December Diary:

**Sunday 1st**,**10am Advent Sunday: HOPE**

**All Ages Together** **TOY SERVICE**

Wednesday 4th,11am Healing Holy Communion

**Sunday 8th**, **10am Holy Communion Advent 2: PEACE**

 **4.30-6pm Breathing Space**

Wednesday 11th,11am Holy Communion

 1-2.30pm Mind & Music Christmas Party

**Sunday 15th,10am Holy Communion Advent 3: JOY**

 **4pm Carol Service** *The story of Christmas with carols*

*in a candlelit church followed by mulled wine and mince pies*

Wednesday 18th,11am Holy Communion

**Sunday 22nd, 10am Christingle Service Advent 4: LOVE**

*Make a Christingle in support of The Children’s Society*

**Christmas Eve**

**Tuesday 24th, 4pm Messy Church Nativity**

**Midnight Service, 11.30pm with Holy Communion**

**Christmas Day**

**Wednesday 25th,10am Christmas Day Service**

**Sunday 29th, 10am Holy Communion**

January Diary:

Sunday 5th, 10am All Ages together celebrating Epiphany

Wednesday 8th, 11am Healing Service

Wednesday 15th, 22nd, 29th,11am Holy Communion

Sunday 12th ,10am Holy Communion

Sunday 19th ,10am Holy Communion

Sunday 26th ,10am Service of the Word

**Parish Office Hours:** Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9-1pm, 443 1291

****Holy Cross Beauchamp Road B13 0N

[www.holycrosschurchbillesleycommon.co.uk](http://www.holycrosschurchbillesleycommon.co.uk)

*Mission Statement for Holy Cross: a cornerstone in the community,*

*seeking faithfully to love and serve God and our neighbours*

*both near and far*



Holy Cross Billesley Common

Newsletter December 2019

**Advent & Christmas Vicar’s message**

We seem to be in one huge competition; who will be first to have all the presents bought and wrapped, the cake made, the cards written, the decorations up and glowing as the dark descends and….*breathe*…..let’s resist the rush and all the pressures that come externally and commercially and our own internal pressures to instead enjoy this time of hope and patient waiting. Let us watch attentively until the time that the Christ comes in the form of a fragile baby and we celebrate, that love is born into the world.

My own Christmas shopping practices have changed over the years and I try now to avoid huge shopping malls and prefer to seek out special and personal treasures at charity shops, or to buy from local craftspeople through gift fairs. I often choose alternative gifts that help others, such as the selection through Embrace the Middle East or Toilet Twinning. *(Instead of sending Christmas cards in church we’re Twinning a Toilet! embraceme.org toilettwinning.org)* Sometimes, I even gift hand-made wet-felted creations or baked treats such as Chai Shortbread. What about the practical gift of time? A friend may need some help with child care or a garden tidied up. As we embrace the season and take a slower pace to choose gifts with thought and meaning, let us hope they will delight those who receive them. Let us recognise too that the real gift, the gift that truly keeps on giving is Jesus. Receive him into your life and be blessed.

**“O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel”**

God’s joy and peace be with you this Christmas, Debbie



**Thank You** to all our generous neighbours and friends who supported our recent Winter Fayre which raised £700 for church funds. This enables our continued community support and outreach. Thank you!

There will be a **Sheep Trail** around Billesley over Advent, in businesses and community spaces. Please join in with your family and collect the names of the lost sheep. Write each name on the Sheep Trail sheet which you can then enter into a prize draw. The draw will take place at Holy Cross, on Christmas Eve during the Nativity Service.

A Sheep Trail entry form can be found at Holy Cross Centre

or to download from [www.holycrosschurchbillesleycommon.co.uk](http://www.holycrosschurchbillesleycommon.co.uk)

More information  Holy Cross Church, Billesley Common

We are collecting toys for **Birmingham City Mission’s Christmas Appeal** to help families across the city. New toys only please to be brought to our All Age Worship **Toy Service** on **1st December, 10am**

Thank you in advance for your generosity and support.

**Breathing Space** **Sunday 8th December 4.30-6pm**

A peaceful space for spiritual contemplation, meditation and exploration of your inner beliefs and spiritual nature. Refreshments will be available. *Please speak to Chloe, Mission Apprentice for more information.*

**Mind & Music**

**Second Wednesday of the month 1–2.30pm,** a group for those who enjoy the company of others with singing and conversation. Dementia friendly. Lunch is provided so booking is appreciated. **11th Dec & 8th Jan**

**Memory Café** **Thursdays** with Leaf Creative Arts**11am-1pm**

**5th & 19th December,16th & 30th January**. A dementia friendly, warm social space to explore and engage in some stimulating activities.

**Fun with Fabrics***,* coming soon to **Thursdays** in the new year, *no experience or skill necessary to explore textiles in a variety of creative ways.*

An over 50’s, dementia friendly group, with BCC funding.



**Christmas Eve Nativity Service at 4pm** *come and see if the sheep*

*have found their way back to join in the Nativity with craft, drama, carols and snacks.*

Start planning ahead for Half Term Messy Church fun for all the family to explore with craft, story, songs and food with the story of Noah’s Ark. **Tuesday 18th February 10.30am -12.30pm**



Place of Welcome at Holy Cross is open every Wednesday midday–2pmcompanionship and light refreshments with social activities

a warm and friendly welcome for all

If you are lonely or bereaved or are needing some social support you will be especially welcome.

*Place of Welcome will be closed on 25th December & 1st January.*

*As we hold our loved ones, family, friends, neighbours and strangers in prayer –*

And so this is Christmas, Lord, we pray

help us to be the kind of people

who look for you in the world

and joyfully discover you

as we care for one another.

Amen.

**Stay & Play** GBNFC**:** Tuesdays 9.30 -11.00am in term time.

During the evenings at the Community Centre you will find

Tuesday – Scout groups

Wednesday - Slimming World

Friday - Taekwondo

Enquiries for all Christenings, Weddings and Funerals

vicar@holycrosschurchbillesleycommon.co.uk