

So, there's another year nearly behind us. I must have blinked and missed a few months of the year because it certainly doesn't feel like 12 months since we were celebrating carol services and all the Christmas services together. But here we are once again in December, with the joy of seeing the excitement of young children really enjoying Christmas for the first time, and the joy of remembering and celebrating what God did for us in sending his Son as a baby. This is definitely 'family time': time with our own families, time with church-family, and time with the 'holy family'.

As you will see from the diary of services at St George's through Advent and Christmas, there is a lot going on. I hope that you will be able to join in the joy of some of the services. Please remember any neighbours who may want to get to a Christmas service but are not able to do so themselves. Christmas time can be a very emotional and hard time for many people; with many people seemingly very happy, joyful and celebrating (and, of course, eating and drinking too much), whilst for others it can be a very, very lonely time. This really is an important time to think of others.

Apart from all the services over the Christmas period, we also have the Christmas Day lunch in the Memorial Hall. If you don't want to be alone on Christmas Day, please come and join us for a delicious Christmas dinner. The food is important, of course - so thank you to all those who contribute and make it all happen - but the fellowship of being with someone else is very important. When the rest of the world seems to be happy and celebrating, Christmas can be very hard; so please, come along this year - or encourage someone else to - rather than being on our own. Fellowship is at the heart of the Christian faith; at the Christmas Day lunch we share fellowship together.

Let's not let it stop that fellowship straight after Christmas though. Why not come along to the 'Hello. How are you? Club' that Tracy Claridge and others are starting in January? This is about a caring, supportive community. We are also wanting to build on a Messy Church initiative of, 'Leave what you can. Take what you need', with food and other items being available in the church porch, free, to anyone who has a need; this, too, is about a caring community. Or if you want to talk about anything, or have some prayer time together, give me a call. Prayer is also at the heart of the Christian faith; I, and others at church, would love to pray for you/with you if you would like us to. This is about a caring community.

I wish you a very happy Christmas, I hope you can share it with others and enjoy it. God bless.

Revd David Commander, Rector