

## Dates for your diary

**2<sup>nd</sup> Advent 1 10.30am Holy Communion at St. John's.**

**4pm Evensong for Advent.**

**6<sup>th</sup> Thursday 10.30am Holy Communion at St. John's.**

**9<sup>th</sup> Advent 2 10.30am Holy Communion at St. John's.**

**13<sup>th</sup> Thursday 10.30am Holy Communion at St. John's.**

**16<sup>th</sup> Advent 3 10.30am Holy Communion at St. John's.**

**6.30pm Carol Service at St. Columba's.**

**20<sup>th</sup> Thursday 10.30am Holy Communion at St. John's.**

**23<sup>rd</sup> Advent 4 10.30am Holy Communion at St. John's.**

**4pm Carol Service at St. John's.**

**24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve 4pm Crib Service at St. John's.**

**11.30pm Midnight Eucharist at St. John's.**

**25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day 10.30am Holy Communion at St. John's.**

**26<sup>th</sup> Wednesday St. Stephen's Day 10.30am Holy Communion at St. John's.**

**27<sup>th</sup> Thursday NO SERVICE.**

**30<sup>th</sup> First Sunday after Christmas 10.30am Holy Communion at St. John's.**



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**December 2018**



## **A Series of Impossible Events.**

Of all the impossible things that you ask me to conceive,  
'Which one', you wonder, 'do I find it most difficult to believe?'

That a child might be born without parental seed?

That God would be in a trough where animals feed?

That a billion-year-old star should time its flight

To point so small a band to the royal light?

That winged angels sing impossible news for all the earth

To nobody-nightworkers on nowhere turf?

Or this:

That God, creator of time and space,

Mediterranean azure, and gazelle grace,

That God, immortal, should come down in mortal flesh,

God with us, in all our human mess?

God with us? In bomb blast? And first breath?

And some slow dimming towards a memoryless death?

God with us? In the crushed commute, and the lonely bed?

In the sleep, wake, eat, work of our daily tread?

In our petty snipes and bloated ambitions?

In all the twists of our confused decisions?

God with us in all of that? God with me in all of me?

No, that I could not believe, if, with  
outstretched heart, he

Had not given free his blood and life on that  
barren tree,

And, with love and mercy, tender, wiped my tears so I do see.

*Mark Greene.*

***It makes you think ...***

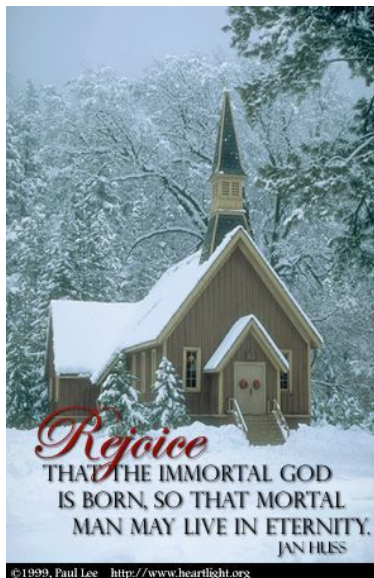


If you take Christ out of Christmas, all you're left with is M & S.

At Christmas-time, when we receive presents we don't really need, God offers us a gift we cannot do without.

God couldn't have made himself bigger to impress us so he made himself smaller to attract us.

Don't miss Christmas: the innkeeper did because he was too preoccupied with his business. The Jewish leaders did because they couldn't be bothered to check things out. Herod did because he was threatened by a baby.



### Shoebox Appeal

A big thankyou to all who contributed to the shoeboxes, and to those who came to assemble them – and to Lynda for organising it all.



## Services for Advent and Christmas



Sunday December 2<sup>nd</sup> 4pm  
Evensong for Advent

Sunday December 16<sup>th</sup> 6.30pm  
Carol Service at St.Columba's



Sunday December 23<sup>rd</sup> 4pm  
Carol Service at St. John's

Christmas Eve  
4pm Crib Service  
11.30pm Midnight Eucharist

Christmas Day  
10.30am Christmas Communion



Wednesday December 26<sup>th</sup>  
10.30am

St. Stephen's Day Holy Communion

*No service on Thursday December 27th*