



St John's,
Tipton

Weekly Newsheet

Christmas 2020

'Ronarag'

Dear Church Family,

"I'm dreaming of a white Christmas...." In previous years gone past, this is indeed something we may have been dreaming of! A light dusting of snow just to make everything look extra special and sparkly – but not so much that it makes getting around difficult. Not that we are particular! However, I suspect that there are many others things that we are dreaming about this Christmas time. Dreaming of large family gatherings with turkey and all the trimmings. Dreaming of seeing friends and enjoying parties. Dreaming even, of busy shopping trips, filled with glitter and glamour in all the shops. This year is going to be like no other as we lament all that has been cancelled.

Of course Christmas itself has not been cancelled. Perhaps this is the one year when we really get to focus on what Christmas is really about. As much as we long to see friends and family and celebrate together, the real reason for all that we do is to celebrate and remember the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. And what a reason to celebrate! Jesus, God's only beloved Son, came and lived among us – all because He loved us and wanted to re-establish friendship with us. He came to give us a new life where we can flourish and grow. We have been remembering throughout Advent all that Jesus brings us – peace, hope, joy and love. Whatever this Christmas brings for you I pray that you will know the peace, hope, joy and love that Jesus offers, surrounding and filling you abundantly.

With every blessing in this Christmas season,
Lynn.

Notices

Sunday Services

Carol Service 6pm Youtube (no booking required!) **TONIGHT!!!**

Don't forget to join us afterwards for zoom coffee and mince pies (Bring your own!)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84638008620?pwd=ZGdyanlhRkNyeDRpR0svSEJZaXVKU>

T09

Meeting ID: 846 3800 8620

Passcode: 316731

Christmas Services

As you know, this is a very strange Christmas and not one that we had anticipated. Therefore we are having to do things quite differently. With so few in-person services planned and with limited seating at each please can I ask that you **only book in for 1 of these services** to allow the greatest number of people to attend. The Crib service at Pilsley will be more informal and aimed at families (from any of our churches!) whereas the Midnight (at 9pm and 11.30pm) and will be aimed at adults. Christmas Day at Pilsley will be Holy Communion and at Clay Cross will be an all age service. Thank you for your understanding

24th Christmas Eve

3pm St Mary's Pilsley: Crib Service (families only please)

To book please contact Katherine or Mark Ratcliffe:
Kratcliffe52@icloud.com or 01246 853901

9pm St John's Tupton : Midnight (at Bethlehem) Communion

To book please contact Colin and Rosemary Morton:
colin_rosemary@outlook.com or 01246 861888

11.30pm : St Bartholomew's, Clay Cross : Midnight Communion

Booking essential: Please contact contact Wardens:
Ann Pinney phone 01246 864323 or Rod Leighton phone 01246 250035.

25th Christmas Day

10am – St Mary's Pilsley : Christmas Communion Service

To book please contact Katherine or Mark Ratcliffe:
Kratcliffe52@icloud.com or 01246 853901

10am : St Bartholomew's Clay Cross : Christmas Day Family Service

Booking essential: Please contact contact Wardens:
Ann Pinney phone 01246 864323 or Rod Leighton phone 01246 250035.

Sunday 27th December - 10am Team Joint Service : St. Lawrence Church, North Wingfield

The Team Joint Service will take place at St Lawrence. ATo attend please phone or text 07885 730469. It will be on a 'first come' basis. As per Government Guidance, face coverings are mandatory, so please wear a face mask.

Pilsley Carol Singing.

Are you missing singing? Then come and join us carol singing in Pilsley. Government guidelines allow us to sing outdoors as long as we keep 2m apart. Whilst we are not limited to 6 people we will need to keep the groups small enough so that we can safely socially distance. If you would like to join us here's what to do:

- Meet in the car park opposite church at 5pm on Monday & Tuesday 21st, 22nd December (we will sing in the side streets in Pilsley). On Wednesday 23rd December we'll meet at the junction of Acres Road and Rupert Street in Lower Pilsley and sing in the side streets near there. We'll plan on finishing at 6pm.
- Wrap up warm and bring a torch (unless you know the words by heart!!).
- Wear bright or fluorescent clothing as we will be crossing roads.
- Carol sheets will be provided - please return them afterwards and they will be quarantined for 72 hrs.
- Be prepared to split into groups if we are a large group.
- Children are welcome if they are accompanied by a parent or guardian who must ensure their safety and that they stay socially distant from others.
- Please email Steve (abilyst@hotmail.com if you plan to come).
- **KEEP 2m apart at all times. Be responsible for your own road safety.**

Jan Foster - Reader

After over 10 years as a Lay Reader at St Mary's Pilsley, Jan feels that now is the right time to step back. She has earned a well deserved retirement! We want to thank Jan enormously for her faithful service over so many years; leading and preaching in our services; working faithfully behind the scenes, praying and practically serving in so many different ways with many different age groups. Jan isn't of course hanging up her all her ministry just her preaching stole! She will continue to play a valuable part in our shared ministry and we pray that she and Don will continue to know the Lord's blessing in their lives in this new season. Thank you Jan – we will miss you at the front!!

Readings for week beginning 21st December:

Mon: Psalm 121;	Isaiah 52.13–53.end;	2 Peter 1.1–15
Tues: Psalm 124;	Isaiah 54;	2 Peter 1.16–2.3
Wed: Psalm 128;	Isaiah 55;	2 Peter 2.4–end
Thurs: Psalm 45;	Isaiah 56.1–8;	2 Peter 3
Fri: Psalm 110;	Isaiah 62.1–5;	Matthew 1.18–25

Readings for week beginning 28th December:

Mon: Psalm 36; Genesis 37; 13-20; Matthew 18: 1-10

Tues: Psalm 19; Isaiah 57: 15-end; John 1: 1-18

Wed: Psalm 113; Isaiah 59: 1-15a; John 1: 19-28

Thurs: Psalm 102; Isaiah 59: 15b-end; John 1: 29-34

Fri: Psalm 103; Genesis 17; 1-13; Romans 2: 17-end

Collect for Christmas Night

Eternal God,

who made this most holy night

to shine with the brightness of your one true light:

bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth,

to see the radiance of your heavenly glory;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

Prayers

Midnight Prayers

For many of us, as Christmas Eve turns to Christmas Day we would usually be in church, celebrating and remembering together. If you are still awake, these are some prayers that you can use as Christmas Day begins.

Eternity shut in a span.

Summer in winter; day in night,

Heaven in earth and God in man

Great little one whose all embracing birth

Brings earth to heaven and heaven to earth

“Do I not fill heaven and earth?” says the Lord.

Now the word is made flesh and laid in a narrow manger.

From eternity to eternity you are God

And now we see you in a newborn child.

Eternal God, who made this most holy night

To shine with the brightness of your one true light;

Bring each of us,

who have known the revelation of that light on earth,

To see the radiance of your heavenly glory;

one God, now and forever

Amen

What's on over Christmas?

Not a lot! We will see you all back in the New Year

Grace and peace be with you all this Christmas season