



Winter 2018

## Church Matters *at Christmas*

The Church of the Ascension, The Avenue, Wembley HA9 9QL

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**Dear Friends,**

### Hope and Thanksgiving

I **thank** God for the lovely comparatively warm autumn we are enjoying and it seems to me that the leaves on the trees have been even more spectacular this year as they turn through the various autumnal shades of green, yellow, red and brown. I **thank** God for the spectacular seasons off the year and **hope** for a memorable and reflective spiritual season to come.

At the beginning of November this year, at our All Souls Service we remembered our loved ones who have died in the faith of Christ. We do this every year, but this year was particularly poignant as we gave thanks to God for several members our congregation who have died within the last 12 months. Not least the Reverends Gareth Bevan and Norman Bird who had served this parish with their unique and special characterful gifts. Also, as this magazine goes to print we remember with affection another faithful servant of this parish Don Watson, who peacefully slipped away in October. Our prayers are very much with Hilary and Trevor as they prepare for his funeral. But the feast of All Souls is not a time to mourn, indeed just the opposite is true, it is a time to remember with hope and thanksgiving. **Hope** because the Christian faith is one that say there is life beyond the grave and **thanksgiving** because we remember people who have touched our lives with their special presence.



Then the second week of November also challenges us to remember those who have given up their lives for the sake of their country and our freedom, again this year, has a special poignancy as we commemorate 100 years since the end of the First World War. I wonder where we would be today had brave young men and women not laid down their lives for our freedom in that war and in wars and conflicts since then. We **thank** God for each and every one of them and **hope** and pray that modern combat may never cause such havoc or reap such blood shed again.

Later in November, as the colourful trees will most surely be laid bare we will turn our thoughts away from such cathartic things to the annual Winter Fair, with all the energy and enthusiasm that goes into that event. Please do come and support us in whatever way you can. Again, picking up on the themes of Thanksgiving and Hope, I take this opportunity to **thank** all those who give so generously of their time and energy to enable it all to happen and I **hope** that we will be able show our local area that the church is not just about Sundays but about a group of people who have fun and care and welcome the people in the wider community.

All this before we even get to Advent and Christmas!! May we all be blessed with many things to give **Thanks** for and look forward to the **Hope** of a joyful and peaceful Christmas.

**Olwen**

# Christmas

## SERVICES

December 16 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday	6.00pm	<i>Carol Service</i>
December 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Sunday	10.00am 5.00pm	<i>Parish Communion</i>
December 24 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	5.00pm 11.30pm	<i>All-age Nativity and Christingle Midnight Communion</i>
December 25 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	10.00am	<i>Christmas Day Communion</i>
December 30 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday	10.00am	<i>All-age Communion</i>
January 1 <sup>st</sup>	Tuesday	11.00am	<i>New Year's Day Communion</i>

### Christmas Prayer

*Loving God, help us remember the birth of Jesus,  
that we may share in the song of the angels,  
the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men*

*Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world.  
Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every  
greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings,  
and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.*

*May Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children,  
and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts,  
forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.*

*-- Robert Louis Stevenson--*

#### Your contacts at the Ascension

Vicar:	Rev. Preb. Olwen Field	020 8904 4062
Churchwarden:	Nicola Kent	07887778668
website:	<a href="http://www.ascensionwembley.org">www.ascensionwembley.org</a>	
email:	<a href="mailto:ascensionwembley@gmail.com">ascensionwembley@gmail.com</a>	

## Lots of prizes on the day!!

### Support the Ascension Grand Christmas Draw

00001	CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION Promoter: Mrs Janel Ball, 41, Basing Hill, Wembley Park HA9 9QS	00001
CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION	<b>GRAND CHRISTMAS DRAW</b>	
NAME _____		<b>1st Prize: £100 Cash</b>
ADDRESS _____		<b>Plus numerous supporting prizes</b>
TEL No _____		Draw will take place on 29th November 2014
<small>Unsold Tickets, Cash, Counterfoils should be returned to promoter by 21st November 2014</small>		Registered with Brent Council
		Thank You and Good Luck
	<small>QuickPrint(UK) Ltd, 23 Prince William Road, Bolton Park, Loughborough, Leic. LE11 5GU Tel: 01509 236987 www.quickprintuk.com</small>	<b>TICKETS 50p EACH</b>

Hopefully you should have some Grand Draw tickets enclosed with this special shortened Christmas edition of the magazine. It would help us enormously if you could fill in the counterfoils and return them, together with your ticket money to Olwen Field in the first instance, at the Vicarage, 319 Preston Road, Harrow, HA3 0QQ.

We really appreciate your participation in this aspect of our annual Winter Fair and wish you good luck!

**If you require extra tickets, they are available from Olwen on 020 8904 4062**

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## CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

You are warmly invited to come along and enjoy our Christmas Tree Festival. The church will be adorned with trees, each decorated by various groups within the church community.

***Everyone is welcome and the church will be open specially for a viewing on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> December....from 1.00pm to 4.00pm***

***The trees will of course be on view during all our services over Christmas, the times of which are shown on page 2.***

# Winter Fair

Saturday November 17<sup>th</sup>  
11.00am – 3.30pm



**Our traditional Winter Fair with bargains, lunches, refreshments and a chance to win some prizes. Do tell your family and friends.**

- *Lunch, Teas & Refreshments*
- *Grand Draw*
- *New & Nearly New*
- *Toys, Glass and Face Painting*
- *Bulbs & Christmas Table Decorations*
- *Jewellery*
- *Pins & Needles*
- *Plants & Preserves*
- *Tombola*
- *Books*
- *Bric-a-Brac*
- *Games for children*

**Stops right outside**



**Father Christmas will be calling in too  
...at around 11.45 and 2.30!**



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