

Small Groups Material — Groups at Prayer

Christmas 2017

*The aim of this session is to spend time in prayer as a group. The Word section (which leads into the Worship section) is deliberately short so that there is plenty of time to pray. It might be better to get one person to lead both Word and Worship.
You could get different people to lead the different prayer sections.*

Welcome (10 mins) Can you remember a time when you've been 'bursting' to tell some exciting news - or that you have received some?

Word (10 mins) As you read this familiar passage, imagine that you are in the story as one of the characters. Read Luke 2. 8 - 20. Get one person to read it all.
Of all the people that God could have chosen to announce the birth of his Son, why do you suppose God chose these shepherds? How did they respond?

Worship (10 mins) Here's a song you could watch. It's rather 'American' - but, it does capture something wonderful of the magic of Christmas.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XI2c9yptr4U>
There are some words of 'O come all ye faithful' below if you would like to sing together.
Move into a time of praise and thanks to God for his wonderful gift of Jesus.

Witness - PRAYER

A. Christmas in St Mary's & the Benefice (20 mins)

There's a lot going on around the Benefice. Pray for all the people making these events happen and for Jesus to be worshipped through them.
Use the details of events (listed further down) to stimulate your prayer - see the great opportunities in each rather than reading out every single event!!

B. Christmas in the UK (15 mins)

Christmas can put great stress on people and families.

Pray for:

those in poverty & mental illness
the bereaved and lonely
the homeless and refugee
those seeking to help them like....

Christians Against Poverty

Church Urban Fund:

<https://www.cuf.org.uk/pages/search.aspx?q=Christmas>

The Samaritans

Do you know of someone who became a Christian at Christmas?

What about praying for the wonderful opportunities Christmas presents in different ways nationally? e.g. on TV & radio, in schools, universities & businesses. There will be thousands of Carol Services around the country. Pray for all those organising and speaking at them.

C. Christmas for our Group (20 mins)

Share what this Christmas is for each of the group members and what they would like prayer for.

Pray for any social event your group is organising.

CHRISTMAS AT ST. MARY'S

Women's Events: wreath making (Churchill Sat 2nd; St Mary's Tues 5th Dec)

Men's Event: Skittles Evening (Sun Inn, Hook Norton, Fri 8th Dec)

CAP Hamper packing (3rd Dec)

Benefice Advent Carols (6pm at St Andrew's Kingham)

Gospel Choir: Chippy Christmas Event in Town Centre (6.30pm)

Come for Tea (2.30-4pm in Parish Rooms)

Youth Christmas Party (7-9pm in Parish Rooms)

Carols by Candlelight (6pm in St Mary's Church)

Christingle Nativity Service (4pm in St Mary's Church)

Midnight Service (11.30pm in St Mary's Church) Christmas BCP Communion
(8am in St Mary's Church)

Christmas Day Family Celebration (10.45am in St Mary's Church)

CHRISTMAS SERVICES AROUND THE BENEFICE

6.00pm Kingham Primary School's Carol Service at All Saints, Churchill

Sun 10 Dec Little Compton - Carol Service

Tues 12 Dec 6.30pm: Over Norton Carols on the Green tbc

Sat 16th Dec 5.00pm Salford Carol Service

Sun 17th Dec 6.0pm St Mary's, Chipping Norton Carols by Candlelight

Wed 20 Dec

9.15am: St James' Chapel, Over Norton Carol Service 10.45am Churchill
Nativity Service

11.00am: Cornwell Carol Service 4.00pm: Chastleton Carol Service 4.30pm

Kingham Carols on the Green

6.30pm: Little Compton Heythrop Hunt Carol Service

Sun 24th Dec

Christmas Eve 5.00pm: Kingham (Carols by Candlelight)

4.00pm: Christingle Service St Mary's CN

6.00pm: Little Rollright (Carols by Candlelight) 11.00pm: Churchill Midnight
Communion

11.30pm Little Compton Midnight Communion

Christmas Day 9.00am: Churchill Traditional Christmas Communion 10.30am:

Salford Family Communion

10.30am: Chastleton Family Communion 10.30am: Cornwell Family

Communion 10.45am Kingham: All Age Service

O Come All Ye Faithful
O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him,
Born the King of Angels!

O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.

Sing, alleluia,
All ye choirs of angels;
O sing, all ye blissful ones of heav'n above.
Glory to God
In the highest glory!

O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be the glory giv'n;
Word of the Father,
Now in the flesh appearing,

O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
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