

Today

In Sunday Club we will be learning that one day there will be no more tears or loneliness or sickness or pain or death. There will be no more running away and no more sin. God's people will live with him forever. Nothing will separate us from God again!

Acoustic Carols by Candlelight 6.00pm at St Wulstans, followed by mulled wine and Christmas nibbles.

This Week

Mon 7 Dec Carol Rehearsal. 8.15pm to start singing, at St Stephen's Church, Contact Cordelia Checketts for more information.

Sat 12 Dec Carol Singing in the Pub. At the Goose, 7.30pm. Speak to John McNeill to find out more,

Sun 13 Dec All Age Carol Service. 10.00am at St Stephen's.

Looking Ahead

Sun 20 Dec Traditional Carols by Candlelight. 6.00pm at St Stephen's. Followed by mulled wine and Christmas nibbles.

Thurs 11 Feb Has God really said? Speaker: Kevin DeYoung. A day conference to renew our confidence in Scripture as God's word for all of life, with an evening meeting: "What does God say about homosexuality?" Flyers on the Information Table.

News and Requests

Carol singers, we need you! There are lots of chances to sing, please sign up where you can:

- **Carols for Samuel Thornhill, Tue 15th Dec** (Sandra Thornhill)
- **Traditional Carols by Candlelight, Sun 20th Dec** (Cordelia Checketts).
Rehearsals: Monday 7th and Friday 18th December
- **Pub singing**, The Goose on **Sat 12th Dec**, Country Girl on **Sat 19th Dec** (John McNeill)

Christmas Cards to the church family. We will have a notice board up to display cards to the church family, so you don't need to send out lots of individual ones this year.

Night Shelter. Please consider volunteering to help, see inserts for more information.

Following last Sunday's suggestion by **Christian Solidarity Worldwide** of sending Christmas cards to some persecuted believers, there are copies on the information table of names & addresses of those you might like to send cards to. There is also a petition from **Barnabas Fund** relating to our government's care for refugees; you can find this at the back of church.

Prayer sheets from the Christian Institute about extremism are on the Information table.

Vicar: Chris Hobbs **Assistant Minister:** Andy Martin

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ST STEPHENS AND ST WULSTANS SELLY PARK

taking Jesus seriously, taking the Bible seriously



Welcome

6 December 2015

If you are new, you are especially welcome. Please help yourself to a Welcome Booklet and, if you have time, introduce yourself and ask any questions you may have.

10.00am Morning Service at St Stephen's

'Take up your cross' (Luke 9:18-50) – Andy Martin

Children and young people will go to their activities part way through the service:

Crèche is in the Cranmer Room. **Crèche** and **Club 14** need to go the Foyer to access their rooms and all other groups go to the front of church.

Toilets are adjacent to the foyer and upstairs; baby-changing facilities are in the disabled toilets.

Coffee, tea and biscuits are served after the service in the foyer.

6.00pm Acoustic Carols by Candlelight at St Wulstan's

'How bright is your future?' (Isaiah 9:2-7) – Andy Martin

Mulled wine and Christmas nibbles will be served at the end of the service.

Sermon notes

“Take up your cross” Luke 9:18-50

General principle for the Christian life: cross now, crown later

1. Jesus took off his crown to take up his cross (20-22)
2. Jesus’ followers are to take up their cross now and receive a crown later (23-27)

Two stories to help us get it:

A glimpse of Jesus’ glory and his focus on the cross (28-36)

The disciples’ pride and their confusion about the cross (39-50)

Missed a sermon recently? Please visit www.sssw.org.uk to hear or download an audio version.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

COLLECT *led by Chris Porter*

HYMN Hark the glad sound
SONG More than conquerors

CONFESSION and ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be; that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

SONG Long live the King

NEWS

Children and young people leave for their activities

THE APOSTLES’ CREED

PRAYERS ending with THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

SONG Speak, O Lord

BIBLE READING Luke 9:18-50 (page 1039)
(This is the word of the Lord; **Thanks be to God**)

SERMON “Take up your cross”

HYMN What grace is mine
Please collect your child from crèche during this song

CLOSING PRAYER