

**We warmly welcome all visitors and regular worshippers to our Christmas services
at St Matthias & St George Parish Church.**

**A member of "Christ the King" team ministry.
Christmas Eve and Christmas Day December 2018**

And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 1 v 7 (KJV)

Fr Glenn Reading - Team Vicar
Tel 01527 894436 or 07964 282278

**Service for Monday 24th and 25th December
24th Christmas Eve**

6. 00 pm Nativity and Christingle
10.00 pm Christmas Eve sung Eucharist
Hymns: 403 Once in Royal David's city
358 O come, O come, Emmanuel
357 O little town of Bethlehem
554 While shepherds watched their flocks
199 Hark, the herald angels sing

25th Christmas Day

10.00am sung Family Eucharist (Common
Worship), we welcome Rev Clive Leach,
Principal of Walkwood Academy.

**Sunday 30th December 1st Sunday of
Christmas**

10.30 am sung Eucharist (Common Worship)
led by Rev Barry Jones

We pray for those who are sick:- Mick Bolt, Philippa Kreuser, Rosie, Alex, Edna Weale, Jean Lees, Joyce Thomas, Margaret Emms, Margaret Mills, Marion Williams, Tally, Alexei, Sarah Harwood, Rosemary Hudson, Rev Ivor and Dora Merry, Margaret Savage, Ann Heath, Liz, Janie and Stewart Kirby, Nesta Pearman, Kerry.

Stamps! With Christmas upon us, please put any stamps collected from Christmas cards in the box at the back of the church or in an envelope through the letterbox of Pam Emery who collects them for charity.

A big thank you: to Sue and Peter Ratcliffe for funding the ink and photocopying Spotlight each week. Without them we would not have this newsletter.

A Celtic Blessing

Good health, every day, whether I see you
or not!

May your cup overflow with health and
happiness. May all your days be happy ones.

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

Log onto our website for more information
www.astwoodbankchurch.org.uk

Thanks: Rhonda wishes to thank all those who contributed foliage towards decorating the church. Our thanks go to her and her team for making the church look so lovely.

Nightstop foodbank: *Christmas is likely to be very bleak for several families, please remember that there is a box at the rear of the church in which you can place food and toiletry gifts.*

Christmas Hub Night Shelter will this year take place from Monday 24th December to Tuesday 1st January 2019 inclusive at the Ecumenical Centre. It will provide 10 nights of food, shelter and warmth for any rough sleepers. The **Daytime Hub**, also in the Centre, will be open from 11am - 4pm providing drinks/snacks to the lonely and vulnerable.

We pray for all those who will be homeless this Christmas. We pray that all those who engage with the Hub in Redditch, and all those similar refuges elsewhere in the country, will encounter the serving and unconditional love of Jesus through the action and support of the volunteers and helpers. We pray that by using such shelters, even for a short period, people will be emotionally, physically, mentally and spiritually recharged.

Christmas lights are an extension of the custom of decorating trees with candles symbolising Christ being the light of the world. Christmas trees with electric lights, originated in Germany, becoming popular in the early 20th Century. By the mid-20th C, lights outlining houses and being strung between buildings became popular in the USA before being adopted by other nations including Japan and Hong Kong. The 2 days when Christmas decorations are usually removed are Twelfth Night and Candlemas, the latter of which ends the Christmas-Epiphany season in some denominations.

Spotlight Notices: Please give notices for inclusion in Spotlight to **Richard Porteous** by next Thursday on 01527 542620 or at richardporteous@yahoo.co.uk

