

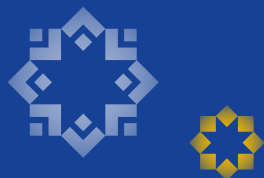


SHARE LIFE AT

4-25 December

CHRISTMAS

WHAT'S ON IN KINGSTON FOR YOU, YOUR FRIENDS & FAMILY



Dear Neighbours,



As the Christmas holiday season approaches, we are excited to share with you some of the events we are putting on in celebration of this special time of year. At Christmas we are used to festive celebrations and of course all around the world there are people celebrating Christmas. But however many or however great those celebrations are, they are only a small taster pointing forward to the great heavenly celebration to come. As a church, we have some 40 nationalities coming each week, so we are inviting you to taste Christmas from around the world. You will find an invitation to a Carol Service which we have called **A Taste of Christmas Around the World**. Make sure not to miss those flavours.

Must Be Jesus Family Carols is where we look, with the children, at some of the wonderful descriptions of Jesus found in the Bible. Only one person could be the Saviour of the World – it must be Jesus.

What films would be in your top five Christmas list? Read on and see if you agree with our Families Worker, Dean, in his article.

All our events are organised by some of the hundreds of people at Cornerstone Church Kingston. We are from a diverse mix of backgrounds, cultures and ages but we all have in common our love for Jesus Christ.

So with a warm invitation and wishing you a merry Christmas, we hope to see you soon.

Pete Woodcock

Senior Pastor at Cornerstone Church Kingston

For more information please visit cstone.uk/christmas*

EVENT KEY



Adults



Families



Youth



Craft

Children's activities on pages 4 & 5

Cover illustration by Julia Austen

*All events include a short explanation of our church and beliefs. Book event tickets at cstone.uk/christmas. Bookings generally close the day before the event, unless full capacity is reached beforehand.

THE CHRISTMAS JOURNEY

Wed 4 Dec, 4:00–6:00pm

Cornerstone Hub

Book your 30-minute slot at cstone.uk/christmas to avoid disappointment

**SPECIAL
EVENT**

An interactive re-telling of the first ever Christmas for children. Puppets, actors and all the senses are used to bring this familiar story to life.

Cornerstone Walking Group

Sat 7 Dec, 3:00pm

Waterloo Station, all ages welcome

£ Free – book at cstone.uk/christmas

Meet us at Waterloo Station under the clock. The walk will take in multiple London attractions, the best of the capital's Christmas lights and a variety of historical insights.

International Café:

A British Bake-Off

Tue 10 Dec, 7:00–9:30pm

Cornerstone Hub, all welcome

£ Free – no booking required

A place to learn English and make friends at our weekly evening café. Join us to bake and decorate traditional gingerbread. We will also be making a Christmas craft.

Hub Club: Christmas Party

Wed 11 Dec, 4:30–6:30pm

Cornerstone Hub, for children aged 5–11

£ Free – book at cstone.uk/christmas

Join us for party games, a Christmas Bible story, crafts and a Christmas dinner. Parents and carers can join the fun at 6:00pm to hear the kids sing and perform a taster of their nativity.

Canbury Christmas Quiz

Thu 12 Dec, 7:30–9:30pm

Cornerstone Hub, all welcome

£ Free – book at cstone.uk/christmas

Come with your festive knowledge at the ready for a Christmas quiz night. Bring a team or join a table for some fun and brain-teasing rounds. There will be a short talk on the meaning of Christmas and plenty of festive nibbles and drinks.



MUST BE JESUS FAMILY CAROLS

F

SPECIAL EVENT

Sun 15 Dec, 10:30am–12:00pm

Tiffin School, all welcome

£ Free – no booking required

Join us at this all-age family service to sing carols, watch a short nativity prepared by the Hub Club children and hear about the true meaning of Christmas. Children are welcome to come dressed as a nativity character.

Men Behaving Dadly: Christmas Takeover

F

Sat 14 Dec, 10:00–11:30am

Cornerstone Hub, for children under 5

£ Free – book at cstone.uk/christmas

Dads, bring along your kids for this Saturday morning meet-up. Christmas is taking over, so put on your festive sweaters and expect warm pigs in blankets and racing reindeer ride-ons.

Hub Crafts: Christmas Gifts

C A

Sat 14 Dec, 12:30–2:30pm

Cornerstone Hub, all welcome

£ Free – book at cstone.uk/christmas

Join us to make some Christmas decorations and last-minute gifts. All the materials will be provided so that you can have a new decoration or gift to take home with you.

Monday Tots: Christmas Party

F

Mon 16 Dec, 9:30–11:00am

Cornerstone Hub, for children under 5

£ Free – book at cstone.uk/christmas

It's celebration time at this weekly tots group, where the normal double session will combine into one for a Christmas extravaganza.

Soul: Youth Christmas Quiz

Y

Fri 20 Dec, 7:00–8:30pm

Cornerstone Hub, for 11–14 year-olds

£ Free – book at cstone.uk/christmas

Our weekly youth group sessions are packed full of fun and laughter as we discover Jesus and undertake a wide range of activities. Come and test out your festive knowledge in our Christmas Quiz.



**SPECIAL
EVENT**

A TASTE OF CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD

Sun 15 Dec, 6:00–8:00pm
Tiffin School, all welcome
£ Free – *no booking required*

Come and take the opportunity to taste traditional Christmas food from every continent before enjoying a traditional carol service (with an international twist). The service is aimed at adults but children are welcome to attend with their parents. Food-tasting from 6:00pm; service at 6:30pm.

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Rooted: Christmas Carnival Y
Fri 20 Dec, 8:00–10:00pm
Cornerstone Hub, for or 15–18 year-olds
£ Free – *book at cstone.uk/christmas*

Our weekly social group for teenagers includes a wide range of activities and a talk from the Bible. Come and enjoy a variety of Christmas stalls with activities, food and drink.

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

Mon 25 Dec, 10:00–11:00am
Tiffin School, all welcome
£ Free – *no booking required*

Join us on Christmas Day to reflect on the reason we celebrate this special season. This joyful service will include singing carols, a Bible reading and a short sermon suitable for all ages. Children will also get a chance to show a Christmas present they've received. Everyone is welcome.

**SPECIAL
EVENT**



WORD SEARCH

ANGELS
 BETHLEHEM
 CHRISTMAS
 JESUS
 JOSEPH
 JOY
 LIGHT
 MARY
 PEACE
 RESCUER
 SHEPHERD
 STAR
 WISEMEN
 WORLD

Y	R	R	S	L	E	G	N	A	H	S	M	O	P
S	S	H	D	E	C	N	E	M	E	S	I	W	N
S	M	H	I	I	B	E	T	H	L	E	H	E	M
Y	R	A	T	S	A	J	E	S	U	S	C	D	H
L	I	G	H	T	A	B	M	B	C	S	O	M	H
C	T	E	O	J	E	C	B	S	T	E	I	C	Y
A	E	U	E	P	C	H	R	I	S	T	M	A	S
J	O	S	E	P	H	E	R	A	M	O	E	Y	M
D	R	E	H	P	E	H	S	E	H	E	E	D	A
E	P	C	L	M	H	E	A	S	S	I	E	T	R
T	J	A	W	D	M	A	L	N	U	C	R	U	Y
A	T	H	S	E	T	C	R	B	A	J	U	E	J
A	T	A	Y	H	S	S	I	E	M	S	O	E	T
D	L	R	O	W	R	L	P	I	E	T	D	Y	R

CORNERSTONE ADVENT CALENDAR

Check out our giant advent calendar at the Cornerstone Hub, 234a Canbury Park Road, Kingston, KT2 6LF. Write down the names of the nativity characters who appear in the windows on the dates below!



1
2
3
4
5



A Taste of Christmas Around the World

There has never been a scene like it. Literally people from every tribe and nation and people and language there.

A multitude from around the world, all interacting and enjoying each other. No violence, war is over. No bitterness or jealousy but rather generosity and love and a deep rooted Shalom – peace – not just a ceasefire or truce. This is the greatest feast of all time.

The banqueting table – if you can call it that because it has to be unimaginably vast – has every food that delights the taste buds and satisfies the soul. Every dish from around the world that is used in celebration along with full-bodied wines and the most refreshing water ever tasted.

This feast makes the biggest Christmas gatherings rather dull and paltry in comparison. In fact all parties and feasts are only a shadowy preview and foretaste of this Great Banquet celebration.

This is the picture that the Bible paints of heaven: a whole new creation with all the wars and tears of sadness gone. Salvation Supper for all those who have responded to the invitation of the King of Heaven. For them there's a hope that doesn't end in a funeral but a feast. The future is not a bore, but a banquet.

And all this is because of Christmas ... When One from heaven came to earth to rescue us from ourselves and all our failures and guilt and sins and bring us in to His Salvation Supper.

Remember the shepherds on the hillside that first Christmas? Look at their excitement when they heard about the Saviour being born.

An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. **I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you;** he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.'

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, '**Glorify to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.**' (*The Bible: Luke's Gospel, chapter 2, verses 9–14*)

Today, all around the world, on every continent, people enjoy eating special foods that celebrate the birth of Jesus the Saviour. That is why this Christmas we are putting on **A Taste of Christmas Around the World.**

Here at Cornerstone Church Kingston, we have over 40 nationalities, and we want to share with our local community some of the tastes of these nations to celebrate the birth of the Saviour.

Top Five Christmas Films

Dean Dryden

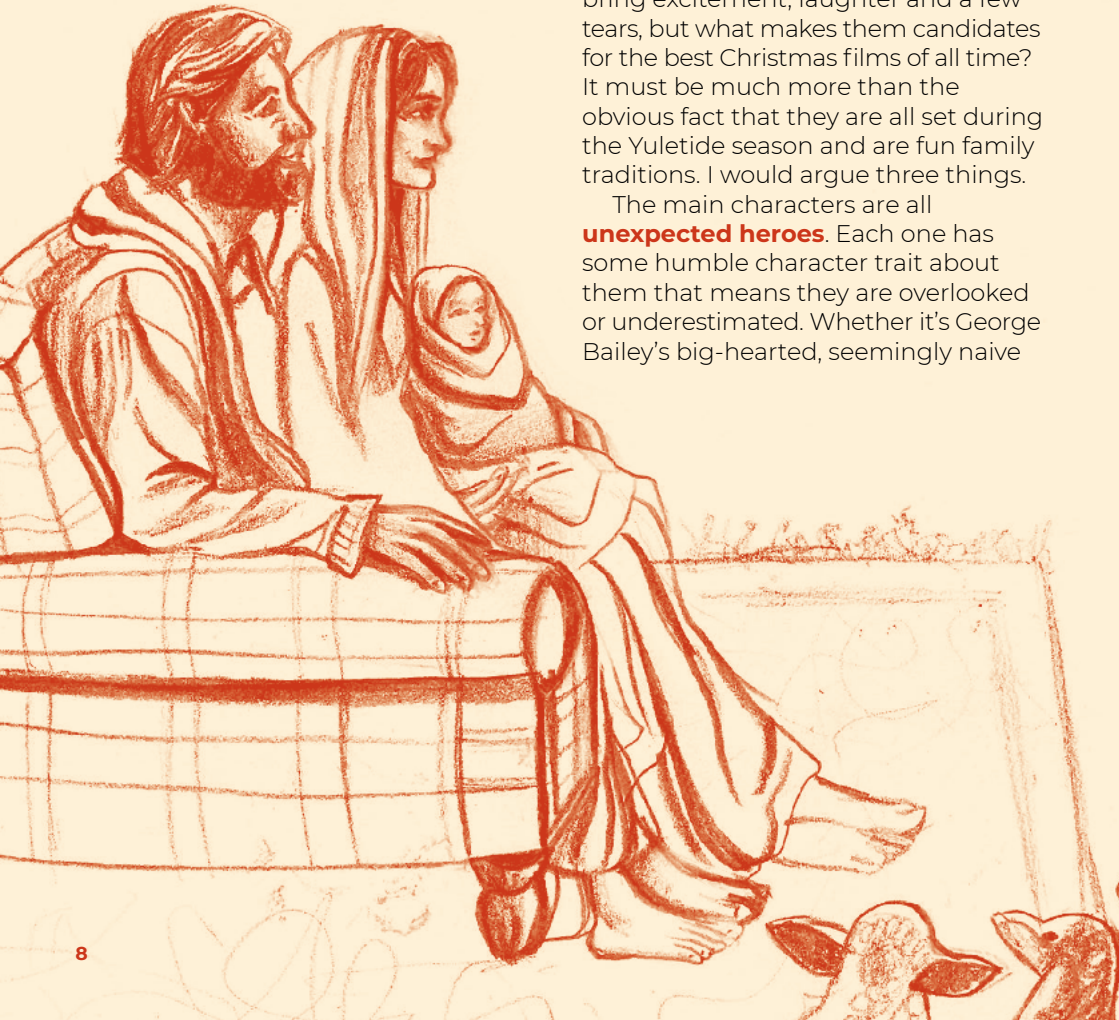
Families Worker
Cornerstone Church Kingston

If I asked you to list your top five Christmas films of all time would any of mine be on your list?

- 1. It's a Wonderful Life**
- 2. Miracle on 34th Street**
(Richard Attenborough version)
- 3. The Grinch** *(Jim Carrey version)*
- 4. Elf**
- 5. Die Hard**

These films are watched in my home every Christmas without fail otherwise 'it just doesn't feel like Christmas'. They bring excitement, laughter and a few tears, but what makes them candidates for the best Christmas films of all time? It must be much more than the obvious fact that they are all set during the Yuletide season and are fun family traditions. I would argue three things.

The main characters are all **unexpected heroes**. Each one has some humble character trait about them that means they are overlooked or underestimated. Whether it's George Bailey's big-hearted, seemingly naive



willingness to help people even at great personal cost or John MacLaine's never-say-die attitude that leads him to literally crawl over broken glass to rescue the Nagasaki hostages. They are all willing to 'make themselves nothing' for those in need.

All these flicks have **relationships at the heart** of their stories. They either start in the middle of a broken relationship ('good luck, Buddy, I hope you find your dad') or something

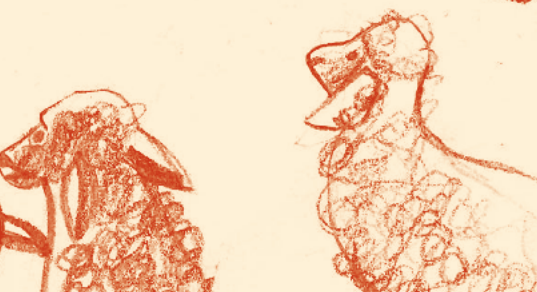
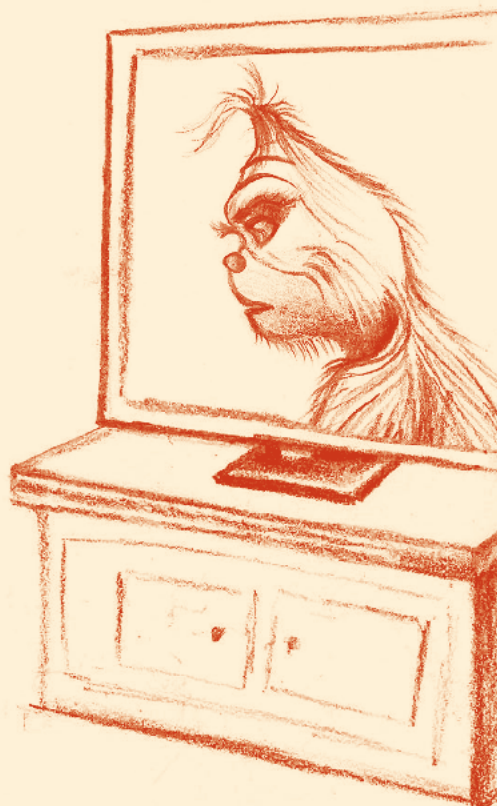
threatens to break them apart. However, by the end, there are satisfying resolutions all round that spell restoration for families, and even celebration for whole cities ('Case dismissed! Santa Claus wins! – New York goes wild!').

The best Christmas movies containing both above elements will always remind you of the original and greatest 'Christmas movie' because it is **the story our hearts were made for**. The 2000-year-old true story that, according to eyewitness accounts, really happened in a small town about six miles from Jerusalem. When a young family, who had already been through their fair share of scandal (almost ending their relationship before it even started), was forced to give birth to their child with an audience of animals, and lay him where one of those animals scoffed

The incredible claim of the first Christmas Story says that the God who made every atom in existence became human.

their food. The incredible claim of the first Christmas Story says that the God who made every atom in existence became human. He made his dwelling among us so that he could die to fix the ultimate broken relationship between humankind and himself. As the famous carol says, 'God and sinners reconciled'.

So what films will you be watching again this year? I would love to know. (If you would like to email me your list or debate mine, send me an email at deandryden5@gmail.com.) And if you want to come and celebrate or find out more about the greatest story, come join us this year.





Cornerstone Hub

234a Canbury Park Road
Kingston, KT2 6LF

Tiffin School

Queen Elizabeth Road
Kingston, KT2 6RL

cstone.uk/christmas



**CORNERSTONE
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KINGSTON**

