



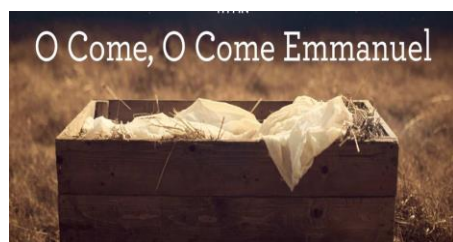
Becket Keys Church of England School

17th December 2020

IN THIS ISSUE

Mrs Sharp writes...

**Christmas is far from
cancelled – O come O come
Emmanuel**



This term, as leaves turned brown, the days got colder and the nights drew in, the nation turned its gaze towards Christmas and indeed whether it should happen at all! Even as I write, the newspapers, reporters and social media speculate about the Coronavirus rules for Christmas.

I am delighted to reassure you that nothing can actually cancel Christmas. The Christian message of this festival, a message of

hope, comfort and joy, will remain steadfast in these uncertain times and has remained unchanged for 2000 years. This year, Christmas is unlikely to be anywhere close to normal in terms of the way that we celebrate, but it can still be a joyous time. After all, there is still the story to tell of God becoming human and making his dwelling among us – heaven coming to earth in the body of a baby boy. Whichever way you tell it, whether in word or deed, in-person or online, that story alone makes every Christmas wonderful. Listen to this song by Lauren Daigle entitled 'Light of the World':

http://www.viewpure.com/_cLhaZIBSpo?start=o&end=o .

At Becket Keys, we have not let the virus extinguish our Christmas message; it has shone brightly.

..... Contd. on Page 2



BECKET KEYS
Church of England School

Heads of Year

The Heads of Year have a message for you as we come to the end of term.

Page 5-6

Christmas Recommendations

Enjoy these seasonal books and films over the Christmas break.

Page 7-8

Food Glorious Food!

This week students have been making bread and you can make a similar recipe at home!

Page 8 –10

Biblical Pause

Christ our Joy!

Page 15-16



We have had our daily Advent reflections and prayers and I have also been grateful for the work of our school ministry team at this time. Year groups have come together to worship via Microsoft Teams and have received recorded messages from Brentwood Schools Christian Workers Trust and Good News for all (formally Gideons UK). St Thomas of Canterbury Church sent Advent bags for our Year 7 students with activities for each day during Advent to share with their families.

We have raised over £2000 for our school charities this term. There has been a non-uniform day as part of our Advent journey and, whilst we have not been able to fill shoeboxes this year (due to Covid regulations), over 120 students from across all year groups donated £5.00 to provide a shoebox for every child in New Hope Children's Centre in Kenya. The money was transferred over at the beginning of December to allow Anne Chenge, the founder of the orphanage to go and buy essential and non-essential items for every child - even the babies.

Our Music department was delighted to be invited to submit

a virtual recording for the Chelmsford Diocesan Board of Education which put together an Advent Service for schools. They performed the song "Emmanuel" by Peter Johns. Students were recorded separately, both on video and with the audio. This was then put together and edited to give the impression of an ensemble performance. It was used towards the start of the service and can be watched on YouTube following this link: <https://youtu.be/lzkEHnrQQME>.

Last week, Mr. Romhany also appeared on Phoenix FM with the head of music from Brentwood School and the head of music from St Martin's School where they discussed their virtual music concerts during lockdown and how they are preparing for their Christmas Concerts this year. Becket Keys stage band

performed the opening piece on this radio segment. Please remember to join us this evening for the Becket Keys Virtual Christmas Concert and feel free to share the link with family and friends! There will be half an hour of reflective music and readings. The concert will premiere live at 7pm but will be available to watch throughout Christmas by clicking on this link:

<https://youtu.be/QNtd3Y7uruo>.

Finally, I would like to take the opportunity to wish you a wonderful Christmas and thank you for all your support and encouraging messages at this challenging time. Please take care, stay safe and, whilst things may be different this year, I pray that you will delight in the true meaning of Christmas and the blessings of Jesus Christ will be with you forever.

*God grant us the light of
Christmas, which is faith;
the warmth of Christmas, which is
purity;
the belief in Christmas, which is
truth;
the all of Christmas, which is
Christ.
May we find peace, comfort and
joy in the Christ child.
God be with us always. Emmanuel
Amen.*





As a reminder, our School Nurse is currently unable to meet with students on site, but please do contact Mrs. Cavalier if you feel your child would benefit from this support. In addition to this, all students have been made aware of the nursing team CHAT Healthline. This is answered by a School Nurse between the hours of 9-5pm Monday to Friday, and they will respond to all messages within 24 hours Monday – Friday. The aim is to provide timely and convenient access to confidential health advice for every young person in Essex.

Students can phone or text:

07520 615732.

Please note, self-referrals are accepted if the student is aged 13 and over. If the student is under this age, the school nursing team will seek parental consent.



BECKET KEYS
Church of England School

vaccine

1. Jenner created a **vaccine** for smallpox without even understanding the basics of germ theory.
2. **Vaccines** deliver antibodies that fight disease.
3. The children nervously lined up in the hall to receive their **vaccinations**

Meaning: a substance used to stimulate the production of antibodies and provide immunity against one or several diseases.

Etymology: from Latin *vaccinus*, from *vadca* 'cow' (because of the early use of the cowpox virus to vaccinate against smallpox).

Book of the Month - December

FROM THE AUTHOR OF **ORANGEBOY**

EIGHT PIECES OF SILVIA

EIGHT REASONS TO FIND HER...
PATRICE LAWRENCE

WHY SHOULD I READ IT?

When Becks' mum and her stepdad Justin go on their honeymoon to Japan, they leave Justin's older daughter, 18-year-old Silva, in charge - but she never comes home after seeing them off at the airport.

Becks starts off cross, then rapidly becomes deeply worried, but she doesn't want to ruin her mum and Justin's honeymoon, so she decides to try and sort it out herself. Silvia is a very private person whom Becks barely knows these days, and she's not supposed to go into her bedroom. But what choice does she have, especially when it's obvious that her cat Azog has gone in there and made a stinky mess!

Becks finds eight pieces of evidence in Silva's room that lead her on a mysterious journey to finding out about Silva's very complicated and secret life.

This is a brilliant read for a teenager, and Becks is a great heroine. The dialogue rings true and the book is about so much: friendship, being a gay girl, living in a mixed heritage family, K-pop, the return of absent fathers, how complicated life is and, in a thread running through the story, the sinister danger of toxic relationships.

This is a really fantastic book with no easy answers and a slightly chilling ending ...

Raise funds for The Friends of Becket Keys every time you shop online

Find us on easyfundraising to start:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/becketkeysschoolbrentwood/>



Shop with over 3,300 online stores



£27 Million raised

1.6 Million users

130,000 causes

Remember when doing your last minute online Christmas shopping you can sign up to our school cause on *EasyFundraising* and raise funds **free** from donations at over 4,000 shops when you shop online. It's really simple and takes less than 5 minutes to register. Once registered, raising free donations is easy!

Go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk and search for your favourite retailers. Click "Go Shopping," and make your purchase as normal. Alternatively, download the "Donation Reminder" for your computer which will highlight when a free donation is available on over 4,000 sites that you may visit outside of the EasyFundraising Portal. Either way, your everyday purchases will help FoBK raise funds to support the School. We currently have 93 supporters and have raised over £2,300 in free donations!

You can register here:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/becketkeysschoolbrentwood/>



ADDITIONAL INSET DAY

**FRIDAY 18TH DECEMBER
2020.**

There will be no students in school on Friday 18th December. The last day of term is Thursday 17th December and students will finish at 3.00pm or 3.10pm as usual. Check the back page of the newsletter each week for important dates.

INSET DAY

MONDAY 4TH JANUARY 2021



Please find attached with this newsletter some information about local Church Christmas Services.

Please remember to check with the venue before you travel and due to the latest restrictions most events will be online.

Messages from the Heads of Year



Mr Pethers Head of Year 7 & 8

This term has been the most unique and challenging term I think I have ever faced. Year group bubbles, sanitise stations, designated areas for each year group to eat, everything that I enjoy about our school community has been adapted and tailored to make Becket Keys a safe place for over a thousand staff and students to learn, work and grow.

Through all of this, as a community we have grown closer together than ever before; your children have exceeded all expectations. **Life doesn't get easier or more forgiving, we get stronger and more resilient.** I think back to September, the first day of the 'new normal'. Many were apprehensive, some even reluctant to get back to school. What I have seen over the last four months is young people developing skills and attitudes far beyond their years. To make such good progress not just as learners, but as individuals

too is something I am so proud of. I'm sure you hear their daily musings, listen to the many questions and offer support where possible. I thank you for that.

To successfully work with other people, we have to trust each other. A big part of this is trusting people to get their work done wherever they are, without supervision. Character is what we do when nobody is looking. This year restrictions have meant I cannot be everywhere all of the time. Instead, I have watched from a recommended and safe distance, as your children have excelled in living out the key Christian values of our school.

Hang in there, as better times are ahead. Whilst I cannot see or predict when we will be able to return to 'normal school-life' I know that when we return after a much needed break, better times are ahead. Students are so much more confident now with an admirable ability to take any change in their stride.

Christmas will be different this year, but everything has been! A phrase I am hearing more and more as we approach Christmas morning is *'It's not about what we have under the tree, it's about those we have around it. They are of most importance.'* I am proud of every single one of us. Enjoy this time together, tuck into your turkey, overindulge on sweets and chocolate but overall,

appreciate uninterrupted time spent with loved ones. You have earned it!

Merry Christmas!



Mrs Noble Head of Year 9

I want you all to know how proud I have been of this year group. We have had many challenges to overcome in this first term and students have remained positive, have shown incredible strength of character, perseverance and resilience whilst having to contend with an enormous amount of change. It has been a privilege being your Head of Year and I wish you all a very merry Christmas and new year. Stay safe and I am looking forward to seeing everyone back in January!



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Miss Brown Head of Year 10

I want you all to know how especially proud I have been of Year 10 this term. They have remained positive, shown incredible strength of character, perseverance and resilience all whilst having to contend with an enormous amount of change. I could not be prouder.

I wish you all a very merry and restful Christmas, and I look forward to our return in January.



Miss Ellis Head of Year 11

Year 11 have been working so hard over the past term and I am incredibly proud to be their Head of Year. They have faced an incredible amount of challenge as they worked towards and then

sat their mock exams. A feat that is not easy in a global pandemic. Despite this, students have carried on and have shown resilience and dedication.

I am so proud of every student. I look forward to seeing what everyone can achieve in the new year and I look forward to being there to support Year 11 at every step, along with all the other teachers who have worked so incredibly hard this term. Thank you for all your support both for your children and for the staff at our school, it is so appreciated.

I hope you all have a wonderful break and a **very** Merry Christmas.

Mrs Course Acting Head of Sixth Form

It has certainly been an interesting term in the Sixth Form! Mrs Martin and I have had the pleasure of looking after all of Year 12 and 13 during the last term. With mocks, UCAS, impending January exams and a global pandemic, the Sixth Form have shown they are resilient, hardworking and have a fantastic sense of humour.

It has not always been easy, (the students will tell you that), but as Acting Head of Sixth Form I have thoroughly enjoyed the last term. To those parents and students who have sent kind supportive emails and cards, thank you, they really have helped keep us going.

I wish you and your families a wonderful and blessed Christmas. It may not be as we usually have, but as I read recently, the first Christmas was simple, but still special!



Sixth Form Event

Darren Yaxley is an Associate Director at YouGov (<https://yougov.co.uk/people/dyaxley/>). He took time out of his working day to speak to our Politics, Psychology and Sociology students via MS Teams about his role in social research. He ran three polls for our own students to participate in and brought to life areas of the specification that our students learn about. Darren also spoke about elements of his job and his journey to reach his current position in his career. He also shared valuable advice about how to prepare for life after Becket Keys and about applying for employment, including taking care on social media and tips for CVs.

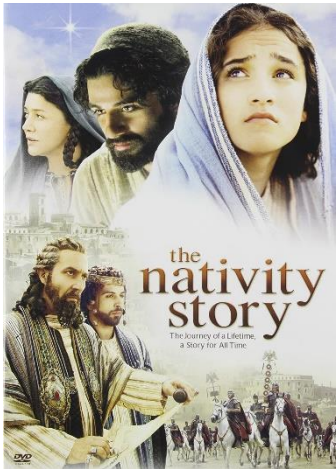
We would like to thank Mr Yaxley for his expertise and time. We hope to make this an annual event for students.

Christmas Recommendations

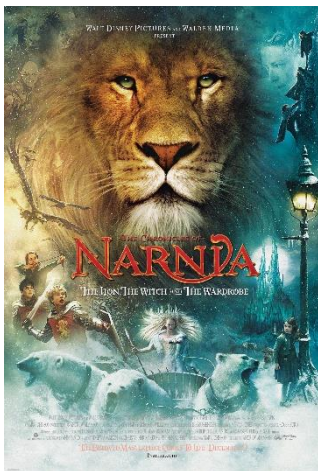
As we are at home this Christmas here is a little list of good films and books you could read at Christmas. Keep safe and well.

Mrs Knowles
Head of RP

Films

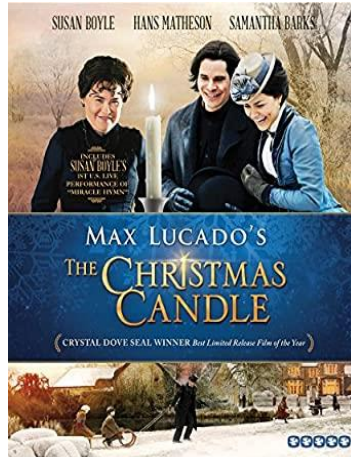


The Nativity Story PG



The Chronicles of Narnia PG

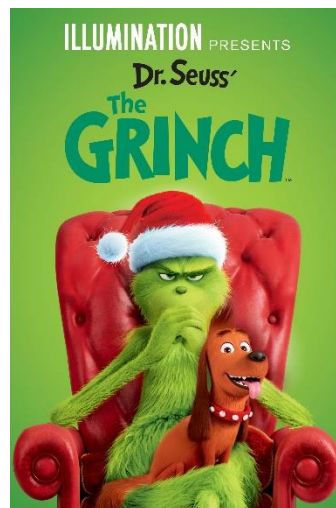
This film tells the story of four siblings who find the magical land of Narnia through the back of a wardrobe. Their destiny is to free it with the help of a mystical lion.



Max Lucado's The Christmas Candle PG

This film dramatizes the much loved Christmas novel by Max Lucado.

In 19th-century England, a minister's quest to modernize his village puts him at odds with people who believe that whoever lights the candle that an angel touched will receive a miracle on Christmas Eve.



Dr Seuss' the Grinch U

Books



Light in the Darkness

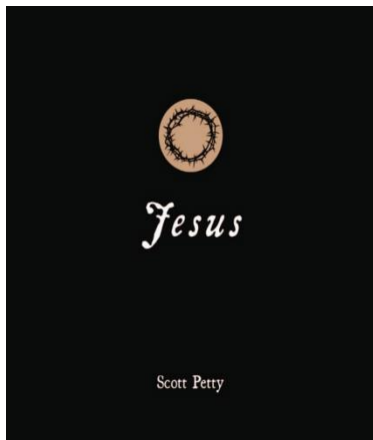
A stunning graphic realisation of the Christmas Story, from Luke 1-2, using nothing but unedited Bible text. This book introduces the biblical account of the first Christmas to a new audience in a fresh way, powerfully capturing the joy, pain and emotion of Luke 1 and 2.



A Christmas Carol is the classic Christmas story by Charles Dickens about Ebenezer Scrooge, an elderly miser who is visited by

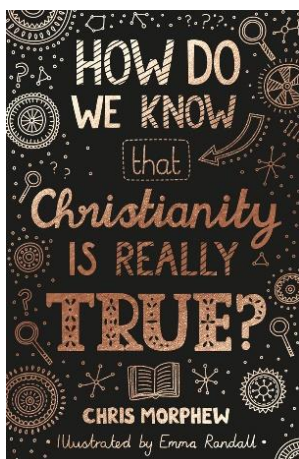
the ghost of his former business partner Jacob Marley and the spirits of Christmas Past, Present and Yet to Come. After their visits, Scrooge is transformed into a kinder, gentler man.

Dickens wrote *A Christmas Carol* during a period when the British were exploring and re-evaluating past Christmas traditions, including carols, and newer customs such as Christmas trees. He was influenced by the experiences of his own youth and by other Christmas stories.



Little Black Book – Jesus (14+)

A small book explaining the difference Jesus makes to life, history and eternity written for teens and young adults.

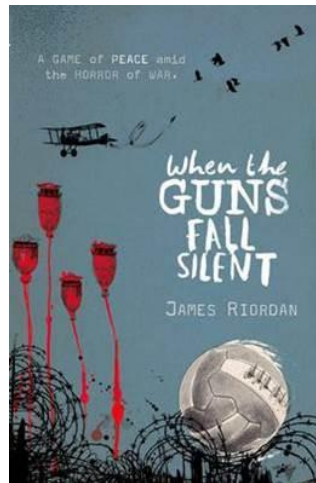


How do we know Christianity is really true? (age 9-13)

Chris Morphew looks at how we know Christianity is really true, to help 9-13s grow in confident and considered faith

Good Winter Reads

When the Guns fall silent (11+) James Riordan

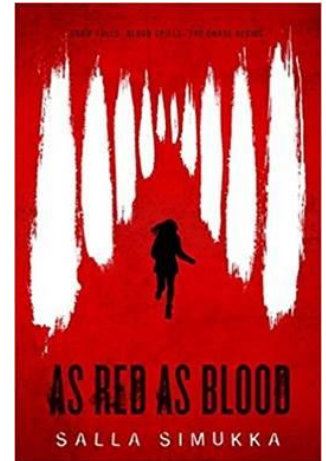


Jack, standing among the war graves, sees a face he recognizes. Suddenly, it's 1914 again and he's a young lad back in the trenches. Visions of killing and misery come to him with horrible clarity.

But then Jack remembers too the incredible moment when the guns fell silent for a short time, and fighting gave way to football on the frozen ground of No-Man's-Land.

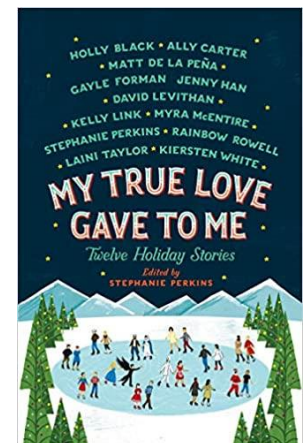
This amazing story, based on true facts from the First World War, will transport readers back to the war fields of France and show that even in times of conflict and

extreme sadness, there is always hope.



As Red as Blood (13+) Salla Simukka

Lumikki Andersson is familiar with secrets and lies, but she also has a rule not to mind other people's business. However, when she discovers a lot of money in her school darkroom - that rule is put sharply to the test.



My True love gave to me (12+)

If you love Christmas stories or the Christmas editions of your favourite shows, you are going to fall in love with *My True Love Gave to Me: Twelve Holiday Stories* by twelve bestselling young adult writers.

Food Glorious Food!

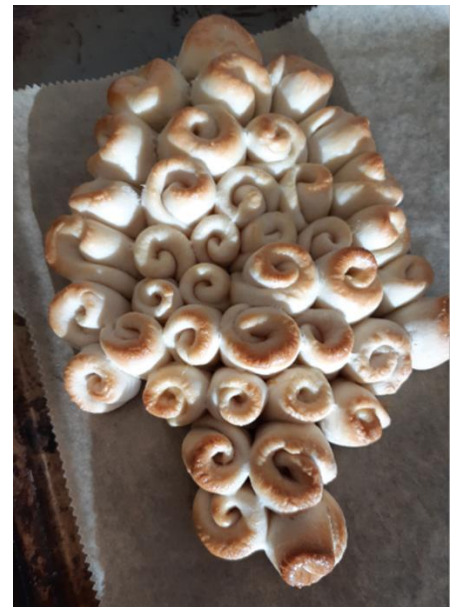
In the Food Department this week my Year 10 Food Preparation and Nutrition students took part in their first practical lesson Covid style. I was very impressed with how they took on the responsibility of all the new safety measures we have had to put into place to enable us to conduct practical lessons.

I was also impressed with how well their bread turned out as it has been months since the students have cooked anything at school. You can see below a number of the photos of the Christmas tree breads they produced.

We also continue to enjoy seeing the lovely pictures of the dishes that the students have been cooking at home, I really do enjoy opening and marking this home learning.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a fabulous New Year, please stay safe and take care.

Mrs English – Food Teacher



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Recipe of the Week

In our bread lesson, the students used a basic bread recipe and created a Christmas tree bread by following my instructions and demonstration.

If you would like to try something similar at home I have found this recipe online for a Christmas tree bread which you can have as a festive treat ☺



Christmas Tree

Garlic Bread

Ingredients

500g strong white bread flour

7g sachet fast-action dried yeast
2 tsp golden caster sugar
100g butter, melted (buy a 250g pack and use the rest in the garlic butter)

drizzle of oil, for greasing
2 tbsp. fine polenta or cornmeal
150g pack mozzarella (about 20 balls)

For the tomato dipping sauce
small knob of butter
1 garlic clove, crushed
2 x 400g cans chopped tomatoes
1 tsp dried oregano
1 tbsp red wine vinegar
2 tsp golden caster sugar

For the garlic butter
140g butter
4 garlic cloves, crushed
small bunch parsley, finely chopped (leave a little leftover to garnish, if you like)

Method

Tip the flour into a large bowl or the bowl of a freestanding mixer. Add the yeast and sugar to one side of the bowl and 1 tsp fine salt to the other. Mix together, then add the melted butter and 275ml warm water. Mix to a dough, then knead for 10 mins by hand (or 5 mins in a freestanding mixer) until the dough feels stretchy and soft. Clean out the bowl, then lightly grease with a little oil. Turn the dough over in the oiled bowl until it's well coated. Cover with cling film or a tea towel and set aside somewhere warm until the dough has doubled in size. Alternatively, put the dough in the fridge and leave to rise slowly for two days (bring it to room temperature before continuing to step 2).

Line your largest baking sheet with parchment, and dust with polenta or cornmeal. Drain the mozzarella and dry the balls on some kitchen paper. Tip the dough onto your work surface and punch out the air bubbles. To make a Christmas tree shape, you'll need 23 balls. Tear off lumps of dough, ensuring each one is roughly the same size (if you want to be exact, weigh the dough, divide the weight by 23, then weigh each ball of dough as you break them off).

Shape each piece of dough into a disc and place a ball of mozzarella in the middle. Pull up the sides of the dough to encase the cheese, pinching the dough together to seal. Roll into a ball and place on the baking sheet, sealed-side down, in a tree shape. Leave a little space between each ball, as they will grow when proving. You are likely to have two or three balls without mozzarella, so use these pieces of dough for the trunk – for anyone who doesn't like cheese. Cover the tray with a sheet of oiled cling film and set aside for 30 mins until almost doubled in size.

While the dough proves, make the tomato dipping sauce. Melt the butter in a saucepan, add the garlic and sizzle for 30 seconds until fragrant. Add the tomatoes, oregano, vinegar, sugar and some seasoning. Bubble for 30 mins until the sauce is thick. Heat oven to 200C/180C fan/gas 6. When the dough is ready, uncover the baking sheet and bake for 20-25 mins until golden

brown. Meanwhile, make the garlic butter. Melt the butter in a saucepan, add the garlic and sizzle for 1-2 mins until the garlic is a shade darker (but not brown). When the bread is cooked, transfer it to a platter. Stir most of the parsley into the garlic butter and use a pastry brush to brush it all over the bread. Leave it to soak in, then brush on more. Sprinkle over a little extra parsley to garnish, if you like. Reheat the tomato sauce and serve it alongside the bread with any remaining garlic butter.



Max Barton - Year 9
Leek & Pea Risotto



Felicity Hookings -Year 9
Stew and Dumplings

Students Cooking at Home

The lack of practical lessons has not diminished the students' enthusiasm for cooking. Here are more delicious recipes cooked by our students at home.



Kaitlyn Bell - Year 7
Chocolate Cake



Erica Tupper Year 9
Chicken & Leek Pie.



Lucia Da Costa-Smith -Year 9
made this delicious Gingerbread House with her sister and aunts.



Louis Farel - Year 9
Chorizo Pasta



Martha Johnstone - Year 7
Biscuits



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Art & Textiles



The Becket Key Art Students have had a very successful 2 Terms! Well done to everyone & Merry Christmas!

Year 7



Year 8



Year 9

Year 10



Year 11



Year 12



Year 13





PAUSE

Bring the Christian message of hope and peace

Comfort
and Joy



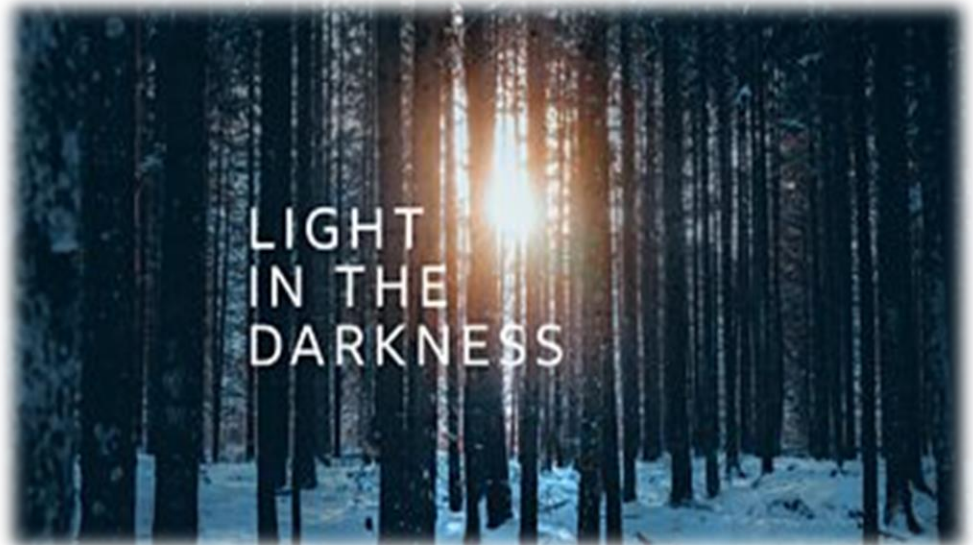
⊕ THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Christ our Joy

"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. For today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord."

Luke 2:10-11

When you think about Christmas, the first thing that may come to mind may be opening gifts while



wearing matching pyjamas with the rest of the family! In the excitement, it can be easy to forget the true meaning of Christmas. Reading from the Bible can remind us that Christmas is a celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, who was put on this Earth to reverse mankind's sins. The darkness does not go away. Not now, not yet. But the light that shines into it can make even the bleakest

midwinter into a landscape glistening with promise.

*God rest ye merry, gentlemen
Let nothing you dismay.
Remember, Christ, our Saviour
Was born on Christmas day.
To save us all from Satan's
power
When we were gone astray.
O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy*

These words echo through my mind as I consider the birth of our Saviour. We worry about many things outside of our control, especially in these challenging times. However, these words are a clear reminder that God wants us to turn over our problems, our grief, our struggles, and our worries to Him. He has sent His Son to save us. We see a tiny baby, born in such humble setting. This is God's greatest gift, a gift of life and salvation for all people. We can rest knowing that God is there to calm our worries, ease our fears, and alleviate our anxieties. Through faith in Him, we find comfort and joy.

As this busy term comes to an end, let us thank God for His gift of everlasting life, wrapped so beautifully and humbly as a tiny infant born in a manger. May we accept His gift and allow Him to always bring us comfort and joy. May we remind others of the true meaning of Christmas, concisely wrapped up in this verse.

Advent is the story of a most wondrous moment when God entered our world to put things right. It is the greatest story ever told and changes everything. Watch this remake of the 2015 John Lewis advert. It tells the story of a little girl searching for God, but is He listening? Her prayers are answered, through the most perfect Christmas present.

http://www.viewpure.com/KoxTF_31yyE?start=0&end=0



Think about how the 'Good news' can change the way you celebrate Christmas?

Let us pray:

Dear Lord,

Do not let us miss you this Advent and Christmas season. Help us to simplify our activities and traditions so we can focus our celebration on Your birth. Let us be creative in the way we reach out to others safely at this

challenging time. Thank you for the simple, but life-changing message of your love for us. It brings comfort and joy for all. May we know your presence with us today, this Christmas and always.

Amen.

Mrs Sharp
Deputy Headteacher

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

LAST DAY OF TERM

(USUAL FINISH TIME)

THURSDAY 17TH DECEMBER

*

NEW INSET DAY

(NO STUDENTS IN SCHOOL)

FRIDAY 18TH DECEMBER

*

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

MONDAY 21ST DECEMBER 2020 –

FRIDAY 1ST JANUARY 2021

*

INSET DAY

(NO STUDENTS IN SCHOOL)

MONDAY 4TH JANUARY 2021

*

LENT HOLIDAY

MONDAY 15TH – FRIDAY 19TH FEBRUARY

*

INSET DAY

(NO STUDENTS IN SCHOOL)

MONDAY 22ND FEBRUARY 2021

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