

# All Saints' Laleham

Connect, Grow, Serve, Share, Worship

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A new hand-rail next to the steps by the church porch.

# All Saints' Laleham

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## Parish Newsletter

DEC 2017 – JAN 2018 // FREE



## Stir up Sunday

Have you heard of 'Stir up Sunday'? Jamie Oliver and Delia Smith refer to it, and even The Sun has an article on it under the heading 'Pud to know!'. It refers to the last Sunday of November when cooks 'stir up' their Christmas pudding mix.

The phrase comes from the old Church of England prayer for the Sunday before Advent, which says:

“ Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may of thee be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”

Like a slice of Christmas pudding, it is rich and full of good things. Christians recognise that God wants our lives to be full of 'the fruit of good works', but that we need God to stir us up with the motivation to love our neighbour as ourselves.

The Telegraph reckons that 'more than 90 per cent of families buy pre-made puddings', so not many of us will actually be stirring up on the 26th November. However 'good works' are something that enrich every life and community, and we could all do with being stirred up more.

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# Christmas

SERVICES AT ALL SAINTS'

We would be delighted to welcome you to any of these services as part of your celebration this Christmas.

### SUNDAY 3RD FROM 6.15PM LIGHTING UP LALEHAM

Mulled wine, mince pies, carols, candles and fireworks.

### SUNDAY 10TH AT 3PM NATIVITY SERVICE

A family service where children are invited to come dressed up as a shepherd, angel, wise man or animal as we recreate a nativity tableau, and sing well known songs. Lasts 25 minutes, with a 'Happy Birthday Jesus' cake and balloon.

### SUNDAY 17TH AT 6.30PM LESSONS AND CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Lessons, congregational carols and a variety of choir items that tell the Christmas story. With mulled wine and mince pies to follow.

### CHRISTMAS EVE 24TH AT 10AM, 3PM & 4.30PM ALL AGE CHRISTINGLE

This service is so popular that we repeat it! Full of fun for all ages, it celebrates the real meaning of Christmas.

### CHRISTMAS EVE 24TH AT 6.30PM CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

A traditional carol service of congregational carols and Bible readings that tell the Christmas story, lasting under an hour.

### CHRISTMAS EVE 24TH AT 11.30PM MIDNIGHT COMMUNION

Carols, candles, and Holy Communion.

### CHRISTMAS DAY 25TH AT 10AM CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

A Christmas celebration for all ages, with Holy Communion, lasting under an hour.

# ☆ Releasing Children from Poverty ☆



Lyz Awor

Compassion is a leading international children's charity with strong links to Laleham. The former UK Director (Richard Atterton) is a minister at All Saints' Church, several members work at the charity's UK HQ in Weybridge, and many more sponsor a child through Compassion.

Compassion have as their mission 'releasing children from poverty'. In November we were visited by Lyz from Uganda who had been sponsored as a child through Compassion, and shared

her story with the church. Lyz was born into a polygamous family where her father died when she was 6 and her mother was HIV positive. Through Compassion she received support, care and an education, eventually graduating from university and getting a job that means she is able to support many in her wider family. Many more such stories, and information on how to sponsor children, can be found at [www.compassionuk.org](http://www.compassionuk.org).



## Church Tower

Over the summer two conifers were felled in the churchyard and the large beech tree trimmed, opening up a lovely view of our Grade 1 listed Church. The Council require that the trees are replaced, but the plan is to keep them from growing as high, and maintaining as much of the view as possible. The Church Magazine from 1935 shows the view with even fewer trees.



taken from The Church Magazine from 1935



Boxes full of Christmas gifts donated by members of All Saints', pictured here ready to be sent to children worldwide, through Operation Christmas Child.



Pumpkin carving, doughnut bobbing and dancing with light sticks were just some of the fun events enjoyed by over 50 children at the Light Party, an alternative to Halloween.

I was able to share briefly what difference Jesus makes when he says: 'I am the light of the world.' I talked about the fear of the dark that

children often have. I walk through the Church graveyard in the dark, which I suspect many adults would find a bit scary! Knowing Jesus is with us can give confidence and hope in scary situations and the dark times of life. Ultimately he is able to break through even the darkness of death.

We symbolised this recently at our Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving, where candles were lit in memory of lost loved ones.

## Is Christmas really Jesus' birthday?

The answer is 'We can't know for sure'.

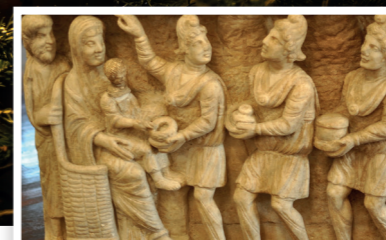
In the early centuries of Christianity there was much more interest in marking Jesus' death and resurrection than his birth. The first recorded celebration of Christmas is December 25, 336. It is often said that the 25th December was chosen because it meant the church could piggy back on existing pagan celebrations. It's possible, and certainly some of the season's modern trappings, like the Christmas tree, do reflect pagan customs borrowed

much later. But there is no actual evidence of early calendrical engineering, and early Christians were clear in their differences with paganism.

### Does it matter?

I think the answer is 'No'. The fact that Jesus was born is historical fact, even if the date is uncertain. More important is why he came. Jesus said that "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." If you would like to find out more about the abundant life Jesus came to bring, why not come along to Church this Christmas?

Magi bear gifts to an infant Jesus in one of the earliest known depictions. 3rd Century Sarcophagus.



## Dates for your diary



### DEC 2017

- SUN 3** 10:00. Holy Communion  
10:30. Morning Service  
18:30. Lighting up Laleham
- SUN 10** 10:00. Morning Service  
10:30. Morning Service  
15:00. Nativity Service  
18:30. Evening Service
- SUN 17** 10:00. Holy Communion  
10:30. Morning Service  
18:30. Lessons and Carols by Candlelight
- SUN 24** 10:00. Christingle  
10:30. no service  
15:00. Christingle  
16:30. Christingle  
18:30. Carols by Candlelight  
23:30. Midnight Holy Communion

- MON 25** 10:00. Christmas Celebration with Holy Communion

- SUN 31** 10:00. Morning Service  
18:30. Evening Service

### JAN 2018

- SUN 7** 10:00. Holy Communion  
10:30. All Age Service  
18:30. Evening Service

- SUN 14** 10:00. Morning Service  
10:30. Holy Communion  
18:30. Evening Service

- SUN 21** 10:00. Holy Communion  
10:30. Morning Service  
18:30. Evening Service

- SUN 28** 10:00. Morning Service  
10:30. Morning Service  
18:30. Holy Communion

Services at 10.30am in Laleham School Hall. Other services in All Saints' Laleham unless specified.