

Sunday 14th December 2025

Today's services

10:45 Morning Worship

with Sean O'Toole

6.45pm Sunday Night Live

with Magical Mayhem



Today's Reading



Philippians 4: 4 -9

A Thought from Sean

Paul tells us to 'Rejoice always.' This is not the easiest thing to do especially when our lives are pressed down by the circumstances around us. God given joy springs from our relationship with Jesus, which should not be dependent on external circumstances. Joy is an essential part of the Christian's life; it is a gift of the Holy Spirit that provides strength in difficult times. To cultivate this supernatural joy, we need to learn how to develop and rely on a deeper relationship with Father God through all those ups and downs of life. Jesus promised each one of us who trusts in Him, the gift of abundant life.

Prayer for the week

God for whom we watch and wait,
you sent John the Baptist to
prepare the way of your Son:
give us courage to speak the
truth,
to hunger for justice,
and to suffer for the cause of right,
with Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

THE TREE by Faith Forster

The room lay still and silent, only
the sweet high tinkling music of
innumerable fragile spheres
rang out their joyful message
from the tree ...

which winked and glowed in radiancy
its branches heavy with the weight of light
and deeper gift-wrapped burdens in its heart ...
And one small child
crept softly into the darkened room
to stand apart
and gaze in silence at the sight,
speechless in awe and wonder at this alien tree
that fruited light and splendid mystery ...

As long ago
another child
first opened wide His eyes in gloom
and saw a light no other eyes could see,
He also was transfixed in heart
long long before His body knew
that rooting to the ground ...

The Word was silent then
as down the years
the distant hidden music reached
His infant ears,
and by the shining of His natal star
in that dim corner of the world's own night
He saw a tree all radiant with light,



its dark, moist
branches glistening
from afar,
and He Himself the
red-wrapped gift
that hung there
heavily ...

Yet on that still and
holy night
when first He looked
upon the sight
He did not turn his
face away
from his own
Christmas tree,
that waited for His gift
to you and me ...

CHURCH CALENDAR



Thursday 18th December

7pm Advent Course

in the church hall

'Growing Church'

How does knowing Jesus better helps to grow church?

Sunday 21st December

4pm Traditional Carol Service

led by Patrick and Kara
with Force 10 Big Band

Wednesday 24th December

11.30pm Midnight Communion

with Rev Mike Firbank

Thursday 25th December

Christmas Day

10am Short service of Family Worship

with Sean O'Toole

Children, feel free to bring along your favourite gifts to show.

Sunday 28th December

10:00 Service at Gresley Church

Sunday 4th January

10:45 All-age Worship

with Rev Mike Firbank

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"Christmas gift suggestions: To your enemy, forgiveness. To an opponent, tolerance. To a friend, your heart. To a customer, service. To all, charity. To every child, a good example. To yourself, respect." ~Oren Arnold

Cleaning Rota

Dec 21 st	Christine G	Main body, vestry & bell tower, sweeping porch
Dec 28 th	Deb & Nige	Whole church
Jan 4 th	Jeff	Main body
" "	Brian A	Sweeping porch
" "	Bill	Brasses
Jan 11 th	Brian Redfern	Main body, kitchen & N. Aisle
Jan 18 th	Friday HG	Whole church, including brasses

Reading, Intercessions and Refreshments Rota

	Reading	Intercessions	Tea/coffee
Dec 14 th	Brian	Christine	James
Dec 21 st	CAROL SERVICE		
Dec 28 th	No Service at Hartshorne		
Jan 4 th	Sandra	Nigel	Maxine & Jane
Jan 11 th	Paul	Brian	Deb W
Jan 18 th	Jeff	Christine	Gwen

Meet & greet/Tidying Church after the service Rota

	Meet and greet	Tidying after service
Dec 14 th	Christine T	Nathan
Dec 21 st	CAROL SERVICE	
Dec 28 th	No Service at Hartshorne	
Jan 4 th	Christine T	Jean
Jan 11 th	Carol J – Jeff	Jeff
Jan 18 th	Christine G - Sean	Emily

1 Corinthians 13 – a Christmas Version

If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny balls, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another decorator. If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another cook. If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love to my family, it profits me nothing. If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties and sing in the choir's cantata but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.

Love stops the cooking to hug the child. Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the husband. Love is kind, though harried and tired. Love doesn't envy another's home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens. Love doesn't yell at the kids to get out of the way but is thankful they are there to be in the way. Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return but rejoices in giving to those who can't. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. Video games will break, pearl necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust, but giving the gift of love will endure. Merry Christmas and lots of love to you and yours!

This was shared at the Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch 2015