

Holy Trinity Cannes



Holy Trinity Newsletter, Issue 719

Christmas 2017/New Year

The Cannes OPENER

Dear friends

Where would we be without you? This letter gives me the opportunity to say a very heartfelt thank-you to everyone who has contributed so much to the life of our church in 2017. That includes the routine things that just happen — as if by a miracle — week after week and the special events that brighten the life of our community and draw us closer together. Thank you.

There has been much to encourage us over the last year: one highlight among many was the baptism and confirmation service in September, with Bishop Robert. This was the fruit of seeds sown through our Sunday Club and Youth Work on the one hand, and *Alpha* and *Christianity Explored* on the other. Let's keep sowing those Gospel seeds in 2018! Who could you invite to *Christianity Explored* in February?

Another key moment in the life of our church is our monthly prayer breakfast. In December, we built our prayers around PSALM 9, with verse 10 as a key challenge and encouragement: "*Those who know your name will trust in you, for you, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek you.*"

You can see the challenge immediately: it is one thing (a very good thing) to "*know God's name*" ... but we have to progress beyond that to a personal commitment to *entrust* our lives to him. Could that be your new year's resolution: to grow into a deeper trust in the Lord?

We have every reason to put our trust in God: "*for you, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek you.*" Mindful of this biblical promise, twinned with our own experience of God's faithful support throughout 2017, we can step out in faith in 2018. There are all sorts of reasons to feel gloomy: but when we remember God's protection in the past, we can trust him for the future. Cheerfully and trustingly! May God bless you richly this Christmas and throughout 2018.

Giles

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Christmas Week



Monday 25th

Christmas Day

9am **Holy Communion**

10:30am **Family**

**Service with
Communion**

Sunday 31st

9am **Holy Communion**

10:30 **Morning Prayer**

Sunday 7th January

9am **Holy Communion**

10:30 **Morning Prayer**

On Christmas Eve we light the fourth candle – a symbol of Joy
The circle of **peace, love, and hope** is almost complete with bright
candles. So close is Christmas and its promise, that already we are
filled with gladness, and light a last candle to share **joy** with all those
who rejoice.

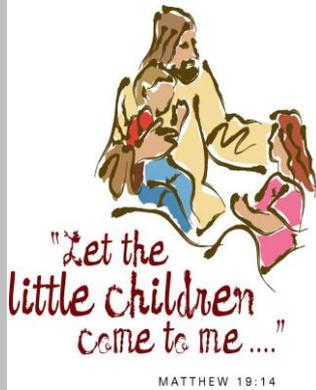


After the service....

If you have need of personal prayer please come to the chancel section of the church, where they'll be members of the **Prayer Team** available to pray for you, whatever the need.

Continue our time of fellowship together over a cup of coffee or a cold drink in the church centre.

~~~~~ **Kids Korner** ~~~~~



A heartfelt 'Thank you' to all the teachers who have taught and supported our young people so faithfully in 2017. I would have been lost without you!

Our Sunday Club continued to grow this year. Our crèche room remains available to parents on a Sunday morning and the 6-10 group is thriving - we were especially delighted to welcome some new families this year. The 11+ group is quickly growing and our 6-weekly 'YD Nights' (Young Disciples) are a great success, with Bible study and various fun and games on offer. The introduction of art activities as an in-road to learning about God has also been very well-received by this group.

Our young people have been involved in many activities this year: they have been playing instruments during the service, joining in with the Children's Talks, doing some readings and of course, were involved with the recent Christmas Fair and Nativity Play. Their efforts in selling cakes to raise funds for Barnabas also continues, as does the termly 'Kids Eat for Free' lunches.

We look forward to another year ahead with our Holy Trinity youth and we are so grateful to their parents, for bringing them to church every week. We pray for God's blessing on our young people and we ask for His guidance and protection over their lives.

**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all!**

Claire Venon



## Christmas is a time for.....



### 1. Wonder and Worship

- On this **Christmas Eve**, our service at 9:00am is Holy Communion followed at 10:30am with **Morning Prayer**. At 4pm there'll be a **Children's Carol Service**, a simple half hour service, with the **Midnight Communion** at 11:30pm.
- **On Christmas Day** at 9:00am there will be a Holy Communion service followed at 10:30am with a **Christmas Day Family Service**, concluding with Communion.
- There'll be a **Christmas Day lunch** provided for those who are **alone** this Christmas. Many thanks to Olivia & Ken for organizing this.

## Christmas is a time for ....



### 2. Support and Sharing

- The **Holy Trinity Prayer Diary** and the **ICS Prayer Diary** are available for you to pick up and use in conjunction with your daily prayers, supporting Holy Trinity Cannes and other European churches. There are also copies of the **European Anglican** magazine with news from around the Diocese.
- Come along to our monthly **Prayer Breakfast** usually on the first Saturday of the month and support Holy Trinity Cannes in prayer. The first one in 2018 will be on **Saturday 6th January** in the church centre and will include a Communion service for Epiphany.
- Together with the other local Cannes churches, we support '**J'avais faim**' providing hot meals through the winter for the hungry and homeless. Please continue to put your coins and other donations in the glass jar.
- **Save the stamps** from your Christmas post and put in the box for ICS supporting outreach among English speakers in Europe.
- **Home groups** are having a break over Christmas. Why not make it your New Year resolution to join your local group in 2018?...an opportunity for faith building and fellowship.

## Christmas is a time for .....



### 3. Generous Giving

- The **Bishop's Advent Appeal** this year is to support homeless refugees and asylum seekers in Rome. The offerings from the Carol Service, 526€ have been sent to support this appeal.
- As 2017 draws to a close, **thank you** to all who give generously to the ministry of Holy Trinity. We receive **no outside support** so are very dependent on all our givers.

## Christmas Blessing:

***“May the humility of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the joy of the angels and the peace of the Christ-child be God’s gifts to us and to people everywhere this Christmas time. And may the blessing of the Christ-child be upon us always.”***

'Twas the night before Christmas and Mary & Joe,  
had travelled all day, and had no place to go.  
The clerk at the inn said, “I’m sorry we’re booked.  
There must be some place you haven’t looked.”  
'Twas the night before Christmas, no one seemed to care,  
that Joseph and Mary even were there.  
They found an old stable and Mary was glad,  
it seemed the best thing that the inn keeper had.  
'Twas the night before Christmas, at Gabriel’s command,  
the choir of heaven departed as planned.  
“We’ll make the announcements, and then while they gaze,  
we’ll sing our carols of worship and praise.”  
'Twas the night before Christmas, the cattle were still.  
The cry of that baby gave Mary a thrill.  
The angels delivered their message to men,  
they seemed so excited, they sang it again.  
'Twas the night before Christmas when God sent to earth,  
the world’s greatest present, it was Jesus’ birth.  
Wrapped in a blanket, and sleeping on hay,  
God became man, on that first Christmas day.



## Odds and Ends...

- This is the final edition of the **OPENER** for 2017. The next edition will appear on 7th January 2018. In the meantime, pick up a copy of our **“What’s on”** newsheet.
- There are a number of Christmas cards left in the church centre for various people, check if there is one for you.
- Our regular weekly activities: **home groups and Shepherd & Dog** will resume week commencing 8<sup>th</sup> January.
- **Personal prayer** is available every Sunday after the service at the front of the church with members of the Prayer Team.
- **Each Sunday** you’re welcome after the service to stay for a drink in the church centre; take a look on the bookstall, there are bibles on sale, magazines, cards, homemade marmalades, chutney etc...and **join in our fellowship lunches**, the first one will be on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January.
- **Thank you to all** who have decorated the church with the tree etc; to the wonderful **catering team** who have organized and prepared food for Christmas and during the year and all who have given and helped this Christmas in so many different ways.

**The safeguarding of our children and vulnerable adults is the responsibility of every member of the congregation. Please report concerns to the Chaplain or Judith Widdop.**