

21<sup>st</sup> Nov 2021

## This Week's Service

Everyone is welcome to our service this week, whether joining us in person or online.

This Sunday's sermon in our series "What Kind of Church Are We?" is based on 1 Peter 2:1-12 and Matthew 5:13-16 and titled "A Church That is Distinctive".

## Attending Services in Person

**For the time being, we still need to ask you to follow certain guidelines about face masks, hand sanitiser etc.** Please see our website for the latest details: [longbuckbybaptist.org.uk/service-guidelines](http://longbuckbybaptist.org.uk/service-guidelines)

## Online Services

We will continue to broadcast services live via Zoom for the foreseeable future. Please join us online from 10:35am each Sunday.

Meeting ID: 875 4679 3464 - Password: 169955.

A video recording of the latest sermon is available on the church website.

## Church Meeting

Church members should have received an email with the agenda for the next church meeting, which will take place at 7:30pm on Wednesday 24th November.

## Daventry Food Bank's Christmas Appeals

We will be collecting items to pass on to the Food Bank for inclusion in Christmas Hampers and Care Packages for Elderly People.

Please bring donations to church by 5th December, and remember that we also collect everyday items throughout the year. Thank you!

## Hope Explored

Ever wondered what Christianity is all about? Ever wondered whether you're a Christian or not? Do you have a friend or family member that might be asking the same questions?

We will be offering opportunities to attend a 3-session course introducing people to the Christian faith in January. The course is called Hope Explored. The sessions will run over three Saturday mornings between 9:00 and 10:30am and three Wednesday evenings between 7:30 and 9:00pm. The Saturday course start on 8th January and the Wednesday courses on 12th January. The idea is to choose either the Saturday track or the Wednesday track, as they'll cover exactly the same ground.

The content assumes little or no background knowledge and is highly interactive, using video material to promote reflection and discussion based on the bible. No one is going to be asked to pray, sing, or even say anything if they don't wish to. We will offer hot drinks and a snack.

For more information contact Claire or Kevin Appleton.

*Kevin Appleton*

## Christmas or Xmas – the great debate!

It's the time of year when we might hear fellow Christians say something along the lines of "I don't like it when people write "Xmas" – it takes the Christ out of it". They have a point, don't they? Well, it's not quite that simple.



Contrary to some wild theories ("the X stands for Kiss-mass" is one I've heard recounted!) the tradition of using "X" as a short way of spelling "Christ" is just about as old as Christianity and at least 250 years older than the first celebration of Christmas by the church. It is used because the first letter of "Christ" in Greek ("chi", the second letter being "rho") is written as an X in the Greek alphabet (see the accompanying illustration) and is obviously much quicker to write. So when you see "Xmas" written, you should pronounce it "Christmas" because that's what it says, albeit with an alternative spelling. The "X" also has

resonances with Christians because of its suggestion of a cross - the place where the Christmas journey was pointing.

Even today many in bible-college lectures will take notes using "X" for Christ and "Xian" for Christian. You might want to do this in future as (a) you can take notes much faster and (b) the true meaning of "Xmas" will stay with you all year round.

Now you know this you can rejoice in the ancient roots of "Xmas" rather than being irritated by it. We can save our irritation for terms like "season's greetings" (the football season, presumably sending its warmest wishes). Having said that, we still do better to use "Christmas" outside the church as it avoids the need for adding footnotes to an accompanying Greek lesson!

Happy (early) Xmas  
*Kevin Appleton*

## Information on the Church Website

Way back, at the start of the pandemic, I removed all the events from the calendar on the church website and put up a notice saying that our regular activities had been suspended.

I realise that some things have started up again now, and I really need to go through and update the information. If you run any church group, please could you check the the website and let me know what needs changing.

Thank you.  
*Jane Brennecker*

Website: [longbuckbybaptist.org.uk](http://longbuckbybaptist.org.uk) - email: [longbuckbybaptist@gmail.com](mailto:longbuckbybaptist@gmail.com)