

## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

<b>Sun</b>	8.00am 10.00am	Holy Communion Church Parade. Theme – The Cast of Christmas – The Shepherds
	Reading: 2.30pm 6.30pm	Luke 2: 8-21 Friends & Heroes No service
<b>Mon</b>	8.00pm	Prayer Meeting at 11 Sylvan Way
<b>Tue</b>	6.15pm 7.30pm	Cru 2 (Urban Saints) (7-11s) at the Assembly Rooms Club 2000 (11– 13s) meet at Coney Hill Baptist Church
<b>Wed</b>	9.30am	Open Door for mothers & children at 44 Windermere Road
<b>Thur</b>	2.00pm 7.30pm	Over 60s Club at Coney Hill Baptist Church 14 Plus – Venue as advised
<b>Fri</b>	10am – 12noon	Craft Club at Coney Hill Baptist Church

### NEXT SUNDAY – 13<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER

	8.00am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Parish Communion
	5.00pm	Carols in the Park (outside Parklands Nursery)
<b>NB</b>	No Prayer Meeting at 6.30pm	

### THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

The king of Egypt decreed that the boy babies of Hebrew slaves should be thrown into the Nile but girls should live. The mother of baby Moses hid him until he was 3 months old and then put him in a waterproofed basket and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the Nile.

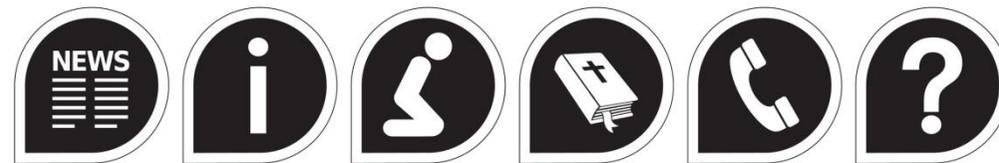
- (a) Who found the basket? and (b) Who was asked to nurse the baby until it was old enough to be given back to the finder?

Read Exodus 1: 1 - 10

### MONDAY EVENING PRAYER MEETINGS

Last one this year will take place at Sybil Andrew's home, 11 Sylvan Way, on 7<sup>th</sup> December. All welcome.

First one in New Year on 11th January. Venue to be confirmed.



## THE CHALLENGE OF THE SHEPHERDS

The shepherds were minding their own business on the hillside when an angel told them about the birth of Jesus, come to be the saviour of the world.

The story prompts some challenging questions. Try them over a family meal, a coffee or a beer with a friend, or in your church Home Groups. See how far you get.

1. In what way do you feel the world still needs saving today?
2. How do you think you would react if an angel appeared to you and told you that God was coming as a human to sort out the mess in our world? Why did you answer that way?
3. Consider the statement "Jesus came for everyone." How does that apply to us? For instance, where might we need to be saved from ourselves?
4. Look back on your discussion above...
  - a. Why does it take Faith to accept that Jesus came as a saviour?
  - b. What is stopping people following Jesus today?

## WELCOME

If you're new to St John's and wish to find out more about what goes on beyond Sunday, then do introduce yourself to one of our leadership team. They can connect you with people and groups in our church family. You can also find out more from our website, and the parish office can arrange for you to receive information electronically, if that's easier.

## CHRISTMAS SERVICES

### CAROLS BY CANDLE LIGHT

20th December at 7pm

### CHRISTINGLE SERVICES

24th December @ 3pm & 5pm

### MIDNIGHT COMMUNION

24th December at 11.15pm

### CHRISTMAS DAY

8am Holy Communion

10am Morning Worship

## CHRISTMAS COLLECTIONS

**Christingle Services:** Children's Society  
**Carol Service, Midnight and Christmas Day:** Bromley Homeless Shelter & The Foundation for Relief & Reconciliation in the Middle East (Andrew White)



### TODAY

#### FRIENDS & HEROES

2.30pm in church.

*Note the earlier start time for this month only.*



## CHRISTMAS LEAFLETS

The leaflets are now ready to be distributed around the parish. Please collect them from the porch. We need a few more people to join the team – please speak to Sybil Andrew.



## WELCOMERS FOR CHRISTMAS SERVICES NEEDED

If you would like to be a Welcomer for the Carol Service, a Christingle Service, Midnight Service or Christmas morning at 10am please see Jonathan Tickner.



## CONTACT BOOK

The new book will be available for collection from the church on Sunday; one copy per family.



## SJ's UPDATE

The building work on SJ's continues. We are also getting on with planning for the use of the space – someone from the team will visit home groups soon to tell you what's going on and discuss possible uses and seek ideas too. Thank you to all those who have offered to pay for items on the list of fixtures for SJ's – the response has been brilliant. Just a

few items remain to be funded. If you have made a pledge please return your cheque (payable to St John's West Wickham), along with the slip of paper with the pledge (so we know what the cheque relates to), in an envelope, and to post it in the SJ's box next to the chapel entrance. And please continue to pray for safe and smooth building work, for planning permission for the frontage, for the work that God wants us to do inside SJ's, and for the part you might play.



## CHRISTMAS GOODS

There is a range of Christmas cards with a Christian theme, Advent calendars and candles on display by the entrance to the side-chapel. Do have a look and stock up.



## CHRISTMAS DIARY DATES

### SENIOR CITIZENS' CHRISTMAS LUNCH

**Saturday 12th December**

at the Assembly Rooms 12.30 pm

**Help needed to run this event. Please see the green flyer inside a previous copy of Weekly News for details.**

### CAROLS IN THE PARK

(Outside Parklands Nursery)

**Sunday 13th December at 5.00pm.** Featuring Wickham Common School choir, mulled wine and hot chocolate,

mince pies and a great sing! All welcome!

## CHRISTMAS CHOIR

Reminder: remaining practices - Monday 14th December at 7.45 for 8pm, and 20<sup>th</sup> December at 5pm.

## CHRISTINGLE MAKING

**Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> December at 10am in church**

Please come and help.

Collection candles are available in the porch for children to take away and fill with coins to bring back to a Christingle Service on Christmas Eve.



## PRAYERS

Please pray for:

Bromley Homeless Shelter & The Foundation for Relief

& Reconciliation in the Middle East (Andrew White), our mission focus this month;

- Abigail and Jessica, as the professional teams work with Liz and Wayne to consider at what point it will be possible to bring one or both twins home;
- Carl, and his ongoing health issues;
- Kirk, as he continues his treatment, and Ann as she travels daily with him to St Thomas's;
- Jon, as he comes to the end of his sabbatical (10<sup>th</sup> December), that he will be refreshed and renewed.