

Inspire

PARISH NEWSLETTER
ISSUE 09 2011

The parish of Penn Street
with Holmer Green

Services for the Christmas Season

Sunday 18 December 11.00 am
Christ Church Centre, Holmer Green

Family Nativity Service

Have you always wanted to be a King?... or a shepherd?... or a donkey?! Never mind your age or ability. Come along to our informal, impromptu Nativity Service and be a part of the story of the first Christmas.

Sunday 18 December 6:00 pm
Holy Trinity, Penn Street

Christmas Lessons and Carols

Listen to and join in the carols old and new, as the Bible reveals the Christmas story.



Christmas Eve 4:00 pm
Holy Trinity, Penn Street

Christingle Service

Take an hour out from your last-minute preparations, wrap up the grandchildren and bring them to the church to help find the Christmas characters and place them in the Crib. Then they receive their Christingles.

Don't know what a Christingle is? Then come along and find out!

Christmas Eve 11:30 pm
Holy Trinity, Penn Street

First Communion of Christmas



A beautiful, candle-lit service.

Christmas Day 9:00 am
Christ Church, Holmer Green

Holy Communion

A more traditional service for Christmas morning.



Christmas Day 10:30 am
Holy Trinity, Penn Street

Family Communion Service

A noisy, joyful celebration. Something for all the family. Bring your favourite present to show us. Finishes with a celebratory Communion.

New Year's Day January 1 9:00 am at Christ Church, Holmer Green

Holy Communion

Visit our website: <http://pshg.org> to see what's happening in our Parish

WHO WE ARE

The Parish of Penn Street with Holmer Green is an Anglican parish in the Diocese of Oxford blessed with two churches, **Christ Church in Holmer Green village** and **Holy Trinity church in Penn Street village**, each of different character.

You will find information about our worship services and other activities within this, our quarterly Newsletter - a part of our Christian Outreach - which aims to give you a glimpse of what we, as a church family, are about.

We always welcome newcomers into our church family fellowship, and help those wishing to learn more about Jesus, or grow their Christian faith.

Lighthouse 2012

Plans are now being drawn up for the 2012 Holiday Clubs for children in the Wycombe area run by Christians from local churches. The aim is to introduce the children to God, explore the Bible with them and help them to look to Jesus as their special friend – all in a fun-filled week with sport, craft, performing arts and music. They are only limited by the numbers of helpers they can attract, so now is the time to sign up for 2012 and tell your friends about it as well.

For more information about roles, please visit www.lighthouseadmin.org and follow the roles link.

WOULD YOU LIKE PEACE - THE PERFECT GIFT THIS CHRISTMAS?

Is that possible in these difficult times you may think? It's possible, but there's a problem called sin. God loves you and me, but cannot abide sin. God is holy, righteous and just; you and I are not, yet God loves us so much.

However there's a solution - 2000 years ago Jesus, both fully man and fully God, came to die; paying the price for my sin and your sin. God raised Him from the dead, defeating sin and death. Jesus, by defeating sin and death 'made a way' for you and me. We can come to Jesus and ask Him to forgive our sin, ask Him into our life and thank Him for that amazing gift of eternal life.

There is no way to have real peace, other than being reconciled to God, the Father. Jesus said, "*I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me*".

I have just returned from meeting with differing sections of society in Romania. During a dinner for 'Medical & Professional' people, a lady who prayed for Jesus to come into her life wrote this: "*I was really thrilled by what has happened in my soul and I felt true warmth. I was trying to express my love for God. Now, I want to be baptized*".

She found the perfect gift. What do you want for Christmas?

Would you like to know more? Contact Alan Heavey via: office@pshg.org

VICAR:	William Mason	PARISH OFFICE: Church Centre, Featherbed Lane, Holmer Green, High Wycombe, HP15 6XQ. Tel: 01494 715195. Usually open 10:00am to 12 noon Monday to Friday. Answerphone available. Email: office@pshg.org
ASSOCIATE PRIEST:	Cathy Smith	

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Our Vicar William Mason writes...

At Christmas, why do we remember and celebrate something that happened 2000 years ago? It must have been something really special. And it was. It was the most special thing that has ever happened.

And the reason why can be found in one of the names we have for Jesus at Christmas – Emmanuel. Because Emmanuel means, “God is with us.”

God put aside all His power, all His glory, and came down to earth to be born as a tiny, helpless baby, in a stable . . . Jesus . . . Emmanuel . . . God is with us!

And when Jesus grew up, he told us God’s very special message. And that message was simply, “I love you.” That’s what God wants us to hear, “I love you.”

Jesus told people about God’s love, and showed that love by letting himself be killed on the cross . . . to take our blame . . . to pay the price . . . for all our sins, all the bad things we have done . . . so that God would forgive us, and that we could be close to God and know His love for real.

Christmas reminds us that God says to us, “I love you.” Its like His Christmas present to us. We can take it, put it on one side and leave it unwrapped, or we can open it and accept the love the Christmas baby brings.

The choice is ours. At Christmas-time . . . especially at Christmas-time . . . if we listen, we can hear God saying, ever so clearly, “I love you.” . . . and He leaves His present with us. *William Mason*

Hello, I'm Cathy Smith

I’m an Associate Priest in the Parish of Penn Street and Holmer Green. Although licensed here for nearly seven years, for some of that time I have been serving as a Hospital Chaplain in Slough so have not been around very much. It has been a great privilege to be alongside so many different people going through difficult times and share God's love with them.



Now retired from chaplaincy, I am greatly enjoying being once more involved in the regular worship of the parish and the different styles of service that we hold. It is also good to be able to help William, the Vicar, with some weddings and funerals.

I know most of the people in our regular congregations quite well but I look forward to meeting more people from the parish in due course. If you would like a visit feel free to contact William or me, or a member of our Pastoral Team, and we will be delighted to have a chat.

We do pray regularly for the residents of each street in the parish! Wishing you every blessing for Christmas and the New Year. *Cathy Smith*

The Christmas Star by Mary Garren

*May the Light that shone
from the Christmas Star
On that night so long ago
Fall on you this Christmas night
and set your face aglow.*

*May it shine from your eyes.
May it rest in your mind.
May it burn in your Spirit bright.
May the Peace it spoke to a weary world.
Bring joy to your heart tonight.*

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WEEKDAYS IN THE CHURCH CENTRE

Tiddlywinks baby & toddler group. Mondays in term-time, for children from birth to pre-school ages. 1:30 - 3:00 pm.

Women's Fellowship: 1st and 3rd Thursday at 2:00 pm; for those seeking encouragement and friendship in the Christian faith.

Men's Breakfasts 8:15 - 9:30 am on the last Saturday of alternate months. A time of fellowship with an invited speaker. Next meeting **28th January 2012**

Link-Up Bereavement support Friendship group offering friendship, understanding, support and hope. Meetings in the Church Centre, usually 3rd Friday 10:30 am and 1st Monday 8:00 pm.

Mid-week Bible Study: 12:00 noon Wednesday. Bring your own lunch.

We also host **other activities** including some from outside interests during the week. Contact the Parish Office for more information.

MAKE A NOTE IN YOUR DIARY

The Autumn Concert by the Wycombe Philharmonic Choir in October at Holy Trinity was a wonderful programme of light and varied music to a packed audience with every seat filled.

**Don't miss our 'New Year' concert on
Saturday 28 January 2012
by The Aylesbury Concert Band.**

Advance ticket sales @ Parish Office 01494 715195



The Trinity Ringers (members of the **Handbell Ringers** of Great Britain) practice at Holy Trinity 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm the first & third Tuesdays each month (other times as necessary for special festivals) welcomes beginners & ringers of all abilities. Contact Parish Office 01494 715195

SERVICE TIMES

Christmas Services listed on the front page

	CHRIST CHURCH HOLMER GREEN	HOLY TRINITY PENN STREET	
1ST SUNDAY	09:00 am Holy Communion 11:00 am Holy Communion	08:00 am Holy Communion BCP <i>(Book of Common Prayer)</i>	
2ND SUNDAY	06:00 pm Holy Communion	09:00 am Morning Prayer 11:00 am Parish Family Service	
3RD SUNDAY	09:00 am Holy Communion 11:00 am Holy Communion	08:00 am Holy Communion BCP <i>(Book of Common Prayer)</i>	
4TH SUNDAY	11:00 am Morning Service	09:00 am Holy Communion 06:00 pm Healing Prayer Service	
5TH SUNDAY		10:00 am Parish Holy Communion	

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