

**The United Benefice of
Christ Church with St Mary's
January 2021**



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Church communications

We're not the only parish to have been discussing whether we can, or indeed should, carry on producing a church magazine. In 2020, Patsy Stephenson, editor and producer for many years, handed the baton to Glen Schild, who did a sterling job on the website, but has been overtaken by his own work! We have an editorial team for 2021 and we look forward to your involvement!

We're reminded: 'Our magazine is unique. It is tangible and often reaches the homes of both local Christians and local non-church people alike. This coming year it can bring them messages of hope and encouragement – that God has not forsaken them and we're all here to help.'

We'll do our best to carry on. Your church family wants to keep in touch with you and contributions are welcome: please send them in to caroline.thornycroft@gmail.com

Pastoral Letter

Rev'd Liz Dudley

New Year is usually the time for looking forwards, making plans, setting goals and making resolutions to try and ensure that the year ahead is an improvement on the year just past.

Sitting down to write this a few days before Christmas, with new Covid19 restrictions in place, borders with Europe closed, unemployment and global temperatures rising, and dire predictions about a mutant virus, I begin to wonder just what the next few months will hold for us all and my heart is somewhat heavy.

Yet the mystery of the Incarnation—God made flesh—fully human yet fully divine, reveals the beautiful truth that God comes to be with us in all our pain, disappointment, anger and loss, as well as our hopes and joys. God joins us in the mess that we are in and offers us the greatest gift of all—life in all its fullness.

The Feast of the Epiphany, when we celebrate the arrival of the Wise Men and the revelation of God to those beyond the Jewish Faith, is also the time of gifts. The Wise Men brought gold, frankincense, and myrrh—and received the gift of an encounter with Christ

I love this mosaic showing their arrival. See the Christ child, not a fast asleep babe, but a toddler and look how tightly Mary is holding onto his leg! She holds her child as if to stop him jumping off her knee.



Mary's loving clasp is mirrored by Christ holding her left hand in his and notice how big his hand is.

I love the glance shared between Mary and the angel, almost **as if to say 'What have we got here?' not least perhaps because** the Wise Man in red seems to be giving the angel the benefit of his wisdom!

What really strikes me about this picture though are the contrasts. Firstly that between the uprightness of Mary, the angel and Christ, and the bent postures of the men—perhaps suggesting the difference between things earthly and heavenly: earthly things that burden us and weigh us down and the heavenly things that set us free.

Age is another contrast—the bearded men with all the experience and knowledge that maturity brings and the Christ child—the irony being that Christ was there right from the beginning of all things—as old as time itself.

And when it comes to wisdom, the visitors might be very clever and know many things, yet they stand before the one who knows even the secrets of our hearts. Perhaps this might prompt us to consider the assumptions we make about who holds the real answers to our questions and in whom we place our trust.

And see the contrast between these richly clad men, clearly men of influence and wealth holding large and heavy gifts, and a seated woman holding a barelegged child. Their hands are full. Filled with what the world would consider to be useful, precious, and desirable. The hands of the child are empty, yet raised in blessing; they are filled with the only thing we can ever need—the blessing of God.

As we embark on this new year, we have an opportunity to reflect on what has been, to reassess our priorities, our **assumptions and prejudices and to be open to receiving God's** blessing in our lives—the gift of Jesus.

A New Year Blessing

On the day when
The weight deadens
On your shoulders
And you stumble,
May the clay dance
To balance you.

And when your eyes
Freeze behind
The grey window
And the ghost of loss
Gets into you,
May a flock of colours,
Indigo, red, green
And azure blue,
Come to awaken in you
A meadow of delight.

When the canvas frays
In the currach of thought
And a stain of ocean
Blackens beneath you,
May there come across the
waters
A path of yellow moonlight
To bring you safely home.

May the nourishment of the
earth be yours,
May the clarity of light be
yours,
May the fluency of the ocean
be yours,
May the protection of the
ancestors be yours.

And so may a close
Wind work these words
Of love around you,
An invisible cloak
To mind your life.

John O'Donohue

Benedictus
A Book of Blessings



"Your word is a lamp
for my feet,
a light for my path"
Psalm 119:105

An invitation to prayer

Come now,
put aside your busy-ness for a while,
take refuge for a time from
your troublesome thoughts:
throw away your cares,
and let your burdensome
worries wait.
Take some time off for God:
rest for a while in Him.

Enter the secret room of your
mind,
put out everything except
God, and whatever helps you
to find Him.
Close the door of your mind,
and seek God.
Say *now* to God with all your
heart,
**'I seek your face, Lord:
Your face I seek.'**

St. Anselm (d. 1109) adapted.

A New Year Collect

God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
whose years never fail
and whose mercies are new each returning day:
let the radiance of your Spirit renew our lives,
warming our hearts and giving light to our minds;
that we may pass the coming year
in joyful obedience and firm faith
through Him who is our beginning and our end,
your Son, Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
One God, now and for ever. Amen



The Bereavement Journey

Grief and the loss of a loved one is hard at any time for those making that particular journey. The pandemic, with the increase of isolation and not being able to have adequate funerals, has made the journey even harder.

In March 2020, the Church of England endorsed a project that began at Holy Trinity Brompton called the Bereavement Journey.



This is a six session course (the last session is optional) that enables bereaved people to journey together (at the moment on Zoom). This is not grief counselling, but more a befriending scheme aimed to open up conversations and create new relationships.

If you are feeling isolated because of bereavement, or you know any one who would enjoy coming along, please speak to Revd Liz (473247) asap. This group is suitable for anyone with or without faith. We are intending to run the course beginning on Monday 18 January 2021. Course details can be found on the website lossandhope.org

Prayer Everywhere for Everyone

Please check the Diocesan website for details of this initiative that runs from 10 to 16 January 2021. It is a week of online learning to encourage and inspire us in our prayer lives, giving us a new confidence in bringing ourselves before God in prayer.

There are resources available to download, or if you would like details but cannot access the online things, let Revd Liz know.

A Prayer for the Morning

May I arise this morning
feeling your warmth
embracing me,
conscious of your love
forgiving me,
knowing your peace
within me,
feeling your Spirit
strengthening me,
hearing your whisper
encouraging me.
In all I do
and in all I say
may my life
this day
and all days
reflect
the beauty of my Lord.

A Prayer for the Close of Day

I lay my head to rest
and in doing so
lay at your feet
the faces I have seen
the voices I have heard
the words I have spoken
the hands I have shaken
the service I have given
the joys I have shared
the sorrows revealed
I lay them at your feet
and in doing so
lay my head to rest

John Birch

**'People thinking about the same thing,
like praying for one another,
are always connected.'**

Please pray for Christ Church C of E First School and Nursery



Please remember the pupils, parents, staff and governors at Christ Church C of E First School and Nursery in your thoughts and prayers. Pray especially for John Price (Chair of Governors) and Rupert Kaye (Headteacher) as they lead the school. "Lord, bless the plans to improve outdoor learning spaces for the benefit of Christ Church's youngest pupils. Pray that people across the parish and benefice will be excited by this vision and will be prompted to offer support with bird tables, plants, cash and prayer!"

2020: Christ Church's year of kindness, compassion and community by Rupert Kaye

Bursting the bubble

At 7.45am on Wednesday 25 November, I received the call I had been dreading. It was a parent phoning to say that she had, earlier that same morning, received a text confirming that her son, a Christ Church pupil, had tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19).

My heart felt leaden. My chest tightened. I took a deep breath. I prayed. This is what happened after that:

08:00 I phone the Department for Education Coronavirus Helpline. (A first-class experience. My phone call was answered within two minutes. The person I spoke to was warm, friendly and reassuring, and gave crystal-clear instructions.)

08:15 Pearl Class bubble (a mixed Reception and Year 1 class of 4 to 6 year-old children) is closed. Parents and carers of Pearl Class pupils are contacted and instructed to self-isolate. Everyone is told a letter will be with them by midday.

08:18 An email from the DfE Coronavirus Helpline arrives with two template letters attached: one for parents/carers of the closed Pearl Class bubble, the second for all other parents/carers.

08:30 Pearl Class bubble staff head home to self-isolate.

08:34 I email a quick message to Christ Church Governors to alert them to the news.

08:36 I head out through the school gates (wearing my face covering) to meet and greet parents, answer their questions and offer reassurance. Some parents tell me they have already heard the news.

09:25 I edit the two DfE letter templates.

09:47 I send a more detailed email to Governors. I then email news of our bubble closure to the local authority, the Diocese of Bath and Wells, the Somerset Association of Primary Heads and each of the 18 schools in the Frome Learning Partnership. I re-edit the two DfE letter templates.

11:17 The letter to parents of the closed Pearl Class bubble is emailed out. This letter confirms the date of return after self-isolation is Friday 4 December 2020. Pearl Class parents are informed of the arrangements for home learning.

11:20 The letter to parents/carers of children in other classes is emailed out. The letter confirms general COVID safety precautions.

Gratitude and joy

I think it's fair to say that 2020 did not turn out quite the way we, the human population of planet earth, would have liked or expected! 2020 was a strange and testing year; a year of stress and fear; a year of loss and grief. Perhaps for some of us **2020 has been a year of 'discovery' too. How has COVID-19 'diagnosed' us** – as individuals, as families, as nations – in a penetrating way?

When I reflect on what 2020 has meant for the pupils, families, staff and governors of Christ Church C of E First School and Nursery, I see a community characterised by thousands of individual acts of courage, love and kindness.

For millions of people, 2020 was a year of disruption and isolation. But it was also a year of gratitude and deep joy. Like **many, I found myself looking forward to the nation's Thursday** evening ritual of clapping, cheering and bashing the living daylights out of pots and pans. And, even though I broke two wooden spoons and irreparably damaged a much-loved wok, I still have fond memories of this cacophonous outpouring of affection, admiration and pride for National Health Service **workers. "Makes you proud to be British!" yelled a neighbour** striking two stainless steel saucepan lids together.

Christ Church's school vision statement:

We want Christ Church to be a shining example of Jesus' love and kindness. We are an inclusive Christian learning community where everyone is welcome and valued, and all are inspired to be the best they can be. We want all children to thrive and flourish in every way, developing a love of learning, discovering their unique strengths and talents, and growing in character and confidence so that their light shines brightly for all to see.

Hope and happiness

On Friday 20 March, schools across England closed, so they could be reopened on Monday 23 March as repurposed

'Childcare Hubs' for vulnerable pupils and the children of key workers.

The Christ Church Childcare Hub opened 10 weeks in a row, including what would normally have been the Easter Holiday, **providing a safe haven not only for Christ Church's own pupils,** but also for 12 children from nine other educational settings.

During this first period of national lockdown, Christ Church C of E First School and Nursery staff worked with Fair Frome volunteers to accept, organise and distribute food donations from Frome businesses, charities, churches and individuals. All told, Christ Church distributed more than 1,000 food parcels to **local families. Such acts of kindness touched many people's** hearts and, I know, made a massive difference to many children and adults. The gifts of food that Christ Church was able to send into the community represented hope, happiness and a sense of security.

A new academic year

After the long Summer Holiday, children returned to Christ Church on Monday 7 September. Each class was in its own **'bubble' to insulate it from the rest of the school, so that, if** there should be a confirmed case of the virus, other classes could continue, unaffected.

Nationally, a second wave of COVID-19 was starting to fill hospital beds and funeral parlours once more. The Prime Minister spoke. Parliament voted. And England was placed in a second national lockdown from Thursday 5 November until Wednesday 2 December 2020. Unlike the first lockdown, however, schools were expected to remain open.

At Christ Church we tightened our mask-wearing rules for staff and we stepped up the rigour of our cleaning regime. We battened down the metaphorical hatches and hoped the storm would pass us by.

As mentioned, at 7.45am on Wednesday 25 November, a phone call from a parent burst our Pearl Class bubble. Staff and children from the class went home to self-isolate until Thursday 3 December. And then—praise God —when Pearl Class bubble returned on Friday 4 December, our school felt whole again.

Rainbows

2020 offers so much for us to cogitate upon! For sure, over the rest of this century, I expect hundreds of PhD theses will dissect and analyse the present pandemic from every discipline, from every conceivable angle.

In the meantime, what has 2020 taught me? It has taught me that there *is* such a thing as society, while lockdown and self-isolation has reminded us all that relationships matter—and has **shamed me into admitting that I didn't know the names of the** people in the five households living closest to my own. Remote learning and video conferencing has shown us that not every journey/face-to-face meeting/business lunch was necessary. In fact, as a species, we have been so prodigal with our time/money/planet for so long that we seem to have collectively and unsustainably lost all sense of proportion. A friend has a mug **that says: 'I survived another meeting that should have been an email.'** Yep!

2020 has taught me that human hubris and selfishness are ugly things and may prove to be our undoing. And yet, this is the year I shall forever associate with rainbows everywhere I turned: huge, tiny, knitted, painted, laminated, across bridges, on cars, in house windows and chalked on pavements by 9-year-olds who embellished their design with pink love hearts and messages of thank to NHS staff and key workers.

As we prepare to recover, revive, and resume our way of life **after this pandemic, remember the rainbow as a sign of God's** promise and hope to Noah and his descendants. Following the devastation of the flood, the rainbow gave the survivors a green (red, orange, yellow, blue, indigo and violet) light to build; plant; live. Genesis 9: 28–29: **"Noah lived 350 years after the flood and died at the age of 950."** Enough said!

Prayer Diary for January 2021

Church family and Parish/ <i>our community</i> /the wider community		
1	F	Rev'd Liz and her family / <i>Our hopes for 2021</i> / All leaders seeking peace and justice
2	Sat	Clergy who assist at St Mary's / <i>Those struggling with debt following Christmas</i> / All those ill with, or adversely affected, by coronavirus
3	Sun	Lay readers / <i>All those confirmed in 2020</i> / The Queen and the Royal Family
4	M	Choirs and organists / <i>Graham, our Rural Dean</i> / Issues surrounding Brexit
5	T	Sacristans and servers / <i>Frome Medical Practice</i> /All those working in connection with coronavirus in any way
6	W	All those recently baptised / <i>Rainbow Nursery</i> / Celebration of the Wise Men
7	Th	Sides persons and chalice bearers / <i>The people of Rabka-Zdrój</i> / Refugees and migrants and international solutions
8	F	Our work with young people / 'Surviving Winter Appeal' (Somerset Community Foundation) / The Armed Forces stationed abroad and their families back home.
9	Sat	Churchwardens and PCC / <i>Critchill School</i> /Afghanistan and Iraq
10	Sun	Junior Church and its leaders / <i>Thanksgiving for our Baptism</i> / Archbishops of Canterbury and York
11	M	All those recently married / <i>Bath & Wells Diocese and Bishops</i> / Goodwill Children's Homes (India)
12	T	All who worship at Christ Church and St Mary's / <i>All who use Frome Community College</i> / Our Government and Parliament
13	W	Readers and intercessors / <i>HOPEFrome</i> / Relief and Aid Workers
14	Th	Flower arrangers and needleworkers / <i>Frome and District Mencap</i> /Food Crises (especially in Africa)

15	F	Christ Church School & Nursery / <i>Frome Community Hospital staff and patients</i> / Peace in the Middle East
16	Sat	New Prayer and Study Group / <i>Adopt South West</i> / All those those rebuilding after natural disasters
17	Sun	Those who are ill or infirm / <i>The Mayor and Local Council</i> / Action on Climate Change
18	M	St Mary's Brownies / <i>Frome C of E Churches</i> / Christian Unity
19	T	Those involved in social activities / <i>St. Catherine R.C. Church</i> / Young Carers
20	W	Those in administrative roles / <i>Frome Methodist Churches</i> 'Rethink' (Mental Health Charity)
21	Th	Pastoral Workers / <i>Frome United Reform Church</i> / The situation in Syria and Yemen
22	F	Deanery Synod / <i>Frome Baptist Church</i> / The many issues surrounding 'Black Lives Matter'
23	Sat	The Magazine Team / <i>The Quakers</i> / Refuse collectors and those who maintain the streets
24	Sun	Mothers' Union / <i>Deanery Synod</i> / New forms of Church
25	M	The elderly and housebound / <i>Wessex Counselling Service</i> / All victims of terrorism
26	T	New initiatives in the Benefice / <i>Frome Care Village</i> / Thanksgiving for Paul's Ministry and teaching
27	W	Church outreach / <i>Hospital Service</i> / Holocaust Memorial Day
28	Th	Those recently bereaved / <i>Our local MP</i> / Zambia Link
29	F	Church finances / <i>Selwood Academy</i> / The homeless and those living on the streets
30	Sat	The Garden Nursery / <i>Frome Autistic Support Team</i> / RNLI SOS Day
31	Sun	All who tend the church buildings and grounds / <i>Funeral Directors</i> / Those unknown to us who need prayers.

Saints



6 January: Epiphany

We celebrate the visit of the Wise Men to the baby Jesus. **No one knows for sure who they were. Matthew calls them 'Magi',** and that was the name of an ancient caste of a priestly **community from Persia. It wasn't until the third century that** they were called kings—by a church father, Tertullian.

Another church father, Origin, assumed there were three—to correspond with the gifts given. Since the 8th century, the Magi have had the names Balthasar, Caspar and Melchior.

Christian interpretation came to understand gold as a symbol of wisdom and wealth, incense as a symbol of worship and sacrifice, and myrrh as a symbol of healing. Jesus challenged traditional perspectives and set aright the way in which the world saw and responded to all these things.

25 January: Conversion of St Paul

January is a month of the beginning of great things! As well as the naming of the Son of God, we celebrate the conversion of the greatest apostle of the Christian faith. Many books **have been written about Paul, who was a Jew, born as 'Saul'** at Tarsus, and brought up by the rabbi Gamaliel as a Pharisee. Both devout and fanatical, Saul persecuted the Christians. On his way to Damascus, he had a vision of Christ and changed overnight. He was given a new name, Paul, and became an evangelist for the cause of Christ. A leader in the early Church, his special calling was as an apostle to the Gentiles. He wrote epistles to the young churches that he founded - and thus, inadvertently, wrote a great part of the New Testament. Tradition has it that he was buried where **the basilica of St Paul 'outside the walls' now stands. We** remember him with loving gratitude.

God in the Arts

The Revd Michael Burgess: 'St Joseph the Carpenter'

by Georges de la Tour.

In St Paul's letter to the Philippians, he wrote that in obedience and love Jesus followed the will of His Father through His ministry from baptism to the cross and Easter beyond.

The Gospels tell us of only one event in the period called 'the hidden years', after the Holy Family's return from Egypt: the pilgrimage to Jerusalem when Jesus was 12. For the rest of those 30 years, He lived with Mary and Joseph 'growing in wisdom and in divine and human favour.' Just as He followed His heavenly Father's will in His ministry, so in these years He followed the guidance and teaching of Mary and Joseph.

This month's painting highlights one moment in those years of growth: 'St Joseph the Carpenter' by Georges de la Tour.

'Highlights' is the right word, because this painting captures the strong contrast of light and darkness. Georges de la Tour lived from 1593 to 1652 in Lorraine; he was part of a Franciscan-led revival in that area.

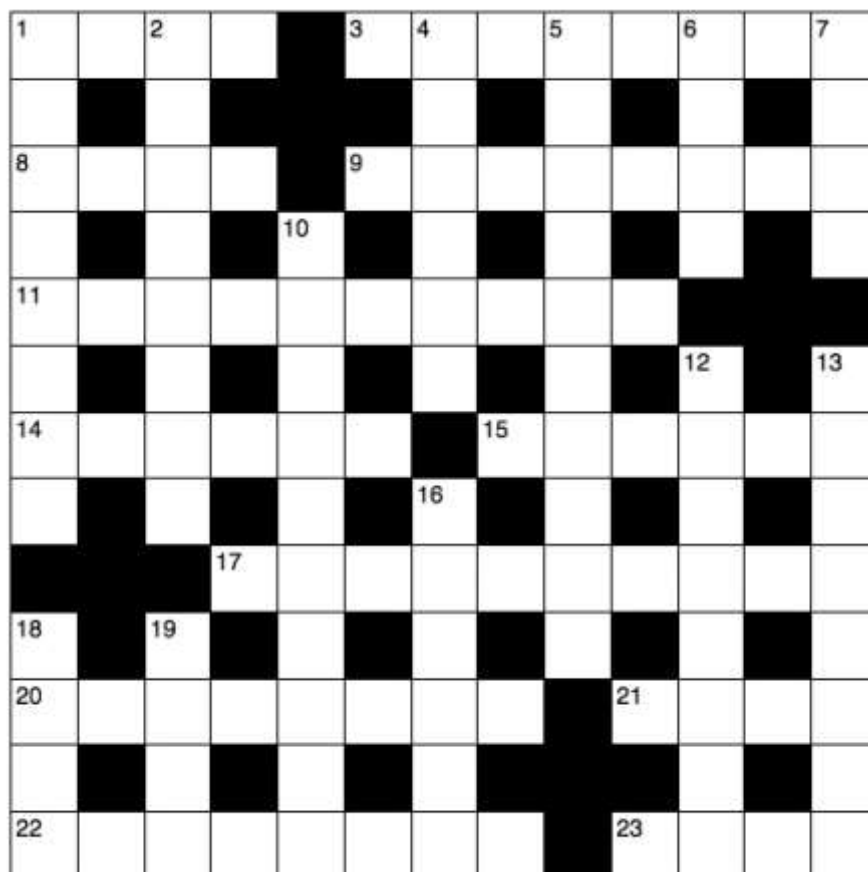


The painting depicted now hangs in the Louvre in Paris. Created in the 1640s, it captures St Joseph and the Christ-Child with Franciscan tenderness and insight. The artist shows candlelight illuminating the face of the child, Jesus, who will grow up to be the Light of the World.

We pray for that light to guide us through this New Year. When the way ahead may look dark and **uncertain, let us pray that God's** light will make clear the path ahead. We pray for light, love and fortitude.

Puzzles

Crossword



Across

- 1 'Again Peter denied it, and at that moment a — began to crow' (John 18:27) (4)
 3 Fetters (Job 33:11) (8) 8
 4 Perform on a musical instrument (1 Samuel 16:23) (4)
 9 Paul describes it as 'the third heaven' (2 Corinthians 12:2–4) (8)
 11 Loyally (Deuteronomy 11:13) (10)
 14 Hens? Me? (anag.) (6)

- 15 Not visible (Matthew 6:6) (6)

- 16 17 Predicted site of the final great battle (Revelation 16:16) (10)
 20 Jacob's youngest son (Genesis 35:18) (8)
 21 One of Zophar's eleven sons (1 Chronicles 7:36) (4)
 22 For example, London, Paris, Rome (8)
 23 United Society for Propagation of the Gospel (1,1,1,1)

Down

- 1 Favourite church activity: Fellowship round a — — (3,2,3)
 2 Divinely bestowed powers or talents (8)
 4 Pile together (1 Thessalonians 2:16) (4,2)
 5 Commanded to justify (John 8:13) (10)
 6 Timothy's grandmother (2 Timothy 1:5) (4)

- 7 Killed (Psalm 78:34) (4)
 10 One of Graham Kendrick's best-known songs, — — King (3,7)
 12 Indecency (Mark 7:22) (8)
 13 Unceasing (Jeremiah 15:18) (8)
 16 He prophesied 'the abomination that causes desolation' (Matthew 24:15) (6)
 18 British Board of Film Classification (1,1,1,1) 19. Pans (anagram) (4)

Wordsearch

The Christmas story carries on into the New Year, with Epiphany and the arrival of the Wise Men, led by the Star in the East. Through the eyes of faith, they saw Messiah in that small baby, and worshipped him, giving gifts that foresaw his life and work. New Year is also a time of new beginnings for us, not least resolutions about diets and paying the bills and doing better at work—Happy New Year!

Epiphany	Jesus	Frankincense	Work
Wise	Star	Myrrh	Study
Men	Herod	New	Running
Camels	Worship	Resolutions	Gym
Baby	Gold	Bills	



ACROSS: 1, Cock. 3, Shackles. 8, Play. 9, Paradise. 11, Faithfully. 14, Enmesh. 15, Unseen. 17, Armageddon. 20, Benjamin. 21, Bert. 22, Capitals. 23, USPG.
DOWN: 1, Cup of tea. 2, Charisma. 4, Heap up. 5, Challenged. 6, Lois. 7, Slew. 10, The Servant. 12, Lewdness. 13, Unending. 16, Daniel. 18, BBFC. 19, Snap.

Keeping in Touch

During this time of lockdown, we are trying to keep in touch with all members of our congregation—by telephone, or any way that suits you best.

Please make sure we have your contact details.

If you would appreciate a call, help to do shopping, or anything else, please let the churchwardens know.

Christ Church with St Mary's

20 questions for reflection on 2020

1. What was the single best thing that happened?
2. What was most challenging?
3. What was an unexpected joy?
4. What was an unexpected obstacle?
5. Pick three words to describe 2020.
6. Pick three words a friend would use.
7. What is the one phrase you hope never to hear again?
8. What were the best books you read? (Do let us know!)
9. With whom were your most valuable relationships?
10. What was your biggest personal challenge?
11. In what way(s) did you change emotionally?
12. In what way(s) did you change spiritually?
13. In what way(s) did you change physically?
14. In what way(s) did you grow in your relationships with others?
15. What was the most enjoyable part of your work?
16. What was the most challenging?
17. What was the single biggest time-waster in your life this past year?
18. What was the best way you used your time?
19. What was the most important lesson you learned?
20. Create a phrase or a statement that best describes this past year for you.

Call5

An invitation to join the Call5 scheme and make a commitment to contact five people regularly!



The Diocesan Healing Advisory Group (DHAG) has just **announced a 'keeping in touch' campaign for 2021 called Call5.** It is part of a larger initiative from Premier Lifeline, Call and Care, **which received funding from the Government's** Coronavirus Emergency Fund through the Community Fund.

"The last year has been difficult for many with considerable isolation and loneliness experienced across the country, as well as a significant rise in people experiencing mental health issues. With the vaccine, the end is in sight, but it is not here yet and we are facing the winter months with continued restrictions, when even in a normal year people are affected by the cold, darkness and limitations to activity. This year these **will all be exacerbated by the continued pandemic,"** said a member of the group.

The suggestion is to make a commitment to call five people over the winter regularly by phone, through Skype, Facetime, text, email. or whatever the preferred contact method is for the **people involved. Why 'Call5'? We have five digits on each hand** - looking at our hands is an easy reminder to call, by allocating a person to each digit. For the enthusiastic, there is always a second hand to use to identify five more people!

Through Call5, we aim to encourage increased contact across the country, a significant reduction in isolation and loneliness, and an increased sense of belonging to a wider family and community.

For more information and to sign up for Call5, look up www.call5.co.uk on the website.

Tricia Coleman

January Readings			
		Morning Prayers	Evening Prayers
1st	Friday	Psalm 103	Psalm 115
		Genesis 17 v 1-13	Deuteronomy 30 v (1-10) 11 to end
		Romans 2 v 17-end	Acts 3 V 1-16
2nd	Saturday	Psalm 18 v 1-30	Psalm 46
		Isaiah 60 v 1-12	Ruth 1
		John 1 v 35-42	Colossians 2 v 8-end
3rd	Sunday	Psalm 87	Psalm 135
		Zechariah 8 v 1-8	Isaiah 46 v 1-8
		Luke 2 v 41-end	Romans 12 v 1-8
	Monday	Psalm 89 v 1-37	Psalm 87
		Isaiah 61	Ruth 3
		John 2 v 1-12	Colossians 3 v 12-41
5th	Tuesday	Psalm 48	Psalm 97
		Isaiah 62	Isaiah 49 v 1-13
		John 2 v 13-end	John 4 v 7-26
6th	Wednesday	Psalm 132	Psalm 98
		Jeremiah 31 v 7-14	Baruch 4 v 36 to end of Chap 5
		John 1 v 29-34	John 2 v 1-11
7th	Thursday	Psalm 99	Psalm 118
		Isaiah 63 v 7-end	Baruch 1 v15- chap 2 v 10
		1 John 3	Matthew 20 v 1-16
8th	Friday	Psalm 46	Psalm 145
		Isaiah 64	Baruch 2 v 11-end
		1 John 4 v 7-end	Matthew 20 v 17-28
9th	Saturday	Psalm 148	Psalm 36
		Isaiah 65 v 1-16	Isaiah 61
		1 John 5 v 1-12	Titus 2 v11-14, ch s v4-7
10th	Sunday	Psalm 89	Psalm 46
		1 Samuel 16 v 1-3,13	Isaiah 42 v1-9
		John 1 v 29-34	Ephesians 2 v 1-10

11th	Monday	Psalm 2	Psalm 34
		Amos 1	Genesis 1 v 1-19
		1 Corinthians 1 v 1-17	Matthew 21 v 1-17
12th	Tuesday	Psalm 9	Psalm 45
		Amos 2	Genesis 1 v 20- ch 2 v 3
		1 Corinthians 1 v 18-end	Matthew 21 v 18-32
13th	Wednesday	Psalm 20	Psalm 47
		Amos 3	Genesis 2 v 4-end
		1 Corinthians 2	Matthew 21 v 33-end
14th	Thursday	Psalm 21	Psalm 61
		Amos 4	Genesis 3
		1 Corinthians 3	Matthew 22 v 1-14
15th	Friday	Psalm 67	Psalm 68
		Amos 5 v 1-17	Genesis 4 v 1-16,25-26
		1 Corinthians 4	Matthew 22 v 15-33
16 th	Saturday	Psalm 33	Psalm 85
		Amos 5 v 18-end	Genesis 6 v 1-10
		1 Corinthians 5	Matthew 22 v 34-end
17 th	Sunday	Psalm 145 v 1-12	Psalm 96
		Isaiah 62 v 1-5	Isaiah 60 v 9-end
		1 Corinthians 6 v 11-end	Hebrews 6 v17- ch 7 v 10
18 th	Monday	Psalm 146	Psalm 71
		Amos 6	Genesis 6 v 11- ch t v 10
		1 Corinthians 6 v 1-11	Matthew 24 v 1-14
19 th	Tuesday	Psalm 132	Psalm 89 v 1-37
		Amos 7	Genesis 7 v 11-end
		1 Corinthians 6 v 12-end	Matthew 24 v 15-28
20th	Wednesday	Psalm 81	Psalm 97
		Amos 8	Genesis 8 v1-14
		1 Corinthians 7 v 1-24	Matthew 24 v 29-end

21st	Thursday	Psalm 76	Psalm 99
		Amos 9	Genesis 8 v 15- ch 9 v 7
21		1 Corinthians 7 v 25-end	Matthew 25 v 1-13
22nd	Friday	Psalm 27	Psalm 73
		Hosea 1 v 1 – ch 2 v1	Genesis 9 v 8-19
		I Corinthians 8	Matthew 25 v 14-30
23rd	Saturday	Psalm 122	Psalm 61
		Hosea 2 v 2-17	Genesis 11 v 1-9
		1 Corinthians 9 v 1-14	Matthew 25 v 31 – end
24th	Sunday	Psalm 113	Psalm 33
		Jonah 3 v 1-5,10	Jeremiah 3 v 21 ch 4 v 2
		John 3 v 16-21	Titus 2 v 1-8, 11-14
25th	Monday	Psalm 66	Psalm 119 v 41-56
		Ezekiel 3 v 22-end	Ecclesiasticus 39 v 1-10
		Philippians 3 v 1-14	Colossians 1 v 24- ch 2 v 7
26th	Tuesday	Psalm 36	Psalm 145
		Hosea 4 v 1-16	Genesis 13 v 2-end
		1 Corinthians 10 v 1-13	Matthew 26 v 17-35
27 th	Wednesday	Psalm 46	Psalm 29
		Hosea 5 v 1-7	Genesis 14
		1 Corinthians 10 v 14- ch 11 v 1	Matthew 26 v 36-46
28th	Thursday	Psalm 47	Psalm 24
		Hosea 5 v 8-ch 6 v 6	Genesis 15
		1 Corinthians 11 v 2-16	Matthew 26 v 47-56
29th	Friday	Psalm 65	Psalm 67
		Hosea 6 v 7 – ch 7 v 2	Genesis 16
		1 Corinthians 11 v 17-end	Matthew 26 v 57*end
30th	Saturday	Psalm 68	Psalm 72
		Hosea 8	Genesis 17 v 1-22
		1 Corinthians 12 v 1-11	Matthew 27 v 1-10
31st	Sunday	Psalm 71 v 1-6,15-17	Psalm 34
		Jeremiah 1 v 4-10	1 Samuel 3 v 1-20
		Mark 1 v 40-end	1 Corinthians 14 v 12-20

St Mary's Rota for January 2021

	03/01/2021	10/01/2021	17/01/2021	24/01/2021	31/01/2021
	Epiphany	Baptism of Christ	2 nd Sunday of Epiphany	3rd Sunday of Epiphany	Presentation of Christ in the Temple
These are guide-lines only and may be changed at short notice	Isaiah 60 V 1-6	Genesis 1 V1-5	1 Samuel 3 V1-10(11-20)	Jonah 3 V1-5, 10	To be advised
	Ephesians 3 V1-12	Acts 19 v1-7	1 Corinthians 6 V 12-20	1 Corinthians 7 V29-31	
	Matthew 2 V 1-12	Mark 1 V4-11	John 1 V 43-51	Mark 1 V14-20	
Time	10:00	08:30	10:00	08:30	To be advised
Reader	Laura	Judy H	Maggie	Sue Pothitos	
Prayers	Laura	Jane	Arthur	Alison	
Sides	Laura	Gordon	Jane	Marilyn	
Music	Jane	Len	Pauline	Diane	
Servers	Pauline	Carol	Diane	Sue H	

Jane's recipes

Almond Christmas tarts

This was invented one year when I found I still had ½ jar of mincemeat and ground almonds in the cupboard and I needed to **make a 'pudding' for something. It's not very** exact, but then my recipes never are I am afraid!



It is very useful for using up the odd bits after Christmas and adding something nice to the table in what can be a dreary time of year after the usual excitement of Christmas, this year being the exception due to the dreaded Covid. The following makes 9 or 10 tarts.

Ingredients

Shortcrust or puff pastry to line tart or bun tins

Christmas mincemeat

1.5 oz butter – softened

3oz grated almonds

3oz castor sugar;

1 egg

200°C for 20 mins then bake at a lower heat till the topping is cooked and nicely golden brown.

Method

Line the bun tins with pastry rolled fairly thin and put about a teaspoon of fruit mincemeat in the base. Mix softened butter, castor sugar, grated almond and egg together well, it will be fairly soft, and put a teaspoon on top of the mincemeat – you can sprinkle with flaked almonds if you have any.

Bake for 15-20 mins then reduce heat to 180°C till the topping is lightly browned and springs back to the touch. Put on wire tray to cool. Another variation is using left-over grated marzipan instead of a pastry lid, or a crumble topping.

An apple a day, any which way!

Bramley cooking apples originated in Nottinghamshire 200 years ago. Closer to home in Iwerne Minster, all households were given an apple tree and a pig a century or so ago and some of those apple trees are still standing.

There is something quite magic about the way Bramleys fluff up when cooked. They are wonderful baked with a stuffing of raisins and a dab of butter, or added to buttery steamed cabbage. I put them into curries and casseroles too.

Jazz apples are now grown in Kent, a reminder of the tragic time when growers were paid to destroy their apple orchards. They are a cross between Braeburn, a favourite eating apple often grown in New Zealand, and Royal Gala. Cox is one of the **best quality English dessert apples and, like Gala, the Cox's Orange Pippin** is a golden apple. It was first grown in Buckinghamshire and is used in cider—we all know Somerset **is cider country and we look forward to Frome's famous Apple Day** at the Cheese and Grain to see dozens of traditional varieties!

Pumpkins and squash

Squash and pumpkin belong to the *cucurbitaceae* family; a pumpkin is a type of squash. We usually call the largest of them pumpkins and some keep for months, in particular Crown Prince. As they may cross-**pollinate it isn't a good idea** to plant different types together if you want them to grow true. Butternut, invariably called a squash, also keeps well and is easy to grow if you have the space and offer enough food and water. They are pale on the outside and vivid orange inside. Developed in America in the 1940s Butternut squash are now a staple in UK, popular in soup, favourite as a roast vegetable, boiled and mashed with butter and salt, or stuffed with a traditional breadcrumb mixture, or rice and herbs, and baked.





In defence
of
Bookworms

Bookshelf

**'I have seen something else
under the sun**

The race is not to the swift
or the battle to the strong,
nor does food come to the wise
or wealth to the brilliant
or favour to the learned;

but time and chance happen to them all.'

Ecclesiastes 9:11

**'May the Lord direct your hearts
into God's love
and Christ's perseverance.'**

2 Thessalonians 3:5

From Jane Goodall: Reason for Hope

**'If only we can overcome cruelty, to humans and animals,
with love and compassion we shall stand at the threshold of
a new era in human moral and spiritual evolution and realise
at last our most unique quality – humanity...the ultimate
destiny of our species is a state of compassion and love.'**

From Rachel Naomi Remen
Kitchen Table Wisdom 1996

**'If we fear loss enough in the end the things we possess will
come to possess us—Freedom may come not from being in
control of our life, but rather from a willingness to move with
the events of life—to choose the inevitable. We can become
free at any time.**

'Wounded people can heal each other.

We all have the power to heal.

The most basic and powerful way to connect to another
person is to listen, just listen. Perhaps the most important
thing we ever give each other is our attention. A loving
silence often has far more power to heal and to connect than
the most well intentioned words.'

The Way of Julian of Norwich—a Prayer Journey through Lent

Sheila Upjohn explores the 'Revelations of Divine Love' alongside passages from Scripture. She reveals how Julian's fresh perspectives on sin and judgement, anger and forgiveness, the Incarnation and the crucifixion can challenge and enlighten us, 600 years later, in a world so badly in need of the assurance of God's unconditional love.

This inspirational book serves as a guide to Julian of Norwich **that will deepen the reader's prayer life during Lent and** throughout the year. She transports the reader back to the middle ages to offer a deeper understanding of Julian, who was often perceived as an outsider, but who is remembered with affection as we quote her reassuring assurance that in Christ: **'All shall be well and all shall be well and all manner of things shall be well'.**

From Audrey Ashley-Belbin
Thoughts of a Grandmother 1984

'Sailing into my seventies, still searching for truth and wisdom, I find it tempting to indulge in broad generalisations about life – but what is more important is to hold out hope to those young beings who are struggling to survive and who may see **little meaning in their existence. To them I would say, 'keep going'. Take one day at a time and make of it the best you can.** Have faith, have hope and, above all, have love for everyone around you – especially the unpleasant ones. They are often **the people who need it the most!'**

'Life is mostly froth and bubble
Two things stand like stone
Kindness in another's trouble
Courage in one's own!'



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Christ Church Rota for January 2021

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	Matthew 2 V 1-12	Mark 1 V4-11	John 1 V 43-51	Mark 1 V14-20	
Time	08.30	10.00	08.00	10.00	To be advised
Reader	Ann B	Cynthia S	Alan B	Robert W	
Prayers	Fr Ian	Mary H	Rev Liz	Elizabeth J	
Sides	Penny L	Peter J	Rob L	Judy M	
Evening at 6pm	Caroline T		Caroline T		

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