

# Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December



## Welcome to our 10.00am Service

In church we will be looking at 'Jesus: Sending' (Luke 24:36-53).

**You are very welcome** – whether you are looking into Christianity for the first time, have been a Christian for years or are looking for a church in Birmingham. Please help yourself to a Welcome Booklet, and if you would like us to contact you about our activities then complete a Welcome Card – both are available in the foyer.

There is a **Crèche** for under 3's in the Cranmer Room.  
Ask a member of **Sunday Club**: Who is the good news of Jesus for?

 **Refreshments** are served in the foyer after the service, please stay and join us.

 **Toilets** are in the foyer and upstairs; baby-changing facilities in the disabled toilet.

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

**OPENING PRAYER** *Andy Martin*

**HYMN** Lo, He comes with clouds descending

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**SONG** Lord, the light of your love is shining  
*Children leave for their activities*

### NEWS

**BIBLE READING** *read together*  
Psalm 2 (page 613)

**SONG** You have called us out of darkest  
night

**BIBLE READING** *Chris Stonehouse*  
Luke 24:36-53 (page 1061)

**SERMON** *Chris Hobbs*  
Jesus: Sending

**PRAYERS** *David Twiss*

### CONFESSION

**SONG** I hear the Saviour say

### COMMUNION

**SONG** You're the Word of God the Father  
*Please collect your child from crèche*

### CLOSING PRAYER

**1. The Saviour appears (verses 36-43)**

**2. The Scriptures are fulfilled (verses 44-49)**

**3. The Sovereign ascends (verses 50-53)**

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What I have learned

- to praise God for

- to confess to God

- to ask God for

**Missed a sermon recently? Visit [www.sssw.org.uk](http://www.sssw.org.uk) (under Resources)**

# Coming Soon

Dear Friends,

With an Advent calendar counting down the days until Christmas, an Advent ring reminding us of those like the patriarchs and prophets who waited for the coming of Christ, and a book of daily readings for Advent called *Love Came Down at Christmas*, it would be easy to think that Advent is all about preparing ourselves spiritually for Christmas, celebrating God coming among us in Christ, the word made flesh. And it is about that, but that's not all it's about. (Advent is the four weeks leading up to Christmas and the word comes from the Latin *adventus*, meaning 'arrival').

Advent is also about another coming: Christ's second coming. The Collect for the First Sunday in Advent helpfully reminds us that the one who "came to visit us in great humility ... shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead." This reflects what Scripture teaches, for example in Titus 2. There is Christmas: "the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men" (verse 11), and there is the second coming: "we wait for the blessed hope – the glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ" (verse 13).

As we rightly get ready to celebrate Christmas, let's also celebrate the second coming, when Jesus will at last be seen in all his glory and our redemption will be complete. And let's rejoice in both his "great humility" in coming as man to save us and his "glorious majesty" as Lord of all.

Yours warmly, in Christ,

Chris Hobbs (Senior Minister/Vicar)

## #MeettheFamily (more on Facebook and Instagram)



Lizzie is a triathlete who has crossed finish lines in various world wide locations, she is part way through her PHD, suspects she's going through quarter life crisis at the age of 25, and is a follower of Jesus. She often finds life a bit overwhelming and has trying various avoidance methods over the years; academic achievement, constant daydreaming, self-harm, obsessive exercising, anorexia, exhausting herself with work. Some of them work pretty well to get through the day. Thing is, God doesn't just want her to get through the day. He loves her and made her for a purpose. Recently, God has been helping her with her fears over the uncertainty of the future. It's such a relief to see that her decisions don't have to be the most important factor in what happens to her. She knows that although she makes plenty of mistakes she can't actually 'fail at life' because God is the judge, and because Jesus won over death, he's already done everything she needs to pass and be safe forever.

**Senior Minister (Vicar)** Chris Hobbs

**Assistant Minister** Andy Martin

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# Sundays at St Stephens

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

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

**Cross Section** (Y10-13)

5.30-7.00pm, toasties included

**6.30pm service**, relaxed and informal.

## This Week

**Sun  
9**

**Contemporary Carols.** 4.00pm at St Stephen's, with Mulled Wine and Christmas Nibbles to follow.

There will be no 6.30pm service.

**Tue  
11**

**Carols with Samuel Thornhill** Speak to the Barrys or Samuel (01213541765) for more information.

RSVP essential.

**CAP Prayer Meeting.** 7.45pm at St. Stephen's

**Wed  
12**

**Day Centre** (for older people)  
10am-2.30pm

**Carols for the Business Community,**  
1-2pm & 5.45-6.45pm, St Philip's Cathedral.  
Flyers in the foyer.

**Thu  
13**

**Carol Singing at The Country Girl**  
8.00pm, speak to Andy Martin for more information.

**Fri  
14**

**Stay and Play** (baby and toddler Group) 10.00-11.30am

**Sun  
16**

**All-Age Carols.** 10.00am  
**Traditional Carols.** 6.30pm.  
Both with Christmassy refreshments to follow. No 4.00pm service.

## Looking Ahead

**Dec  
21**

**Carol singing** at Woodside Road for elderly residents. 2.30pm. For details contact Anita Riley; Families welcome.

**Jan  
11-12**

**Joy of Rest Women's Weekend.** Invitations in the Foyer. All women in church welcome!

**Jan  
26**

**Church Family Walk.** Details to follow in the New Year.

## News and Requests

**Christmas Books available at the Bookstall.** Some lovely Children's books that would be great presents.

**Church Family Christmas Cards.** We have a lovely Christmas Display board in the Cranmer Room, why not write 1 card to the whole church family?

**Wanted: Ministry Trainees, Sep 2019-Aug 2020.** Spend a year serving the church and learning gospel ministry. A great way to see if gospel ministry is right for you long-term. Details from Chris Hobbs/Parish Office.

**Church Family Lunches and Afternoon Teas.** Our lunches and teas are great ways to spend time together and meet new people. We are looking for people to take a Sunday on, let the Parish Office know if you can help.

**Christmas offering** for the work of Open Doors among persecuted believers: in an envelope marked Open Doors in the Gift Box; Gift Aid envelopes available on the book stall.

**The Homeless this winter.** Instead of the Churches Together Night Shelter we have opportunities to help other organisations, to help or donate to this work email:

**Bottle tops.** No more milk tops needed but small bottle tops and plastic jar tops welcome.

**Still to come this Christmas:  
Hush in the Rush, Sun 23 Dec, 10.00am**

Christmas Eve  
**Starlight Carols (All Ages), 4.00pm**  
**Midnight Communion, 11.30pm**

Christmas Day Celebration  
**All Age with Holy Communion, 10.00am**