

Life to the Full:

Living faith within our families



Monthly newsletter for parents: **December 2018**

“The Perfect Christmas”

Emily was bouncing with excitement for Christmas, wrapping everything she could see in tinsel and hanging baubles from the rafters.

Then Dad complicated everything by inviting the cleaner from work to Christmas dinner, “Because it’s her birthday, and she has no one else to spend it with.”

Emily was fuming, “I don’t want a random woman to ruin my Christmas, I don’t care if it is her birthday!”

Dad asked Emily to have a change of heart but Emily was staunch. “No!” she said, “You’ve ruined my plans for Christmas. But it’s ok, I’ve changed my plans. I’ll have the perfect Christmas on my own in my bedroom!”

So on Christmas day when Dominica the cleaner arrived for Christmas dinner, Emily left the festivities and went to her bedroom. The rest of the family tried to give Dominica a good birthday: they ate dinner, told jokes and even sang Jingle Bells. But something was missing.

Eventually, Dominica paid Emily a visit. She said, “It’s a strange thing having a birthday on the same day as Jesus. Most of the time people forget. I understand, people have busy lives, lots of preparations, excitement. But what I don’t understand is when people forget Jesus’ birthday. The first thing I do on Christmas morning is say “Happy Birthday Jesus!” Then I say “Happy Birthday” to myself of course. But Jesus first.”

Emily realised that she’d been so busy with preparations and decorations - not to mention being angry that her Christmas would be ruined by the presence of a stranger - that she’d forgotten what Christmas was all about.

“Pinklehurst Road” is being shown in schools this Advent.

Prayer

Dear Jesus,
Thank you that you came at Christmas and you will come again one day.
Help me know the joy of putting you at the centre of my Christmas and my life.
Amen

“Prepare the Way of the Lord!”

Luke 3:4

Advent is a season of preparation not just for Christmas, but for Jesus’ return too. We don’t know exactly when Jesus will return; but we need to be prepared.

Before Jesus started his ministry, John the Baptist was sent by God to prepare people.

“Imagine a king was coming to visit your village, but the road into the village was covered in potholes and bumps. What would you do?”

Someone in the crowd answered, “I’d fill in the potholes and smooth over every bump, so the king had a nice easy journey into the village.”

“Exactly!” said John, “Your heart is like that road, covered in potholes and bumps. You need to change your hearts and prepare yourself for the Lord, because he’s coming!” John told people that the way to change their hearts was to say sorry and ask for God’s forgiveness.



The journey to prepare our hearts for Jesus will last a lifetime, but Advent offers us all an opportunity to reflect on how our journey is going.

“All mankind shall see the salvation of God.” Luke 3:6