



12-18 December 2021 • Faith 24/7

What should we do?

 **Luke 3.7-18**

John challenges the crowds that their faith needs to make a difference to the way they live their lives. They ask John what they should do to become better people, and John shares with them how their actions need to demonstrate how they have had a change of heart. John speaks directly to each group of people, giving them a practical way they can live differently because of their faith.

Now read **Luke 3.7-18** see p.2 for text.

A note on the passage

The lead up to the new year is often a time for us to reflect on our habits, lifestyle choices and make plans for our future. But how many of these resolutions are centred around how our actions impact others? We should remember that as John addresses the crowds and they cry out, 'What should we do?', he is not interested in how the crowds look, their work targets or status, but is concerned about renewed hearts and lives for Jesus.

Christmas Shopping

Do you tend to stock up your cupboards at Christmas with more treats and snacks than usual, so you can share them with friends and family? How often do we stop to think about those who are not able to even buy enough food for one meal? Could you spare a few extra tins or dry foods to support your local Foodbanks this week?



Ask yourself:
 How might what these young people are doing be 'good news' for someone?

DO AND DO NOT

Take time to think and pray about John's words to the groups of people. Now write one example of a 'Do...' that Jesus might be asking of you to change or do differently, and one 'Do not...' about another aspect of life. Put them somewhere to remind you to try and live in this way.



When do you normally open your Advent calendar? Is it as soon as you wake up, to retrieve a yummy treat? This week, challenge yourself to save it until the end of the day. Once you have opened the door, write on the inside something which you have done for others today before you eat!

What would you do?

Spend some time re-reading the passage and imagine that you are in the crowds with John preaching. How would you respond to hearing his message today about what we must do? Have your attitudes or behaviour been challenged in this way before? Although spoken over 2,000 years ago, John's message is still relevant today. If you find yourself in a moral dilemma this week, try remembering these words, 'What then should we do?' And think about how your faith might influence your next move.

WATCH



Watch a clip of *The Muppet's Christmas Carol* [U] when charity workers ask Scrooge for money <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kHHK9MvaMkM> and a second clip when he has had a change of heart and purpose! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xyshHNNBW2k>

How had learning to help and love others changed Scrooge's life? Are there any small changes you could make to help others this Christmas?



New Covid advice 'Will we never be free of this wretched virus' I hear you say, and I share your frustration. The introduction of "Plan B" this week makes little difference to what we are doing already. Face masks need to be worn at all times and we ask you to be considerate to others with regard to social distancing. Please keep all those affected by the virus in your prayers and especially our wonderful NHS as they face what must seem like another tsunami approaching. Be vigilant, be safe everyone.



Instead of handing out Christmas Cards this year we are asking you to consider making a small donation to church funds and posting a message to everyone on our Christmas newsletter. If you would like to do this, please pass on your message to Penny either by phone (01905 351468) or email (penny.welford@googlemail.com) by Tuesday

21st December and we will compile a list of messages for circulation. If you choose to make a small donation (cash or cheque), or paid directly into the church bank account with a reference 'Christmas message'. (Sort code 30 99 90 a/c 00451458). Payments by card can also be made – please see the Vicar.

Daily Readings for week commencing 13 th December 2021		
Monday	Isaiah 38: 1-8, 21-22	Matthew 16: 13-end
Tuesday	Isaiah 38: 9-20	Matthew 17: 1-13
Wednesday	Isaiah 39	Matthew 17: 14-21
Thursday	Zephaniah 1: 1-2:3	Matthew 17: 22-end
Friday	Zephaniah 3: 1-13	Matthew 18: 1-20
Saturday	Zephaniah 3: 14-end	Matthew 18: 21-end

Pray for those in need...Sally, Tristan, Mark, Katie-Louise, Pam, Sue, Bryn, Evelyn, Shane, Pat, Heather, Dorothy, Mandy, Joyce, Ian, Pamela, Juliette and Nicki. **Please remember those who mourn the loss of loved ones at this time...Pete, Rosina and Carole.**



Christmas services 2021

Sunday 19th December 4.00 p.m. at the Community Centre - Nine Lessons and Carols.

Christmas Eve 11.30 p.m. **(Online only)** Midnight Mass for the Worcester South East Team – please let Rob know if you would like joining instructions.

Christmas Day 10.00 a.m. at the Community Centre – Christmas Communion.

The service on Sunday 26th December will be a Team service at St Martin's at 10.00 a.m. There is no service at Ronkswood that day.