

Church News

Review:

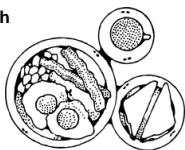
Sponsored bike ride: Our Churchwarden Harry Davies has finished collecting sponsor money for the **Bucks Historic Churches Trust**. He raised a total of £135, half of which goes to the BHCT and half to St Luke's. If you're a cyclist and would like to join him cycling next year, please contact him on the number below.



St Luke's Day: We welcomed some new faces to our well attended **Gift Day** on **14th October**, with both light refreshments and delicious home-made soups. If you forgot to make your donation, there's still time. Contributions can be delivered to The Birches, Church Rd or Abbotsford, Newton Rd until 17th of December or contact John below.



Forthcoming Events: Community breakfast: It was nice to see so many at the **community breakfast** last month – one of the busiest we've ever had! This month we will be serving breakfast on **Saturday 11th November** at the **Community Centre** between 8.30am and 10.30am as usual. A delicious breakfast will be offered along with a warm welcome. It would be lovely to see you!



Remembrance Day : The joint Remembrance day service will take place on **Sun 12th Nov** at **10.45am** at the **Methodist Chapel** this year.

Christmas Fair: St Luke's Christmas fair will be held on **Saturday 25th November** from **2 to 4pm** at the **SH Community Centre**. There will be a variety of craft stalls, a professional photographer, bookstall, Christmas crafts and activities, cake stall, refreshments and of course a visit from Santa himself! Do come down and join us as we start off the festive season with a bang!



Advent: We are fast approaching the season of Advent. But Christmas with Advent calendars or candles but it is hard to explain without giving an overview of the Christian year, so here goes!



There are 3 main Christian festivals in the year:



The first is **Easter** - celebrating the death of Christ (yes, that's right - Jesus' death and resurrection wiped out our sins and blessed us with the grace of forgiveness so that we could be reunited with God, our father in heaven – that's our reason for celebrating)

The second is **Christmas** – God blessed Mary and she gave birth to Jesus who was to become our saviour – another great



reason to celebrate. (Contrary to popular belief, Christmas is not the main Christian festival!)



The third is less familiar and is known as **Pentecost** or Whitsun. This celebrates the day that God our Father sent the Holy Spirit to be with us after Jesus died, so that we would never be alone again.

Both Easter and Christmas have a period of time beforehand so that we can reflect on the Christian story and spend additional time in prayer and contemplation. Before Easter during what we call **Lent**, people often eat simply and deny themselves pleasures to help them focus on their spiritual thoughts. Before Christmas, a period we call **Advent** is a time of joyful anticipation and preparation. In historic times, all Christians were encouraged to fast before Christmas. The most important aspect though is spiritual reflection. Christmas itself is officially a **12 day feast** (that's when you were actually supposed to do your indulging!) starting on Christmas eve and leading to Epiphany or twelfth night on 6th January! So now you know!



As Christmas is a bit of a hectic time with lots of commitments, we'd like to give you advance warning of Christmas service dates, especially as they are not at usual times: schedule them in your phone or calendar now, so you know when they are. We look forward to seeing you!

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| 3rd Dec | 4pm | Christingle service* (in aid of The Children's Society) |
| 10 th Dec | 4pm | Carol service (9 lessons and carols) |
| 17 th Dec | 9am | Morning Worship |
| 24 th Dec | 4pm | Crib service (Aimed at children, but open to all) |
| 24 th Dec | 11.30pm | Holy Communion (Midnight Mass) |

* For those unfamiliar with the Christingle ("Christ light") service, it originated in Moravia in 1747. Participants are given an orange with a candle to represent Christ in the world. The service is aimed at children but open to all.



Church Benefice Website: www.brickhillschurches.org.uk. If you want to come to a service, all church service times are listed on the website, along with contact details for the Rector.

If you would like to come to church but have mobility problems please ring John (see below) regarding transport. If you would like to volunteer to help, have a prayer request or enquiry, please ring **Harry: Churchwarden, on 07773065271, Diane: Assistant Churchwarden (unofficial), on 270409 or 3John: Treasurer, on 270202.**