

## Notices

Church AGM today after the service in the Church Hall.  
Lunch provided.

Advent Celebration Thursday 12th 7.00pm, Church. Please bring and share food for a finger buffet meal, to be followed by fun and fellowship and communion.



**Alpha!** This course is starting on **Monday January 20th** and will run for 10 weeks. The introduction to the course will be a buffet in the Bielside Inn.

Following this, the format will be pudding and coffee in the Rectory from 7.30pm followed by a DVD talk and discussion and questions afterwards. Please take an invitation for your friends.

**Christmas in Narnia Tuesday 17th 7.30pm, Rectory.**

An evening exploring CS Lewis and the joy of Christmas with Dr Sharon Jebb Smith and mulled wine and mince pies.

### **Pasada Nativity Set**

If you would like to host the Pasada nativity scene for a night during Advent, please put your details and a suitable date on the form in the hall.

**Volunteers needed:** To give out mince pies outside the Church 5-6pm Friday 21st December.

### **Christmas Singing**

There is an opportunity to join with others to form a choir for Christmas, which will sing a couple of seasonal songs in this year's carol service on December 22nd. Rehearsals will take place on Sunday December 15th immediately following the 10.30am service and Thursday December 19th at 7.30.

No previous experience, expertise or music reading necessary - just an enjoyment of singing!

**Please let Helen Goodyear know if you are planning to join in, even if you can't make all the practices.**

**8th December 2013**



**Advent 2**

In God's power, in his peace, in his presence, we place ourselves today. Holy God, Holy and Strong one, Holy and Mighty One, protect us by your power, provide us with your peace, fill our lives with your presence, and awaken us to your coming; through Jesus Christ the King of Glory, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

### **Prayer Points**

Please pray for:

1. Gerry and Joan Bowyer, Gordon and Frances Cook and Robert and Anne Cooper.
2. Dadzone and Messy Church next weekend.
3. The congregation to invite friends to Alpha, which starts on January 20th.
4. The peace of Jerusalem this Christmas Season.

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### The branch from Jesse

11 A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;  
 from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

<sup>2</sup> The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him -  
 the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,  
 the Spirit of counsel and of power,  
 the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD -

<sup>3</sup> and he will delight in the fear of the LORD.  
 He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,  
 or decide by what he hears with his ears;

<sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he will judge the needy,  
 with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the  
 earth.

He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth;  
 with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.

<sup>5</sup> Righteousness will be his belt  
 and faithfulness the sash round his waist.

<sup>6</sup> The wolf will live with the lamb,  
 the leopard will lie down with the goat,  
 the calf and the lion and the yearling together;  
 and a little child will lead them.

<sup>7</sup> The cow will feed with the bear,  
 their young will lie down together,  
 and the lion will eat straw like the ox.

<sup>8</sup> The infant will play near the hole of the cobra,  
 and the young child will put its hand into the viper's  
 nest.

<sup>9</sup> They will neither harm nor destroy  
 on all my holy mountain,  
 for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD  
 as the waters cover the sea.

<sup>10</sup> In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for  
 the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his place of  
 rest will be glorious.

### John the Baptist prepares the way

3 In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the  
 Desert of Judea <sup>2</sup> and saying, 'Repent, for the kingdom  
 of heaven is near.' <sup>3</sup> This is he who was spoken of  
 through the prophet Isaiah:  
 'A voice of one calling in the desert,  
 "Prepare the way for the Lord,  
 make straight paths for him.'"

<sup>4</sup> John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had  
 a leather belt round his waist. His food was locusts and  
 wild honey. <sup>5</sup> People went out to him from Jerusalem  
 and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan.

<sup>6</sup> Confessing their sins, they were baptised by him in  
 the River Jordan.

<sup>7</sup> But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees  
 coming to where he was baptising, he said to them:  
 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the  
 coming wrath? <sup>8</sup> Produce fruit in keeping with repent-  
 ance. <sup>9</sup> And do not think you can say to yourselves, "We  
 have Abraham as our father." I tell you that out of  
 these stones God can raise up children for Abraham.

<sup>10</sup> The axe is already at the root of the trees, and every  
 tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down  
 and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup> 'I baptise you with water for repentance. But after  
 me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose  
 sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptise you with  
 the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup> His winnowing fork is in his  
 hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor, gathering  
 his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with  
 unquenchable fire.'