



Pews News

Sunday 7th December

10am Holy Communion, Dunsfold

The Collect

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Please remember in your prayers

The Sick: Marilyn Bailey, Sandra Baxter-Brown, James Field, Jacquie Griffiths, Sheila Jones, Cindy Kennedy, Stacey Medalyer, Christine Miles, Dean Perkins, Jacky Williams and Hazel Wiltshire.

Festive Pop-Up is coming to the Dunsfold Shop Christmas Fayre

The pop-up team look forward to welcoming you to our stall at the **Shop's Christmas Fayre** on **Saturday 6th December, 10am at the Winn Hall**. We will have homemade festive bakes, crafts and gifts, a lucky dip for children... plus plants, jams and chutney. All proceeds of the stall support Dunsfold Church. You can also pick up information about all our Christmas season services, or just stop by for a chat. As you can see from the photo, the pop-up elves have been busy preparing (with help from Cooper the dog!)



No Room at the Inn



What a fantastic way to start our advent course. The session opened with a special festive greeting from the Rt Revd Andrew Watson, Bishop of Guildford. Bishop Andrew reminded the participants that 'Without Christ, Christmas is just M&S'.

This years course is based around Bear Grylls' book "The Greatest Story Ever Told". Week one centred around the Christmas Story and the Nativity. Since the courses have moved to the Sun Inn, the organisers have seen exponential growth, and let's just say that there was 'little room at the inn'. This is testament to the dedication of the team, and a lovely problem to have.



Joseph

The Bible does not document a significant amount about Joseph who is such an integral part of the Nativity story, Jesus upbringing and early life. Joseph was a descendant of King David, he was a carpenter who lived in Nazareth in Galilee. The gospel writers are careful to document that Jesus is God's son, but Joseph is considered to be Jesus earthly 'stepfather', teaching Jesus his trade as a carpenter, and raising him in accordance with Jewish law.

Although the Bible does not give many specifics about who Joseph was as a person—and the Bible records *no* actual words that Joseph spoke—we know enough to see that he was a humble man who faithfully obeyed God, honoured others, took responsibility, and worked hard to provide and protect his family from the authorities.

From the gospels of Luke and Matthew we do gain insight into the character of Joseph. It is noted that Joseph was a kind and righteous man. Not many characters in Scripture are documented for their righteousness. When Joseph found out that Mary was pregnant, he had the legal authority to divorce her, and it was his intention to do so quietly and without bringing public shame and disgrace on her. Joseph thus demonstrates that he is a man of integrity and dignity.

When the angel of the Lord appears to Joseph in Matthew's account of Jesus' birth, the angel tells Joseph not to be afraid and to take Mary as his wife. Joseph would have been concerned about public disgrace, humiliation and maybe even being cut off from his family. But Joseph shows that he is an obedient man with an incredible faith. Joseph chose to believe the unbelievable, and chose to trust in God's direction over the voices of family and the community.

When we look around at our world, it's tempting to think about all we risk losing if we follow what God tells us to do. And Joseph most likely had doubts and questions; he was human after all. But his questions and doubts led him back to the truth that God is in control. He was Joseph's ultimate source of truth and assurance.

God's words spoken through the angel were the only reason why Joseph was willing to take such a huge risk. God's words to you through Scripture are the reason that you can step out boldly.



Church Clean

A massive thank you to our Christmas angels who helped give the church an Advent clean.

Jo Burt, Bob Wright, Barbara and Nigel Waterson, Pam and David Walker, Julian King, Mark Edsall, Judith Lahey Bean, Mel and Doug, Ginny Fraser, Sue Simpson, Jan and Josh Richardson.

Particular thanks must go to Sue, who organised the event. If you missed the big church clean-up, fear not, I bring you glad tidings of great joy that we will have another event in the New Year.

