



All Saints Messenger



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Christmas 2005

A Puzzling Gift



We have some friends who are expecting their first baby before Christmas. They've decorated the baby's room. They've got the push chair. They've bought the nappies. They're just waiting. The birth of a child is an exciting and special time.

How do you think they'd feel if when we went to see them with their new baby we took them a gift – of a coffin? "We thought it would come in useful one day. You see your baby is going to die." I expect at best they would be puzzled. They'd probably be upset. They may well be very angry.

When the wise men came to visit Jesus they "...presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh." (Matthew 2:11) It would have been the last present that might have caused a stir. Myrrh was used to put on the dead to prepare them for burial. It was a little like presenting Mary and Joseph with a voucher for the undertakers!

But Jesus was born to die. Not in old age but in the prime of his life at 33. Joseph had been told why God's son was going to be born to his wife, "She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." (Matthew 1:21). Jesus was born to save people by dying in their place to take the punishment for the way they had ignored God and broken His laws.

Christians don't celebrate Christmas because a cute baby was born in difficult circumstances but grew up into a fine young man. Christians celebrate Christmas because a baby who was the Son of God was born to die in their place so that they don't face God's punishment but know His love.

**While we were still sinners
Christ died for us. Romans 5:8**

 **We wish you a very HAPPY CHRISTMAS!** 

BAARMY SHEEP OR CRAZY FROG?



The race for the Christmas number one is on. Who will top the charts this year The Baarmy sheep from the Lake District or the Crazy Frog? Who can sell the most CDs? Christmas is the time of year that we shop until we drop. Some shops will make up to

70% of their total profits for the year in the run up to Christmas. Not that we're all that reliable when it comes to buying presents: a survey in "The News of the World" revealed last year that 16% of men forget to buy presents for their girlfriends or wives, 20% forget their parents and 10% their own children!

But why a frenzy of gift giving and party going? In the end the cost to us is huge, whether it's the credit card bill that arrives in January or the empty savings account or the family argument or the hangover. The festive season always comes to an end with a bump and we're the ones who end up paying. And we call the sheep barmy and the frog crazy!

There is one FREE GIFT that is available every Christmas. It is the reason that the whole thing started. It is the gift of God's son Jesus. The extraordinary thing is that many people would think that people who follow Him are barmy or crazy, even though they have never looked into who he is or why he came.

Jesus was God's gift to a world that rejected Him, that ignored His laws and went its own way. This Christmas, in the midst of all the spending, why not explore the only FREE GIFT on offer. You'd be barmy not to!



For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23

All Saints' activities for you

You will find on this page All Saints' activities for our community for all ages and stages of life. At the same time it is also our joy to share with you the Good News of Jesus Christ which is for us all. If you would like to find out more or just want a chat about what we are doing, why not drop in at the **Church Office open each weekday morning (except Thursdays) from 9.30 am onwards**. You will always get a warm welcome and a cuppa.

EXCITE



Excite is the brand spanking new youth club for **school years 3 to 6**. It's on every **Monday night** during term time from **6:30-7:30pm at All Saints Church Hall** (to the right of the Church building). Everyone is welcome to come and join us for fun, games, focus time and tuck shop! It has been running for a month now, with more and more children coming each week! If your child is in years 3-6 at school, why not bring them along! There is a small 30p charge on entry to cover some expenses.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from CAMEO (Come And Meet Each Other)

Wednesday 14th December at 12:30 p.m.
A 3 course **Christmas dinner** (cost £3.00)
Followed by Christmas carols and readings
Share in the Real **CHRISTmas** with us
You will be made very welcome and soon make new friends!

Wednesday 11th January 2006 at 12:30 p.m.
A 2 course lunch (cost £1.50)
Followed by a talk by **Chief Inspector Andy Pratt**

CAMEO meets in All Saints Church Hall Basement

Christmas Services

Sunday 11th December

10.30 a.m. Childrens' Christmas Presentation



Sunday 18th December 6.30 p.m. CANDLELIT CAROL SERVICE



with coffee/tea and mince pies afterwards

A very warm welcome to both young and old!

Christmas Day

10.30 a.m. Christmas Family service
11.30 a.m. Holy Communion

Women's Aerobics



Get Fit before Christmas!!

We have recently started a women's aerobics class on a **Monday morning at 10am** in the church hall. It would be great to see more of you ladies coming along to get fit before Christmas and enjoy a laugh together. It costs just £2 and there is a crèche if needed. See you on **Monday, 12th December at 10 am...**



The Brew

"The Brew" happens on a **Thursday morning between 10 and 11.30am**. We have fresh cakes, fresh coffee and tea and fresh faces. Toys and play dough to keep the kids occupied whilst you have a chat. We'd love to see you whether you're on your way shopping or needing a break.



For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich. 2 Corinthians 8:9

CAROL SINGING



We will be out and about Carol singing on **Monday 12th and Thursday 15th December, between 6 and 8 pm**. We're not doing this to raise money, but don't be surprised if someone knocks on your door and offers you a mince pie!

Chillout Club

Chill Out Club is our weekly youth club which is open from **7 till 9 on a Tuesday evening**.

It is a place where young people, in **years 7 up**, can come to enjoy themselves and catch up with friends in a warm friendly atmosphere.

As young people you can decide on activities, which include: Pool, table tennis, computer, video game, board games or just chatting and chilling.

All we ask is 5 minutes of the evening to share a talk and to say a prayer.

On a cold boring winters night what better place to meet than **Chill Out Club!**

