



St John's,
Tipton

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Weekly Newsheet

3rd January 2021

'Ronarag 40'

Dear Church Family,

Wishing you all a very Happy New Year! It is perhaps with some relief that we bid 2020 farewell and greet 2021. Although, in Boris's words, we are not out of the woods yet and indeed things continue to be tough at the moment, we look ahead with hope and expectation of things improving with the roll out of the vaccine. However as you will know we have now gone into Tier 4 with all the extra restrictions that this brings. With this news and the unwelcome news of the new variant of the virus being even more transmissible than before we have regretfully made the decision to suspend in-person services yet again. I know that this will be hugely disappointing to many of you but trust that you understand our concern to protect all within our community. We will of course continue to support through on-line and in paper services and resources.

We continue to give thanks however that the Lord journeys into the New Year with us, and that He continues to make all things new. We can confidently step out into this New Year, knowing that the Lord has plans and hopes for each one of us and that His light will continue to shine in our darkened world.

To help with all this, we will be using the new year to explore God's Big Picture! We will, through a sermon series be looking at the whole story of the Bible and how it ties together. This will be supplemented by running The Bible Course again. This course, done by several people last year, explores the whole of the Bible in 8 weeks! Those who took part, were really excited by it. If you didn't get to take part last time, no worries, as we are running it again starting in January. I'd really encourage to join in and be inspired – further details are in the notices!

With my continuing prayers for you all,
Lynn

Sunday Services

Services at St Mary's, St John's and St Bart's are currently suspended. Do please continue to check out our Facebook page and also our entry in A church near you (website).

Our service will continue to be found on Youtube – please check your emails for the link to this

Rev'd Amanda Marshall: Today we welcome Rev'd Amanda Marshall to the Team. Amanda will be mainly based at St Bart's. You can meet her in our Youtube service and then (virtually) in person at our coffee after church (11am) so do please join if you can. She would love to say hello to you all!

Notices

Coffee after church -11am for everyone

We will continue to meet for coffee after church on Sunday mornings. Whatever church you attend you are extremely welcome to join us – we'd love to see you! We will only run one event at 11am so that we can gather a good number of people together and hopefully get to know each other from our different congregations. If you haven't been for a while, we run things a little differently now which I hope makes it easier to take part in. We would love to see you back again!

The Bible Course

Last year, a number of people enjoyed exploring the whole of the Bible with the help of 'The Bible Course'. We are running the course again for all who missed it or didn't have the opportunity first time round. The course is available via Youtube and there is course book to accompany it. If you would like to join a zoom discussion group this will be on Wednesdays at 7.30 pm starting 13th January. There is a course book which I can order for you but will need to do this soon as! For further information contact Lynn.

Prayer Ministry Training – Saturday 30th January

If prayer ministry is something that you are passionate about and would like to get involved in within our churches, can I encourage you to consider taking part in a prayer ministry training day. This will be run by the Harnhill Centre for Christian Healing of which I am a part. It will be run on-line and there will be a small cost involved. Please speak to Lynn for further information or to book.

Readings for week beginning 4th January

Mon: Psalm 89: 1-37; Isaiah 60: 13-end; John 1: 43-end

Tues: Psalm 48; Isaiah 61; John 2: 1- 12
Wed: Psalm 132; Isaiah 62; John 2: 13-end
Thurs: Psalm 99; Isaiah 63: 7-end; 1 John 3
Fri: Psalm 46; Isaiah 64; 1 John 4: 7-end

Prayers

We pray for this New Year and all that lies ahead. Give us faith O Lord to walk into this year, trusting in your mercy and grace and giving thanks for his faithfulness and compassion.

We pray for those in working in healthcare environments, particularly those in hospitals where they are feeling overwhelmed and struggling. Grant endurance and sustenance where needed, protect all from contracting C19 and restore staff currently unable to work, so that they might return and support exhausted colleagues

We pray for all those facing further uncertainty and anxiety. For schools not knowing how the next few weeks will look and having to implement further changes. For children and young people struggling to cope with further disruption and missing friends and routine. For families facing financial stress and struggling with the loss of routine and continued uncertainty.

We pray for our own communities and for our church family, particularly those struggling with ongoing isolation and health problems. Help us to be those who encourage and support others and bring joy into their lives.

Collect for Epiphany

Creator of the heaven,
who led the Magi by a star to worship the Christ-child:
guide and sustain us, that we may find our journey's end
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

What's on this week!

Sunday - Coffee after Church 11am ALL WELCOME!

Join Zoom Meeting [here](#)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86854205991?pwd=YXVUQis4LzkxbHY2UitJWVEzMGpMdz09>

Meeting ID: 868 5420 5991

Password: 408468

Password: 581481

Sunday 6pm – Praying together

Join Zoom Meeting [here](#)

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83764610729?pwd=TXo5UzhMRXUwN2tPbEFwTWJlbXYvdz09

Meeting ID: 837 6461 0729

Password: 703237

Tuesday 9am – Morning Prayer

Join Zoom Meeting [here](#)

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89624129307?pwd=cjFjK21VV3FLem1iTGtKOUtEK1JBdz09

Meeting ID: 896 2412 9307

Password: 681530

Thursday 10am – Pop-In for coffee

Join Zoom Meeting [here](#)

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86210249687?pwd=ejAvUTNETGRneTBYVUhXeGh1L1lZQT09

Meeting ID: 862 1024 9687

Password: 046923