

Church of the Good Shepherd, Low Hill

Notices January 2025



## A Brand New Year

I'm sure there are many different reactions to the approach of another New Year. Here are a few examples:

Goodness me I've only just become used to writing 2024.

I wish those few days of Christmas festivity and company could last a little longer.

I'm glad that I will be reminded less of those I so dearly miss.

It's a relief not to have to pretend to get on with Uncle antagonistic and Auntie particular!

I'm so excited about all the new opportunities and adventures that await me.

All of the above are honest reactions and I'm sure many more that those of faith, some faith or no faith share, but might there be a uniquely Christian response to the arrival of a New Year? Surely the answer must be there are many and I offer one below.

**"How well have I invested the resources of my gold, frankincense and myrrh in 2024 and what are my investment plans with the same for 2025?!"**

**My gold?** Have my finances and time that I have control over, been shared generously with my King, so that I've seen Him help me with my needs even if I have had to turn away from some of my wants?! What might I change in 2025?

**My frankincense?** Has my Maker daily heard my voice in prayer and song? Have I shared my shining little light with Him and my fellow travellers on Sundays? And 2025...

**My myrrh?** Am I prepared to follow in the footsteps of Jesus even if it means I might find myself on a path that discomforts me? (See John 21: 18 - 19). Remember it is often in the small things of life that we are invited to die to ourselves! And 2025...

Happy  
New Year  
2025

## December Round-up

Many thanks to those who contributed to the variety of activities that made the lead-up to Christmas very special this year. The pre-Christmas clean-up and decorating the church, then sharing some lunch together was a good launch into the busy-ness of the season and the church looked lovely, both inside and out. In addition to our usual Christmas services some of us took the opportunity of a sunny winter morning to sing carols on Showell Circus; we may be internet sensations, as some of the shopkeepers and passers-by were filming - yikes! We decided, rather last minute, to do a Black Country Christmas Night Out - which uncovered a variety of talents as we shared jokes, songs, stories and an authentic rendition of a Black Country Nativity. Faggots and peas, Grey Peas and bacon, cheese and onion cobs, and a side of scratchings were essential elements that made the proceedings go with a bang. Thank you to those who were able to contribute gifts for Whitgreave Primary School, they were very touched by the church's generosity and it will really help us to link with the school and our community. Wider afield, Simon Rooksby, of Computersforcharities, was able to undertake his annual trip to eastern Europe to distribute the Christmas gifts we collected throughout last year. He has some great testimonies of the journey and the gratitude expressed by those who received the gifts. Please do continue to pray for Simon as he returns to the UK, recovers from the journey and picks up his usual schedule and activities both in the charity and with his family. Finally, in our round-up of December, congratulations to Taiwo who was admitted to the Degree of Master of Public Administration (Faith Based Leadership), at Birmingham University on Friday 13th December.



## January 2025 News

**Notice Board** (Things that happen regularly in church. If you want further information, get in touch via A Church Near You or the parish website contacts below - or leave a message on the church phone - 01902 731963))



**Sunday Services** continue every week at 11am.

- ♥ **Waking the Dawn** is every Saturday, 8am - 9am. All are welcome at this powerhouse of prayer.
- ♥ **Over 50s**, an easy-going friendship and support group, restarts at 2pm on January 6<sup>th</sup> and continues every fortnight.
- ♥ **Bushbury Youth Group** for 11 - 14-year-olds meet weekly on a Friday during term time, 7.15pm in St Mary's church hall, resuming on January 10<sup>th</sup>.
- ♥ **Coffee Morning**; The legendary Toastie Pat will be back in action. Drop in any Friday morning 10 - 12 during school term.

## Other news

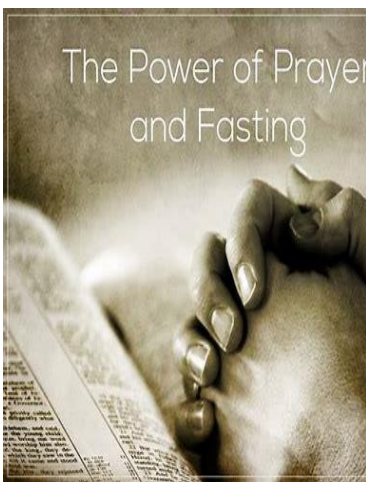


**The Healing Service** will continue its bi-monthly pattern. The next one will be on January 12<sup>th</sup> 5 - 6pm. **This will take place at St Mary's Church.**

**City-wide Prayer** will be at St James's church on January 16<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm

**Men's Breakfast** will next be on January 18<sup>th</sup> 10am in the Parish Hall - Is the world coming to an end?

**Parish Leaders Retreat** (for leadership, PCC and DCC members) on 25th January at St James 10am - 3pm. More details to follow.



**Advance Notice.** Saturday 8th February has been set aside as a day of Prayer and Fasting. You may remember we had several weeks of teaching on this last October. The invitation is for everyone to be involved, not just leadership teams and there will be opportunities to meet at each of our 3 churches at different times of day for prayer and worship. You are welcome to attend any or even all; Waking the dawn 9-

10am at the Church of the Good Shepherd, 2 - 3pm at St James and 6 - 7pm at St Mary's.

**Breaking News!** Please do hold Rosie, Catherine, Rob, Ros and Zoe Egerton in prayer as we share news of Barry's promotion to glory on New Year's Eve. We pray that they will be comforted by the hope of glory in his life and theirs as they walk through the valley of the shadow of death, and are strengthened in the knowledge that the Lord is by their side. There is a plan for a celebration of Barry's life to take place in Wolverhampton in the Spring



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If you need to contact Rev Taiwo Olumuyiwa, please in the first instance speak to the **Parish Office:** 01902 782226

We can also be found on: <https://www.achurchnearyou.com> (enter The Good Shepherd, Low Hill).

<https://bushburyteamministry.co.uk/church-of-the-good-shepherd> or find us on facebook

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