

Pew News



spearwoodchurch.org

SUNDAY 17th 2017 **Third 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:

Eternal God,
you sent John the Baptist
to prepare the way for the coming of your Son:
grant us wisdom to see your purpose
and openness to hear your will,
that we too may prepare the way for Christ
who is coming in power and glory
to establish his rule of peace and justice;
through Jesus Christ our Judge and our Redeemer,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Purpose of Christmas:

Our Study for Advent

Wednesday 10.00am at Revd Debbie's Home.

Last week we looked at Christmas as being a 'Christmas Is a time for Salvation'. This our final session, we will explore Christmas as a '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 here at Spearwood.

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.

The Love that in a Family Dwells

Christmas is, beyond doubt, the family event of the year. For holidays and weekends we go away, but at this one time of the year most of us get in our cars to join some or all of the family somewhere.

Being human, there may be the odd squabble or falling out (and if we believe the television drama, not much else), but in fact they are usually treasured get-togethers.



This family element of Christmas probably originates from the story of the birth of Jesus. There must be hundreds of famous paintings of the Holy Family gathered around the manger – Joseph, Mary and the baby Jesus. It was a little family from which, in the Christian story, vast blessings flowed to the whole human race. The Son of God had an earthly father and mother,

and grew up in an ordinary home in an ordinary town. His later life was extra-ordinary, but his home life was utterly normal.

Family lies at the heart of our whole culture. It is created by two things, choice and inheritance. Around the family table are some who are there because by choice they married someone, and others are there because they were born into the family. It's usually a happy mix. We are glad we chose our partner, and we are glad to be members of this family, and probably another one as well. In his poem, 'Christmas', John Betjeman spoke of 'the love that in a family dwells'. It's not a bad idea once a year to celebrate it.

No room at the inn!

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth..., to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. (Luke 2 4-7)

You can just imagine the conversation. Mary's trepidation: "The baby is due any day, and it is a long journey!" And Joseph's reply: "Don't worry, there will be plenty of places to stay. I feel Bethlehem is my second home."

In the end, they had to register for taxation, and so they went. A journey of about 80 miles would have taken days, but surely that would be the worst of the trip? What could go wrong once they reached Bethlehem?

If you book a room at a hotel, and when you arrive they say they made a mistake, and are full, what do you do? A contract is still a contract, and if the hotel has double-booked, they have to find you an alternative room at a similar standard. Putting you in their garage is not an option!

On the other hand, if you, the guest, cancels or leaves early, you may have to pay for the full booking. Before you book anywhere, it is well worth reading the small print, because hotels usually have cancellation policies and conditions which may greatly restrict you. If ever in dispute, always get professional advice.

And so, Jesus came down from heaven, and landed in the middle of a humdrum problem about an inn being too full. He came straight into our real world of problems, disappointments and unexpected expense. Our Lord appears among us, not in a palace but in a stable, adored by shepherds, and accessible to anyone of us.

Have a safe, legal and Happy Christmas.

This Week 17th Dec

Isaiah 61.1-4, 8-11, Psalm 126, 1 Thessalonians 5.12-28, John 1.6-8, 19-28

Next Week 24th Dec

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16, Psalm 89:1-4, 19-27, Luke 1:26-38

Date	Welcome	Reader	Prayer	Sacristan	LPM&LA	M/Tea
17th Dec	Len	Bernard June	Lorraine	Lorraine	Lorraine Audrey T	Brigid
24th Dec	Karl	Audrey Maria	Maxine	Colleen	Lorraine Len	Barb Bern

CONTACT DETAILS

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