



The Good  
Shepherd  
Four Marks

[www.goodshepherdfourmarks.org.uk](http://www.goodshepherdfourmarks.org.uk)

Our church diary is available to view  
on the website

16th December 2018

## Christmas Tea & Praise

Sunday 16th  
December,  
3pm

A traditional Christmas  
Celebration and Tea service for  
our more mature folk, with  
Carols and readings followed by  
delicious tea and  
refreshments



## Carols

by Candlelight

Sunday 23rd December

5pm & 7pm

Mulled wine and mince pies served  
between the services

## O Come all ye faithful

**Singers and instruments needed  
at the Following Carol Events**

**It would be great to be able to bless each of the following with a good  
number of singers to share some Christmas Joy to those in our  
community. Please join us if you can.**

**Monday 17th December, 4pm - Carols at Belford House**

**Monday 17th December, 6.30pm - Carols at Westlands**

**Also, it would be great to see a good showing of singers at:**

**Tuesday 18th December, 6pm - Carols at Lymington Barns**

**Saturday 22nd December, 11am - Carols at Oak Green**

## *The Week Ahead*

### **Sunday 16th December | Hs is Saviour**

#### **Galatians 4:4-7 & Matthew 1:8-25**

8am - Said Communion

9.30am - All Age Nativity Service

11.30am - Cell church in the chapel

3pm - Christmas Tea & Praise

7pm - Celebration service with communion

### **Monday 17th December**

8am - Prayer in the chapel

10am - Bumps and Babies in the church hall

4pm - Carols at Belford House

6.30pm - Carols at Westlands

### **Tuesday 18th December**

7am - Early Morning Prayer in chapel

6pm - Carols at Lymington Barns

### **Wednesday 19th December**

7.45pm - Freedom in Christ in upper room

### **Thursday 20th December**

9.45am - Ladies cell in hall/upper room

10am - Alpha in church hall

### **Friday 21st December**

9.30am - School Service

### **Saturday 22nd December**

11am - Carols at Oak Green

### **Sunday 23rd December | Hs is King**

#### **Romans 16:25-27 & Luke 1:26-38**

8am - Said Communion

9.30am - All Age Communion service

11.30am - Cell church in the chapel

5pm - Carols by Candlelight

7pm - Carols by Candlelight

## *Caring in Prayer*

### **New/Updated**

Praise - Thanks for all your prayers this year. Most recent answers to prayer include Holiday at Home and Messy Christingle

Christmas @ COGS - Pray for the services and events, especially this weekend and next.

Community - Pray for those who will find celebrating difficult this Christmas. Pray that litter picking, Street/Town Pastors, CAP and Foodbank will make lasting difference and change perceptions of God.

### **Continuing**

11.30am Cell Church - This new congregation requests our prayers for its development as it caters for those of us who seek to worship God regularly but have particular constraints.

Dave - Dave is still in the ICU and has had to be isolated due to infection. Pray for healing and for his wife, Sarah, dealing with the stress.

Jane - Pray for improvement in Jane's health, especially for her blood pressure.

Bethany - Has returned to college. Pray for protection against accidents and for the Lord's reassurance..

Greg - Is out of hospital having had a small stroke. He will have tests in 2 weeks. Pray for continued healing.

Ali - Continue praying for Ali's health and stamina. Pray for her employment permit. Pray for friendships in Salima.

We do not take offerings at our services. Our preferred method of financial giving to continue the excellent work of Church is via Standing Order. Please contact the Church Office or our Treasurer, Richard Gillard (01420 564279 or [Gillardbm@outlook.com](mailto:Gillardbm@outlook.com)) for more details or pick up a Standing Order Mandate at the back of the church. If you wish to make cash or cheque donations, please place in the receptacle. If you wish to donate online, these are our account details: Acc No: 60003685. Sort Code: 60-01-13. Many thanks for your generosity.

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*Giving*

## **Church Treasurer**

After 9 and 11 years respectively, Rich Gillard and Tim Wettone are stepping down from the superb jobs they have been doing overseeing our church finances. We firstly want to say thank you to them for their exceptional service to us, and secondly to encourage us all to pray both for them as they move onto new things, and for ourselves as we seek a new treasurer.

We continue to need another church warden to support Lynn and Howard and now additionally, need one person to be our church treasurer, though the tasks can be shared with others. The key tasks are the setting and overseeing, with our PCC, of our budget, the management of payments and receipts, and, the collection of gift aid and payroll. If you'd like to know more, please do speak to Howard, Lynn, Rich or Tim – the latter are offering a valuable handover period.

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## **Christmas Choir**

Further Christmas Choir rehearsals are planned for 17 December (8pm) and Friday 21 December (7.30pm) for the Carols by Candlelight - please talk to Helena for any further information.

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## **Confirmation - 3rd February**

Our confirmation service in 2019 takes place on the 3rd February at our 7pm service. If you are interested in exploring confirmation please speak to Howard. Any youth who are interested can also speak with Lorna.

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## **Help needed on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December**

Butterflies preschool are performing their Nativity in church on Tuesday afternoon, can anyone spare an hour, **1.30-2.30pm** to help make teas and coffees for those coming to watch.  
Please speak to Jane if you can help

## Lorna & Tim

Last Sunday we began reading banns in preparation for Lorna and Tim's marriage.

Lorna and Tim will be married in the church on

**Saturday 19th January 2019 at 1pm.**

**Everyone is welcome at the church service!**

If you would like to make a contribution to a church wedding gift then please place your contribution in a clearly marked envelope and hand it to Matt, to Lynn, or into the church collection box. Thank you.

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Christingle raised a total of £179.03 for The Children's Society which together with the house boxes gives a final fundraising total of £1,139.88 for the year.

Thank you everyone!



The  
Children's  
Society

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**31 Dec 11.15 pm Watchnight service at Alton Methodist**

**All invited to pray in the new year**

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## Christmas at COGS

Please be aware of our Christmas services and events coming up at COGS

**Sunday 16th December, 9.30am - Nativity Service**

**Sunday 16th December, 3pm - Christmas Tea & Praise**

**Monday 17th December, 4pm - Carols at Belford House**

**Monday 17th December, 6.30pm - Carols at Westlands**

**Tuesday 18th December, 6pm - Carols at Lymington Barns**

**Friday 21st December, 9.30am - Four Marks School Service**

**Saturday 22nd December, 11am - Carols at Oak Green**

**Sunday 23rd December, 5pm & 7pm - Carols by Candlelight**

**Monday 24th December, 11.30pm - Christmas Eve Service**

**Tuesday 25th December, 9.30am - Christmas Day Service**

**Sunday 30th December, 9.30am - Family**

**Service (only service this Sunday)**



## Small Group notes for 16th December | He is Saviour (The Nativity)

Some childhood experience is stored forever in adult memory. Christmas time may be one of them and, in particular the Nativity scene. We have only watch a school nativity play, sing at a carol service, or to hang Christmas decorations to bring those memories back.

Christmas brings God into our lives in ways nothing else can, a God present in happiness, in generosity, and in love. It's a simple message – easily understood by young and old alike. After all, everyone knows love is felt most – in its giving and receiving – when we are there, together, to share it. Being WITH each other makes love possible, makes it real.

### 1. Read Matthew 1:18-25

Matthew is keen to tell us that Jesus' birth is not entirely natural. How much does that matter and why – both to Matthew, and to you? Do you remember what you understood about that as a child?

What are your strongest childhood memories of the Nativity? Do you know why you continue to remember?

Matthew speaks of Jesus' as Emanuel – as 'God with us'. How much of that message did you experience as a child at Christmas time? What part of childhood celebrations would you change; what part would you re-inforce?

### 2. Read Galatians 4:4-7

Paul's message here is of a very different kind. It's a message for every season, and yet it remains one of the most complex statements ever made.

In the light of what Paul is saying, how instrumental to our own understanding is the simplicity of the nativity account? How does it help?

Note that John's gospel gives no details.

In the week ahead: Put aside the complexities of 'religion' that Jesus' birth might have ushered-into your mind and focus instead on the fact of his physical presence among us two thousand years ago. Recall his continuing presence every day. God IS with us – however we have come to understand what that may mean for us. Halleluiah!

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## Christmas Quiz

**Mike Saltmarsh has prepared his Christmas Quiz. Copies will be available for purchase from Mike on Sunday. It will cost £3 which will go towards the Church Homeless Trust. A great way to keep your mind sharp during the festive season, whilst supporting a good cause.**

## PRAYER and PASTORAL REQUESTS

If you have any prayer requests for the prayer chain, please email or ring the Church Office on 01420 560622 or Howard Wright on 01420 563344.

If it would be helpful for a member of the pastoral visiting team to call on you, please contact Howard, Debbie Norgate (01420 84534) or Gilly Cobb (01420 544404).



## Ministers: All of Us Together

**Vicar: Howard Wright**  
Tel: 01420 563344  
Email: howardwright.cogs@gmail.com

**Youth & Children's Worker: Lorna Randall**  
Tel: 07914 519998  
Email: lornarandall812@hotmail.com

**Family Worker: Jane Hughes**  
Tel: 07711 407831  
Email: Jane\_COGS@btinternet.com

**Church Office: Matt Senior**  
Tel: 01420 560622  
Email: cogsoffice@googlemail.com

***Send Sunday Sheet items to the church office before end of day on Thursday***



Everyone is welcome to join us for a chat and tea/coffee **between** morning services or **before** the 7pm service

For communion, gluten-free wafers are available and there is a chalice with non-alcoholic wine. Please ask when you come forward if you would like to take these.

## MISSIONS OF THE MONTH - December

### **Christians Against Poverty**

We are on a mission to release thousands of families from grinding poverty through award winning debt counselling and community groups. By equipping and empowering local churches to reach out on their doorsteps, we're bringing hope to over 21,500 families every year.

[capuk.org](http://capuk.org)

