

**Newsletter No 91 – December 2025. ‘Growing as Christians, Growing as a Church’**



**The Unusual King**

As John’s Gospel opens, we have no mention of a birth, no Mary and Joseph, no shepherds or Magi, and not a donkey in sight. John begins with a cosmic view of this ‘newborn king’ as the Word that has become flesh. We are introduced to the King of the cosmos – and yet, John announces a king like no other.

This down-to-earth king becomes one of us – ‘the Word became flesh’. Usually, kings live in palaces and wear crowns made of gold and jewels. The crown that King Charles III wore at his coronation is worth £400 million pounds. Jesus, the unusual king, will wear a crown made of thorns that wasn’t worth anything, but cost him everything. Paul tells us in Philippians 2:7, ‘He made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.’

This unusual king is a humble king. Today, we might admire humility, but this wasn’t necessarily the case in Jesus’ day, which makes this all the more unusual. Historians will tell you that in the ancient world humility was not considered a virtue. What was prized was honour – having your qualities recognised, your status elevated, and your name praised in the public square. To boast about your achievements was not just culturally acceptable, it was expected in the Graeco-Roman world.

This all changes, flipping upside-down, with the unusual king who submitted himself to the most humiliating punishment the Romans could create – crucifixion. He entered in and pierced the darkness, hoisted up for all to see as the true light of the world.

This unusual king subjected himself to the distresses and disasters of our everyday lives – he chose to live in the same world as us and experience the same daily demands and pressures of life in our village, town, or city. The Jews had hoped for a powerful king in an impressive temple, invincible to invading powers. But God became human and pitched his tent among them.

And we’re called to live out the life of this King in our everyday places – our neighbourhoods, where we work, and where we play. To live among the lonely and the lost and be like Jesus – to shine as a light in their darkness.

**Steve Rouse - Church Team Leader LICC**

**Dates for December**

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> at 1.40. Bradshaw School Primary School Carol Service.

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> at 19.30. Audio Visual Training Session.

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> at 10.30 – Sue McArthur – Toy Sunday.

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> at 10.30 – Stephen Scholes

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> at 10.30 – Carol Service

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> at 18.00 – Christmas Eve Service including Christingle.

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> at 10.30 - Christmas Day Fellowship Led Worship

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> at 10.30 – Sue McArthur

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January at 10.30 – Rob Brooks – Covenant Service.

**Sunday Morning Worship is always shared on Zoom. Meeting ID: 874 0789 6194 and Password: 427632.**



**Prayer Meeting.** Don't forget our regular meeting between 10.00 and 10.15 each Sunday Morning. We are aware that it is not possible for everybody to attend but if you are able, please support this meeting. **Bible Study Group.** Wednesday at 10.00. Another meeting that is open to all. **Church Open for quietness, prayer and meditation.** This has been suspended till the Spring.



**Toy Sunday.** Please donate suitable new toys at the service on the 7<sup>th</sup> December. They will be appreciated by children who will have so little this Christmas.

**Church Christmas Lunch.** This will be held at Lymm Golf Club on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December. The cost will be £38. Please see Betty for further information – there may be an opportunity for a late booking.

**Christmas Eve Service.** Please note a different start time this year Six O'clock (18.00).

**To promote our services over the Christmas period we have 1000 leaflets to distribute in the immediate area around the church. This will need to be done in the week prior to the Carol Service.**



**Audio Visual Training.** To spread the responsibility of managing the audio / visual equipment in church we have invited Piranha (the technical company who installed our current equipment) to advise us on how to get the best out of our current system. This will take place on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December. Further details will be announced on the Sunday prior to the session

**Church Christmas Fayre.** As the event approached there was considerable trepidation of how it would go. Well, we should never have doubted as it turned out to be a tremendous success and raised over £1400. Special thanks for Jean and the rest of the Christmas Crafters who led from the front. But a thanks to everyone who helped on the day. Special mention to Andrea and the Brownies for all their efforts.



**The Christmas Post Box** is now available for receiving Christmas cards for friends within the fellowship and can be found at the rear of church. When posting cards please remember to make a small donation which will be part of our support for a chosen Children's Charity. Cards will be distributed after the Carol Service on the 21<sup>st</sup> December.

**Church Lunches.** January's Tuesday Church Lunch will take place on the 6<sup>th</sup> of January. All are welcome. If you need a lift, please do not hesitate to speak to Jean or Rob.



**Ideas for Christmas Gift. Everyday Faith Bible.** Discover the Bible's implications for your everyday life so that you can learn to live as a follower of Jesus, right where you are. To be published in January for £28.99 but can be pre-ordered from LICC for £20. For the Crafter in your life - **Tilda's Christmas Ideas £7.99** and the **Eco – Christmas Craft Book £11.99** from a well-known on-line retailer but also

available elsewhere.

**Birthdays and Anniversaries in December.** 4<sup>th</sup> – Irene Rowney, 5<sup>th</sup> – Lionel Mathias, Satish Misal, 9<sup>th</sup> – Kar Ming Lei, 11<sup>th</sup> – Alidia Newlan, 18<sup>th</sup> – Helen Foster, 19<sup>th</sup> – Tim Jordan, 25<sup>th</sup> Paula McCombe.