

Holy Trinity Cannes



Holy Trinity Newsletter, Issue 921

Christmas 2021/New Year 2022

The Cannes OPENER

Dear friends,

If you've been in Cannes over the last few Christmases, you'll have seen the colossal Christmas tree. Of course, it wasn't a Christmas tree at all: it was a huge conical structure looking more like a clown's hat. Conical and comical at the same time. I was pleased that the phoney "tree" hadn't sprouted up again this year ... but alas it's now been replaced by yet another illuminated cone, this time looking more like a pagoda than a Christmas tree! Walk inside and admire it - for up to 5 seconds ... before its charm wears off!

Now this doesn't matter, it all makes the town look jolly and festive. But it betrays what's going on in today's celebrations of Christmas: showy, expensive, too clever-by-half and completely hollow!

The angels of Bethlehem brought a message of peace instead of fear; of joy in place of sorrow; of goodwill at a time where there was no room at the inn. They brought a message of God surprising us by coming so close to us.

We're still struggling through a pandemic of fear and sorrow, where kindness and goodwill are often hard to find. And for many this Christmas, God seems far away because they're sensitive to their pains, fears and setbacks; or else he seems completely absent, because it's never occurred to them to expect him. We need to bring them the message of Christ.

Without the closeness of God in Christ, without the peace and joy and goodwill of the nativity, the colossal structures of the "Fêtes de fin d'année" lose their charm all too quickly, and turn out to be fake and hollow. Now there's nothing wrong with being jolly and festive: I hope you'll be able to enjoy all that, with much enthusiasm!

But we're also determined to hold Christ at the forefront of Christmas. God has come close to us. This Christmas let's come close to him and come close to one another as we gather to worship. Even fake cones point up to heaven!

Let me take this opportunity to thank everyone for all their hard work, their Christian commitment, their love and goodwill, their prayers and support which have kept Holy Trinity Church twinkling and pointing up through the gloom. We've learnt to "renew our strength", and God is good!

Wishing you a very joyful Christmas and blessings in 2022.

Your chaplain
Giles

Christmas Week



Sunday 19th

9am Holy Communion
10:30am Morning Prayer
6pm Carol Service

Friday 24th

Christmas Eve

4pm Children's Carols
11:30pm Midnight
Communion

Saturday 25th

Christmas Day

9am Holy Communion
10:30am Family Service
with Communion

Sunday 26th

10:30am Morning Prayer

Sunday 2nd January

10:30am Morning Prayer

To Contact **Holy Trinity** or the Chaplain, **Rev'd Giles Williams**,
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Christmas is a time for....

1. Wonder and Worship

- ❖ Our services today are 9:00am Holy Communion followed at 10:30am with Morning Prayer. Our Carol Service this evening will be at 6pm.
- ❖ On Christmas Eve, at 4pm there'll be a Children's Carol Service, a simple half-hour service with smaller children in mind. Get Christmas off to a holy start! A midnight eucharist with carols at 11:30pm.
- ❖ Christmas from stable to table. A peaceful start to Christmas Day with Holy Communion at 9:00am followed at 10:30am with a Family Communion service with carols for children and all ages.
- ❖ Please note, there'll be no 9:00am Communion service on 26th December and 2nd January. The 10:30am service will take place as usual.



Christmas is a time for

2. Support and Sharing

- ❖ We are offering a Christmas Day lunch for those who are alone.
- ❖ Thank you to those who organized and supported our Christmas Sales. It was a great effort and over the three Sunday sales, we raised an amazing €3,000 for our church funds.
- ❖ During the year we have offered Wednesday Fellowship evenings via Zoom studying I Corinthians, Jonah and during Advent the expectations of the coming of the Messiah. We ran an afternoon Alpha Course, introducing key ideas and experiences of the Christian faith, which was well supported.
- ❖ We have held our monthly Prayer Breakfast meetings in the Church centre providing an important part of our Church ministry.
- ❖ Thank you to all who have contributed to our services; to our live-streaming team who have reached out to those unable to attend the Church, and those who have supported us in so many different ways.
- ❖ Please continue to put your coins and other donations in the glass jar to support J'avais faim, providing hot meals through the winter for the hungry and homeless. Save the stamps from your Christmas post and put in the box for ICS supporting outreach among English speakers in Europe and corks can be recycled for cancer support.



Christmas is a time for

3. Generous Giving

- ❖ As 2021 draws to a close, thank you to all who have given so generously to the ministry of Holy Trinity in what has been a challenging year financially. We receive no outside support so are very dependent on all our givers.
- ❖ Many of our members give by standing order and if you're not already part of our Planned Giving scheme, please consider setting up a banker's order in 2022.



Coming up in 2022

- ❖ A Holy Communion service for Epiphany on Thursday 6th January at 10:00am.
- ❖ Christianity Explored – a seven week course starting Thursday 6th January at 3pm.
- ❖ Hope Explored – a three session course via Zoom starting 12th January.

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."

Amen