



Refer to this week's Bulletin from St Peter's and St Margaret's.
Here is a summary of what is going on:

St Peter's Church Sunday 12th December 2021 4.00pm to 7.00pm

Blue Christmas - An opportunity for those who will find Christmas difficult this year - for any reason. The church will be open for people to come and go, to sit quietly, light a candle, write a prayer and talk to someone if that helps. There will be a "short" service at 6.00pm for anyone who would like to be there for that. The church will be lit in blue to reflect the mood.



Christmas Tree Festival -
St Margaret's Church **Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th December, 2021 -**
Open from **10.00am to 7.00pm.** Hot drinks and mince pies.
Join our **10.00am** service on Sunday morning
when Kate will be talking about "The Real Christmas Tree"

ONLINE SERVICE

Our **Online Service** is live on Facebook from 9.50am on Sunday morning with an advent theme. If you are not watching the service live we would recommend following the links to watch later.

<https://www.facebook.com/stpetersforsbrook/>

<https://www.facebook.com/StMargaretsDraycott/>

the youtube link (for anyone who can't access facebook).

<https://youtu.be/H1G35GGx438>

Protecting One Another

Because we want to do all we can to protect one another, especially the most vulnerable, we want to ask for your co-operation with the following Covid-19 measures at our services and events (these may change but at the time of printing they are correct).

- ❖ If you have any symptoms of Covid-19 please do not attend
- ❖ If any of our services or events reach their capacity, we may have to ask people not to enter the building - so come early for a seat to avoid disappointment
- ❖ Please use the hand sanitiser on arrival and as you leave
- ❖ Please do bring and wear a face covering if you are able (we understand some are exempt for medical reasons)

IN PERSON SERVICES

St Peter's, Forsbrook

St Peter's 10am service will be at **10.00am** and is Holy Communion. For the time being the service continues to be around 45/50 minutes in length and we are asking people to wear face coverings. Blue Christmas event from **4.00pm to 7.00pm** - see separate notice. The Carol Service will be at St Peter's on **19th December 2021 at 6.00pm.**

ALL WELCOME!

St Margaret's, Draycott

St Margaret's service is at **10.00am** this week and is a Service of the Word. For the time being the service continues to be around 45 minutes in length and we are asking people to wear face coverings. Barry is on the organ and we are gladly singing hymns together. The Carol Service will be at St Margaret's on **19th December 2021 at 6.30pm.**

ALL WELCOME!

- ❖ We will be leaving our doors open where necessary to allow adequate ventilation so even though we will have heating on, do wrap up warm!
- ❖ Please try to sit and move around at a respectful distance from those you don't come with

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Christmas Eve: 4.30pm at St Margaret's - Crib Service - Rev Jonathan Roberts

9.00pm at St Margaret's Holy Communion - Rev Pauline Shelton and Kate Bradshaw

11.00pm at St Peter's - Holy Communion - Rev Jonathan Roberts

Christmas Day: 8.00am at St Margaret's - Holy Communion - Rev Brian Whittaker

10.00am at St Peter's - All Age Worship with Rev Jonathan Roberts

Boxing Day: No in person service at either church

Online Service commencing 9.50am on Facebook

A Christmas Journey

Someone asked me recently if we had to make many **journeys** at Christmas – by which I think they meant did we have to travel much to catch up with family and friends... It's one of the things that people often do at Christmas, isn't it? Travelling round to see parents and grandparents, aunties and uncles, siblings and cousins.

The Christmas story in the Bible includes many **journeys** too. Joseph and Mary make a number of **journeys**: firstly to Bethlehem for the census (Luke 2:4); then later they have to travel to Egypt to escape from Herod (Matt 2:14); before returning to Nazareth following Herod's death (Matt 2: 21-23).

Although it was a shorter **journey**, the Shepherds decided to leave their flocks and journey into Bethlehem to find the baby, whose identity as the Christ would be indicated by his lying in a manger (Luke 2:15). The magi made a much longer **journey** from 'the east' (Matt 2:1-2) - possibly around 800 miles, though we don't really know where they were from – following the star which they believed indicated a special royal birth, hence the bringing of gifts fit for a king.

Perhaps the most significant **journey**, however, was the one made by the infant Christ himself narrated so vividly by John's gospel: *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning... The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us."* (John 1:1, 14)

Sometimes the lengths someone is prepared to travel to be at an event, a wedding for example, reflects how much they care about the people involved. When the tinsel, turkey and trimmings have been stripped away, the truth at the heart of Christmas, the 'reason for the season' is that **God has journeyed to be with his people**. Theologians call it 'the incarnation'; God becoming one of us. This is the miracle and wonder of Christmas and shows us how much God cares about being with the people he has made.

One of the things I find interesting about those who travelled to find Jesus (not just here but in other places in the gospels) is that they didn't have all the answers before they set off. It was a risk; it was not clear what would happen, or quite where it would take them, and yet it seemed worth the effort. They encountered Jesus and set off on their return **journeys** changed. It is my prayer that his may be our experience too this Christmas.