

Advent and Christmas Services 2014

At St Lawrence Church Denton

Sunday	7th December 2014	Advent Holy Communion	10.45am
Sunday	14th December 2014	Advent Holy Communion	9.30am
Sunday	14th December 2014	Family and Toy Service	10:45am
Sunday	21st December 2014	Advent Nativity Service	10:45am
Sunday	21st December 2014	Carol Service	6.30pm
Wednesday	24th December 2014	Christingle Service	4:30 pm
Wednesday	24th December 2014	First Communion of Christmas	9:30 pm
Thursday	25th December 2014	Family Celebration & Communion Service	10.15am
Sunday	28th December 2014	Holy Communion	9.30am
Sunday	28th December 2014	Family Service	10.45am

Advent - The Coming of Jesus Christ

Happy New Year!

Although our calendars tell us it is December the Churches year begins with Advent with the First Sunday of Advent on November 30th, 2014.

Advent — means to come and is a time of waiting and preparation for the "coming of the Lord".

- It is a time for celebrating the past, the birth of Christ, and the future, the second coming of Christ.
- The Advent season is filled with preparation and expectation. Everyone is getting ready for Christmas; however, we can be so busy with the material preparations that we may lose sight of the real reason for our activity.
- In the midst of the hustle and bustle of the season, let us try to keep Advent a season of waiting and longing, of conversion and hope, thinking of the incredible love and humility of our God in sending his son in human form.



In our shopping and baking - let us remember to purchase and prepare something for the poor.



When we clean our homes - let us distribute some of our possessions to those who lack many necessities.



While we are decking the halls of our homes - let us not forget to prepare a peaceful place in our hearts wherein Christ may come to dwell.

We use an **Advent wreath** in Church to mark the New Year lighting a candle on each Sunday as we approach Christmas Day.

It is a circular evergreen wreath with five candles, four around the wreath and one in the centre.

- The **circle of the wreath** reminds us of God Himself, His eternity and endless mercy, which has no beginning or end.
- The **green of the wreath** speaks of the hope that we have in God, the hope of newness, of renewal, of eternal life.
- **Candles** symbolise the light of God coming into the world through the birth of His son.
- The **four outer candles** represent the period of waiting during the four Sundays of Advent.

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4th December: Advent Holy Communion: 9:00 am

A celebration of Holy Communion to mark the beginning of Advent

Lighting of the first Advent Candle

9th December: Advent Holy Communion: 10:45am

A celebration of Holy Communion to mark Advent

Lighting of the second Advent Candle

14th December: Family and Toy Service: 10:45am

A service for all the family where we collect gifts of toys for children who are in care, food and blankets for the homeless, simple gifts for the elderly in hospital at Christmas. Please leave gifts unwrapped

Lighting of the third Advent Candle



21st December: Nativity Service: 10:45am

A family service with a play explaining the Christmas story – a part for every child

Lighting of the fourth Advent Candle



21st December: Carol Service: 6.30pm

A traditional celebration of the story of Christmas in a candle lit Church



24th December: Christingle Service: 4:30 pm

A service for everyone to share in the joy of Christmas with the distribution of Christingle to take home as part of your family's celebrations

24th December: First Communion of Christmas: 9:30 pm

A service of Holy Communion to celebrate the birth of Christ



25th December: Christmas Day Service: 10.15am

A service for all the family to celebrate Christmas Day

Lighting of the centre Christmas Candle

