



St Barnabas Christmas Tree Festival and Shepherd's Story 2017



After the great success of last years Christmas Tree Festival and Star Trail when over 650 adults and children visited the church we are going to be running another festival this year from Saturday 2nd December to Friday 8th December.

You are invited to submit a Christmas tree, **free of charge**, each one designed and decorated by individuals, families, churches, schools, shops, businesses, clubs and societies in the local area.

The invitation is for you to provide a decorated tree to put on display in the church for the duration of the week. Trees may be fresh or artificial and should be free standing or can be hung from pillars in the church. We are limiting tree size to 6 feet and under, it doesn't just have to be a traditional tree, you could paint, sew or design your tree in any material. As far as decoration is concerned the only restriction is your imagination. The tree you provide must have at least 1 clear logo of the organisation or person who is submitting the tree. Tree lights are permitted, but only battery operated ones. Your tree can be brought to the church fully decorated, or you can decorate it at St Barnabas on the 2nd December between 10am and 12pm.

There will a prize giving service at 6.30pm on Friday 8th December attended by the Mayor of Winchester which everyone is invited to attend free of charge. After which the tree goes home with you for Christmas.

The "Shepherds Story" is a new look at the Christmas Story from different characters' view point. Visitors will be able to reflect on what Christmas meant to the shepherds, Joseph, whilst travelling around stations within the church building.

The experience will be similar in style to the Star Trail from Christmas 2016, but with new and different activities. During the week, various classes from local schools, groups and individuals will be visiting the stations to explore the meaning of Christmas and reflect on their own life journey.

There will be **free general public admission** on Sunday 3rd Dec 2.30pm-4.30pm, Wednesday 6th 3.30pm-5pm and Friday 8th from 5pm followed at 6.30pm by the Mayors Prize Giving Service.

Everyone that comes to the festival will have the opportunity of voting for their favourite tree during the week. There are 3 categories of entry, under 11's, 11 - 17's and adults.

Please invite all your friends and family to come and see your entry and enjoy this spectacular event. With your help – and with the help of others – this Christmas Tree Festival promises to be an even bigger success than last year!

Application forms can be found at www.stb.church/christmas-tree-festival and need to be emailed or return the enclosed to us by the 18th November 2017. We look forward to hearing from you.

Caroline Taylor

Coordinator of the Christmas Tree and Star Trail Festival

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