



thefriendsofholytrinityrayleigh

Christmas Tree Festival 2015



Thursday 26th to Sunday 29th November

Following the success of last year's event I am writing to invite you to participate in Rayleigh's second Christmas Tree Festival in Holy Trinity Church, helping to create the sense of awe and wonder and bringing the community together in the spirit of Christmas.

Across Rayleigh, local schools (including Parent Teacher Associations), shops, businesses, charities, clubs and societies are being invited to decorate a Christmas tree. We will provide the trees (approximately 3ft to 4ft in height) and stands, you provide the decorations, which may reflect a theme or your organisation. With space in Holy Trinity Church for up to 40 individually decorated Christmas trees this will be a wonderful opportunity for you to publicise the activities of your group. To coincide with the 'Rayleigh Christmas Light Switching On' the church will be open from 3.00pm until 7.30pm on the 26 November as part of this very enjoyable annual event.

Be creative! If the decorations are home made so much the better. You will be provided with a convenient power point to connect your tree lights. If you could use low energy LED, or battery powered lights, so much the better for our environment, but it's not compulsory! We ask that flashing or musical lights are not used, as these may be distressing to some visitors. You will be asked to contribute £25 towards our costs but at the end of the festival the tree (but not the stand) will become yours to take away. Any uncollected trees will be given to charity or auctioned – please indicate your preference on the booking form.

The Christmas Tree Festival is organised by 'The Friends of Holy Trinity Rayleigh', offering financial assistance to support the ongoing task of repair and renewal of this medieval building. This is the second, or possibly the third, place of worship to stand on this site, where it is likely that Christians have worshipped for over 1000 years!

The trees may be decorated on Wednesday 25 November (between 6.00pm and 10.00pm) and Thursday 26 November (between 9.00am and 2.00pm). The trees can be removed after the service on Sunday 29 November or during the day on Monday 30 November 2014. Your space must be booked and paid for in advance - please indicate your preference on the booking form.

The Parish Centre, Rectory Garth, Rayleigh, Essex SS6 8BB
The Friends of Holy Trinity, Rayleigh, Registered Charity Number 1069853

t. 01268 742151 - Parish Office (Open 9.00am-4.00pm Monday to Friday)
e. parish.office@parishofrayleigh.org.uk
w. www.parishofrayleigh.org.uk

 parishofrayleigh

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

The Christmas Tree Festival will include:

- Competition for best tree - visitors can vote for their favourite trees in different categories
- Christmas Stalls – an opportunity to buy Christmas Cards and other quality gifts
- Spirit of Christmas Grotto - bring a gift to bring joy to a child in need (Gifts of new or quality second-hand toys or presents are preferred – these will then be wrapped up and delivered to families in Rayleigh)
- Refreshments – tea, coffee, soft drinks, mince pies, cakes and biscuits
- Service of Light on Sunday at 4.00pm, followed by refreshments and mince pies – in Holy Trinity Church.

Opening Times:

Thursday 26 November: 3.00pm – 7.30pm, alongside the Rayleigh Christmas Light Switching On

Friday 27 November: 10.00am – 12.00pm and 3.00pm – 6.00pm

Saturday 28 November: 10.00am – 12.00pm and 3.00pm – 6.00pm

Sunday 29 November: 3.00pm – 6.00pm, including Service of Light at 4.00pm

Entrance Charge:

Suggested donation of £2.00 to view and vote for your favourite tree. Children under 16 are free.

Holy Trinity Church:

People have worshipped, prayed, married, baptised and come here to mourn the loss of friends and family in this church. It is the centre for a lively, caring, friendly community. A rich variety of services to suit all tastes is provided throughout the month. For more information see the church's website – www.parishofrayleigh.org.uk.

And Finally:

Please invite all your friends to come and see your entry and enjoy this spectacular event. With your help - and with the help of others - the Christmas Tree Festival again promises to be a huge success.

I look forward to hearing from you, returning your reply form by **Friday 6 November** at the latest. Meanwhile, if you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me through the Parish Office by phone or email.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Mike Lodge". The signature is written in a cursive style, with the first name "Mike" and the surname "Lodge" clearly legible. Below the signature, there is a large, simple circular mark, possibly a stamp or a flourish.

The Revd Canon Mike Lodge
Team Rector – Parish of Rayleigh
On behalf of The Friends of Holy Trinity, Rayleigh