

A few words from the Vicar

*Christmas is coming, the geese are getting fat
Please put a penny in the old man's hat
If you haven't got a penny, a ha'penny will do
If you haven't got a ha'penny, then God bless you!*



For many of us December is a busy month.

It's a time for shopping, for braving the crowds of Christmas shoppers in Bury, Manchester, the Trafford centre or wherever else takes your fancy. It's a time for writing Christmas cards and hoping that you're not embarrassed on Christmas Eve when the postman delivers a card from what's-her-name who you've forgotten to include on your list. And it's a time for writing that annual report for sending out with your Christmas Cards. You know the one, the sheet of A4 (with photos) which glosses over the bad news and tells everyone what a truly wonderful year you've had!

December is also a time for Office parties. Time for sharing a few drinks with colleagues and, as it's the season of good will, a time for letting your hair down with some people you wouldn't normally be seen dead with socially during the rest of the year!

And then Christmas Day arrives. Receiving and giving presents, turkey (with all the trimmings), roast spuds, sprouts, Christmas pud, the Dr Who special and dad sleeping it off in the corner – you can't beat it!

A truly magical day, particularly if you're lucky enough to be in the presence of wide-eyed children as they open their presents. Who cares if the drag you out of bed at 5 a.m.? It's Christmas!

Christmas is a great time of year and I'll certainly be celebrating along with everyone else!

But, amongst all the preparations and all the partying, let's not forget the reason for our celebrations; the reason for the presents, the Christmas Dinner and the Christmas cheer. We celebrate because God came amongst us as a helpless baby born in poverty in a stable. We celebrate because Jesus Christ came as the Saviour of humankind. And we celebrate because we know this baby Jesus grew up and on that first Good Friday stretched out his arms on the cross to rescue humanity from the mess we've made of things.

We celebrate because Jesus has given us the best present ever – life in abundance both now and for eternity.

So, let's all celebrate. Let's all have a truly wonderful Christmas. But why not take time out from all the preparations to join us for one of our Christmas services at Christ Church. Join with us in celebrating the coming of Jesus.

Come and worship Christ, the New Born King!

Every Blessing

Dave