

Double Issue

Editorial

4th Sunday of Advent – Christingle Service

Reading: Luke 1 v 39-55/ Luke 2 v 41-52

What is Christingle?

Christingle is a joyful celebration that brings families and communities together to share the light of Jesus and spread a message of hope.

Christingle celebrations are named after the Christingles that are lit during the ceremony. Christingles are oranges wrapped in red tape, decorated with dried fruit or sweets, with a candle on the top. There is no one way to hold a Christingle celebration. From socially distanced gatherings to intimate events online, 2020 showed us how communities can come together to Christingle safely in new and innovative ways.

Christingles are usually held from the end of November through to February (Advent to Candlemas), with Christmas Eve being a particularly popular time for services. But you can host one whenever you like.

We also look at Mary’s faith and courage this week as we light the 4th candle on the Advent Wreath. In nearly every instance of an Angel coming to speak with a human, there is a level of alarm at the sight of something not of this world. This was a time when signs and wonders had not occurred for some time, so an Angel visitation to a teenage girl was especially unexpected.

Yet, if we recall the prophecy given in [Isaiah 7:14](#), “Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.”

As much as we would expect Mary to run and hide, she does not. She stands before Gabriel with an open heart and ears to hear that which he had come to share. Gabriel shares with her that she has found favour with God and, as such, has been the one chosen to carry and bring forth the long-awaited promise of Christ. Can you even imagine what Mary felt in such a moment?

**Tony Whitehead – Licenced Lay
Minister (Reader)**



Please Pray for...

Minti R
David & Norma V
Barbara S
Brenda & Ken
Betty
Lee A
Stuart & family
Jackie
Isaac
Jodie
Anne H
Ross
Belinda K
Phil & Sue B
Dean
Norma M
Freda
Rebecca W
Samantha W
Kathleen
Emma H
Chloe
Alison H
Rachael B
John H
Kat C
Matthew B



Remember, this list is for those who need our prayers, not just the sick or bereaved.

This week at St Bede

Sunday 22nd December

10am Christingle Carol Service

Join us for our special all-age Christingle Carol Service featuring our very own 'Church Rocks' Nativity and pupils from St Bede Academy will be singing some carols. Join us for tea, coffee and mince pies which will be served after the service.

Christmas Eve 24th December

6.30pm Pop Up Nativity Crib Service

Come to a Nativity Service with a difference: where YOU are the star of the show. We encourage adults and children alike to come dressed up as their favourite nativity character as we retell the nativity and sing carols together. This short 30 minute service will conclude with a very special visitor.

Christmas Day 25th December

10am Christmas Celebration with Communion

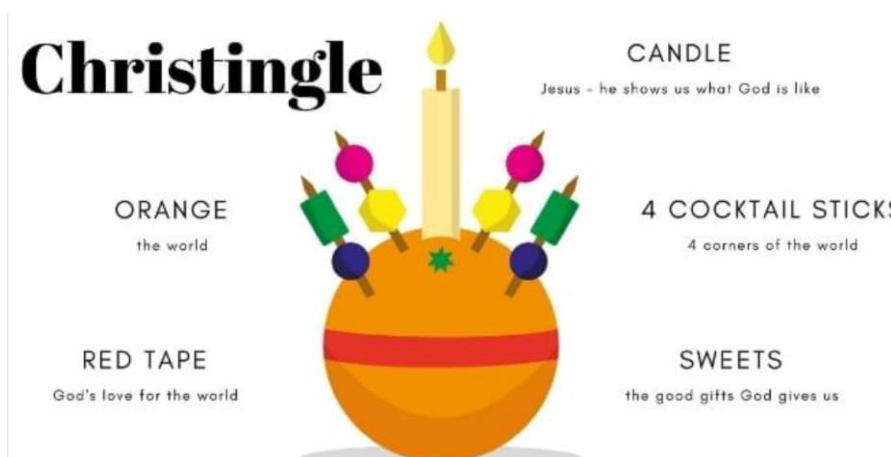
Come and celebrate the birth of Jesus as we gather on Christmas morning to sing carols and share in communion together.

Sunday 29th December

10.30am Joint Service at St Andrews

Join us in this Christmas season as we come together with our friends from St Andrews to celebrate Christmas together at St Andrews Over Hulton. Bacon Butties will also be available before the service from 10am.

Please note there is NO other service at St Bede this week.





**St Bede Charity
Partner 2024.**



COLLECT

Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth: accept our heartfelt praise, as we worship you, our Saviour and our eternal God.

Our Church depends very heavily on fundraising as well as regular giving to keep our Church afloat.

We ask that you do continue to give by setting up a Standing Order from your bank. Please contact our Treasurer, Simon Brooks for further details – brooks_simon@hotmail.co.uk

visit our website www.st-bede.org.uk or scan the QR code below



NEW ALPHA COURSE

We are delighted to announce that in the New Year we are running a new joint Alpha Course with our friends from St Andrews.

The Alpha Course is a great opportunity to find out more about the Christian faith and to ask those questions you've always wanted to ask!

The Alpha Course starts on **Tuesday 14th January 7.30pm** at St Andrews. For more information or to register your interest please contact Vinny

explore
life
faith
meaning

Want to know more about the Christian faith?
Join our new **Alpha Course!**

The Alpha Course is a great opportunity to explore the Christian faith in an informal way.

Each session lasts just over 1 hour and includes a short film, and time to chat and discuss the film over coffee and homemade cakes.

We have a new Alpha Course starting on **Tuesday 14th January at 7.30pm at St Andrews Over Hulton!** For more information or to book your place contact Vinny (01204 658921) or e-mail: vinny@st-bede.org.uk

The Meaning of the Candy Cane

Many years ago a candy maker wanted to make a candy that would symbolize the true meaning of Christmas - Jesus.

The hard candy was shaped like a "J" to represent that Jesus is our rock of all ages. The candy was made of white to stand for the pureness of Jesus. The red represents the blood that Jesus shed to save us from our sins.

So the next time you see a candy cane take a minute to remember the real meaning of Christmas.

ST BEDE CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2024

Christmas is coming and we look forward to welcoming you to our Christmas Services at St Bede over the coming few days.

Our Christmas services are a great opportunity to invite family and friends so please do invite others to come and join you as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Please note next Sunday (29th December) we are holding a joint service at 10.30am with St Andrews Over Hulton, meeting at St Andrews Over Hulton. There will be no services here at St Bede on the 29th December. Our Sunday worship will resume on Sunday 5th January.

Celebrate Christmas
at St Bede's Church

Join us for our Christmas Services...

Sunday 22nd December

10am Christingle Carol Service

We welcome pupils and staff from St Bede Academy for our all-age celebration.

Christmas Eve

6.30pm Pop Up Nativity Crib Service

Please come dressed up as your favourite Nativity character.

Christmas Day

10am Christmas Day Celebration with Communion

Come and celebrate the birth of Jesus



Advent
is turning off the lights before you bring in the birthday cake.

#TinyAdventPoems 2/24

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St Bede's is a living Church, and its people are The Church. The Church's only financial support is its own Church family.

Please try to support our social and fundraising events as they are vital not only to the financial wellbeing of our Church but are great opportunities to get to know one another better.

Your Church thanks you for your gifts of money, time and talents.

Contacts

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Curate – Rev Sweetline Burnell – revd.sweetlineburnell@gmail.com 07423084946

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Reader Emeritus – Pat Bristow

Authorised Lay Ministers – Gillian Blackburn, Carol Hardman

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Chair of Governors – Tony Whitehead Vice Chair – David Almond

ST BEDE'S CHURCH, MORRIS GREEN, BOLTON-LE-MOORS

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