

## Advent and Christmas Services 2012

*(to be held at Greswell School, Denton)*

Sunday	2nd December 2012	Advent Holy Communion	10.45am
Sunday	9th December 2012	Advent Holy Communion	9.30am
Sunday	9th December 2012	Family and Toy Service	10:45am
Sunday	16th December 2012	Advent Holy Communion	10.45am
Sunday	23rd December 2012	Holy Communion	9.30am
Sunday	23rd December 2012	Advent Nativity Service	10:45am
Sunday	23rd December 2012	Carol Service	6.30pm
Monday	24th December 2012	Christingle Service	4:30 pm
Tuesday	25th December 2012	Family Celebration & Communion Service	10.15am
Sunday	30th December 2012	Holy Communion	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 December 2nd, 2012.

***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 are so busy with the material preparations that we 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** symbolize 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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### **2<sup>nd</sup> December: Advent Holy Communion: 10:45am**

A celebration of Holy Communion to mark the beginning of Advent  
**Lighting of the first Advent Candle**

### **9<sup>th</sup> 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

**Lighting of the second Advent Candle**



### **16<sup>th</sup> December: Advent Holy Communion: 10:45am**

A celebration of Holy Communion for the third Sunday of Advent  
**Lighting of the third Advent Candle**



### **23<sup>rd</sup> 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**



### **23<sup>rd</sup> December: Carol Service: 6.30pm**

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

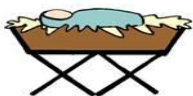


### **24<sup>th</sup> December: Christingle Service: 4:30 pm**

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



**Lighting of the centre Christmas Candle**



### **25<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas Day Service, 10.15am**

A service for all the family to celebrate Christmas Day