

NEWSLETTER

ALL SAINTS, SCRAPTOFT & NETHERHALL - DECEMBER 2018

Unnecessary Giving....



A couple of weeks ago I was idly watching TV and came across Martin Lewis, of MoneySavingExpert.com. I have often thought I ought to pay more heed to what he says and writes, but just don't get round to it most of the time. But on my channel-hop I came across his show in which he focused on Christmas presents - and in particular, 'banning unnecessary Christmas presents.' Here's part of what he said:

"Christmas has become a retail festival, and it shouldn't be - Christmas should be joyous, but causes some people unhappiness, debt and worry. Now, many people feel obliged to buy gifts for others, with money they don't have and cause themselves stress they don't need. And I think part of the reason for this is that we have disconnected from why we give gifts.'

He goes on to give his rationale for this, including one memorable quote: "people end up with tit-for-tat giving, which means people end up with tat!" The thrust of all this is, as he says: "Let's work together to ban unnecessary Christmas presents."

It's been fascinating to read the reactions of people to the gospel according to Lewis: some favourable, some not so happy. I, for one, think he talks a lot of sense. As a Christian I would love Christmas to be seen for what it is really meant to be, rather than the three months of shopping frenzy, over-hyped adverts and angst it has become for many.

Of course, we want to give to those closest to us to express our love. But I do hope we can try not to be lured into the competition that Christmas often becomes and remember why we give in the first place. Because God gave first.

During this special time, through Advent and then into Christmas itself, we recall what God has given us in Jesus and what that should mean for the rest of our lives, once we have taken in that message. So let us give with care, reflecting the 'reason for the season', so that Christmas (when it does actually arrive on 25th December) will be truly joyous, no matter what we receive ourselves.

With every blessing

Father Markin

Calendar - December

- 1st 10.00am Christmas Market
- 2nd **ADVENT SUNDAY**
10.00am Sung Eucharist
6.00pm Taizé Service
- 5th 7.30pm NO Eucharist
- 8th Walsingham Festival at Coventry Cathedral
- 9th **ADVENT 2**
10.00am Sung Eucharist
- 12th 7.30pm Eucharist
- 15th 10.00am Coffee Stop
- 16th **ADVENT 3**
10.00am Sung Eucharist
3.00pm Messy Nativity
- 19th 7.30pm Eucharist
- 20th 11.00am Aaron Court Xmas Communion
- 21st 7.30pm Carol Service
- 23rd **ADVENT 4**
10.00am Sung Eucharist
- 24th **CHRISTMAS EVE**
11.30pm Midnight Mass
- 25th **CHRISTMAS DAY**
10.00am Family Festival Eucharist
- 30th **THE HOLY FAMILY**
10.00am Sung Eucharist & Baptism
James Peter Court

All Saints, Scaptoft



Carols by Candlelight

Friday December 21st

7.30pm

Everyone very welcome

Daily Inspirational Bible Readings

One of the main ways God communicates with us is through the Holy Scriptures. These short passages give us a chance to connect with them every day, even when things are mega-busy. Perhaps you could put your Bible next to your bed, or next to your favourite chair, along with this list, and you can keep in touch each day.

- 1st John 1:1-2
- 2nd Hebrews 1:1-2
- 3rd John 6:35
- 4th John 8:12
- 5th John 10:7
- 6th John 10:14-15
- 7th John 11:25
- 8th John 14:6
- 9th John 15:5
- 10th Deuteronomy 18:15
- 11th Isaiah 7:14
- 12th Galatians 4:4-5
- 13th Matthew 2:4-6
- 14th Luke 1:26-28
- 15th Luke 1:30-33
- 16th Luke 1:46-47
- 17th Matthew 1:20-21
- 18th Luke 1:68-70
- 19th Luke 1:76-78
- 20th Luke 2:1
- 21st Luke 2:6-7
- 22nd Luke 2:8-11
- 23rd Luke 2:11-14
- 24th Luke 2:16-20
- 25th Isaiah 9:6
- 26th Luke 2:28-32
- 27th Psalm 103:1-2
- 28th Matthew 11:28
- 29th John 14:1-3
- 30th John 16:33
- 31st Isaiah 43:16