

# Pew News



[spearwoodchurch.org](http://spearwoodchurch.org)

## **SUNDAY 3rd2017 First 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:**

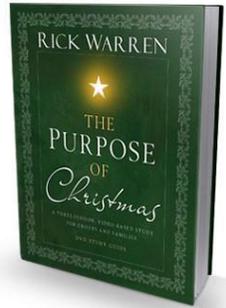
Eternal God, through long generations you prepared a way for the coming of your Son, and by your Spirit you still bring light to illumine our paths:

renew us in faith and hope that we may welcome Christ to rule our thoughts and claim our love; to whom be glory forever.

***Amen.***

# The Purpose of Christmas: Our Study for Advent

There will be a three-session video based Advent study on 6th, 13th and 20th December at 10.00am, for St Michaels and St Edwards. The course is entitled The Purpose of Christmas by Rick Warren and covers the following.



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

There is a sheet at the back of church to sign up for this.

## Christmas Services:

**Sunday 24th 8.30am** at St Edward's

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> 10.30am** at St Michael's

**Christmas Day Communion** combined Service 9.00am TBA

## Carol Services

**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.

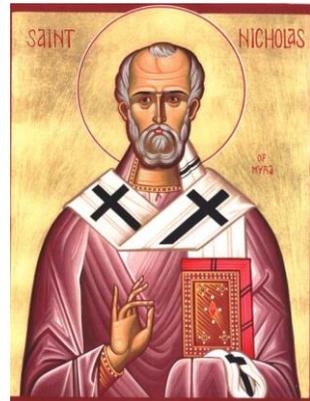
Please come and join in the Christmas celebrations and don't forget to invite your friends. There will be an opportunity to hear the Christmas story and lots of Christmas Carols. Following the services there will be light refreshments and maybe even a mince pie or two!



## What's in a (Christmas) Name?

What do your family call him, that funny old man in a red robe and floppy hat who pops up everywhere at Christmas? Sometimes he's Father Christmas, sometimes Santa Claus, and in parts of Europe he's Saint Nicholas. That's his real name, abbreviated to 'Santa Claus' by British and Americans who don't like to follow the Europeans, and then turned into an even more cuddly name for the children. Whatever he's called, his function is the same – delivering presents to children at Christmas. The first St Nicholas was a real person, about whom a few more facts were discovered recently. He was bishop of Myra, in the country we now call Turkey, in the fourth century. He was known as the friend of the poor, and especially poor or abused children. At (or just before) Christmas he went around handing out presents to them, as well as rescuing some from dreadful circumstances. The red robe our modern Santa Claus wears is a vague representation of a bishop's garment, and the floppy hat is his mitre!

The original good bishop from 1600 years ago is remembered by the Church on December 6th, and the children in much of Europe get their presents then!



## A good way to fight depression

Do you often feel low? Well, how often do you exercise? In a recent study, it was found that people who do not exercise are 44 per cent more likely to suffer with depression. It seems that even just one hour a week can help lift your mood. The research was done by the Australia-based Black Dog Institute. One scientist concluded: 'If we can find ways to increase the population's level of physical activity even by a small amount, then this is likely to bring substantial physical and mental health benefits.'

# St Michael's Prayers and Thanksgivings

If you would like prayers to be published here, please give them to Revd. Debbie or E-mail them to [spearwoodchurch@gmail.com](mailto:spearwoodchurch@gmail.com). Please ensure that all parties involved are happy for the information to be made public.

## This Weeks Readings: 3rd December

Isaiah 64:1-9, Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19, I Corinthian 1:1-9, Mark 13:24-37

## Next Weeks Readings:

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

Date	Welcome	Reader	Prayer	LA/LMP	Sacristan	M/Tea
3rd Dec	Merv	Audrey June	Bernard	Lorraine Len	Lorraine	Maxine
10th Dec	Karl	Anne Maria	June	Colleen Audrey	Colleen	Len

## CONTACT DETAILS

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