

**24 & 31 DECEMBER**

**Welcome** to our services today. If you are here for the first time, we hope you will soon feel at home. Please take a moment to fill out one of the yellow 'welcome cards' and hand it to one of the service leaders and do stay for refreshments served after the morning service.

## CHURCH EVENTS

### CHRISTMAS 2017 AT HOLY APOSTLES

- 9:45am**    **Prayer** – in church before the service, all welcome
- 10:00am**    **All Age Service - Preparing the Crib**  
Leading & Speaking: Rod Paterson  
Reading: Matthew 1: 18-23
- 4pm**        **The Big Crib (fancy dress welcome)**
- 11:15pm**    **Midnight Communion**  
Leading: Rod Paterson    Speaking: Mike Schorah

### CHRISTMAS DAY

- 10:00am**    **All Age Celebration (with communion)**

### SUNDAY 31st DECEMBER

- 10:00am**    **Communion**  
There will be no crèche or miniclub but toys will be available in the lower rooms. Sunday Club children will be watching a film in the church hall.

The full calendar including church and hall bookings is available at [www.holyapostles.org.uk](http://www.holyapostles.org.uk)

**Homegroups:** We have a number of homegroups that run during the week. A list of current homegroups is on the display at the back of church. If you are interested in joining a homegroup please contact John Lawrence or Anna or Rob Swan.

# NOTICES

## THIS WEEK

### CHURCH OFFICE

Please note the church office is now closed and will re-open on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January.

### SUNDAY 31st DECEMBER

There will be no evening service. During the 10am service Sunday Club children will be watching a film in the church hall. Although there is no crèche and miniclub, toys are available to use in the lower rooms but please do supervise children and return toys to the cupboards at the end of the service.

### WATCH NIGHT SERVICE

Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December 11pm to midnight at Cheltenham Minster St Mary. A gentle time to reflect on the year that is past and commit to God the year that is to come

## THANK YOU

Happy Christmas from Amy and the church office team. Thank you to everyone who has delivered Christmas cards across the parish and helped with preparing for Christmas services at HA.



## NEW YEAR 2018 AT HA NEW YEAR PROGRAMME

Our new sermon series starts on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January along with midweek discussion groups. Details are available in a flyer which you can pick up in church from 31<sup>st</sup> January in church or download from the website.

### NEW HA WEBSITE

Work is going on behind the scenes to develop a new website. Look out for the launch in the new year!

### COFFEE CONCERT

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> January at 11am in church. 'Handel On Tour' featuring soprano Linda Gerrard.

# HA CHRISTMAS CHARITIES

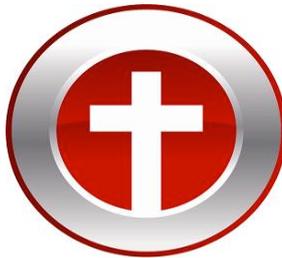
This year we are supporting two charities with our collections:



## Action Around Bethlehem Children with Disability

ABCD is dedicated to improving the quality of life of those children and young adults who suffer from physical, mental and psychological disabilities in Palestine.

<http://www.abcdbethlehem.org/>



## The Rock, Cheltenham

During school hours, The Rock works with young people from school years 6 to 11 (10-16 years) offering early intervention and re-engagement activities. Three evenings a week their doors are open to all young people who want somewhere safe to hang out, to play sports, or to learn new skills.

<http://www.therock.uk.com/>

# BIBLE READING

## Matthew 1: 18-23

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: his mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.<sup>19</sup> Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

<sup>20</sup> But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.<sup>21</sup> She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.'

<sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet:<sup>23</sup> 'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel' (which means 'God with us').



#GOD with US