

Loving God
surround us this Christmas with your presence.
Be with us in our disappointment if our plans have changed,
comfort us with the good news of your love.
Help us find moments of Joy
as we celebrate the coming of Jesus,
the child in the manger
who shows your love for the world?
and your light in the darkness.

Walk softly, as you go through Christmas, that each step may bring
you down the starlit path, to the manger bed.
Talk quietly, as you Speak of Christmas, that you shall not drown out
the glorious song of angels.
Kneel reverently as you pause for Christmas,
that you may feel again the Spirit of the Nativity, rekindled in your soul.
Rise eagerly, after you have trod the Christmas Path, that you may
serve more fully, the one whose birth we hail. Amen

“But the reality is this: I can look back at every Christmas sermon I’ve ever
preached, and I can summarize them all in three don’ts:

1. Don’t be like the innkeeper. When the love of God comes to your front
door, don’t say there’s no room at the inn.
2. Don’t limit Christmas to one day a year, or even one season. Make
Christmas a year-round affair.
3. Don’t extinguish the light. Christmas is about the light of Christ coming
into this world. Each of us has the choice to let that light of God’s love burn
brightly within us for the year, or to put out the flame.”

Rev Emily Heath

**OUR NEXT EDITION OF KIT WILL COME OUT
ON SATURDAY JANUARY 2nd, 2021**

We will be giving updates on our church services for the New Year in the
light of being under Tier 4 restrictions. The out workings of these restrictions
have yet to be thought through by Annette and our PCCs as we go to print
on Christmas Eve.



**The Benefice of the Paxtons with Diddington and Southoe
Christmas Day 2020
“Keeping in Touch” Edition 40**



**“I bring you news of great joy, a joy shared by the whole people.
Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is
Christ the Lord”**

Annette writes: I like humour.

As I was wondering how to start these notes, someone rang me and told
me a joke. A man eagerly opened a Christmas parcel he had ordered on
the phone and he was looking forward to enjoying the contents over
Christmas. His face fell as he found a baby Jesus figure inside. Oh no!
That is not what he had ordered..... he had requested baby cheeses.

There is a catalogue of things that we are having to deal with at the
moment that seem far from funny. News of us Cambridgeshire folk going
into Tier Four on Boxing Day and a new strain of virus that seems to
transmit more easily certainly don’t give us much to laugh about, and
neither do the struggles of so many people at this time who are affected
by Covid. But maybe the man who got baby Jesus rather than his
babybel cheeses didn’t get a bad deal after all.

At first it can seem like a joke. Almighty God, creator of the universe, all
powerful, all knowing, comes to earth to become one of us. Becomes a
vulnerable baby, in need of the tender care of his mother, and grows to
experience all the human emotions we are familiar with. He comes to
draw alongside us in our joys and sorrows. The light coming into our
darkness and that light never being extinguished.

In the midst of mid-winter chill and rain and Covid related darkness, we
can still marvel at the mystery of what theologians call the incarnation;
God taking human flesh and dwelling with us. We can smile as we think
of the manger child, as vulnerable as we are all feeling at the moment,
resting in the tender love of Mary and Joseph. But a child who radiates
God’s pure love and joy and healing. My prayer for all of us is that we will
find joy and peace of mind this Christmas and that there may indeed be
times when something unexpected makes us smile.

Take care, keep safe and God bless you all

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The Gospel for Christmas Day. Luke 20 v 1- 20

In those days, a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So, they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Collect for Christmas Day

Lord Jesus Christ,
your birth at Bethlehem
draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth:
Accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you,
our saviour and our eternal God.
Through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.



Annette writes:

Maybe you are wondering what Christmas might mean to you this year with all of the troubles and challenges we are facing?

I would like to offer to you the poem below.

For me, it speaks eloquently of how we may discover the presence of Jesus in our own lives, not just at Christmas but every day.

*“Cast out our sin and enter in
Be born in us today”*

From the carol, O Little Town of Bethlehem

**The Jesus room is not a chapel
Or a church or a shrine
Or anything like that.**

**It is not even sacred ground
in town or garden.**

**The Jesus room is inside the head,
Inside the heart, inside the body,
Inside the feelings, but no one knows
Quite where the exact location is.**

**It is not really a room at all
And the Jesus discovered there
Does not come care of religious dogma
Or some archbishop or priest
Or politician or minister
Or anybody like that.**

**Indeed, when you go into the Jesus room
You will find no one there,
Only space... emptiness... energy.**

**You will, however, feel the vibration
If you are very still and quiet.**

**And as you tune in to the power of the place
You will sense a presence, a mystery,
You will hear the poetry of the Jesus room.**

By Christopher Woodland.