

Parish News

December 2009

St Thomas' Parish Church

*Sharing God's Love . . .
to the community during Christmastide*

The Season of Light



During the autumn months when the hours of daylight shorten, that's when we seem to need a bit of sparkle and brightness in our lives. We look for it in the vivid illuminations that bathe our promenade in festive array; we find it in the fireworks and Guy Fawkes' bonfire celebrations. Yet, all of these fall short of the *Season of Light* – Advent – that

leads us into Christmas. As the days shorten and the nights lengthen it seems appropriate that the brilliant light of Christ's coming into the world should light-up our land, our homes, and hearts, outshining all other festivities.

But, let's face it – it's not really the array of lights that don our shops and villages at Christmas-time that give us joy. Nor, is it the lights that trim our homes and trees that fill us with a sense of peaceful anticipation. The reality is the likely truth of the Christmas story makes everything seem possible! This truth – which some doubt – somehow manages to light-up our hearts and faces, and fill us with joyful expectancy.

The mere possibility that an all-powerful creator God would enter this material world as a helpless infant, for the sole purpose of revealing His love for us to us, is still the most powerful story that can be told, again, and again, and again. Because, let's face it – this world has a lot of problems. And, yet the simple revelation that someone loved each of us so much that they would willingly share our lives and world, with all its faults, disadvantages, problems and difficulties – is still the greatest act of love yet to be found. And, that simple truth is what brings a light to our hearts and lives, and shines ever so brightly all year long. – *Revd Dr Rosalyn FT Murphy*

Coming Events



What?

Community Tree Lighting

When?

Sunday, 13 December 2009
at 6:00 pm

Where?

St Thomas' Church
(Outside on the Parish Green)

You're invited to an old fashioned 'community tree lighting.' Bring your family and friends, and plan to join us when Councillor Norman E Hardy, the Worshipful Mayor of Blackpool switches on the tree lights.

Then come inside to sing carols and enjoy a bit of light entertainment. Later, join us at the Parish Centre for seasonal refreshments and a bit of 'Yule tide' cheer.

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Registered Charity – No. 1132312





**Diocese of
Blackburn**

THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

IN LANCASHIRE

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2009

<p>13 December (Sunday)</p>	<p>6.00 pm Community Christmas Tree Lighting</p>
<p>18 December (Friday)</p>	<p>9.30 am Special Carol Service Featuring: Devonshire Road Junior School This is the school's annual 'Carol Service' which is a special performance for parents and family members, as well as members of the Devonshire Road community, the parish and St Thomas' Christian faith community. Come support our children and join the fun!</p>
<p>19 December (Saturday)</p> 	<p>2.00 pm – 5.00 pm Crib Service & Children Christmas Celebration This is a special St Thomas' parish and community event for children (of all ages) and their family members. It will be an excellent opportunity to invite friends and neighbours who would not normally attend Sunday worship. This special service will be followed by a 'fancy dress' party for youngsters of all ages.</p>
<p>19 December (Saturday)</p>	<p>6.00 pm – 9.00 pm Youth Christmas Celebration A special party for high school teens (11 – 18 years old) upstairs in the Parish Centre. Enjoy Christmas games, disco and refreshments. Admission: £2.00.</p>
<p>20 December (Sunday)</p>	<p>10.30 am All-Congregations Worship Service & Service of Holy Communion 6.00 pm Carols by Candlelight</p>
<p>24 December (Thursday) Christmas Eve</p>	<p>11.30 pm Candlelight Service of Holy Communion</p>
<p>25 December (Friday) Christmas Day</p>	<p>10.30 am All-Congregations Worship Service</p>
<p>27 December (Sunday)</p>	<p>10.30 am All-Congregations Worship Service & Congregational Communion</p>
<p>31 December (Thursday) New Year's Eve</p> 	<p>9.00 pm 'til Late Jazz Eucharist Bring the New Year in with this contemporary service being held in a 'café style' setting. A 'gala evening' is planned with food, praise, Holy Communion, and celebration. Smart dress is encouraged! There will be facilities available for a "Creche and Crash" slumber party for small children.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Book Now! Space will be limited!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dinner tickets £6.00 per person – £10.00 (couple) – Children under 10 (free) Call (01253) 399 276 to reserve seating. <i>This special service to be followed by seasonal refreshments.</i></p>