



Park [life]

WELCOME TO PARK!

Welcome to you in this season of advent! As Christmas draws closer and we reflect on what the coming of Jesus means to us today, we invite you to join us in worship.

Look out for some special additional services this month, including our 'Light in the Darkness' and 'Carols by Candlelight' services. Further details are on page 3.

You'll probably notice our Sunday services are more informal than you might expect, so feel free to participate in as much or as little as you feel comfortable with.

Services typically involve a mixture of singing, prayers, Bible-centred teaching and sharing. As part of our worship an offering will be taken during the service, which supports the work of the church.

After the service tea, coffee and biscuits will be served downstairs in the hall. You are welcome to join us for those too.

December services @ Park

Saturday 2nd	Rev. Peter Timothy Portuguese Service
Sunday 3rd	Rev. Peter Timothy Advent 1: Hope in Darkness
Saturday 9th	Rev. Jorge Damasceno Portuguese Service
Sunday 10th	Rev. Peter Timothy Advent 2: Reading the Signs
Sunday 10th, 4pm	Rev. Peter Timothy Light in the Darkness Service
Saturday 16th	Rev. Jorge Damasceno Portuguese Service
Sunday 17th	Rev. Peter Timothy Advent 3: Rejoice with John
Sunday 17th, 4pm	Rev. Peter Timothy Carols by Candlelight
Saturday 23rd	Rev. Jorge Damasceno Portuguese Service
Sunday 24th	Rev. Peter Timothy Advent 4: Angels Descending
Saturday 30th	Rev. Jorge Damasceno Portuguese Service
Sunday 31st	Rev. Peter Timothy Testimony Service

CAP Christmas Hampers

We are preparing food hampers for each of our CAP clients and need your help! There are sign up sheets of food required for each person/family, with the food required by Sunday 17th December. If you are able to help please sign the sheets. Food can be put in the Pastor's office or given to Pat Hillier.

New Year's Eve Morning Service

On New Year's Eve we will be having a testimony service in the morning. This is an opportunity to share and give thanks for what God has been doing in your life this year. If you would like to share something please speak to Peter in advance.

Prayer Meetings

We continue to meet every Thursday evening at 7.30 for a time of prayer. Please come and join us as we commit our church and our town before God.

After School Club

This will resume again on Tuesday 9th January.

On Facebook?

Then head over to our Park Baptist Church page and give us a 'like'! We also have a church family closed group to

share prayer requests. Speak to Peter if you'd like to join this.

12 Days of Christmas 12 Days of Prayer

1

Pray for our BMS missionary partners Annet & Damien Miller and their daughter, Patience.

2

Those attending the Light in the Darkness service on the 10th.

3

For our CAP clients and their families - that they would encounter the light of Christ this Christmas.

4

The continued tensions in and around Jerusalem; for peace, especially in this advent season.

5

For David & Isabel Minister and their team providing free Christmas Day meals at the Marina Centre

6

The Living Room as it continues to provide shelter for the homeless this month, and for the protection of the volunteers.

7

For the emergency service workers who have to work during the festive period and their families.

8

For Jorge & Mel as they lead the Portuguese congregation, especially their Christmas service and meal on the 23rd.

9

For the Playgroup Carol Service on Tuesday 12th, and for Peter, Louise and Judith as they lead it.

10

Pray for the Holy Spirit to be given increasing space to move among us and to make Christ's will known to us.

11

Pray for Iona and David as they continue to make preparations for their wedding next year.

12

Pray for the church leaders in Great Yarmouth; that there would be a stronger sense of church unity in the town in 2018.

FEELING FESTIVE?

Here's the lowdown on all our Christmas events taking place this month...

CAROL SINGING

WEDNESDAY 6TH DEC 6PM

We will be joining with Christians from across the town to sing carols following the lantern parade in the marketplace. Meet by Lloyds Bank at 6pm. Finished by 7pm. Wrap up warm!

LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS SERVICE

SUNDAY 10TH DEC 4PM

Sometimes known as a 'Blue Christmas' service, this is a short service for those who find Christmas tough. There will be a time of remembering loved ones through the lighting of candles, and the opportunity to write their name on a tree decoration which can be taken home. We will recognise our grief and pain before God through music and prayer and be reminded of why Christmas can bring light into the darkness. This is a service for anyone and will be around 30 minutes long.

GET IN THE PICTURE

SATURDAY 16TH DEC 1-3PM

An exciting new initiative - we will be creating a nativity scene in the market place (by Santa's Post Office), complete with real-life donkey and inviting shoppers to dress up and have their photo taken. Photos will then be uploaded to our Facebook page where they can be downloaded for free.

We have a number of gifts made by the Soul Sisters group to give away along with invitations to the carol service.

We will need some volunteers to walk around the market place inviting people to take part and for others to help people get into and out of the costumes. Of course you are also welcome to take part - we want lots of fun church photos taken too!

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

SUNDAY 17TH DEC 4PM

Please note the earlier time this year of our carol service, due to our hosting of The Living Room on Sunday evenings. A great opportunity to invite friends along - invitations are available from the Information Desk in church. The service will be followed by mince pies and mulled hot drinks.

CHRISTMAS DAY FAMILY SERVICE 10AM

The perfect way to start Christmas Day with a short time of worship and lots of fun! Children are invited to bring an UNOPENED present to open during the service and a SPECIAL PRIZE will be awarded to the person (adult or child) in the most 'Christmassy' outfit!

Review of the Year

At our recent AGM Peter presented a review of 2017, looking back at what God has done and what we can look forward to in 2018

What a year 2017 has been!

It has been a year of lots of ups and a few downs. We've welcomed developments in the prayer life of the church. Following an intercessory prayer course in Spring we have seen new prayer ministry and intercessors teams and a new weekly prayer meeting start, which has been a frequent place of encounter with the Holy Spirit.

We can still do more, of course, and I would love to see an end to the attitudes of apathy towards communal prayer.

We have celebrated the wedding of Michelle and Dale, two baptisms and welcomed seven people into membership. But we have also grieved the loss of Millie following her death in June.

Earlier in the year we finalised our vision, purpose and values; a set of statements that reflect who we are, where God is leading us and why we do what we do. These will provide a framework to help focus our efforts in mission and ministry as we move forward.

It has also been a year of new life. Our CAP Debt Centre ministry began in January, and has already made an impact in the lives of our clients. We stepped out of our comfort zones and into our community with some creative street outreach in the summer, and in September began our new after school cooking club with our children.

New ways of growing as disciples have begun, including the men's weekend in June and the creation of 'Soul Sisters' in the autumn.

Food has been a major feature of 2017, as God's people gather together to share food and enjoy

fellowship. Men's breakfasts and curry nights, special church meals at Easter and Harvest, over 40 people descending upon Bure Park for a picnic in August; the importance of food with faith cannot be overestimated.

It has also been a year of soldiering on...in the power of the Holy Spirit. Broadly speaking we are slowly becoming more aware and more open to the Holy Spirit's presence and guidance. We have studied the armour of God and considered what spiritual warfare means and how we can be equipped to tackle it. The recent study of the Gifts of the Spirit has been enlightening for many, and made us think about how God uses us, with space to put it into practice with our emerging community outreach events.

Looking ahead I sense that God desires us to forge stronger links together, so that we may be more effective in our witness. This requires commitment to God, to our relationships with each other and to the church.

Next year is a year where we take the momentum from 2017 forwards. We have a discipleship course planned for the whole church in the Spring, designed to develop our emotional and spiritual maturity in the way we 'speak the truth in love' - one of our core values. We have an Alpha course pencilled in for the Summer.

Personally I want to see people go deeper with God so that the church becomes a safe haven for the broken, rather than a place to be broken. A place where we are increasingly dependent upon God's Spirit.

That is my prayer for you and for us as we move into a new year together.

Want to include something next month? Email: denisejackson957@btinternet.com