

All Saints' Laleham

Connect, Grow, Serve, Share, Worship

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The meaning of the Christingle

-  The orange represents the world.
-  The red ribbon indicates God's love wrapped around the world and the blood Christ shed on the cross.
-  The dried fruits and sweets are symbols of God's creations. For many people, they also represent the four seasons.
-  The lit candle symbolises Jesus, the light of the world, who brings hope to people living in darkness.

We will be giving Christingles out as part of our special services on **Sunday 23rd December.**

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Parish Newsletter

DEC 2018 – JAN 2019 // FREE

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 2nd Dec from 6.15pm

Lighting up Laleham

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

Sunday 9th Dec 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. Last 25 minutes, with a 'Happy Birthday Jesus' cake and balloons.

Sunday 16th Dec 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.

NEW

Saturday 22nd Dec at 7pm

Contemporary Carols

A new carol service for 2018 blending the best of old and new, well known carols led by our worship band, along with modern Christmas songs. Just an hour, it's a great way to celebrate Christmas with a modern twist in our ancient Church.

Sunday 23rd Dec at 10am, 3pm & 4.30pm

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 Holy 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.

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LALEHAM CHURCH PLAYGROUP

A NEW SEASON



LALEHAM CHURCH PLAYGROUP HAS BEEN CARING FOR LOCAL CHILDREN FOR OVER 40 YEARS.

Set up by the Church in 1976, over 1000 children have experienced its wonderful mix of learning, exploration and nurture in a loving Christian environment. Ofsted rated it 'Outstanding' in its most recent inspection.

For more than 20 years the Playgroup leader has been Heather Hermes. Heather will be stepping down at Christmas for a well-earned retirement and will be succeeded by Louise Hawthorn.

I recently asked them a few questions about themselves and Laleham Church Playgroup.

There is also the amazing team of trained leaders we call 'Aunties'. I think that the secret is that the group has always been prayed for.

HOW HAS THE GROUP CHANGED OVER THE PAST 20 YEARS?

There is a lot more paper-work, and the time is more structured, but the children are still children and their needs haven't changed.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO IN YOUR RETIREMENT?

I will be able to give more time to looking after my three grandchildren, and spending time with Tony my husband. We particularly enjoy ballroom dancing. I also plan to help more with a group for older people in my own church in Wraysbury.

WHY DID YOU WANT TO WORK AT LALEHAM CHURCH PLAYGROUP?

I have been a member of All Saints' Laleham since 2004, have helped with Sunday School and more recently set up Tiny Saints for pre-school children on a Sunday morning.

When the position of Manager at Laleham became available I wasn't looking to move, but members of the congregation kept encouraging me to apply. I visited the Playgroup and realised how very special and nurturing it was and what very experienced and wonderful Aunties worked there. Since that morning I prayed continually and sensed that God wanted me to apply. I did and was appointed.

WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR THE PLAYGROUP?

My vision for the Playgroup is to carry on as it always has, which is to serve the local community and to provide an environment for the children where they can grow in confidence, be nurtured and know that they are loved and valued for who they are. Also for the children to be introduced to the wonderful truth about Jesus, the beautiful world he created for us and show them how Jesus is part of our everyday lives.

WE WILL SAY A FORMAL THANK YOU AND FAREWELL TO HEATHER AND COMMISSION LOUISE AT OUR 11AM SERVICE ON SUNDAY 16TH DECEMBER, TO WHICH ALL FORMER CHILDREN AND PARENTS ARE PARTICULARLY WELCOME.



Heather

HOW DID YOU GET INVOLVED AT THE PLAYGROUP?

When my youngest son attended, I started to volunteer as a parent helper. I was asked if I'd like to work there in 1992 and became leader in 1997.

WHAT IS SO SPECIAL ABOUT THE PLAYGROUP?

So many parents comment on the atmosphere of the group as warm and welcoming, and families are so supportive. As well as a wonderful range of activities, we tell the children how much God loves them, and how each one is special to him.



Louise

COULD YOU TELL US A LITTLE ABOUT YOURSELF?

I have been married to Richard for 20 years and am Mum to three children, Jessica, 17, Thomas, 14 and Harry, 10.

I started my working life in the catering industry, working in places like The Grosvenor House Hotel and organising weddings and conferences.

I started working with children when I volunteered at St Peter's Nursery in Staines, when my own children were there. Whilst volunteering there I studied for my NVQ level 3 and started paid employment in 2013. I became Deputy Manager at St Peter's in 2016.

THE PLAYGROUP MEETS IN THE YOUTH CENTRE



THE 2018 LIGHT PARTY



70 DONUTS



58 CHILDREN



35 PRAYER LANTERNS

25 PUMPKINS



5 DISCO LIGHTS

10 ADULT HELPERS

3 TEENAGE HELPERS

2 TROLLEYS OF SHOPPING

1 MESSAGE OF LIGHT & HOPE



The Christ in Christmas

Some background to Christmas from 'Christmas WordWatch' by Kel Richards.

The word 'Christmas' first appears in the Old English Chronicle in 1123.

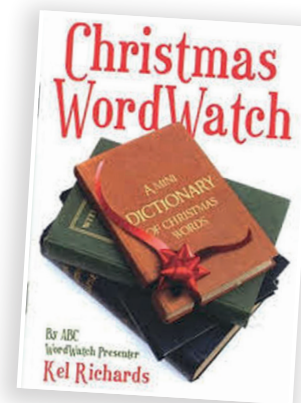
It comes from the expression Cristes maesse. This Old English word maesse comes from a Latin word missa which dates even further back - to the fourth century and from which we get our English word 'dismissal'.

Back in those days church services were in Latin, and they ended with this particular Latin word - basically meaning "church is over, you are dismissed".

As this was the last word in the church service, it became the name for church services. So, Latin missa (in Old English maesse) was the ancient word for a church service.

In other words, back when the word 'Christmas' was coined a thousand or so years ago, it literally meant 'Christ's church service' - the church service celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ.

So when you come to a service at Christmas, you're keeping a bit of history alive.



Dates for your diary

DECEMBER 2018

- SUN 2** 09:30. Holy Communion
11:00. Morning Service
18:15. Lighting Up Laleham
- SUN 9** 09:30. Morning Service
11:00. Holy Communion
15:00. Nativity Service
18:30. Evening Service
- SUN 16** 09:30. Holy Communion
11:00. Morning Service
18:30. Lessons & Carols by Candlelight
- SAT 22** 19:00. Contemporary Carols
- SUN 23** 10:00. Christingle
15:00. Christingle
16:30. Christingle
- MON 24** 18:30. Carols by Candlelight
23:30. Midnight Holy Communion
- TUE 25** 10:00. Christmas Celebration
- SUN 30** 10:00. All Age Service
18:30. Evening Service

JANUARY 2019

- SUN 6** 09:30. Holy Communion
11:00. All Age Service
18:30. Evening Service
- SUN 13** 09:30. Morning Service
11:00. Holy Communion
18:30. Evening Service
- SUN 20** 09:30. Holy Communion
11:00. Morning Service
18:30. Evening Service
- SUN 27** 09:30. Morning Service
11:00. Morning Service
18:30. Holy Communion

Services at 11am in Laleham School Hall. Other services in All Saints' Church, unless specified.