

# All Saints' Laleham

Connect, Grow, Serve, Share, Worship

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## Nine Lessons and Carols by Candlelight

Our service will follow the pattern of nine readings, used at the best known carol service in the world, from King's College, Cambridge.

Their website writes, 'Wherever the service is heard, and however it is adapted.....the main theme is the development of the loving purposes of God seen through the windows and words of the Bible.' Why not come and join us?

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## Parish Newsletter

DECEMBER 2019 // FREE

# The REAL Santa Claus

St. Nicholas was a Bishop who lived in the fourth century in a place called Myra in Asia Minor (modern day Turkey).

His parents died when he was young, leaving him very wealthy. But he was also a very kind man and had a reputation for helping the poor and giving secret gifts to people who needed it. There are several legends about St. Nicholas, although we don't know if any of them are true!

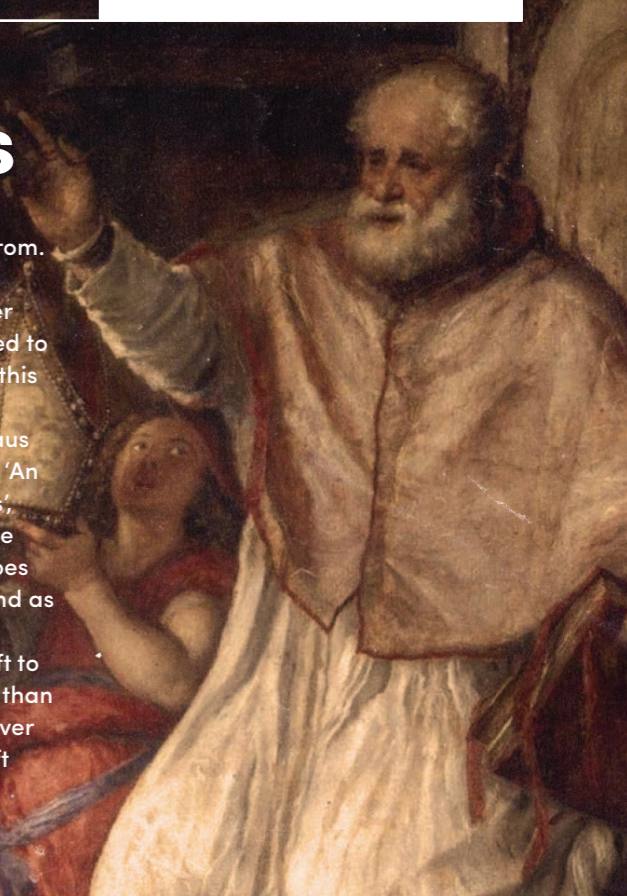
The most famous story about St. Nicholas tells how he secretly helped a poor man's family by dropping a bag of gold down the chimney, which fell into a stocking that had been hung by the fire to dry! This is where we get the

tradition of Christmas stockings from.

The original Dutch settlers in America spelled St Nicholas 'Sinter Nikolaas', which gradually changed to 'Sinterklass'. For English colonists this became 'Santa Claus'.

The modern image of Santa Claus derives from a 19th century poem 'An account of a Visit from St Nicholas', more famously known as 'Twas the Night before Christmas'. It describes St. Nicholas with eight reindeer and as a jolly red-cheeked man.

Christians believe that God's gift to us at Christmas is worth far more than gold. Why not come to a service over Christmas to find out what this gift could mean for you?



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## Christmas Services at All Saints' Laleham

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

### SUN 1ST FROM 6.15PM Lighting Up Laleham

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

### SUN 8TH 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 balloons.

### SUN 15TH AT 6.30PM Nine Lessons & Carols By Candlelight

Lessons and congregational carols that tell the Christmas story. With mulled wine and mince pies to follow.

### SAT 21ST AT 7PM Contemporary Carols

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

### SUN 22ND 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 Holy Communion

Carols, candles and Holy Communion

### CHRISTMAS DAY 25TH AT 10AM Christmas Celebration

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

All the services will be in All Saints' Church, Laleham. For further information, please contact the church office on 01784 441160.



# Santa v Jesus at Christmas

Santa's approach to Christmas was memorably set out in the words of the 1934 hit 'Santa Claus is coming to town' – which has been covered by many singers since and played on a loop in shops in the run up to Christmas.

Oh! You better watch out,  
You better not cry,  
You better not pout,  
I'm telling you why:  
Santa Claus is coming to town!

He's making a list,  
He's checking it twice,  
He's gonna find out  
who's naughty or nice.  
Santa Claus is coming to town!

He sees you when you're sleeping,  
He knows when you're awake.  
He knows when you've been bad or good,  
So be good for goodness sake!



So, at Christmas children are often told, "You need to be good if you want Santa to fill your stocking." And people may wonder if it's the same with God – that we've got to achieve a certain level of goodness before he'll visit us with his blessing.

The Christmas message reveals that Jesus is kinder than Santa. Jesus said:

**"I have not come to call respectable people to repent, but sinners."**

Jesus offers hope to bad people who repent, not just good people.

And while Santa turns up one night a year. Jesus says:

**"I am with you always"**

We may not be able to see him, but he is always ready to hear our prayers and to help us in the way that's best for us.

Children can get very excited about Santa. But Jesus is offering us so much more. No wonder the shepherds were told it was "good news of great joy".

# What's in a name?

**What are we calling our babies? According to the Office for National Statistics in 2018:**

Oliver and Olivia remained the most popular names in England and Wales. Arthur was the only new entry into the top 10 names for boys in 2018, replacing Jacob. Sophia and Grace replaced Poppy and Lily in the top 10 names for girls.

Most of us think long and hard over the names we give our children. Sometimes we pick a family name, a name of a celebrity or look to TV series for our inspiration. Most often we just choose a name we like the sound of.

When Joseph and Mary came to naming their first child the choice was easy. They were told what they should call him.

An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said ".....you are to give him the name Jesus."

Jesus was a common name at the time. And it remains a popular name today – number 17 in the 2018 list. Not 'Jesus', but in the original Hebrew it would be 'Yeshua' which is usually translated Joshua.

And they were also given God's reason for the choice of the name:

*"because he will save his people from their sins."*

Jesus/Joshua means 'saves'. The baby at Christmas was given a name with a meaning, to show what his life's work would be. He had come on a mission to save us from everything that spoils and separates – that damages and divides. Its why his birth was greeted by the angels with the greeting 'Peace on earth'.



10 mins per day

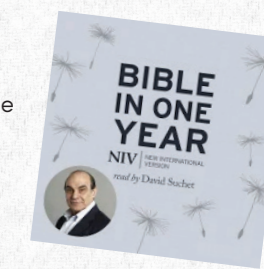
# A 2020 Challenge Read the Bible in a Year

Why not join us from January 1st in reading the whole Bible in 2020?

There is a super app with bite-sized chunks of the Bible read by the wonderful David Suchet. There is also



a book version available from Canaan Christian Bookshop in Staines. It should take around 10 minutes a day to go through the most influential book in world history.



# Looking Beyond Brexit

A short new book by Bishop Graham, our Area Bishop of Kensington, is being published on 21st November.

The publisher writes: 'The referendum may have rent the country asunder like no other issue in recent memory, but there are significant resonances with events in the past. Almost 500 years ago, in a sixteenth-century version of Article 50, Britain made a break from Europe, declaring the King – rather than the Pope – Supreme Head of the English Church.'

The split did not end the story. In the turmoil that followed, 'fake news' spread, families were divided and

blood was shed.

However, an attempt was made to find a peaceable solution. In this brief but powerful book, Graham Tomlin draws on that history to remind us of the age-old political and spiritual task of harmonizing past and future, identity and openness, the local and the universal. The events of the last three years have shown how polarization can affect even those who are naturally generous and accommodating; the challenge of rising above division, of loving our neighbours – and even our enemies – has never been greater for us all.'

A special prayer for the Brexit process has been written by the Archbishops. It could also be prayed for the forthcoming election.

# a prayer for the nation

God of hope,  
in these times of change,  
unite our nation  
and guide our leaders with your wisdom.  
Give us courage to overcome our fears,  
and help us to build a future  
in which all may prosper and share:  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.



'We're inviting all people of faith and goodwill to pray for our political leaders and for a fresh and unifying vision for all in our country.'

Archbishops Justin Welby and John Sentamu



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# Dates for your diary

## DECEMBER 2019

**SUN 1** 09:30. Morning Service  
10:30. Morning Service  
18:15. Lighting Up Laleham

**SUN 8** 09:30. Holy Communion  
10:30. Morning Service  
15:00. Nativity  
18:30. Evening Service

**SUN 15** 09:30. Morning Service  
10:30. Holy Communion  
18:30. Nine Lessons & Carols by Candlelight

**SAT 21** 19:00. Contemporary Carols

**SUN 22** 10:00. Christingle  
10:30. no service  
15:00. Christingle  
16:30. Christingle

**TUE 24** 18:30. Carols by Candlelight  
23:30. Midnight Holy Communion

**WED 25** 10:00. Christmas Celebration followed by Holy Communion

**SUN 29** 10:00. All Age Service  
10:30. no service  
18:30. Evening Service

## JANUARY 2020

**SUN 5** 09:30. Morning Service  
10:30. All Age Service  
18:30. Evening Service

**SUN 12** 09:30. Holy Communion  
10:30. Morning Service  
18:30. Evening Service

**SUN 19** 09:30. Morning Service  
10:30. Holy Communion  
18:30. Evening Service

**SUN 26** 09:30. Morning Service  
10:30. Morning Service  
18:30. Holy Communion

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