

Preparing for (a Happy) Christmas

“Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, not to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives richly all things to enjoy.”
1 Timothy 6:17

P lanning

- * Ensure you are clear about expectations and commitments you have made.
- * Married Couples : Discuss things and inform each other.
- * Ask for help rather than get too busy, under pressure and then fume or blow! (Mum, does this apply to you!!)

Offer to help one another out with the everyday chores!

P resents

- * Don't overspend—Watch the credit card (can you really afford the repayments?)
- * Beware the Boxing Day regrets—work to a budget—don't let it get silly or out of hand!
children ~ or adults ~ don't have a right to the gifts you can't afford!
- * Beware of 'over the top' compensatory giving (in lieu of long work hours, etc)
- * Consider a small gift or card for one or two you know that are not normally on your list .
- * Give something to someone who can't return the compliment.
- * Don't value gifts you receive by their cost! Value relationships and thoughtfulness.

Be thankful and grateful

Cards—greet those you can, send to those you can't greet. Don't forget there are other ways to send greetings within the church, but do remember our overseas workers.

P arents

- * Honour older parents and grandparents, but don't be bound by tradition or controlled by blackmail, tears, tantrums, fear or sentiment—you need to grow up too.
- * Don't be pressurised by your children—keep them under gentle but firm discipline—despite 'high' excitement.

P arties

Jesus attended parties and didn't conform to the world—you can too!

- * Be sociable, be the most joyful person there, but be sensible—be a witness to the joy of the Lord.

If you are weak or vulnerable— don't go! (Matthew 5:29)

P uddings

- * Don't overeat—enjoy the food but also show self-control.

P ort and pints

- * There is no scriptural prohibition re-drinking alcohol—but there is clear and strong prohibition about getting drunk! (Eph 5:18)

- * Never drink and drive

Be very careful!

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ractise hospitality

Romans 12:13

- * Enjoy the company of your friends and family but don't forget the opportunity to widen invitations—neighbours, and those living by themselves etc.

(just a Christmas drink, coffee & mince pie may be appropriate)

Ask someone to feel free to pop in anytime!

P

raise and prayer

- * Don't forget WHO it's all about—Jesus

WHY—to save from sin

- * Don't forget fellowship, prayer, praise and thanksgiving.

Take the opportunity to make “A Quiet journey though Advent” by joining in some or all of our “Retreat in Everyday life”

Have a wonderful Christmas—be full
of the joy of the Lord....

“who gives richly all things to enjoy”

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