

St. Oswald's Church Walkergate



Parish Magazine
December 2017

*The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light*

Isaiah 9 v 2a

JESUS

Lord of Creation

Lamb of God

Light of the world

THE WONDER OF CHRISTMAS

Dear Friends, Perhaps we take Christmas too much for granted. Just an annual event, a public holiday, without giving too much thought to how that first Christmas came to be. Consider just six points :

THE TIME of the first Christmas was important. It was at a time when the world was ruled by one nation - ROME. The Caesars ruled their mighty empire with a rod of iron and under their harsh, but fairly just, discipline they maintained a measure of world peace.

THE PLACE of the first Christmas was Bethlehem - a remote Judean town. This had been foretold by the Prophet Micah about seven centuries earlier.

THE MANNER of the birth of Christ was not in His mother's home, but in a stable in a strange town. Not in a baby's cradle, but in an animal feeding box. Not in the privacy of a bedroom, but exposed to public gaze at the rear of a crowded Inn.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT of the birth of Christ was made not to the Governor of the town, not to the High Priest, not to a civic dignitary; but by an angel, complete with trumpet fanfare and a mighty choral accompaniment - to a few poor shepherds looking after their sheep in nearby fields!

THE CIRCUMSTANCES of Christ's birth were remarkable. That first Christmas was insignificant, unimportant and unseen so far as the sleeping or carousing population of the town were concerned. Yet heaven opened it's gates in joyous rapture to the astonished gaze of the shepherds.

THE EFFECTS of that first Christmas have been revolutionary. It has changed the lives of countless millions of men and women. Because of it, the calendar was rewritten so that history is now divided into before and after the event.

That first Christmas marks the point where God stepped into human history as man, in the person of His Son, Jesus Christ "Emmanuel" - which means GOD WITH US !

THAT'S THE WONDER OF CHRISTMAS !

Ken.

Enquiries *BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS & BANNS*

Those with enquiries are invited to come to the Vicar's Vestry in St.Oswald's Church, **MONDAY EVENING's between 6.30 and 7.30pm.** KEN is always glad to see anyone needing spiritual help and advice.

He may at times appear busy, but this should never deter any enquiries.

Baptisms

We welcome into the St.Oswald's church family :

Peggy Catherine Gittus

Wives Club

Dec - Christmas Lunch

Jan - A.G.M.

Flower Rota

December	10	Marion
	17	Alison
	24	Mavis
	31	Vera
January	7	Ann
	14	Marion
	21	Alison
February	28	Mavis
	4	Vera

Dust Busters

Alternate Saturdays

December	16	Team 4
	30	Team 1
January 2018	13	Team 2
	27	Team 3
February	10	Team 4
	24	Team 1

Christmas Programme

SATURDAY 2ND DECEMBER

10.00 - 12.00 Children's Christmas Crafts Morning

SUNDAY 3RD DECEMBER

10.00a.m. Family Service with Short Communion & YPG's

6.30 p.m. Bible Study at the vicarage

WEDNESDAY 6TH DECEMBER

9.30 a.m. Lord's Supper

SUNDAY 10TH DECEMBER

No Communion Service

10.00 a.m. Christingle Family Service

WEDNESDAY 13TH DECEMBER

9.30 a.m. Lord's Supper

THURSDAY 14TH DECEMBER

7.00 p.m. Carols and Mince Pies

SUNDAY 17TH DECEMBER

9.30 a.m. Lord's Supper

11.00 a.m. Family Service & YPG's

6.30 p.m. Carols and Lessons by Candlelight

WEDNESDAY 20TH DECEMBER

9.30 a.m. Lord's Supper

SUNDAY 24TH DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS EVE

No Services

CHRISTMAS DAY

10.00 a.m. Family Service

continued on next page ...

WEDNESDAY 27TH DECEMBER

No Service

SUNDAY 31ST DECEMBER - NEW YEAR'S EVE

9.30 a.m. Lord's Supper

11.00 a.m. Family Service (No YPG's)

2018**WEDNESDAY 3RD JANUARY**

9.30 a.m. Lord's Supper

SUNDAY 7TH JANUARY10.00 a.m. Family Service, Short Communion, YPG's
and Refreshments

6.30 p.m. Bible Study at St.Oswald's

Confirmation

Confirmation Service

Sunday 4th March 2018 at 10:00 a.m.

If you are interested in confirmation, please contact Ken

Cober Hill 2018



Friday 22nd - Sunday 24th June

Guest speaker : David Lovelock

THE CHRISTMAS ISSUE !

Who is this Jesus of Nazareth ?

WE MAY NOT WISH TO BELIEVE IT, we may very well wish to ignore it, but this is the CHRISTMAS ISSUE.

It is an old pun, but the real issue at Christmas must always be the truth behind the claim made in the Bible about the birth that we celebrate and the man who was born on that day so long ago. His birth changed the world - our calendar started on that day, the Christian Church has grown and spread throughout the world because of the belief in the truth of His claims, our laws are based on His teachings and those of His religion, so who was that man?

Born 2000 years ago during the reign of Herod and the Roman Emperor Augustus, little is known of His childhood. We know he grew up healthy, lived with his family and probably helped in the family business. However there was something very special about Him - His birth was miraculous and we hear snatches about His childhood, but we really do not know very much about Him until he is approximately thirty.

In about A.D.29 (during the reign of the Roman Emperor, Tiberius) this man literally crashes onto the scene and turns the world upside down. So radical was His teaching, so miraculous were His actions, so incredible were His claims that some hailed Him as the Messiah, whilst religious leaders plotted his death. For three years He travelled around Israel attracting large crowds until finally, He was arrested in Jerusalem, tried and executed.

The effects He had on the people were incredible. A carpenter's son of low birth with only three of His adult years recorded historically, He became more famous than Herod, Augustus, or Tiberius put together.

continued on next page ...

Some say He was a great teacher, others say He was a misused and misquoted figurehead: He has been called a man empowered by God to do miracles but what does He say about Himself?

- He told the paralytic man, "*Friend, your sins are forgiven*".
(Luke 5:20)
- A Samaritan woman said to him "*I know that the Messiah is coming...*"
- Jesus replied, "*I who speak to you am He.*" (John 4:25-26)
- He said of Abraham, the father of Israel, "*...before Abraham was born, I am.*" (John 8:58)
- His disciples believed His claims: Peter also said "*We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.*" (John 6.69) and "*The Christ of God*" (Luke 9:20)
- Thomas called him "*My Lord and my God*" (John 20:28)

By His claims to forgive sins and to being the Messiah, by accepting the worship of His disciples, He is openly declaring that He is God. And by this claim He is either God, or He is completely deluded - a mad man. Yet 2000 years on, millions of people worldwide worship Him daily and His Church continues to grow. Who but GOD could achieve this?

So this is the real CHRISTMAS ISSUE - Jesus Christ is the Son of God, God Himself. He was born a miraculous birth to die a painful death. He died, taking our place as the condemned so that we could be set free to meet with God. And He came back to life as the proof that we can have Eternal Life, freed from the death of sin. If we ignore the Virgin Birth, how can we accept Christ's death and resurrection? The BIBLE is clear on both points, both are part of the life and death story which has bought God's mercy for each one of us. He doesn't ask us to be intellectual.

He asks us to put our trust in Him

Preaching to Easter 2018

JOHN 13-17

Jan	7	John 13:1-17
	14	John 13:18-38
	21	John 14:1-14
	28	All-In
Feb	4	John 14:15-31
	11	John 15:1-17
	18	John 15:18 - 16:4
	25	John 16:5-33 (Y.P.G's)
Mar	4	Confirmation Service
	11	Mothering Sunday - All-in
	18	John 17:1-26
	25	Palm Sunday (Y.P.G's)
Apr	1	Easter Day - All-in

Home Bible Groups

JOHN 13-17

Week beginning :

Jan	8	John 13:1-17
	15	John 13:18-38
	22	John 14:1-14
	29	<i>Prayer</i>
Feb	5	John 14:15-31
	12	<i>Half-Term</i>
	19	John 15:1-17
	26	John 15:18 - 16:4
Mar	5	John 16:5-33
	12	<i>Review and Prayer</i>
	19	John 17:1-26
	26	29th - Maundy Supper

St. Oswald's & St. Mark's Daily Events

SUNDAY

- 9.30am Holy Communion
11.00am Family Service &
Young People's Groups
Except 1st Sunday of each month
10.00am *Family Service & Short Communion*
(NO 9.30 or 11.00am services)
6.30pm Bible Study at St.Oswald's

MONDAY

- 6.30pm Enquiry Hour (Vicar's Vestry)
7.30pm P.C.C. Meeting (2nd Monday)
1.45pm Wives Club (3rd Monday)

TUESDAY

- 9.30-11.00am Toddlers Group

WEDNESDAY

- 9.30am Holy Communion
1.30pm Women on Wednesday
7.30pm Bible Study at 1039 Shields Road
7.45pm Bible Study at 225 Fossway

THURSDAY

- 3.30pm J.A.M. at Walkergate School
7.45pm Bible Study at 4 Firtree Avenue

Please ask for details of :

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| Monday | 5.00pm | Beavers |
| | 6.00pm | Rainbows |
| | 6.15pm | Cub Scouts |
| Tuesday | 6.00pm | Brownies |
| Friday | 7.00pm | Scouts & Venture Scouts |



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Wishing you
Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year

