

### Love Came Down

Love Came down at Christmas,  
Love all lovely, Love divine,  
Love was born at Christmas,  
Star and angels gave the sign.

(Christina Rossetti)

Stripping away all the trimmings, at its core, Christmas is wrapped up in a message and an act of unconditional love.

‘For God so **loved** the world that he gave his only son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.’ (John 3:16)

We celebrate how Jesus willingly came to a humble place in an ordinary family and then went on to give up his life, not for anything he could get out of it but for the good, the wellbeing and the emancipation of others. This unselfish act is not the Christmas of sentimentality or syrupy sweetness but of intentional generosity and, ultimately,

absolute sacrifice. Philippians 2:7 puts it like this, ‘... he made himself **nothing**, by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.’

This is the mystery and the wonder of Christmas, the way of Jesus, the way of love. This is the love that can change lives, situations and perceptions. So how can we, as followers of the way of Jesus here at MBC, internalise, model and mobilise this love? This Christmas, how can we make his way of love our way of life?

The answer is simple; but it’s not easy. It involves our intentional purpose and practice to live a life centred on love.

This means doing things differently, having a real relationship with God and trying to show that difference by the way we live our lives and in the ways we reach out to others.

The struggles and difficulties that we face are real but the love that comes from God, personified in Jesus, is powerful and protective enough to see us through it all. So, as we celebrate how love came down at Christmas, let’s choose to live this life of love in this season and in the New Year to come.

Ruth Kieran—MBC Leader

Our Vision Statment:

Growing Together by loving God, loving others & serving our community

# What's On—December 2024

## Sunday 1st

10.30am Communion Service  
With Jez Bottrill

## Monday 2nd

MBC Café—open to all  
10am—12pm

## Friday 6th

MBC Café—open to all  
10am—12pm

## Sunday 8th

10.30am Morning Service  
With Claire Banham

## Monday 9th

MBC Café—open to all  
10am—12pm

## Friday 13th

J&J's baby & toddler group  
10am—11.30am

## Sunday 15th

3pm Carol Service  
With Tim Haines, mince pies and  
mulled wine!

## Monday 16th

MBC Café—open to all  
10am—12pm

## Friday 20th

MBC Café—open to all  
10am—12pm

## Sunday 22nd

10.30am All Age Service  
With Chris & Heidi

## Christmas Day

10am All Age Service  
With Graham Clarke

## Sunday 29th

10.30am Morning Service  
With Mark Buckley

**Minister: VACANT**

**Administrator:** Tracy Cripps  
e: [admin@markyatebaptist.org](mailto:admin@markyatebaptist.org)  
t: 07419 846982

**Working days—Tues and Thur.**

## MBC Leadership Team - Contact Details

**Jeremy Bottrill -**  
[jeremy@markyatebaptist.org](mailto:jeremy@markyatebaptist.org)

**Ruth Kieran -**  
[ruth@markyatebaptist.org](mailto:ruth@markyatebaptist.org)

**Rob Wills -**  
[rob@markyatebaptist.org](mailto:rob@markyatebaptist.org)

**Heidi Trew -**  
[heidi@markyatebaptist.org](mailto:heidi@markyatebaptist.org)

**Chris Trew -**  
[chris@markyatebaptist.org](mailto:chris@markyatebaptist.org)

**Mark Buckley -**  
[mark@markyatebaptist.org](mailto:mark@markyatebaptist.org)