



# Happy Christmas

Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.  
Today in the town of David, a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord (Luke 2:10-11)

## Coming home - the best gift of all!

Christmas time, I love it!

I always look forward to seeing the John Lewis adverts, to get us all in the mood! This year it's Buster the boxer, and the gift of the trampoline, a gift that everyone will love, even Buster the boxer.

While I was Googling it, I happened upon "The advert to rival John Lewis and M&S!" according to the paper, the Evening Standard!

Heathrow Airport, believe it or not, have made an advert, that has two old bears going back home for Christmas. They obviously live in sunnier climates but are flying back home to be with family. On arrival at the airport they are wonderfully transformed into human beings as they are reunited with their family! Is there something in that about Love making us more human?

Again another gift for me as I write my Christmas message!

Because Christmas is all about the gift that God gives us in his Son Jesus Christ. In that baby wrapped in swaddling clothes in a stable, two thousand years (plus) ago is the invitation from God the Father to us, to "Come home", to be reconciled with Him and to be transformed into the kind of humanity this world longs to witness more and more. Humanity seeking after God's heart, reflecting God's image. There is a sense of coming home when we experience God's love in our own lives. A freedom, fullness, a bit like Buster the Boxer, jumping on the trampoline! And it's a gift for everyone!

That invitation stands this Christmas, and Boxing Day and the day after that and the day after that and the day after that.....

Merry Christmas everyone, may it be a transforming one for us all.

With Love

*Suzanne and Philippa*  
and all at the Seven Towers Benefice

# Christmas in the Seven Towers Benefice

Do come and join us!

## Sunday 18th December

### TWIGWORTH

10.30am Carol Service

### NORTON

4.00pm Carol Service

### SANDHURST

6.00pm Carol Service

### BODDINGTON

6.30pm Carol Service

### DOWN HATHERLEY

6.30pm Carol Service

## Monday 19th December

3.30pm MESSY CHURCH Christmas Party at  
Norton Village Hall (ends 5.00pm)

## Saturday 24th December Christmas Eve

### SANDHURST

4.00pm Nativity Service

*Come dressed as a character from the Christmas story!*

### THE LEIGH

6.00pm Carol Service

### TWIGWORTH

11.15pm Midnight Mass

## Sunday 25th December, Christmas Day

### SANDHURST

9.30am Family Communion

### DOWN HATHERLEY

9.30am Family Communion

### NORTON

9.30am Family Communion

### STAVERTON

9.30am Family Communion

## Sunday 1st January New Year's Day

### BODDINGTON

10.00am Whole Benefice Holy Communion

The Seven Towers Benefice is made up of the churches at Sandhurst, Twigworth, Down Hatherley, Norton, The Leigh, Staverton and Boddington.

Our Benefice services are an important part of our Church life. So don't forget that every second Sunday we always come together in one place for worship. It is a real blessing when people from all over the Benefice, both young and old, gather together!

If there is a fifth Sunday in any month we join together for a Benefice Holy Communion service.

Benefice services take place in different parishes throughout the year. See the Benefice magazine or website for details.

The painting on this card, 'Adoration of the Kings', was painted by Gloucester-born artist Iain McKillop. He is now a clergyman in Surrey. If you've not seen it already, go and see his amazing Triptych Altarpiece in the Lady Chapel of Gloucester Cathedral.