

### Sunday Services for December 2019

1 <sup>st</sup> December	Advent Carols	6.30pm
8 <sup>th</sup> December	Holy Communion	10am
15 <sup>th</sup> December	Holy Communion	10am
22 <sup>nd</sup> December	Carol Service	6.30pm
24 <sup>th</sup> December	Crib Service	5pm
24 <sup>th</sup> December	Midnight Mass	11.30pm
29 <sup>th</sup> December	Holy Communion	10am
29 <sup>th</sup> December	Rylands	6.30pm

### Sunday Services for January 2020

5 <sup>th</sup> January	Evening Prayer	6.30pm
12 <sup>th</sup> January	Holy Communion	10am
19 <sup>th</sup> January	Holy Communion	10am
26 <sup>th</sup> January	Morning Prayer	10am

Holy Communion is celebrated every Thursday at 10am in church  
Everyone is welcome, refreshments are served after the services  
on Thursday and Sunday all are welcome.

## ALL SAINTS CHURCH FORTON



December 2019 - January 2020

## Mary and Joseph's Advent journey around the parish

During Advent Mary and Joseph will be making their Advent journey through the parish. If you would like to have them in your home for a night in December please see the list which will be at the back of the church in November. They will have a flock of sheep with them. Please keep one and bring it to the Crib Service on Christmas Eve.

**Advent Sunday - 1<sup>st</sup> December 6.30pm**

**Carol Service - 22<sup>nd</sup> December 6.30pm**

**Crib Service - 24<sup>th</sup> December 5pm**

**Midnight Mass - 24<sup>th</sup> December 11.30pm**

There will no service on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> December.

### Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November

The Coffee Morning will be held at Forton Cricket Club 10am-12.30pm. Do come along and join us for coffee and festive treats for a charge of £3.

### Church Decorating

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December from 9.30am. Please come along and join us – if you have any greenery that would be helpful.

### Carol Singing

On the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> December we will be carol singing around the village. We will meet in church at 7pm – please bring a torch. Everyone is welcome to join us. If you would like the singers to come to your home please contact Peter Hammond on 814698.

## The Inner Wheel Club of Newport

4c's Coffee morning – coffee, chocolate hot, cake and cuppa

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2020

At

St Peters and St Paul's Catholic Church Hall

10.00am to 12.00pm

£5.00

### Contacts

Preb Edward Ward		01952 814886
Hilary Phillips	Reader	01785 824432
Ian Gedye	Church Warden	01952 811484
John Airth	Church Warden	01952 813577
Arthur Ellis	Book Sales	01952 813099
Ann Airth	Newsletter	01952 813577

The Gallery Singers present

Ring out Wild Bells

A selection of songs and carols for Christmas

With special guest  
Aimee Calderbank (flute)

On Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2019

At

All Saints Church Forton

3.00pm

Tickets £8

Refreshments    Raffle

Tickets available

Marcia 07794 334347

Andy 07968 906446

Or pay at the door

**Crib Service - 24<sup>th</sup> December**

During this family service the sheep that have been visiting families in the parish will be reunited. There will be extra sheep waiting at the church on Christmas Eve so please come along to the service even if Mary and Joseph didn't visit you. There is a list at the back of church if you wish to have a visit.

**FORTON CHURCH CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING**

**SATURDAY 30<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER**

Forton Cricket Club from 10am to 12.30

Please come along to enjoy

Coffee, mince pies, cake stalls.

£3 entry to include coffee and festive treats.

**Churchyard Award**

Thank you to all those who have helped keep the churchyard in good condition again. This year we received a silver award.

**Harvest Lunch**

Thank you to all who supported the Harvest Lunch we were very pleased to have Bishop Sarah at the service she then joined us for lunch.

Dear Friends,

What was God thinking about on that first Christmas day?

If you were in charge and you knew that the king of Kings, Prince of Peace was coming, then the least you would have done would be to book him in the penthouse suite of a four- or five-star hotel. After all some of the most important and influential people would be visiting him.

So, what was God thinking on that first Christmas?

The Roman Emperor decided that he wanted to know exactly how many people he ruled over, so that he could see how important he was. Therefore, everyone had to travel to their ancestral homes in order to be counted in his census. Mary and Joseph had to make the long journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem, and when they got there, it was packed out. No room anywhere for them to stay, and so, Jesus was born in a cave at the back of an Inn where animals were kept.

So, what in the world was God thinking about?

A clue might be given to God's thinking in the first people who were told of Jesus' birth. The shepherds were going about their business protecting their sheep from wolves and thieves. They were despised by all those who regarded themselves as righteous and religious, because shepherds could not fulfil their religious duties because of their work. St. Luke tells us that when the angel appeared to the shepherds, they were terrified, because they knew that according to their faith if anyone who saw an angel it meant death. No small wonder that they were terrified. However, the angel said to them "Do not be afraid - I am bringing you good news of God's love and peace; he brings renewal, not retribution. Jesus is the Prince of Peace, not of punishment. God wants us to rejoice in, not to hide from, the news of Jesus' birth.

Can we grasp that at the heart of our Christmas celebrations is the truth that the God who Came to us in the birth of Jesus, is the God who is vulnerable. The whole message begins with parents who are poor, who have nowhere to have their baby; a newborn baby who has no crib for a bed; visitors who have no influence.

So, because of Christmas there is no need to fear; there are no barriers to overcome; no person is too poor, too uneducated, too insignificant to come to this God who was born a vulnerable baby

That is what God was thinking of on that first Christmas. So, let us come and adore him.

May I on behalf of myself, Jane and all our family wish you all a very joyful Christmas, and if it's not too early a peaceful and happy New Year.

Your Priest and Friend,

Edward Ward.

Our website is [fortonchurch.org.uk](http://fortonchurch.org.uk)

Copy date for next edition January 18<sup>th</sup> 2020

