

I bring you good news  
of great *Joy*

Dear Friends,

Before we know it Christmas will be with us. It is of course when we celebrate the birth of Christ. Families gather together, we exchange presents and many go to church for the first time perhaps since last Christmas. Although Christmas does not start officially until Christmas Eve, commercially it started way back in late August. It will not be long now before we are greeted in the Mall, retail outlets, restaurants, bars, over the telephone and even with cards perhaps depicting a winter scene with the greeting 'happy holidays!'

I am sure we all know the story of the The Grinch who stole Christmas. Well, we are again in danger of having Christmas stolen from us, or rather the Christ being taken out of **Christmas**. The Grinch eventually realizes that Christmas is more than just gifts and presents.

My plea is that we reclaim Christmas and each time we are wished 'Happy Holidays' we reply 'Happy Christmas'. Folk of other faiths are not offended by this Christian festival. I would suggest that they are mystified by our seeming denial of what Christmas is really about!

Christmas is the opportunity to renew that relationship, or to engage in it for the first time. So come and accept the invitation born of love that rings across the centuries. You need to bring the gift that God has asked for – your heart.

"O come to my heart Lord Jesus  
There is room in my heart for Thee"

Come and join us for worship this Christmas and expect to be surprised!

I wish for you a life changing Christmas,



Rev'd Colin Pearce, Rector  
St. Barnabas' Anglican Church