



*A Very Joyful Christmas,
and a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful 2017
to everyone!*

From our Minister

Matthew 2:10-11 When they saw that the star had stopped, the wise men were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

With December comes our season of Advent - a time of waiting and expectation for the promise of Jesus to be fulfilled that he will come again to draw all those who call him Lord to himself.

What will we do with our waiting time? I am enjoying sharing in some Bible studies and we are preparing for the nativity with the Angels, Shepherds, Joseph, Mary, Innkeeper and Magi (Wise Men) as kindly prepared by Rev. Bob Whitfield. We are being encouraged to think more deeply about this story and the reality for us in living out our Christian faith today. Advent allows us waiting time and Rev. Bob reminds us that in the waiting it doesn't mean doing nothing, it involves serving. During Advent think about what you already do for others. Maybe during this time you may well do something different or extra in offering yourself to serve others. In serving think about how you are serving our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. CHRISTmas begins with Christ; our twelve days of Christmas begin on Christmas Day ending with the offer of gifts from the wise men to Jesus at Epiphany - January 6th. Jesus received gifts from their treasure chests of gold, frankincense and myrrh: gifts that signify his Kingship of love, service and sacrifice. What is in your treasure chest? What gifts signify you as a prince or princess in the court of our King Jesus?

January is the beginning of extra special services at Northstead as we journey through our golden year of birth. We

are 50 in 2017. Each month there will be a service led by an invited preacher, all of whom have a connection with Northstead. If you haven't worshipped with us for a while, one of these special services may be an ideal opportunity for you to join us. Our Superintendent Minister, Rev. Graham Morgan is our first invited preacher on January 15th.

If you would like us to pray for you, or someone you know and love, do let me know, as a small group of us gather on Sunday mornings to pray before worship, and we do have a prayer book for requests we use in Sunday worship. A name is sufficient.

I do hope and pray that you will make the most of Advent, Christmas and the New Year and that you are able to experience something of the joy the wise men had when they saw Jesus and worshipped him.

CHRISTmas begins with CHRIST. May Christ be in your hearts today and always.

With love in Christ,

Emma.

Ladies' Circle

Our Ladies' Circle meet at 7.30 p.m. on alternate Tuesdays. Their next meeting on December 13th will be the last of 2016, and will take the form of a Buffet Supper and Games.

Meetings recommence on Tuesday, January 17th with a New Year Dinner.

Wednesday Fellowship

Wednesday Fellowship meets on Wednesday afternoons from 2.30 to 4 p.m. for a hymn, reading, speaker and refreshments. The programme for December is :-
December 7th – Christmas

singalong

December 14th – Christmas

Service

No meetings on 21st or 28th.

January 4th – Welcome Back -
Epiphany.



Christmas at Northstead!

Christmas dinner will be served at Church after the morning service on December 4th – roast turkey etc followed by Christmas pud, fruit salad or cheese and biscuits.

Our Christmas services start on Sunday, December 11th at 10.30 a.m. with all-age **Gift and Parade worship** led by Rev. Emma Morgan. We expect a very full church, as the Pre-school children and their leaders share the Nativity story with us. Gifts of groceries, toiletries, chocolates and good quality toys will be received at this service for the Rainbow centre, to bring some Christmas joy to the people they help.

Christmas Messy Church will be on Thursday, December 15th at 3.15 p.m. with snacks, a short time of worship and craft work based on the Christmas theme.



Our Sunday Club children are busy rehearsing with the Wreyfield children for a joint **nativity service**, based on an Advent Calendar, which they will lead at Wreyfield on 18th December at 10.30 a.m. and at Northstead at 6.30 p.m. the same day. This will be our **Carols by Candlelight service**, led by the children, with a little help from Emma! And we'll enjoy drinks and mince pies together after the service.



The morning service on the 18th will be led by our new circuit Deacon, Andrew Carter.

Our **Christingle service** is on Wednesday, December 21st at 6 p.m. followed at 8 p.m. by a **Midweek Praise Christmas special!** Refreshments will be served from 7.45 p.m.

We will be **carol singing** in the local area for about an hour on Thursday, December 22nd. Meet at Church at 6 p.m.

We celebrate the start of Christmas Day with **Christmas Eve Communion** at 11.30 p.m. at Northstead, led by our superintendent minister, Rev Graham Morgan. We join with friends from Wreyfield and Scalby for **Christmas Day worship** at Wreyfield at 10 a.m. **Worship on New Years Day** is a joint service at Northstead at 10.30 a.m.

An Advent Thanksgiving

A short, responsive prayer

As the days shorten and the anticipation mounts,
we give thanks for the waiting time.
As the message sharpens and the truth comes out,
we give thanks for the repenting time.
As life gets back on track and justice breaks in,
we give thanks for the witnessing time.
As the nights lengthen and the vision sharpens,
we give thanks for the dreaming time.
As the day dawns and the possibility is born,
we give thanks for the birthing time.
In the waiting, repenting, witnessing and dreaming,
but most of all in the birthing,
we give you thanks for coming to us,
Emmanuel, God with us, now and forever.

Amen.

In our Anniversary Year!

During our 50th Anniversary Year there will be lots of opportunities for us all both to celebrate and to say thank you for Northstead Church's 50 years. One of the ways we are planning to say 'Thank you' is by fundraising for two projects, one local, the Yorkshire Air Ambulance, and one overseas, via All We Can's 'Partner a Project', giving our church a personal connection to people in one of the world's poorest communities. We are making a financial commitment for a year or more, and we'll receive resources and prayer material to enable our partnership to flourish. We have chosen to partner with Voluntary Action for Development (VAD).



**Methodist
relief and
development**

VAD works in a district in central Uganda to increase access to clean water and sanitation for thousands of children and adults and was featured in our recent Harvest appeal.

The problem is that one in three people in Uganda do not have access to clean water and over half the population live without safe sanitation. 26,000 Ugandan children aged five and under die every year of diarrhoea caused by unclean water. The reality for many families is that water ends life rather than sustains it.

VAD is working with communities to tackle some of these issues, building water sources, and providing safe toilets and education and training. They help increase access to clean water in schools and near homes. Since 2012, in the areas where VAD has worked, access to clean water has been more than

doubled, and occurrences of water-related sickness have sharply declined. People are enjoying a better quality of life.

VAD has been a partner of All We Can since 2002 and has helped over 8,000 adults and children. This Christmas, money raised by carol singing and at our Christmas services will begin our fundraising efforts. Please pray for VAD as it continues to reach new communities and increase its impact. May God strengthen them in their work, may communities see greater improvement as more people experience healthier lives.

Diary Dates

Tues. Nov. 29th, 12 noon.	Light Lunch, Wreyfield Drive.
Sat. Dec. 3rd, 10 a.m.	Coffee Morning, Scalby Church.
Sun. Dec. 4th, 10.30 a.m.	Morning worship, Miss J. Dark.
Wed. Dec. 7th, 10.35 a.m.	Worship at Eagle View care home.
Sun. Dec. 11th, 10.30 a.m.	All-age Parade and Gift service, Rev. E. Morgan, with Pre-school children.
3 p.m.	Circuit service, Queen Street Church.
Thurs. Dec. 15th, 3.15 p.m.	Messy Church Christmas.
Sun. Dec. 18th, 10.30 a.m.	Morning worship, Deacon A. Carter.
6.30 p.m.	Carols by Candlelight, Sunday Club with Rev. E. Morgan.
Wed. Dec. 21st, 6 p.m.	Christingle service.
8 p.m.	Praise Midweek.
Thurs. Dec. 22nd, 6 p.m.	Carol-singing.
Christmas Eve, 11.30 p.m.	Communion service, Rev. G. Morgan.
Christmas Day, 10 a.m.	Christmas Worship, Wreyfield Drive Church, Rev. E. Morgan.
Sun. Jan. 1st, 10.30 a.m.	Morning worship, Rev. E. Morgan.

Children's Page

Find these words in the grid below, then read the Christmas story in Luke, chapter 2 and Matthew, chapters 1 and 2.



CHRISTMAS
 ANGELS JOSEPH
 BABY SHEEP
 JESUS STABLE
 MANGER STAR
 DONKEY MARY
 WISEMEN
 SHEPHERDS
 INNKEEPER
 BETHLEHEM

If you've read the story, you should find it quite easy to crack this code and read the angel's message!

