

Philly News

Hello! We hope you are having a great term. With advent and Christmas nearly upon us, we want to share our latest news, encouragements and prayer points with you!

Coming up @ Philly

On 7th December our church is hosting an evening for Church of England churches in our area (deanery) which will be attended by the senior staff of the diocese.

The evening session is at Philly at 7 for 7.30pm and includes worship, a sermon on Isaiah 55 from Bishop Pete, some stories of what God has been blessing in the deanery, brief input about the strategy refresh and national funding, and a good chunk of time to give people the opportunity to dream dreams about the future of mission in their area.

This meeting is open to all in the church so do please come along if you are able to and join with other Christians in our part of Sheffield.

Christmas @ Philly

Please do invite your friends and family to our Christmas events. Sunday 10th December is our main Christmas Service. There will be carols, festive refreshments and the Christmas Story for all ages. Don't forget that children are welcome to dress up as nativity characters!



Sunday 10th December 10.30am
All Age Christmas Celebration
Sunday 17th December 7pm
Carols by Candlelight
Sunday 24th December 10.30am
Quiet Reflective Service
Monday 25th 10.30am
Christmas Day Family Service

Testimony

We hosted a Superhero and Princess Party on Halloween this year, the party was a roaring success, thank you especially to Sam and Amanda for their hard work. We had four families come who have no prior connections to the church and we were able to share the light of Jesus to them. Please pray that the seeds sown will fall on rich soil and that they come back during the Christmas season to hear more about Jesus.

A couple of notices

If you are a regular attendee of Philly and park your car in the gravel car park you can be put onto the whitelist so you don't have to put your car registration into the tablet each time you go to church. Please contact our administrator Steph with your car registration number and she will do this for you. We also need some volunteers for our Refreshment Team and Welcome Team! If you feel like you can serve in this way then, again, contact Steph. Her email is StephAbiva@ncsheffield.org.

Children and Families Update

A lovely update is that all of our children's groups have their own designated spaces which are warm, have working electrics and no pests!

Please pray for our Christmas Service on the 10th December. Especially that families from Playtime and Foodbank will come to the service and be able to meet Jesus.

Youth update

As some of you may know our Philly Youth groups have brand new names! Our 11-14s are now Rooted and the 14-18s are known as Refined.

We took a group of 16 young people to Albania from the 22-29th October on a mission trip with our partners at YWAM in Durres. The young people visited prisons, gave out food bags and performed a dance in front of 250 people at a youth conference!

We want to say a massive "thank you" to everyone who supported us in prayer and financially. The food bags we gave were partially funded by your generous giving!

Things you can be praying for us and be excited for, we're hosting a Philly Youth Christmas Party on the 10th December! This is a really exciting opportunity as lots of the young people are inviting friends.

We're also planning a Philly Youth Weekend Away in March 2024. Please pray for Andrew and the team as they bring this all together.

A final note from Mike

Hello all,

I hope you are well. I wanted to let you know what I have been thinking about regarding the sermon series next Spring. It stems from a worship song that I have found myself listening to a lot recently called 'I Speak Jesus' by Vineyard Worship.

I love the way it talks about the name of Jesus being powerful and that it is Jesus that brings peace, freedom and healing. I know this might seem an obvious thing to say, but I've found in recent times, with all the different discussions and challenges and controversies around the church in the UK, I've wanted to get back to the simplicity of talking about Jesus. We can become so distracted as Christians with all the things we deal with and talk about, (and they are often very important things to talk about) but if we aren't turning our eyes to Jesus and telling his story, we will lose our way.

I think we are sometimes in danger of talking more about the church than about Jesus and I want people who meet me to go away not thinking about the church but thinking about Jesus and the claims he made. So our sermon series, 'I Speak Jesus' will run from Christmas starting with the birth of Jesus, through to Easter and the death and resurrection of Jesus, looking at the whole narrative of his life on earth in between.

In the meantime, I will hopefully see you in person beforehand but if I don't, I hope that you have a wonderful Christmas. May the story of Jesus and his love for you fill your heart and home with joy and hope now and in the coming year.

God bless

Mike

