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# Christmas Services – Additional to Normal Service Times

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| **Bethesda** | 10.00am 25/12/23 | Christmas Day Service – Sherwood **@ Southgate** |
| **Blackshaw Head** | 7.00pm 14/12/23  4.00pm 17/12/23  10.00am 25/12/23  10.15am 31/12/23 | Village Carols  Christingle Service  Christmas Day All Age Worship – OA  Coffee, Cake & Carols – OA Café Church |
| **B’town & Southowram** | 7.00pm 18/12/23  25/12/23 | Boys’ & Girls’ Brigade Service – Welch  No service |
| **Brighouse Central** | 4.00pm 24/12/23  11.00am 25/12/23 | Christingle – Atkins  Christmas Day Service - Atkins |
| **Christ Church LEP** | 7.00pm 19/12/23  6.45pm 20/12/23  4.00pm 24/12/23  5.30pm 24/12/23  10.00am 25/12/23 | Carol Service – Sherwood  Carol Singing around the Community  Crib service – Stead  Holy Communion – Sherwood  Christmas Day Service – Stead |
| **Clifton** | 10.30am 25/12/23 | Christmas Day service - Briggs |
| **Cross Hills** | 7.00pm 24/12/23  11.30pm 24/12/23  10.30am 25/12/23 | Carols on the Green – Sherwood/Revill  Holy Communion – Sherwood  Christmas Day Service – Gunson |
| **Hebden Royd** | 4.00pm 17/12/23  6.00pm 24/12/23  10.15am 25/12/23 | Carols – Heathcoat  Carols in the Square  All Age Worship for Christmas - Heathcoat |
| **Heptonstall** | 6.30pm 17/12/23  11.30pm 24/12/23  9.30am 25/12/23 | Carols @ St Thomas’ – United service  United service @ St. Thomas’  With St Thomas’ Xmas Day service & Communion - Kent |
| **Highgate** | 25/12/23 | No Service |
| **Illingworth Moor** | 11.00am 25/12/23 | Christmas Day Service – Welch |
| **Mount Zion** | 2.30pm 16/12/23 | Carol Service - Heathcoat |
| **Southgate** | 6.30pm 06/12/23  6.00pm 24/12/23  11.30pm 24/12/23  10.00am 25/12/23 | Christingle - Sherwood  Carols for all – Hales  Holy Communion – Sherwood @ Cross Hills  Christmas Day Service - Sherwood |
| **St. Andrew’s** | 6.00pm 21/12/23  10.30am 25/12/23 | Christingle Service – Welch  Christmas Day Service – Christie |
| **St. Matthew’s LEP** | 3.00pm 17/12/23  7.00pm 17/12/23  7.00pm 24/12/23  9.15am 25/12/23  10.30am 31/12/23 | Christingle & Nativity – Petch  Joint service at St. John’s – Carol Service  Nine Lessons & Carols - Petch  All Age Holy Communion – Petch  Joint Benefice Communion Service @ St John’s |
| **St. Paul’s** | 10.30am 03/12/23  All day 16/12/23 & 17/12/23  6.00pm 17/12/23  10.30am 24/12/23  11.30pm 24/12/23  11.00am 25/12/23 | Parade Service  Live Nativity Weekend  Carols by Candlelight - OA  Café Worship  Holy Communion - @ Christ Church US  Christmas Day Service – Heathcoat (All Age) |
| **Stones** | 6.30pm 03/12/23  6.30pm 17/12/23  10am-12noon 23/12/23  4.00pm 24/12/23  10.00am 25/12/23 | Service for start of Advent – US with St. Bartholomew’s  Carols by Candlelight - Atkins  A Quiet Space for Christmas  GLOW - All Age Service – Heathcoat  Christmas Day Service – Wilkinson |
| **Todmorden** | 10.30am 17/12/23  9.30am 25/12/23 | Carol Service - Ferguson  All Age Worship for Christmas – Heathcoat |

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Dear Friends

As I sit at my desk about to write the Circuit Christmas Letter to you all, I do so with the stories I have just heard on the midday news ringing in my ears. Stories of war and conflict, stories of escalating living costs and of dire weather warnings and I can’t help thinking, where is the good news?

In my previous circuit we committed a whole year to preaching from the Old Testament and there was understandably some resistance from people, because many of the prophetic texts are bad news, or warnings of bad news to come if we don’t shape up and begin to follow God’s way!

We want good news! We don’t want to be reminded that humanity is imperfect! We are very aware that we need to mend our ways, please give us some good news!

Thankfully our lectionary reading for the second week in Advent gives us a prophet with some good news.

***You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid: say to the towns of Judah, “Here is your God!”***

Isaiah is addressing a tired and weary people who long for some good news. His message is the very best news, speaking comfort and hope into his peoples despair.

Every year we have the opportunity, in the midst of the chaos and turmoil we encounter in our world, to welcome the arrival of the Christ child and accompanying that arrival is the good news that all things are made new or possible again. There is hope!

It can be difficult to believe that there is hope when we are exposed to the daily assault of bad news stories, but we must remember that the good news is that LOVE is born over and over and over again and that through us that love can transform our communities and our world.

And so this Advent remember our call to be bearers of good news as we work toward creating communities built on love, freedom, justice and peace, the hallmarks of God’s work on earth.

Christmas Blessings, **Rev Vicky**