



Sunday 8th December 2024

This week's service

10:45 Morning Worship
led by Nigel Worth



This week's reading



John 10:1-15
Luke 2:8 -11

A thought from Nigel

The four themes of Advent are hope, peace, joy, and love, and each week of Advent focuses on one of these themes: This week it's **Peace**.

"The Shepherd is missing"

In John 1:10-11 it says Jesus Came in the world and lived in the world, But Many Did Not Recognise Him!

Similarly, in the present day, many people still don't recognise Jesus as the Good Shepherd. Though He offers peace, salvation, and guidance, many live without acknowledging Him, choosing instead to follow other paths that promise fulfilment but leaves them empty and, in some cases, alone.

Today we will look at the Good Shepherd and what that really means....

Prayer for the week

Almighty God,
purify our hearts and minds,
that when your Son Jesus Christ comes
again as judge and saviour
we may be ready to receive him,
who is our Lord and our God. Amen

Recycling stamps for Alzheimer's Society



Don't forget to save your used postage stamps – especially any Christmas ones. Please leave at least 1/2 inch around each one so the backing can be removed. There's a box on the table at the back of church to put your stamps in. Thank you. Gwen

Advent 1955

by John Betjeman

The Advent wind begins to stir
With sea-like sounds in our Scotch fir,
It's dark at breakfast, dark at tea,
And in between we only see
Clouds hurrying across the sky
And rain-wet roads the wind blows dry
And branches bending to the gale
Against great skies all silver pale
The world seems travelling into space,
And travelling at a faster pace
Than in the leisured summer weather
When we and it sit out together,
For now we feel the world spin round
On some momentous journey bound -
Journey to what? to whom? to where?
The Advent bells call out 'Prepare,
Your world is journeying to the birth
Of God made Man for us on earth.'

And how, in fact, do we prepare
The great day that waits us there -
For the twenty-fifth day of December,
The birth of Christ? For some it means
An interchange of hunting scenes
On coloured cards, And I remember
Last year I sent out twenty yards,
Laid end to end, of Christmas cards
To people that I scarcely know -
They'd sent a card to me, and so
I had to send one back. Oh dear!
Is this a form of Christmas cheer?
Or is it, which is less surprising,
My pride gone in for advertising?
The only cards that really count
Are that extremely small amount
From real friends who keep in touch
And are not rich but love us much
Some ways indeed are very odd
By which we hail the birth of God.

We raise the price of things in shops,
We give plain boxes fancy tops
And lines which traders cannot sell
Thus parcell'd go extremely well
We dole out bribes we call a present
To those to whom we must be pleasant
For business reasons. Our defence is
These bribes are charged against ex-
penses
And bring relief in Income Tax
Enough of these unworthy cracks!
'The time draws near the birth of
Christ'.
A present that cannot be priced
Given two thousand years ago
Yet if God had not given so
He still would be a distant stranger
And not the Baby in the manger.

Church diary

Tuesday 10th December
1pm Experience Christmas
 with Hartshorne Primary School

Friday 13th December
2pm Hartshorne Primary School
 Carol Service

Sunday 15th December
10:45 Holy Communion
 led by Rev Mike Firbank
7pm Sunday Night Live
 Informal Christmas Music

Thursday 19th December
Friday 20th December
2pm Hartshorne Primary School
 Nativity Service

Sunday 22nd December
4pm Carol Service
 Storm 10 playing traditional carols

Christmas Eve 24th December
11.30pm Midnight Communion
 led by Rev Mike Firbank

Christmas Day 25th December
10am Short Family Service
 led by Sean and Sandra O'Toole

Sunday 29th December
10:00 Joint Minster Service at
Church Gresley
 "Forest Church" followed by walk
 and a soup lunch

Cleaning Rota

Dec 15 th	Jeff	Main body
" "	Brian A	Sweeping porch
Dec 22 nd	Deb & Nige	Whole church
Dec 29 th	Brian Redfern	Main body, kitchen & N. Aisle
" "	Bill	Brasses
Jan 5 th	Christine G	Main body, vestry & bell tower, sweeping porch
Jan 12 th	Friday house group	Whole church, including brasses

Reading, Intercessions & Refreshments Rota

	Reading	Intercessions	Tea / Coffee
Dec 8 th	Sam	Sean	Maxine & Jane
Dec 15 th	Alison	Brian R	Carol
Dec 22 nd	CAROL SERVICE		
Dec 29 th	JOINT MINSTER SERVICE AT GRESLEY		

St John's
 Children's
 Drama Group
 presents:

Nik Nak the Alien's First Christmas

Saturday 14th December
 3pm

St John's Church
 Newhall



LIVE MODERN WORSHIP

SUNDAY NIGHT LIVE

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

SUNDAY 15TH DECEMBER 2024

WITH GUEST SPEAKER

Doors open 6.45 pm

REV KARA GANDER

Traditional CAROL SERVICE

With force 10 big band

Celebrate the spirit of Christmas with our enchanting Carol Service. Gather with family and friends to enjoy the timeless melodies that echo the joy, warmth, and love of Christmas

SUNDAY 22ND DECEMBER @4PM