

They returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen. Luke 2:20

Sunday 26 We're following the readings for Stephen, the first Martyr, today. It seems odd that it's just after Christmas ("on the feast of Stephen"). But, like the massacre of the innocents, it reminds us that Christmas is not just about sentimentality. He came to engage with all of human life including tragedy, and His engagement with us led Him to the Cross.

Monday 27 The office and church are closed this week. Please give thanks for the efforts of all our staff in this busiest season and pray for a good rest for them.

28th – 30th Let's give thanks for all the ways God has blessed us 2010 – not least in bringing us the 2 Lizzes and Ray – and pray for fresh vision and grace for the New Year, that God may have His way to the full among us and that we may grow in Him.

31 Friday Please pray for our Watch Night service tonight and pray for Liz, who is leading.

God bless you in 2011 and thank you for all your prayers!

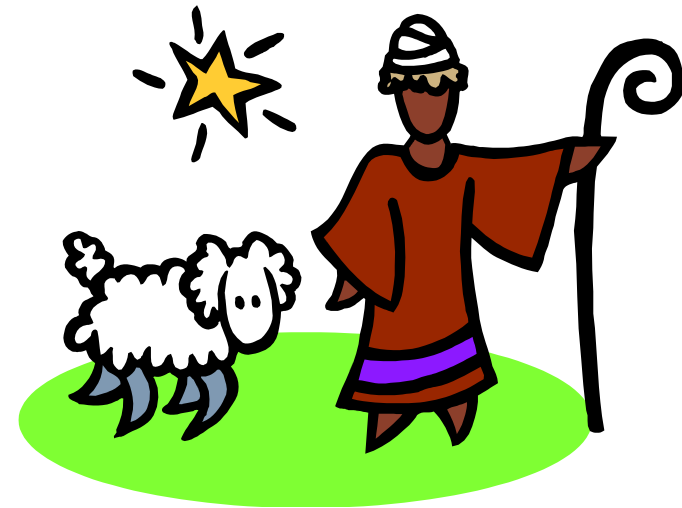
Missionary News

Paul and Lesley Evans have specially asked our prayers as they are on a mission tour of the Falkland Islands right now.

- For safety and good weather as they travel about the islands
- For a tough ministry situation!
- For the Tabernacle Church folk who have been through a testing time but now are experiencing some refreshment and encouragement
- For God to work with Paul and Lesley to honour His name in blessing all as they continue to minister and meet folk.



Prayer News



December 2010

***St Matthew's aims to be an Acts 2 Church,
valuing Awe, Unity, Generosity, Hospitality and Growth.***

Glory to God in the highest!...

Luke 2:14

Sunday 5 Let's pray today for the Barnabas Fund and for the school for Christian Arab children they support in Bethlehem. Our all-age service today is a Gift Service for the school – let's send our prayers as well as money to them.

Monday 6 Today's Light Up Your Life service is for bereaved people in Walsall, for whom Christmas can be a lonely time: and for the hospice to raise money and awareness. Please pray for them.

Tuesday 7 Please pray for the children who were baptised on Sunday, and for their families. Also for all the bereaved who came to our Memorial Service on Sunday.

Wed 8 Our Guides are holding a special celebration this evening for 5 members who have received Baden Powell awards. Give thanks for our Guides and their wonderful achievements!

Thursday 9 The Alpha Course finished last week. Please pray for everyone who was on the course as we ask next: where do we go from here, Lord, with the things you have done in our lives?

Friday 10 Today is Hydesville school's Carol Service. Please pray for the staff, parents and children, our guests at St Matthew's.

Saturday 11 Urban Spirit – a celebration event for Christian Youth from all over Walsall – is meeting tonight with the National Director of Youth for Christ as guest speaker. Pray for an inspiring night!

...and peace to his people on earth, on whom His favour rests
Luke 2:14

Sunday 12 Our theme this Sunday is the humility of John the Baptist. Pray that we may learn from him how to point to Jesus.

Monday 13 Please pray for the Men's Fellowship as they have their Christmas dinner later this week – pray for guidance and peace about their future direction.

Tuesday 14 Today is Queen Mary Boys' School Carol Service. Pray for everyone who comes to feel afresh the wonder of the Christmas story.

Wed 15 Tonight it's Mayfield School's turn. May they also be blessed and encouraged as they sing carols in St Matthew's.

Thursday 16 Not least we want to pray for our own Blue Coat Schools as they come into Church for Christmas services, the Juniors today and the Infants tomorrow.

Friday 17 The Town Centre Ministry hold their Carol Service at St Paul's today. Let's thank God for the opportunities to praise Him and pray that the Good News of Jesus' birth will ring out all over Walsall this Christmas!

Saturday 18 Please pray for our Asian Congregation as they have another 24 hour prayer session today, giving thanks for their faith and vision.

Let us go to Bethlehem to see this thing that has happened...
Luke 2:15

Sunday 19 Tonight we have our own Carol Service. Please pray for George Fisher who is preaching and for lots of guests who will be open to hear the story of Jesus coming into the world to save us.

Monday 20 Let's give thanks for Church Chill Praise tonight as they meet for a Christmas dinner – for their passion, faith and love for the Lord.

Tuesday 21 Give thanks for our brilliant new website! Pray that it will be effective in its communication with people and encourage them to come to St Matthew's and to the Lord!

Wed 22 Remember our students, back for the holidays, and pray that we may be a blessing and encouragement to them.

Thursday 23 Please pray for all the preparations for tomorrow's Crib Service! Especially for lots of people to come along and respond with awe to the wonderful story of the birth of Jesus.

Friday 24 We often get many visitors to the Midnight Mass. Please pray that hearts will be touched as people respond to the love that came down at Christmas, and for Liz who is preaching tonight.

Saturday 25 It's Christmas Day. Let's just give thanks for God's wonderful goodness to us, especially in the gift of His Son Jesus.