



Celebrate Christmas at Jubilee!

Christmas can be a wonderful and exciting time, full of good fun, great food and drink and the company of family and friends. For some, it can also be a sad, difficult and even lonely time of the year - and in the current economic climate as many of us look to 2009 with a little trepidation, it would be easy for Christmas to lose a bit of it's sparkle this year. Whether you've been busy with all the shopping, parties, wrapping of presents and preparing of food, or if you are wishing that you were able to be more a part of the seasonal festivities - why not come and join our Christmas celebrations at the Jubilee Centre. You will be warmly welcomed - we'd love to share this special time of year with you!

Carol Service - Sunday 21 December

Experience that nostalgic feeling of Christmas by coming along to our carol service where you can join us in singing some of your favourite carols. It may bring back memories of Christmases past, but it's also a time to celebrate that God sent his only son, Jesus, to be born here on earth and to live and die for us, so that we can be forgiven, no matter what we have done, said or thought, and have a relationship with a God who loves and cares for each one of us - and that includes you!

So, come along and celebrate with us! The service will be from 6.30pm to 7.30pm, followed by refreshments including, of course, mince pies and mulled wine!

Christingle Service - Wednesday 24 December

Whatever age you are, why not join us at our Christingle service at 4.30pm on Christmas Eve. Lasting no more than an hour, this is a fundraising event in support of The Children's Society, a charity providing help for children and young people in the UK who are living in poverty or difficulty.

You'll have the opportunity to make a donation during the service and in return you will receive your Christingle.

The Christingle is made up of a lighted candle (symbolising Jesus, the light of the world) mounted on an orange (representing the world) and a red ribbon or tape around the middle of the orange (indicating the blood of Christ). Four cocktail sticks bearing sweets are also stuck into the orange to signify the four seasons and the fruits of the earth. It's always a lovely event and brings that extra special touch to Christmas Eve.

Christmas Day Service - Thursday 25 December

Get the festivities off to a great start with our Christmas Day service. Prepare the vegetables and lay the table the night before, get up nice and early with the kids to unwrap presents, put the turkey in the oven and then join us at 10.00am for a short but uplifting time of worship to celebrate the real reason behind Christmas - the birth of Jesus. We'll be finished by around 10.45am and you'll go home feeling great and still have plenty of time to finish preparing Christmas dinner!

If you would like more information on any of these events, please contact us (see back page for details). We are looking forward to seeing you!



Take a look inside this issue to find out...

- what help is at hand as we face the credit crunch
- where mango trees are used as a Christmas decoration
- how to make a tasty festive smoothie!





Christmas around the globe ...

We're all familiar with our Christmas traditions, but what about those in other countries? How do they celebrate Christmas? We thought we'd take a brief look at the season's festivities in Bethlehem itself, the place where Christmas started, and also in two of the countries that Jubilee Church has built close links with, India and South Africa.

Bethlehem

In the town where Jesus was born over 2000 years ago is the site of the Church Nativity, which every Christmas is adorned with flags and decorations. It's a place heaving with people at this time of year, with natives and visitors alike crowding the doorways of the church and standing on the roof to watch the dramatic annual procession which starts with galloping horsemen on Arabian horses, who lead the parade, and ends at the exact spot that Jesus was believed to have been born, which is now marked by a silver star. A star is also put up on a pole in the village square and Christian homes in Bethlehem have a painted cross over their doors and display homemade nativity scenes.

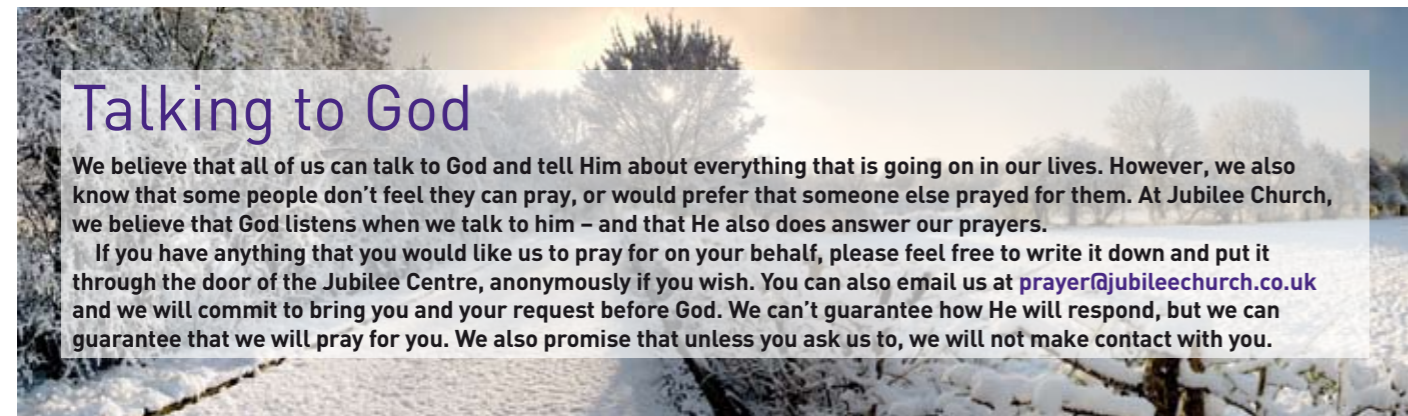
India

Christmas is one of the biggest festivals for Indian Christians and is celebrated enthusiastically by communities with various festivities, including prayers and parties, and by giving presents to

family members and baksheesh, or charity, to those poorer than themselves. Churches are filled with vibrant coloured poinsettias, which are in flower in India at this time of year, and instead of the traditional pine trees, people decorate mango and banana trees. Homes are lit up by 'diyas' which are small oil burning lamps made of clay. They are placed on rooftops and on the top of walls, creating an atmospheric and beautiful sight. In many parts of India, customs similar to our own are observed with visits from Santa Claus, Christmas markets and carol processions on the streets, with paper lanterns and stars to light up the way.

South Africa

There is not much chance of snow falling at Christmas in South Africa! Instead, long days of glorious sunshine bring colour and beauty as many varieties of flowers reach their peak. Homes are decorated with pine branches and a Christmas 'fir' and the schools are closed as children enjoy their summer holidays. Many South Africans have a full traditional 'turkey' dinner on Christmas Day, which is often eaten outside, or perhaps roast beef or suckling pig, with yellow rice with raisins, vegetables and plum pudding. Family activities are more likely to be spent outdoors walking or playing games in the warm sunshine, with the cooler evenings spent indoors. Carols by candlelight, hanging stockings up for presents from Father Christmas and church services on Christmas morning are all part of the celebrations in South Africa.



Talking to God

We believe that all of us can talk to God and tell Him about everything that is going on in our lives. However, we also know that some people don't feel they can pray, or would prefer that someone else prayed for them. At Jubilee Church, we believe that God listens when we talk to him – and that He also does answer our prayers.

If you have anything that you would like us to pray for on your behalf, please feel free to write it down and put it through the door of the Jubilee Centre, anonymously if you wish. You can also email us at prayer@jubileechurch.co.uk and we will commit to bring you and your request before God. We can't guarantee how He will respond, but we can guarantee that we will pray for you. We also promise that unless you ask us to, we will not make contact with you.

Try out this tasty Christmas smoothie!

Instead of just having cranberry sauce with your turkey, why not try using fresh cranberries to make this delicious smoothie? This recipe is enough for one glass and only takes a few minutes to prepare. You'll need:

- Handful of cranberries
- 250ml cranberry juice
- Handful of grapes
- 400ml of natural yoghurt
- Handful of ice

Method

1. Wash the cranberries well and remove the stalks.
2. Add all the ingredients to a blender and blend away until the smoothie is nice and smooth!

The grapes will make the smoothie sweeter, but you don't have to add them if you prefer not too - or why not try replacing the grapes with half a banana?

This recipe, and others, can be found at www.utterlyrecipes.com.



Watching the pennies and the pounds ...



The phrase 'credit crunch' has become a regular one in our vocabulary this year. We've seen the demise of some big financial organisations, as well as some familiar family favourites such as Woolworths and MFI. The media brings us news of job losses on a daily basis and we appear to 'officially' be in a recession. Those who were financially comfortable, as well as those who were already struggling to make ends meet, have been impacted by the current economic climate and many people are anxious about their mortgages, jobs and finances as we head into 2009.

Christmas often results in us spending more than usual as we buy presents, new outfits, go out for meals and buy extra food as we entertain family and friends. You may be one of the people who has cut down on your expenditure this Christmas or you may already have concerns that you have overspent. Either way, as the New Year approaches, there's plenty you can

do to keep on top of your finances throughout the uncertain period ahead.

Being aware of your incomings and outgoings will give you an accurate picture of your financial position, showing you how your money is being spent and highlighting where you may be able to make savings. Set yourself a budget and do your best to stick to it. You may need to evaluate your standard of living and adapt it, even if just for a set period of time, reducing the amount you spend on clothes, household goods or holidays. It may not be easy to cut out the things that you are used to, but it has to be better than sleepless nights worrying about money!

There is an abundance of help and advice for those looking to save money, manage their finances, and for those in debt.

Credit Action are a charity committed to helping people manage their money better, with a passion to help people stay in control, rather than let money control them and disrupt their lives. Credit Action has its roots historically within the church and maintains this ethos, but they are firmly committed to working with all people, regardless of their faith. You can find out more by going to www.creditaction.org.uk. They also work in partnership with the major debt counselling charity, the Consumer Credit Counselling Service, who can be contacted on their freephone helpline 0800 138 1111. Another useful freephone helpline is The National Debtline on 0808 808 4000. Websites such as www.moneysavingexpert.com provide numerous money saving hints and tips, as well as up-to-date information on discounts and special offers to be found on a wide variety of products and services.

We believe that God is interested in all aspects of our lives – and that includes our finances. If you are in debt, worried about money or the future of your job, as well as seeking practical help, why not ask God to give you peace in your situation? If you prefer to, we can pray on your behalf (see our 'Talking to God' feature on page 2).

Date for your 2009 diary

We hold a variety of community events at the Jubilee Centre (see back page). Our first quiz night of 2009 will be held on Saturday 14 March - so why not put the date in your 2009 diary now! The evening will start at 8.00pm and costs just £3.00 per person, which includes tea, coffee and cakes - please feel free to bring your own cold drinks and nibbles as well. Everybody is welcome - don't worry if you are coming on your own or don't have enough people to make up a team, there's always plenty of people to join with on the night.



Parenting in the 21st Century

Like many of us, you may find that being a parent in this day and age comes with a whole new set of challenges. Sometimes it helps to meet with other parents facing the same issues - we no doubt all have experiences that we can share and learn!

If you are a parent - or a grandparent - why not come and join us at the centre at 7.30pm on Tuesday 27 January. We'll provide you with a hot supper and the opportunity to watch and discuss a Rob Parsons' DVD with lots of advice on how to bring up children in the 21st Century. Rob Parsons is a Director of Care for the Family - you can find out more about this organisation at www.careforthefamily.co.uk.

Please ring Carol on 07760 153922 if you'd like to find out more information or to book yourself a place - there is no cost for this event, it's free of charge!

Just for fun!

Here's a quick puzzle for you to do with a Christmas theme! Each one links the words either side - we've already completed the first one for you - the missing word is pudding as you can have a Christmas pudding and a pudding bowl. See if you can do the rest! There are no prizes - it's just for fun, but hopefully it will help get you in the mood for Christmas!



In and around the centre

Church meetings

Jubilee Church meets in the centre on Sundays at 10.00am, with the exception of the last Sunday in the month when we start with refreshments at 10.00am and then hold a shorter service, with the focus on worship for all ages, from 10.30am. Our services are friendly and informal and, for part of the service, there are separate activities for children - and a couple of times a month we hold sessions aimed at teenagers. If you would like to join us on a Sunday, without any obligation, you will be made to feel very welcome.

Clubs and regular activities

We have a variety of weekly activities at the centre, including two fitness sessions, coffee mornings and a number of clubs for children and teenagers. We also hold social events throughout the year, including quiz nights, country walks and themed evenings. Events are always publicised on the noticeboard outside the centre, so why not keep an eye out for something that interests you or contact us for more information.

Keep Fit	Monday 7.50pm/Thursday 7.45pm
Midweek Groups*	Tuesday/Wednesday 8.00pm
Coffee Morning	Wednesday 10.30am
Women's Bible Study*	Thursday 10.00am
Little Stars (0-5 yrs)	Thursday 10.00am (inc school hols)
Super Duper Kids (7-11 yrs)	Friday 6.00pm
Recess (11-18 yrs)	Friday 8.00pm

* not held at the Jubilee Centre, contact us for details

Why we are here

Our reason for being together is found in one person - Jesus Christ. We share the common purpose of serving Jesus, and one another. We also want to serve our local community, knowing that God loves our world and that He is interested in each and every person, wherever or wherever they are. We believe that a life lived for Him is simply the best! If you would like more information about Jubilee Church, any of the activities at our centre and in and around the local community, please feel free to contact us: Jackie and Jon Mills, c/o The Jubilee Centre, 157 Southlands Road, Bromley BR2 9QZ email: info@jubileechurch.co.uk or visit www.jubileechurch.co.uk

