



## And even more events for December

### Christmas Nativity Trail

4 – 6pm Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> at St Philips

4 – 6pm Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> at St Joseph's.

Come and share in the Christmas story – a walk around the Nativity Story in family bubbles. You will need to book a time slot at [jo.kidsmin@pennfieldsparish.co.uk](mailto:jo.kidsmin@pennfieldsparish.co.uk).

### Sheep Trail

Follow the clues around Merry Hill, beginning at St Joseph's Church (look at the big notice board outside church). The trail will be available from December 9<sup>th</sup> until 23<sup>rd</sup>. Take a pencil and paper with you to record your findings. And if you can download a QR code, you can follow the trail with stories and songs! On Christmas Eve, Stay and Play members will display their nativity pictures in church.

### You can be in church this Christmas.

We miss so many people who have not been able to join with us in worship during the lockdown. But now is your chance! We will have a Church Family Christmas Tree! We are making nativity figures to hang on the tree, and you can be there! If you would like a figure to represent you, tell Tim or Julie, and you can appear on the tree. After Christmas, you will be given your figure to keep for next year!



May you know the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ this Christmas!

Minister

Tim Eady

01902 569625

[tim@pennfieldsparish.co.uk](mailto:tim@pennfieldsparish.co.uk)



# Joe's Prose December 2020

News from St Joseph's Church

In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ....

## A Warm Welcome to Everyone



I used to enjoy a TV Quiz entitled: *Are You Smarter Than A Ten Year Old?* A hapless adult was asked questions based on the National Curriculum for 6-10 year olds, and invariably ended up making an awful howler, whilst a group of smart youngsters almost always got the answer right.

It made compelling viewing, even if I was often relieved to be on the outside of the screen, but it does raise the question, 'what do we really know?' Merely knowing the facts is just the first step towards applying their meaning to our lives.

There's a story about the 12-year-old Jesus sitting amongst the educated men in Jerusalem, and astounding them, not just with his knowledge, but his wisdom. He is leading them into thought processes that they had never imagined.

Perhaps that's what Christmas should do for us.

If I was to be asked National Curriculum questions for 10-year olds based on the Christmas story, I hope I would do quite well, but what do those facts mean? That takes a little longer to think about. Isaiah talks about people walking in darkness seeing a great light. That's what it is like when we meet with Jesus – a light goes on inside our minds.

It's an amazing thought: that God the Sovereign Lord of all, should humble Himself, take human form, being born, not even in a palace, with midwives and monitors to check His progress, but in a cold and draughty cattle shed.

He must have had good reason to do it. Why? Many ten-year olds seem to know implicitly - it's because God loves them and shares in our human situation – so giving us the opportunity to know His love and receive his gift of life. Sadly, many adults think that Christmas is only for children, and forget that God's love reaches out to embrace all of us. Let's be open to the truth of God's Word.

Take time to worship Him this Christmas – that's the smart response!

### **The Covid Pandemic Continues...**

Do look out during December for updates on what we'll be doing at St Joseph's. Here are our plans at time of writing. Subject to change according to covid regulations!

**We will hold services in church every Sunday at 9.00am and 10.30am**, maintaining social distance. The 10.30am service (including sermon) is live-streamed on our Facebook page. Do join us. Type: **Saint Joseph's Church, Wolverhampton** into your Facebook page, and our church site will appear before your eyes!

**Mid-week Communion** is held at 11.30am on Wednesdays 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> December. (No service on Dec 30<sup>th</sup>)

**December 13<sup>th</sup> at 10.30am is our live-stream All-Age Nativity.** *(Please note – to comply with covid regulations, only those taking part in the service will be in church.)* Please enjoy watching on Facebook.

**December 20<sup>th</sup> 6.30pm Carols by Facebook.** We will live-stream a Carol Service on Facebook. Enjoy watching at home.

### **Christmas Eve**

Church open 2pm – 5pm. Come and collect your Christingle from church. We are arranging a booking system to visit church via Eventbrite. Use this link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/st-joes-christingle-come-and-collect-tickets-130867485171>  
Take your Christingle home and....

**6pm: Christingle Service on Facebook.** Join us at home!

**11.15pm** The First Communion of Christmas (50 seats).

### **Christmas Day**

10.00 Christmas Morning Service. Join us in church, or live-streamed on Facebook

### **Carol Singing**

On Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December, 6pm-7pm, we will be taking carols to the parish. If you are self-isolating and would like us to come to your door to sing a carol, please tell Tim. And if you would like to join the carol group, also tell Tim.

**St Joe's Lock Diaries 2020:** available now for £8. It's a great read - St Joseph's Church as reminisced and experienced by you throughout this most unusual year. You have written the book; you gave it to Tim; he sells it back to you for £8. Bargain! And our church will benefit from all the profits.

**Church Christmas Card:** as normal, there is a large card in church for you to sign to wish everyone a happy Christmas. Money donated will support charity.