



I Corinthians 13 (A Christmas Version)

If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny balls, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtimes, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home and give all that I have to charity but do not show love to my family, it profits me nothing.

If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties and sing in the choir's cantata but do not focus on those I love the most, I have missed the point.

....In other words

Love stops the cooking to hug a child

Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the spouse

Love is kind, though harried and tired

Love doesn't envy another's home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens

Love doesn't yell at the kids to get out of the way but is thankful; they are there to be in the way

Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return but rejoices in giving to those who can't

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things

Love never fails

Video games will break, pearl necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust

But the gift of love will endure.

A Christmas Prayer - Robert Louis Stevenson
Loving Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus that we many 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 clean hearts. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be Thy children and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen

Ten Commandments for Christmas

1 You shall not leave 'Christ' out of Christmas, making it 'Xmas'. To some, 'X' is unknown.

2 You shall prepare your soul for Christmas. Spend not so much on gifts that your soul is forgotten.

3 You shall not let Santa Claus replace Christ, thus robbing the day of its spiritual reality.

4 You shall not burden the shop girl, the postman, and the merchant with complaints and demands.

5 You shall give yourself with your gift. This will increase its value a hundredfold, and the one who receives it shall treasure it for ever.

6 You shall not value gifts received by their cost. Even the least expensive may signify love, and that is more priceless than silver and gold.

7 You shall not neglect the needy. Share your blessings with many who will go hungry and cold if you are not generous.

8 You shall not neglect your church. Its services highlight the true meaning of the season.

9 You shall be as a little child. Not until you become in spirit as a little one are you ready to enter into the kingdom of Heaven.

10 You shall give your heart to Christ. Let him be as the top of your Christmas list.

2021 Christmas Extra services

24th December

4pm Christingle Service at Lower Wortley led by Deacon Guy Austin-Bride

4pm Christingle Service at St Andrew's Beeston led by Rev Rach Ward

4.30pm Christingle Service at Adel led by Rev Jo Lightowler - provision dependant on Covid situation.

6pm Christingle Service at Farsley led by Rev Keith Hunt

11pm Midnight Communion at Trinity led by Rev Rach Ward

11.30pm Midnight Communion at Headingley led by Rev Melvyn Kelly

11.30pm Midnight Communion at Central led by Rev Mark Godfrey

11.30pm Holy Communion Service WLCC led by Rev Pete Brazier

11.30pm Midnight service at St Andrew's Pudsey

26th December

There will be 3 Circuit services that you are welcome to join on Boxing Day, they are on the plan. The Circuit Zoom is in the morning at 10.30am rather than the usual time of 6pm.



The Girls' Brigade at St Mark's have been busy modelling with balloons. They've had a great time with a surprising lack of balloons being burst! They made holly which they took home to add to their Christmas decorations two weeks ago. This last week, they made friends for Frosty. Hopefully they all got home safely as we forgot to tell parents they would need a booster seat in the car for the new passenger. A couple of officers showed their age by mentioning Diddy Men!

This is a story of a boy who got into trouble a few days before Christmas because he had lost his handkerchief. His mother had given him a clean hanky on Saturday morning. He had gone out shopping and came home without it. She was cross. She said he was careless. The boy's eyes filled with tears. He explained that he simply could not help it. There was nothing else he could do. On the way home from the shops he had noticed the door of the church open and had gone inside. He had stood by the crib. He had looked at the figure of the baby Jesus - and had noticed that there was no pillow for the Holy Child's head. 'What else could I do Mummy?' he asked. 'I just folded my hanky and said, 'There baby Jesus - that will be more comfy'

Alan was a bit of a rascal. When his Sunday School announced that they were going to do a Nativity play, he approached the clergyman and asked if he could be one of the Wise men. But Alan was told that he wasn't clever enough for a Wise Man, too urban for a shepherd, not fatherly enough for Joseph, certainly not motherly enough for Mary, and far too old for the babe. So, Alan asked if he could play Buffalo Bill. The clergyman replied that there was no Buffalo Bill in the Nativity! To which Alan promptly said that neither was there a Christmas tree, decorations, nor the carol 'Silent Night'. For some strange reason, Alan found himself cast as the wisest of the Three Wise Men.

Grandfather talking to his granddaughter: 'When I was a child all we got for Christmas was an apple and an orange.' The girl replied, 'Brilliant — a computer and a mobile phone!'

Here's a Christmas Challenge:
Name all 10 of Santa's Reindeer.
The answer is in the extended entry. Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner and Blitzen (that's 8) Rudolph (9) and, Olive the Reindeer.
Don't remember Olive? Of course you do, sing the song: "...Olive, the other reindeer, used to laugh and call him names, they never let poor Rudolph join in any Reindeer games."

In 1813 the Rev. James Buckley, then in the Wakefield circuit, preached in Armley the inaugural sermon of what would become the Methodist Missionary Society. When a new chapel was built in Wesley Road in 1907, to commemorate this event a large brass plaque was placed in the entrance. With the coming together of three ecumenical congregations in the present building, it was decided that no existing plaques would be placed on the premises, although a replacement was erected. The original plaque was given to the Methodist Missionary Society in London.

James Buckley, who came to own a Welsh brewery which ceased to be family owned in the 1990s, still brews 'The Rev. James Ale'. Buckley travelled in the Brecon circuit 1796 to 1798, during which Pentre Llifior chapel was opened in 1798. Now in the Welshpool circuit it has been beautifully restored to near original condition and is open to the public. Appropriately on display is the brass plaque formerly in Wesley Road chapel, Armley.

A group of children had been rehearsing for the Nativity play they were to perform for parents. All went well on the day, until one of the shepherds decided to use his initiative. Approaching the manger, he looked at the baby Jesus, smiled at Mary and said, 'Isn't he like his dad!'



Sean is keeping an eye on the gifts brought for the



Salvation Army Christmas family boxes at St Mark's.

'I've found religion', 'I've found Jesus', 'Have you found God? I have' ;'I've got the Bible'. Oh the joys of the word search in the classroom!!