

Salem Methodist Church
Watley's End BS36 1QL

SALEM NEWS

www.salemchurch.org.uk

December 2025



Christmas Greetings to all

You are invited to worship with
us this Christmas

The Coca-Cola advert is on the TV, the shops are fully decorated, the date is in the diary for Elm Park to come and visit us, and people are rapidly spending money (sometimes money they don't have) to buy the perfect gift for friends and loved ones.

But what's it all about? Why is Christmas such a significant part of our faith and understanding, after all, in the beginning it was God who created the heavens and the earth.

But God wasn't alone at the beginning, we're reminded in the Nicene Creed that Jesus was *eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God...*

Christ was there at the beginning of creation and will be there at the end of days.

Jesus however offered another dimension to the Godhead, *For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures...*

Christmas and Easter are interlinked, yes, he came down at Christmas, but that's just half of the story, for us and for our salvation he was also crucified on the cross.

But despite the pain and the suffering, Jesus brought something special into the world:

*Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, Love divine;
Love was born at Christmas,
star and angels gave the sign.*

Christina Georgina Rossett (1830-1894) StF 210

Christ brought us love, a love that links us with one another, and a love that links us with God. A love that compels us to care for one another, and to care for those around us.

Once again, we have the opportunity to show that care in a number of ways, as we bring gifts for guests of Turnaround Bristol, as we offer goody bags to families around us, as we welcome people who grieve the loss of a loved one, as we invite people to sing carols with us.

Love came down at Christmas, our task is to share that love with others.

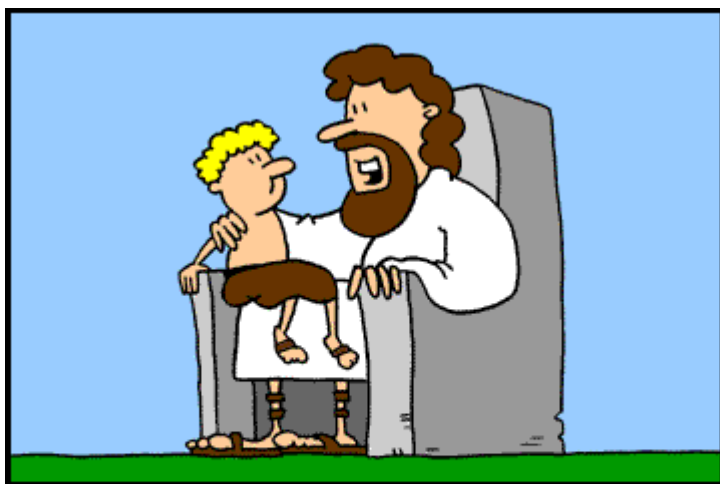
heigh.

Prayer for Christmas 2025

Dear Father,

Christmas is coming. It's all such a rush – planning, shopping, spending, wrapping, posting, stressing! What's it all about? Lord, help us, in all the rat-race busyness, to make time to focus on that baby at the centre of it all. That baby who is Your Son, who was with You in the beginning and who, with You, created all things; that baby who brings life and light and hope and salvation; that baby who was and is Jesus, God, made man.

Lord, we thank You for that baby-gift to us – the greatest gift there has ever been. Thank You that because He came, grew up, lived, died and rose again, there is light in the darkness of this world's mess – light that can never be put out, that evil can never overcome. Jesus is the Light of the World. Putting our trust in Him, we thank You Lord, for Christmas – for Your grace and love for us. In Jesus' name. Amen.



Thanks to Christopher Huffman

12-24-1998

HOW ABOUT IF INSTEAD OF GIVING YOU
EVERYTHING THAT YOU THINK YOU WANT FOR
CHRISTMAS I GIVE YOU WHAT YOU NEED?

Your local churches invite you to

THE BIG CHRISTMAS SING FOR CHRISTIAN AID



A real COMMUNITY event, support your local choirs and
sing your favourite carols

Date: Tuesday 2nd December 2025

Time: 7pm

Venue: Zion United Church, Frampton Cotterell

Cost: Entrance free with retiring donations

Call 01454 776618 for more information



Join Voices to Fight Poverty





Remembering Service

Sunday 7th December 4.00pm

A quiet service to remember loved ones, with a time to reflect.

All welcome.

Salem Methodist Church

Factory Road

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Christmas Greetings from Salem Methodist Church



Please join us for Worship

20 December - Christingles and Bacon Butties at 10am

21 December - Carol Service at 4pm

25 December - Christmas Day
Worship at 9.15am



Christmas Unwrapped!

All of us have received unwanted gifts at Christmas. For Joseph the gift of a child, as recorded in Matthew chapter 1, was not something he really wanted. Although he was engaged to Mary, her pregnancy would be grounds for divorce. Not surprisingly, with the associated social disgrace, Joseph wanted to divorce Mary quietly (Matthew 1:19). However, God intervened in a dream: *'The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call Him Immanuel, which means, God with us.'* (1:23). In a scary and uncertain world, what does the message of *Immanuel* say to us today?

God is present with us

God assured Joseph that He was working in all that Joseph was going through. The eternal and creator God entered time and space as a baby. This baby is both uniquely divine but also fully human. This means that we can know God personally, not just know about Him. The Holy Spirit is committed to making Jesus' life and character real in us, and bringing meaning to our circumstances, just as He worked in Mary's life.

God is on our side

Christmas touches some raw nerves in our lives, including stress, family rows, loneliness and financial pressures. However, God does not remain aloof from our experiences. In Jesus He enters our world of hopes and fears, joys and disappointments. He understands what we are going through, as He is alongside us. By the cross and resurrection, He gave His life that we might know His love, joy, peace and forgiveness.

For Joseph, as well as us, the Christmas message is one of hope in an uncertain world. It is a time to re-consider the claims of *Immanuel* ('God with us') as we entrust ourselves to Him for the coming year.

Is Christmas too commercialised?

Every year Christmas brings a wave of commercial advertisements and sales, but is it taking away from the true meaning of the holiday?

While some argue that it's become too focused on shopping, while others believe the spirit of giving is still alive and well

What's your take on this debate?

Last week the WF meeting was held over tea and cake at the Garden Centre. Looking around their wonderful Christmas displays one member commented that there was no mention of the nativity —the baby in the manger or the true meaning of Christmas.

Christmas Trivia

What is the oldest Christmas song? “Jesus Refulsit Omnium”, written in 4th century Latin is considered the first Christmas carol

Why do we kiss under the mistletoe? The tradition dates back to ancient Norse mythology, symbolising peace and love

What country started the Christmas tree tradition? Germany is credited with introducing the Christmas tradition in the 18th century



Sweet little Jesus boy,
help us to remember who you really are.
**“This is how God showed his love
for us:
God sent his one and only son into
the world to give us life.”**
1 John 4:9

Help is required

Elm Park school will be visiting Salem for their Carol Service on
Wednesday December 17th

We have been given some new Nativity costumes

If you can help to sort these please come on

Wednesday December 10th at 10 a.m.

As few irons and coat hangers would be helpful

The Christmas Kitchen

The kitchen is, at Christmas
A very busy room!
Lots of work in such a rush
Or Christmas Day will loom.

First there is the cake to bake
And many pastries too,
Mince pies and biscuits, festive fare
There is so much to do!

Then comes the day, the kitchen fills
With wondrous cooking smells,
As turkey roasts and parsnip toasts
The cooks must work their spells.

The dinner's on the table
We gather round and eat,
But someone has to wash the pots
And make the kitchen neat.

So have a happy Christmas,
Enjoy the festive fare,
But grab a towel and help the cook,
And show them that you care!

Toilet Twinning

The toilet twinning
certificates are now up in the
toilets (Thank you Dave)

Thank you to those who
made a donation that have
enabled this to happen



Christmas coffee mornings

Wednesday December 3rd at 10 a.m.



Come and enjoy Christmas refreshments
and enjoy fellowship with friends

Saturday December 17th at 10 a.m.

Christingles and Bacon Butties morning

Christmas bags will have been distributed to
children in the local community and they will be
invited to come and make a Christingle and have their photograph
taken with the nativity scene in front of the church



Please support this event if you are able

**Please note: there will be NO Film Afternoon
or Women's Fellowship in December**



Thanks to John Michael Sullivan (See Luke 2:1-16)

12-23-2005

**AT LEAST WE CAN SAY THAT HE WAS BROUGHT
UP IN A STABLE HOME**

And there were shepherds...

In his gospel, Luke tells how the shepherds in the fields were keeping watch over their flocks when they were terrified by the sudden arrival of heavenly angels, surrounded by the glory of the Lord. And the message of the angel that night has rung down the centuries:

"I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." (Luke 2:10,11)

And so, the first people to greet the Saviour were not rich VIPS, but humble shepherds. And in turn, it was the shepherds who became the first evangelists: for they would have gone home to their families and neighbours that night with the amazing news of what they had seen.

Meanwhile, for Mary there followed a time of reflection. She gathered up in her mind all her impressions, and all that the shepherds had shared about the angelic visit. She knew it was treasure, and not to be squandered. Then she quietly pondered in her heart the meaning and significance of all that had happened, so that she would never forget.

Exuberant witness and quiet contemplation are not opposites. They are, in fact, good companions in the spiritual life!

So, this Christmas, let's be filled with the joy that the Saviour has also been born 'to us'. May our lives reflect the glory of His coming, even in a small way. May our interactions with friends, colleagues and families during this Advent season reflect the great joy that the angels brought that night, so long ago.

Prayer Diary December

1st

Church	Kitchen - all who provide & serve refreshments
Offices of the church	Preachers
Church membership	N & O
Church connections	North Mission cluster
World wide	
Church	Cameroon

8th

Church	Lectern - readers & worship leaders
Offices of the church	Property & cleaning
Church membership	P & Q
Church connections	People who use the facilities for various groups
World wide	
Church	Vietnam

15th

Church	Organ - organists/pianists & those who control the hymnal
Offices of the church	Secretary
Church membership	R
Church connections	The community we serve
World wide	
Church	Turkey

22nd

Church	Pews - the congregation
Offices of the church	Stewards
Church membership	S
Church connections	The Methodist connection world wide
World wide	
Church	Colombia

29th

Church	Pulpit - preachers & ministers
Offices of the church	Superintendent - Teddy Kalongo
Church membership	T, U & V
Church connections	The New Room
World wide	
Church	Kyrgyzstan

Preachers for December 2025

Flowers

7th	Rev Leigh Maydew (HC)	Mr B.Gibbs
	4 p.m. Remembering service	
14th	Mrs Viv Lear	Mrs J.Tovey
21st	CAROL SERVICE at 4 p.m. (NO morning service)	—————
25th	Christmas morning service	Rev Leigh Maydew
28th	Service at Badminton Road	



**Wishing you a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year**

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