

All Saints Church, Allesley

Focus Newsletter



As we journey through Advent and Christmas, our days fill with familiar sights, sounds, and traditions. And yet, in the midst of everything, Christmas invites us to rediscover something deep and enduring—the joy that comes from God drawing near to us. The joy of Christmas is not simply the delight of festive gatherings or the sparkle of decorations, as lovely as these are - I love them! True joy runs deeper. It is the joy the angels announced to the shepherds on that first Christmas night: “I bring you good news of great joy for all people.” This joy is for all—for those feeling hopeful and settled, and for those facing uncertainty or carrying heavy burdens. God’s joy can reach every heart. That’s why so many continue to choose to spend time celebrating Christmas in Church - and we are so excited to welcome you this year, whether it be for the very first time or the thousandth time. We have many different services and events which you are invited to, please see details below.

Joy, like peace, can sound elusive at times. Our world often feels hurried, divided, or weary. If Christmas is difficult for you this year, I particularly invite you to join us for our Blue Christmas service. Whilst the birth of Jesus shows his great vulnerability, the joy of Jesus’ birth isn’t fragile or fleeting; it need not depend on our circumstances. It is the steady assurance that God chooses to be with us. Emmanuel—God with us—means that joy is not something we have to manufacture. It is something we receive, as a gift. This joy shines even in the quiet or difficult moments. It is present when we offer kindness to a neighbour, when we extend forgiveness, when we pause long enough to notice God’s goodness in the ordinary. Joy grows as we make room for Christ’s love to change us from within.

What might it look like for us to embrace the joy of Christmas this year? It could be choosing gratitude amid the rush, sharing time with someone who might otherwise be alone, or simply allowing ourselves a moment each day to breathe, pray, and remember the Good News that changed the world. Christmas joy is not something we keep; it is something we share. Wherever this season finds you—celebrating, grieving, hopeful, or somewhere in between—may you know the deep and lasting joy that Jesus brings. His joy is for you, and it carries us into a new year with hope.

With joyful blessings this Christmas,
- Rev. Sarah

Services in December/January:

14th Dec: **NO 10am Service** 4pm Family Carols by Candlelight, 6.30pm Carols by Candlelight.

21st Dec: 8am Traditional Communion (Isaiah 7:10-16/ Matthew 1:18-25) , 10am Morning Worship with Pop-Up Nativity, 3pm Blue Christmas

24th Dec: 4pm Pre Schoolers Crib Service, 11.30pm Midnight Communion

25th Dec: **10am** Christmas Celebration with Communion

28th Dec: 4pm Carols & Communion (John 1: 1-9) **NO other services**

4th Jan: 8am Traditional Communion, 10am Morning Worship & Worship Zones for kids (Jeremiah 31.7-14 Matt 2:1-12/ Matt 2:1-12)



CHRISTMAS

AT ALL SAINTS CHURCH

FAMILY CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

14th December, 4pm
Doors 3.30pm

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

14th December, 6.30pm
Doors 6pm

No 10am Service

POP-UP NATIVITY

21st December, 10am

BLUE CHRISTMAS

21st December, 3pm

PRE-SCHOOLERS CRIB SERVICE

24th December, 4pm

MIDNIGHT COMMUNION

24th December, 11.30pm

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

25th December, 10am
With Communion

CAROLS & COMMUNION

28th December, 4pm
No other services