magnificat of Mary. Luke alone tells us the story of Simeon's hymn of praise, thus giving us the wonderful Nunc Dimmittis.

Luke alone tells us the story of how the angels appeared to the shepherds and how the shepherds then visited the infant Jesus. So – imagine Christmas cards and nativity scenes every year without the shepherds arriving to visit baby Jesus. Imagine school nativity plays without our children dressed as shepherds or sheep. So – thank you, Luke! What makes it so amazing is that Luke was not a Jew! The man who wrote the fullest nativity story, and indeed more of the New Testament than any other single person, was a Gentile!

Let Jesus Show!

The nativity scene with all its characters was in place, as the children (representing angels), gathered around the manger. They sang: 'Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will among men'. Suddenly a small girl on the edge of the crowd, who couldn't see what was going on, shouted out, 'Let Jesus show!'

At Christmas time, we want to let Jesus show, in our churches, communities and lives. We have an amazing message to share: 'in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord' (Luke 2:10). It was to the shepherds, apart from His parents, that Jesus was first showed.

The hardworking shepherds, living in the fields with their flock of animals, were unlikely candidates for this honour. By the nature of their work, they had the status of migrant workers. Yet this

underlines for us that the good news of Christmas is for everyone, irrespective of social standing, background, race or gender.

No doubt these simple shepherds would have had no idea of what the names given to Jesus fully meant (i.e. Saviour, Messiah and Lord). All they needed to know, and all we need to know, is that God has done something unique in coming to earth as a human being. This is good news of great joy for everybody!

After worshipping the child, the shepherds returned to their normal routine. However, they would never be the same again! Even though their work and social standing were unchanged, they had a message to share and let Jesus show. Although we don't normally see angels, we have the same good news to share! When Christmas is over and we're back to our normal routines, how will we let Jesus show in our lives?

This Weeks Readings: 10th December

Isaiah 40: 1-11, Psalm 85 1-2, 8-13, 2 Peter 3:8-15a, Mark 1:1-8

Next Weeks Readings: 17th December

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11, Psalm 126, 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28, John 1:6-8, 19-28

Date	Welcome	Reader	Prayer	Sacristan	LPM&LA	M/Tea
10th Dec	Karl	Anne Maria	June	Colleen	Colleen Audrey	Len
17th Dec	Len	Bernard June	Lorraine	Lorraine	Lorraine Audrey T	Brigid

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