



## Christmas Services at St. George's, Wilton

**Sunday 18th December, 6 pm**

Contemporary Community Carol Service \*

**Wednesday 21st December, 7 pm**

Traditional Community Carol Service\*

**Saturday 24th December**

4 pm, Christingle Service  
11.30 pm Midnight Communion

**Christmas Day 8 am Communion Service**  
10 am Communion Service for all ages with carols

\* Refreshments served in the hall after the service



## Christmas Services at St Michael's, Galmington

**Dec 18<sup>th</sup>, 6pm** Lessons and Carols

**Dec 21st, 7.30pm** Carols around the tree

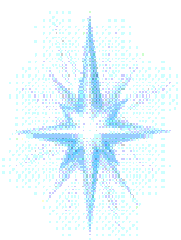
**Dec 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>, 10am** Carols at the  
Comeytrowe Centre

**Dec 24<sup>th</sup>, 4pm Crib service** - dress as a nativity  
character and help prepare the crib for Christmas.  
All welcome at this family friendly service.

**Dec 24<sup>th</sup>, 11.30pm** Midnight Communion

**Dec 25<sup>th</sup>, 10am** Christmas Day Holy Communion

(Mince pies after most of the services)



# CAS

Church  
And  
School  
Together



# Christmas Newsletter 2011

Here's a challenge for you all. How many words to do with Christmas, beginning with an "S", can you think of? I expect you will think of Santa, snow, songs, star, a sign, sherry, snoozing, season, surprises, silent night, son, scripture ..... but did you have the words shepherd or Saviour on your list? To check on other "s" words look inside

God sent his only son Jesus into the world - born in a manger in Bethlehem.

The angels proclaimed this news to the shepherds.

"Don't be afraid! I am here with good news for you, which will bring great joy to all people. This very day in David's town your **Saviour** was born - Christ the Lord" Luke2 verses10,11

The fact that God chose to reveal his message, to ordinary shepherds living out on a hillside, watching their sheep, is an indication that this good news of great joy was not just for the worthy, the rich and powerful or the enlightened it was for us all, including those on the margins.

A message delivered by the glorious heavenly angels.

It is an amazing story: the Son of God born on earth to a carpenter and his wife. One small life that would turn the world upside down.



The shepherds, having been told that they would find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth, lying in a manger, were overawed by the chorus of angels bursting forth and praising God! They were in no doubt about what they should do when the angels left them, "Let's go.....and they hurried off immediately" They knelt at the manger and who knows

what really happened then, but we do know it was a transforming experience and they left some time later praising God at all they have seen and encountered.

Of course most of us know the story – we are word perfect, but this Christmas let us look afresh at the manger. This season of Advent is a time for us adults to prepare to let in and discover the child within us all. To discover that same delight and joy that young children have when the Christmas lights are turned on, or they open a present. That lovely openness and joy and receptivity that children have. We need to lose all that sophistication that gets tied up in *our* response to Christmas.

As we sing these words, *Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today*, from the Christmas carol 'O little town of Bethlehem' - we remind ourselves that Jesus is the reason for the season.

How will we be feeling after our Christmas celebrations? Elated and praising God for our experiences with a new appreciation and understanding of God at a personal level, or

will we be frazzled and wondering why Christmas feels like a big stress rather than a real celebration? Are we pleased that it's all over for another year, and wondering how we can now pay for all the presents we bought?

The gifts that God offers us are free – peace, joy, love, hope, a purpose for our lives, An encounter with the Son of God, born at Bethlehem, can be life changing. Jesus, God's gift to the world is free and it brings meaning to life, peace in the middle of turmoil, and genuinely makes Christmas a glorious celebration of hope. God's love is unlimited. Jesus is too good a gift to leave with the discarded leftovers of the season; he is the heart and soul of Christmas and the source of true hope for life now and into the future.

I'd like to encourage us all to visit the child in the manger whether we've been before or not. God is a God of surprises and he is able to do more than we can imagine in our lives – it could make a difference to life in 2012.

Come and find out more at your local church this Christmas, as we celebrate the birth of the King of Kings - Jesus the reason for the season.

Wishing you a very Happy, Peaceful and Blessed Christmas and New Year

Rev Jenny Jeffery School Chaplain

(A few other "s" words: sheep, snowman, snowball, sultanas, stuffing, sausages, stocking, sparkle, shiny, silver, stollen, stable, special, surprises.... How many more can you think of?)

