

# *Comfort & Joy?*

*Advent 2017*



## COMFORT AND JOY?

As we enter the season of Advent and prepare for Christmas we are going to be looking at some carols that deal with the uncomfortable aspects of Christmas as well as the joy.

Preparing for Christmas is overwhelmingly focused on gifts, food and parties as we 'wait for the baby Jesus'. The aim of this preaching series is to encourage each of us to move beyond this to an adult and social appreciation of the message of the Incarnation of God in Christ. Jesus identified his own message with what he called the coming of the 'reign of God' or the 'kingdom of God', whereas we have sometimes settled for the sweet coming of a baby who asks little of us in terms of surrender, encounter, mutuality or social engagement.

In many ways it is a pity that in the weeks before Christmas we are saturated with Christmas carols, but we are going to take these carols and explore together how the incarnate Word of God confronts, converts and consoles us - in that order.

## FAMILYFUN@3:45

Familyfun is a monthly service aimed at families with primary school aged children. We meet at 3:45pm on the second Sunday of the month for crafts, activities, stories, celebration and tea.

Sunday 10th December - The Greatest Journey

**Join the journey at  
[www.churchofengland.org/Christmas](http://www.churchofengland.org/Christmas)  
or text **GODWITHUS** to **88802****

## ADVENT/CHRISTMAS 2017

<b>3rd</b>	<b>10am</b> <b>Lo He Comes With Clouds Descending</b> Speaking: Archdeacon Phil Andrew	<b>6:30pm</b> <b>Communion</b> Advent Meditation: Sarah Burdett
<b>10th</b>	<b>10am</b> <b>It Came Upon the Midnight Clear</b> Speaking: James White	<b>6:30pm</b> <b>Evening Prayer</b> Speaking: Rod Paterson
<b>17th</b>	<b>10am Christingle (All Age)</b> <b>Sing Christingle</b> Speaking: John Lawrence	<b>6:30pm</b> <b>Carols by Candlelight</b> Speaking: Tim Watson
<b>24th</b> <b>Christmas Eve</b>	<b>10am (All Age)</b> <b>In The Bleak Midwinter</b> Speaking: Rod Paterson <b>4pm</b> <b>The Big Crib Service</b>	<b>11:15pm Midnight Communion</b> <b>Hark the Herald Angels Sing</b> Speaker: Mike Schorah
<b>25th</b> <b>Christmas Day</b>	<b>10am (All Age)</b> <b>Joy to the World</b> Speaking: James White	

## SMALL GROUPS

The following is a list of the current small groups showing meeting times, places and the co-ordinator for each group. If you are interested in joining a home group please contact John Lawrence or Anna & Rob Swan.

Note: Some groups meet weekly and others fortnightly. Further details are available from group co-ordinators.

### Tuesdays

3:00pm Coltham Road - Jenny Golding  
7:30pm Various venues - Duncan & Anna Munro  
8:00pm Oak Avenue - Martin & Bidy Turner  
8:00pm Various venues - Martin Southgate  
8:00pm Various venues - Ian & Lindy Moat

### Wednesdays

10:00am Coffee & Prayer Group  
7:45pm Langton Grove Road - Marianne & Colin Kelly  
8:00pm Hales Road - Tim & Sue Watson  
8:00pm Cranham Road - Beanie Farrimond  
8:00pm East Cheltenham - Jo & Carl Palmer

### Mums Together

Meeting fortnightly on Friday at 1:30pm in church. An opportunity for mums to get together to read the Bible, pray and share fellowship and coffee. A creche is provided for the children. Please speak to Megan Day for further information.

✉ [megan@bluemidget.co.uk](mailto:megan@bluemidget.co.uk)

## STAFF TEAM CONTACTS

### Clergy:

Rod Paterson

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James White

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### Church Office:

Amy Wright

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### Youth Worker & Facilities Manager

Jon Bull

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### Children & Families Worker

Beanie Farrimond

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### Director of Music:

Dominic Hamilton

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### Small Group Coordinators:

John Lawrence

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Rob & Anna Swan

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### Treasurer:

Fiona Foulger

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### Church Wardens:

Ian Moat

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Martin Southgate

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