

Next week 24th December 2017

Coffee Rota Caroline and Mark Gibbons

Flower Rota Vacant

Cleaning Rota Roma Seaman

Services Sunday 24th December 2017

10.00 am Morning Prayer

Leading: Ross Terranova

Reading: Judith Boarer

Praying: Ruth Campbell

Preaching: Ross Terranova

4.30pm Carols on the Green

11.00pm Christmas Holy Communion

Leading: Priscilla Payne

Preaching: Ross Terranova

Church Office: Jane Beldham

Tues-Wed from 9am – 3pm

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Office closed 22nd December to 9th January

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Licenced Minister: Priscilla Payne

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Prayer Themes for the Week

Pray for the situation in Jerusalem following President Trumps declaration. Pray for those still trying to build peace in such difficult circumstances.

Give thanks for all the opportunities to share the good news of Jesus during the Christmas season. Pray that there will be those for whom this year will be decisive in terms of them following Jesus Christ.

Pray for all the efforts to secure the release of British prisoners held in Iran.

Pray for all those separated from loved ones this Christmas.

Please give thanks for our local schools and pray for the staff and children attending the services this week.

Mission Prayer

for

Crosslinks

Please pray for the Christmas services throughout the world and for church leaders, workers and their families. Give thanks for the hundreds of mission volunteers that have served with Crosslinks since 1922 and ask for God's guidance for those considering long term mission service for the future.

Thought for the Week

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him is no darkness at all.

1 John 1 v 5

St. Peter's Church



Welcome

'We are here to demonstrate God's love for all as shown in Jesus to people where we live and work.'

Services Today: 17th December 2017
Third Sunday in Advent

10.00 am Holy Communion

Leading: Ross Terranova

Reading: Roma Seaman

1 John 1:1-10 NT p303

Praying: Mei Chong

Preaching: Ross Terranova

6.00 pm Carols by Candlelight

Welcome to Our Services Today

This morning our theme is 'God of Light'. 'God is Light' the Apostle John writes in his first letter and 'in him is no darkness at all'. What does it mean in a world like ours to speak of a God of Light? Light is one of the great themes of Christmas.

The people who 'walked in darkness have seen a great light'. The 'Word' who John speaks about in his gospel is the 'light that shines in the darkness' which the darkness cannot overcome.

Today we look at this great theme of Light - next week we explore one of the other great themes of Christmas - God of Love.

A huge thank you to everyone who has been involved in the decoration of the Church making it look so lovely for this Christmas season.

Thank you also to David Stevens who has once again provided us with our Christmas tree.

Carols by Candelight- 6pm

Please come tonight and please pray that this very special service will speak with real clarity of the central message of Christmas- that God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son so that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Ross on Study Leave

Ross will be on study leave from immediately after the Christmas Day service returning to parochial duties on Sunday March 11th.

St Peters' Church Box Project

We're excited to see what you've done with your box! Please bring it (or a photograph of it if you can't bring the real thing) to Church. We have used the boxes as part of our Christmas decorations. If you'd like your box back after Christmas, please ensure your name is on your box.

Children's sewing classes are being held in the Church Centre on Saturday 23rd December from 9.30am to 12.30pm. If you would like more information, please contact Sarah Curtis. sarah.curtis@outlook.com

Diary for w/c 17th December at St Peter's Church

Sun

12 Mid-day - **Baptism** of Toby Wyatt

6.00pm **Carols by Candlelight** - Church

Mon/Tues

9.00am - 3.30pm **Pre-School** - Church Centre

Wed

9.00am - 12 noon **Pre-School** - Church Centre

Last day of term.

Mon

6.30pm **School Christingle Service** - Church

7.00pm **Prayer@7-** Golding Room

Tues

8.00pm **Station Road** - Small group meeting

Wed

9.30am-11.00am **Crafty Coffee** - Golding Room

9.30am – **Lower School Service** - Church

11.00am – **Upper School Service** – Church

Church Family Christmas Card Scheme.

As in previous years we shall be helping a very worthy cause if instead of sending individual cards to church members each of us send just one card to the whole church family by placing it on the board in the church porch. Money so saved can then be donated towards Medecins Sans Frontieres (Doctors without Borders). MSF works in more than 60 countries and goes to places to help people affected by armed conflict, epidemics and natural or man-made disasters. They are independently funded, with 90 percent of their funding coming from individual or private donors, like us. As last year there will be envelopes in the porch for donations which, if appropriate, can be Gift Aided.

Food bank donations can be given to Jane in the office or handed to a sides person anytime. These will be taken to Pilsden to be distributed. No pasta please but tinned vegetables and UHT milk are particularly helpful. Thank you for your support.

1HOP will take place on Wednesday 10th January in church from 8pm. An Hour Of Prayer and reflection at the start of 2018. Home Groups are invited to help if they would like to, and all church family members are welcome. Refreshments will be served at the end of the evening. If you would like more information, please speak to Jane Beldham.

Rotas for 2018 I am currently working on rotas. We have vacancies on our Coffee, Church cleaning and Prayer/Reader rotas. Cleaning the church will take 1 hour approximately five times a year.

Your help will be greatly appreciated, please speak to Jane if you would like to help.

A Christmas Message from Tear Fund

Although Christmas is not strictly a Cambodian holiday, we have adopted many of the practises and traditions from the west. We usually celebrate with lots of food and music, and share gifts with one another. At CHO all the staff do secret santa so we all get a present!

The villages where we work also do something similar. Each person contributes into a Christmas fund which is then used to buy food to share together on Christmas day. It is truly beautiful to see people coming together in this way: families and friends.

Looking back

At CHO the past year has been full of ups and downs. We have felt God's graciousness as he has opened doors for us just at exactly the right moments, and given us lots of opportunities to learn and grow as a team. Our work is built on relationships, and so having strong and empowering friendships at the core of all we do is key!

But it is often our struggles that draw us closer to God. We have found it hard to plant new churches in local villages, they really struggle to take off. We would love to see more people's lives changed by God, but we know that God has the right time for everything, and we continue to pray and trust in him. Please pray with us. And so many God bless you and keep you and make his face shine upon you this season.