

**CLERGY PRAYERS**  
Every Monday at 9.10am

**Dec: URC**  
**Jan: St.Michael's**  
**Feb: Springdale**  
**March: St Bart's**

**OPEN TO ALL**

**Did you come to Springdale on All Hallows' Eve? If not, you missed a treat! Not to mention some good tricks! Enjoyed by all ages. Many thanks to Amy, Mark & helpers**

**DEC 5<sup>th</sup> is CHRISTMAS FAIR Day!**  
Lots of ideas for gifts. Bring the children to see Santa. Refreshments.  
**Springdale from 12**  
**URC from 2pm**

**THE WAVE: DEC 5th 2010**

Young people in Penn have made a banner to be carried in "the Wave". (See Cafod website for a picture)

Archbishops Rowan Williams and Vincent Nichols will lead a Christian Service to start this demonstration of concern about the widespread effects of climate change.

**CHRISTMAS CARDS for PENN**

Who will deliver them?

Could you help?

Ask in your church **NOW!**



# Penn Churches' NEWSLETTER

December 2009

Dear Friends

Many times when I ask people if they are looking forward to Christmas they reply with, "Christmas is for the children really". Is it?

In the story of our Lord's birth and in all the nativity scenes you have ever seen – how many children are there? Just the one, granted he is the main centre of attraction – but only the one child and a mixture of others fill our advent scenes. Kings and shepherds. Shepherds were left out of everything in Bible days. They were unpopular because they weren't fussy about whose land their sheep wandered onto and they spent most of their time in an unclean state. But here they are welcome.

Christmas is for children, but also for everyone, rich or poor, black and white, young and old – it can break down barriers and unite people in peace, if we would only let it.

I still get that feeling of excitement as Christmas Day approaches, a sort of tingling of expectancy. I am also privileged to read these words from the first chapter of John's Gospel:

'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.....All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being....he came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him and believed in his name, he gave power to become the children of God.....And the word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.'

I feel lifted by those words and I hope you do too. Christ was born for each of us we are all able to be the children of God.

I pray that this Christmastime you will be filled with the excitement and expectancy of a child of God and your homes and families will be full of Christ's blessings and love.

God's Blessings, Colin

# LOOKING FORWARD TO 2010

**United Worship 2010**  
*(provisional arrangements)*

## JUBILEE YEAR FOR PENN COVENANT

Come to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> January  
3pm  
St Bart's  
Preacher : Rt Rev Gordon Mursell  
Bishop of Stafford  
To include installation of new Chairman  
Keith Watts (Springdale)

## SHROVE TUESDAY SOCIAL

16TH FEBRUARY

at ST MICHAEL'S

Details to follow

Good Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> April  
**St Bart's, early evening**

Christian Aid Sun 9<sup>th</sup> May  
**Springdale 3pm**

One World Week  
*(17<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> Oct)*  
**URC 3pm**

Advent Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> Nov  
**St Michael's**



## WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Fri 5<sup>th</sup> March  
Prepared by women of  
Cameroon  
Service at Springdale 7.30 pm

Speaker : Val Campion

Painting in Penn  
for 12 – 15 yr olds

A day workshop  
in the Oak Room, St Barts  
Sat 16<sup>th</sup> January, 9.15–4.30  
*Details Ron Mottram, 343528*

## *Lent Groups 2010*

**LENT IS EARLY THIS YEAR!**

**Ash Wednesday is 17<sup>th</sup> February  
and groups will begin in the week of 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**WATCH FOR DETAILS**