



LIFE|EXPLORED

WHAT'S THE BEST GIFT
GOD COULD GIVE YOU?

Seven sessions featuring short films and Bible interaction. As it explores the Bible story, Life Explored shows how our deepest desires for happiness can only be satisfied in one person, Jesus Christ. The best gift God can give us is himself.

Starts **Thurs 10th Jan** 8.00-9.30pm.

Contact the Parish Office
to find out more;
0121 472 8253, office@sssw.org.uk

Our regular Sunday services are:

10am service, family friendly with activities for children (crèche – Y6)

4pm service, family friendly with activities for children and young people (crèche – Y9)

6.30pm service, relaxed and informal.

Still to come this Christmas...

Sun 16 Dec

All-Age Carols 10.00am
Traditional Carols by Candlelight 6.30pm
with Christmas refreshments

Hush in the Rush

Sun 23 Dec, 10.00am
A reflective service,
with activities for Children

Christmas Eve

Starlight Carols for All Ages,
4.00pm

Midnight Communion, 11.30pm

Christmas Day

All Age Celebration
with Holy Communion, 10.00am

CONTEMPORARY
CAROLS BY
CANDLELIGHT

Dec 9 2018, 4.00pm

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

Chris Hobbs

CAROL O come all ye faithful

READING

Isaiah chapter 9, verses 2-7

God promises a king who will rule his people with justice

²The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. ³You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as men rejoice when dividing the plunder. ⁴For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. ⁵Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire.

⁶For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and for ever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

CAROL O little town of Bethlehem

READING

Luke chapter 1, verses 26-38

The birth of Jesus is announced

²⁶In the sixth month [of Elizabeth's pregnancy], God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸The angel went to her and said, 'Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you.'

²⁹Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰But the angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favour with God. ³¹You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever; his kingdom will never end.'

³⁴'How will this be,' Mary asked the angel, 'since I am a virgin?'

³⁵The angel answered, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. ³⁷For nothing is impossible with God'

³⁸'I am the Lord's servant,' Mary answered. 'May it be to me as you have said' Then the angel left her.

VIDEO Away in a what?

CAROL Silent night

READING

Luke chapter 2, verses 8-20

Jesus, God's promised King and Saviour is born

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields near by, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.'

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ 'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.'

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.'

¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

MUSIC GROUP Who would have dreamed

CAROL Joy to the World

READING

John chapter 1, verses 1-14

God comes to earth as one of us

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.

⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

⁹ The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him.

¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

CAROL O Holy Night

TALK One True Gift

1 John chapter 4, verses 9-10

⁹ This is how God showed his love among us: he sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

MUSIC GROUP What a glorious night

CAROL Hark the Herald Angels sing

CLOSING PRAYER

*Please stay for mulled wine
& Christmas nibbles*