



WALTON PARISH CHRISTMAS 2009

Is this Christmas going to bankrupt you or make you rich?



In his best selling book, *The Jesus I Never Knew*, Philip Yancey contrasts the humility that characterised Jesus' royal visit to planet earth with the prestigious image associated with world rulers today :



"Queen Elizabeth visited the United States, and reporters delighted in spelling out the logistics involved: her four thousand pounds of luggage, including two outfits for every occasion, a mourning outfit in case someone died, 40 pints of plasma, and white kid-leather toilet covers.

She brought along her own hairdresser, two valets, and a host of other attendants. A brief visit of royalty to a foreign country can easily cost 20 million dollars."

In meek contrast, God's visit to earth took place in an animal shelter with no attendants present and nowhere to lay the newborn king but a feed trough. Truly, he became poor, even by worldly standards. But by heaven's standards?

But why? Why did he leave the splendour of heaven, the praise of the angelic host, why?

It was simply to make us rich. As the popular carol states

*Thou who art God beyond all praising,
All for love's sake becamest man;
Stooping so low, but sinners raising
Heavenwards by Thine eternal plan.*



God became poor so that you can become rich. Rich now in the knowledge of God, of his peace and his joy, his forgiveness and his love. Rich in the eternal sapphire-paved courts of heaven.

Rev'd David

ST JOHN'S
WALTON
www.stjohnswalton.co.uk

Your local Parish Church
Walton Back Lane

Building Works at St John's

The foundations are secure. The floors have been laid. The walls are reaching skyward and the roof is soon to be in place. St. John's is physically growing, building work is in progress.



Q. What exactly is being built?

A. Currently we are building two Meeting Rooms, a Children's Room (Crèche), an outside Children's Play Area and a Foyer to link the Church, Centre and New Rooms.

Q. What is the purpose of these rooms?

A. To meet the demand for space to carry out children's activities, increase the number of activities which both adults and children can participate in; together with making them available to the community for their use.

Q. What set you on the path of building?

A. Within the church we had experienced a growth in numbers attending, particularly young people and children, whilst we did not have room to accommodate all the activities that were taking place. Coupled with this, we carried out a random survey within the community which showed that many people were disappointed with the lack of facilities in Walton and listed a number of clubs and groups who would wish to be located in the community.

Q. Are you making any changes in the existing Centre?

A. When sufficient funds are in place, our plan is to refurbish parts of the Centre including a new Kitchen.

Q. When do you expect the building work to be completed?

A. With the project currently being on schedule we are looking for completion early May 2010.



'St John's and the Alzheimer's Society are putting on a 'Sing Along' for Alzheimer sufferers, their families and carers on Thursday 10th December. It is a chance to enjoy the company of others and sing along to Christmas Carols & Songs and eat lots of mince pies and cake! It begins at 2:00pm and finishes at 4:00pm.

Anyone with dementia or similar condition, plus their carers are more than welcome to come along for friendly chat and a sing along.

Ring Sally or Pat on 01246 222 216 for details

The Back Pew – Jeff Larson



Being 3 **wisemen** the journey to baby Jesus took longer than expected because they refused to stop and ask directions.

*"The hinge of history is on the door of a Bethlehem stable."
Ralph Stockman*



Carols Round the Crib

Fun and Worship for
All Ages on

Christmas Eve

We're running our
popular service twice
again this year at

4:00pm & 5:30pm

Come & join the fun!

My Favourite Bible Passage

by Bernard Sproston

When asked what is my favourite Bible passage I was completely thrown because there are many which I would want to list.

One stands out: John 1 v 1-14; not only because of the association of it with certain times in my life but because it tells me that God communicated with us humans through his Son, who John calls "The Word". In Jesus, God's truth which is beyond our understanding was translated into human terms.

Often our lives focus on what we can see, touch, taste and feel now rather than on ideas and beliefs about the big issues of eternity: where we come from, where are we going, why we're here, and how we relate to God.

We hear this passage read at Christmas time, especially during the Lessons and Carol Services as a prelude to Christmas Day. To this day it sends shivers down my spine. What a privilege it is to be asked to read it at such times.

For me if one verse stands out it is verse 12: **"Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."** It is only when we believe in the name of Jesus we can submit ourselves to God and become his children. It is what Jesus is that opens to us the possibility of becoming children of God. What a privilege it is to know that I am a child of God and to define myself more so in terms of my relationship with God than in terms of my earthly relationships. I can gaze out at the world as one who is loved by God, and so coming to see other people and all creation in the light of his love.

When I read this passage I need to remind myself over and over again that I am really a child of God. May I invite you to read it and remind yourself several times each day that you too really are a child of God.

Come, Join us and Celebrate! Christmas at St. John's



Sunday 20th December

- 9:00am Holy Communion
10:45am All Age Christmas Praise
6:30pm Carols by Candlelight -
Adults & older children reflect
on the Christmas message

Tuesday 22nd December

- 11:30am Tuesday Worship



Christmas Eve

- 4:00pm Carols Around the Crib -
& 5:30pm Share in the fun & excitement
of this short service
11:15pm Midnight Communion -
Welcome in the special day at
this traditional service

Christmas Day

- 9:30am All Age Communion -
Children bring along a
present to open

Sunday 27th December

- 9:30am Holy Communion

St. John's Walton

Our monthly service pattern

Contacts

Sunday

- 9:00am Holy Communion
10:45am Services for All Ages
1st Sun Morning Worship
with Sunday Club & TIG
2nd Sun All Age Worship
3rd Sun Morning Worship
with Sunday Club & TIG
4th Sun Holy Communion
with Sunday Club & TIG
5th Sun All Age Communion
There is always a crèche on the 1st, 3rd & 4th
Sundays for those under 3 years. Sunday Club, TIG
(Teenagers Into God) & Big TIG caters for our
Children and Young People aged 3 to 18 years.

- 6:30pm Monthly Evening
Celebration
1st Sunday of the month

Tuesday

- 11:30am Tuesday Worship

Vicar

Andy Broom has moved to a new post in
the Diocese and St John's is without a vicar
for a while.

General Enquiries

Church Office Tel: 01246 566 205
Usual hours Tuesday 9:00am - 2:00pm
Wednesday 9:00am - 3:00pm
Thursday 9:00am - 3:00pm

Church Centre Booking Enquiries

Dave Platt Tel: 01246 236 042

Wedding and Baptism Bookings

Church Office Tel: 01246 566 205

Curate

Lisa Shemilt Tel: 01246 207 939
8 Birkdale Drive, Walton S40 3JL
(Lisa's usual day off is Wednesday)

Our Web site

www.stjohnswalton.co.uk