

A Christmas Message and Invitation from James

Christmas is such a poignant time of year. The season is so filled with wonder, joy, and expectation. But for some of us, those feelings can be tempered with sorrow while perhaps we remember those who are no longer with us to celebrate and share. For all of us Christmas is a good time to ponder and reflect on the way our world is, and to think about the challenges faced by all of us at so many levels. But the main message of Christmas is one of hope, opportunity, and wonder. We consider the wonderful everlasting and immeasurable love of God, who sent his Son into the world that we might know him and love him. And we wait for the establishment of his Kingdom, where love, goodness and peace will reign supreme.

We can't wait to celebrate Christmas again this year, and we are looking forward to welcoming many of you to our services. We always try to offer a good variety of services each year and we hope that there is something for everyone, so please take your pick.

We are holding two Christingle Services this year, in each church, both starting at 5.00pm

Christingle - Monday 18th December, 5.00pm All Saints Church, North Wootton
Christingle - Tuesday 19th December, 5.00pm St. Mary's Church, South Wootton

Our Christingle Services are especially suitable for families with young children. We will tell the Nativity Story and children and grown-ups will be invited to take part. We will sing some lovely songs and carols and, of course, give each of the children their own Christingle which will be lit during the service before the sweets and raisins are eaten up! There is no need to book seats for these, or any of our services again this year – simply turn up!

Traditional Carol Service – Sunday 17th December 7.00pm at All Saints Church, North Wootton

Come along to this Carol Service to hear the traditional Christmas readings, sing your favourite carols, and get that “It's beginning to feel a lot like Christmas” mood. Before you go home, there will be mulled wine and mince pies to enjoy.

Carol Singing Event – Saturday 23rd December 6.00pm at St. Mary's Church, South Wootton

Wrap up warm for this one, and bring your torches because the church heating won't be on, and the lights will be turned off. We like to make Carol Singing Event like an outdoor, wintry experience – but with a roof over our head just in case in rains, sleet or snows too much... Our bucket collection this year will be for the King's Lynn Night Shelter.

Midnight Mass – Christmas Eve, 11.30pm at St. Mary's Church, South Wootton

For many people this is the best way to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, and to begin Christmas Day itself – although it is followed by a long sleep for most of us. We hear the traditional Christmas readings from the Bible, sing familiar carols and we aim to say “Happy Christmas” as near to midnight as possible.

Christmas Holy Communion – Christmas Day, 10.00am at All Saints Church, North Wootton

Come to All Saints Church on Christmas Day for a relaxed, and joyful service. Carols, prayers and a message about the birth of our Saviour.

I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

James