



The Beacon

Newsletter of St John's Church, Workop

Issue 3

August 2024

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

A Nigerian
Christmas 1

Focus on
Tearfund 2

ADVENT 2

What
St John's
means to
me 3

Carol
Singing 3
event

Christmas
services 4

Contact
Point 4

A Nigerian Christmas

by Stella

*Here is a short write up
on Christmas where I
came from.*

"Christmas in Nigeria is a vibrant and festive celebration. Nigerians decorate homes, work places and churches with colourful lights, garlands, and beautiful decorations. Families travel from far and wide to be together, strength-ening their bonds and sharing the joys of the season. They gather for traditional meals like jollof rice, suya, and egusi soup; assorted meats are prepared in abundance, symbolizing the abundance of God's blessings.



Carol nights and candle-light processions are organized in churches to honour the new born King. Congregants dress in their finest clothes, adding to the joyous atmosphere. Children sing carols, people exchange gifts, visit loved ones and enjoy fireworks. Churches also have a special celebration service on Christmas morning if it's not on a Sunday.

In the midst of cultural and religious diversity, Christmas in Nigeria symbolizes **UNITY, LOVE** and **JOY**.

EHJ-ODE STELLA



St John's supports

tearfund

Our annual
TEARFUND
Quiz Night
held on 11th
November
raised
£250

Tearfund, alias **The Evangelical Alliance Relief Fund**, is a charity that works in countries round the world helping to alleviate poverty and bring the light of Jesus into the lives of people who do not have much going for them.

It was originally founded 55 years ago and began working overseas in Bangladesh in 1972. It has people in 23 countries from Bangladesh to Ukraine and has contacts with partners in over 50 countries world wide.

They aim to eliminate poverty by helping people to help themselves via training and the provision of tools and other assistance. They help combat injustice by their advocacy programme, and they try to bring peace, in areas of conflict through building up contacts between people showing them the love of Jesus.

St John's has a long history of involvement with Tearfund, including having a one time member of the church, Elaine Storkey, becoming the Director General of Tearfund.

Alan H

ADVENT

Advent is a season observed in most Christian denominations as a time of waiting and preparation for both the NATIVITY OF CHRIST and the return of CHRIST at the SECOND COMING. It begins on the Sunday nearest to November 30th. The Advent Wreath is a visual aid – one candle being lit on the 1st Sunday, 2 on the 2nd Sunday, 3 on the 3rd Sunday and 4 on the 4th Sunday . All 5 candles are lit on CHRISTMAS DAY.

The 1st candle symbolizes HOPE

The 2nd candle symbolizes FAITH

The 3rd candle symbolizes JOY

The 4th candle symbolizes PEACE

The 5th candle symbolizes JESUS, THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

These are the
themes of our
Sunday services
in Advent



So—as you enjoy opening the doors on your Advent Calendars spend a while giving some thought to the meaning of this special season.

What St John's Means to Me— Peter's story

Hi. I'm Peter Cartwright,

I'll start my story in 1980 when I had a bad back accident at work. Then I was made to finish work, which made times hard. My wife, being a Christian, tried to get me to church, but I didn't believe in it at all. After about four years we were offered a holiday to Scarborough with the church. "No!" I said – then changed my mind for my wife's sake.

Well, we got there. Good hotel – pub, snooker – great! Then came the evening meeting and why, I don't know, but I went with her. The week's speaker was Eric Townson who was quite humorous, but I didn't understand all he was talking about. Still, I sat and suffered with pain in my back and legs.

At the end of the talk he asked everyone to hold hands, close our eyes and say the prayer of commitment to Jesus after him. It felt odd holding hands with strangers. I felt a fool but, hey, 'in for a penny, in for a pound'. Then he asked anyone who had prayed that prayer to look up. He called "Praise The Lord" and BAM! All my body got hot, especially my left leg which was the worst. I stood up, RAN to the pub – 2 pints straight back. Lovely! With everyone's blessings I realised with faith as small as a mustard seed, God had healed my leg. I could walk!
You can walk with God with faith.

Peter C

"Shine Your Light"

"Shine Your Light" is a national event when churches come together to sing carols in their town or city centres. Worksop's event is planned to start at around 11.30am, Saturday 30th November. We will be accompanied by the Salvation Army Band.

Anyone is welcome to meet us outside the B & M shop in the town centre.

*From the Gospel of
Matthew chapter 5
verse 16*

**"Let your light so shine
before men, that they
may see your good
deeds and praise your
Father in heaven"**



Christmas Services

SUNDAY DECEMBER 8th

4.00pm

**CAROL SERVICE WITH
THURCROFT BRASS BAND
and
REDLANDS SCHOOL CHOIR**



SUNDAY DECEMBER 22nd

6.30pm

**NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS
Candlelit Service**

**CHRISTMAS DAY
10.30am Family Service**

For more info about St John's Church contact Church Office 01909 472595

Email: office.worksopstjohn@gmail.com

Website: stjohnschurchworksop.co.uk

THIS CHRISTMAS...

INSTEAD OF JUST
MAKING A LIST
OF THE THINGS
YOU WANT...
MAKE A LIST OF
ALL THE THINGS
YOU'RE GRATEFUL
THAT GOD HAS
GIVEN YOU
ALREADY!



WWW.PRAYERPUPS.COM | @PRAYERPUPS



Follow us on Facebook

'St John's Church, Worksop'