

Issue 36: December 19th 2020

Welcome, brothers and sisters to the thirty-sixth edition of "Church at Home".

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Follow the guidance, encourage each other, pray and stay safe.

**Rev Clive** 

### **Church noticeboard**

### **New Cleaner**

We have appointed Sarah Johnson as our new Church Cleaner. If you see her do make her welcome.

### **Norma Brooker**

My mum Norma Brooker nee Calvert passed away peacefully at the beginning of this month. I would like to thank everyone for their cards and messages of condolence. Her funeral is at the end of this month. Thank you for your support, prayers and kindness. Elaine Fermer.

### **Tier 3 Worship in Church**

The following guidelines will be put in place while we are in very high Covid Alert level.

Worship is permitted as an organised gathering provided any person attending is:

- alone
- or
- part of a group all from the same household or from two linked households

or

 $\bullet$  part of group all from the same linked Christmas households (23 – 27 December only)

and

must not join any other group or mingle with any person from another group. non-household groups of 6 are not permitted

### **Christmas Services**

Join us for Midnight Communion on the 24<sup>th</sup> and Family Celebration on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

### **Christmas Quiz**

The log in details for the Christmas Quiz are **Meeting ID**: **815 9605 0675 Passcode**: **quiz**. Please try to join us on the 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm. It would be helpful if you could let the Gills know you are going to be quizzing with us. thegills41@virginmedia.com

### New Finance Team

As no one has come forward to be our church treasurer the role is now vacant. We have decided to try splitting the role into a number of smaller jobs.

Please consider prayerfully if you are able to fill one of these roles.

### Banker (Incoming) [Role Filled - The Lindridges]

Co-ordinate the paying in of physical cash / cheques.

Oversee the Sunday counting team.

Send counting sheets and yellow envelopes to Gift Aid Secretary.

Co-ordinate any miscellaneous incoming payments to bank account. (i.e. non regular incoming payments).

### **Banker (Outgoing)**

Pay bills.

Pay expenses.

Provide office petty cash when requested.

Pay Parish pledge.

### **Bookkeeper**

Prepare monthly accounts for PCC.

Prepare draft budget.

Prepare annual accounts.

Send annual accounts to Diocese & Charity Commission.

If required send accounts to HMRC.

### **Record Keeper**

Keep a financial record of incomings and outgoings.

### Gift Aid Secretary [Role filled - Dot Turner]

Co-ordinate the claiming of gift aid from the government.

Please contact Clive for more details.

### **Community Notices**



### **Hall Place Christmas Opening**

Hall place will be closed on 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> December & on January 1<sup>st</sup>. When closed there will be no access to the gardens, visitor centre, house or garden trail.

### **Bexley Homeless Protocol**

The mayor has activated the rough sleeping severe weather protocol. If you see anyone sleeping rough please log their location via streetlink so the outreach team can find and help them.

www.streetlink.org.uk

### Abena Appong-Asare

Congratulations to North Heath MP Abena Appong-Asare who has been awarded Newcomer MP of the year for 2020.

### **Evergreen Care Bexley**

Evergreen Care Bexley is looking to recruit a full-time Chief Operating Officer. If you are interested or know of anyone who may be interested, please send an email with the subject line 'Chief Operating Officer Application' to <a href="mailto:info@evergreencarebexley.org">info@evergreencarebexley.org</a> to request an information pack which will give details of the personal specification for the job role.





# LOCAL COVID ALERT LEVEL

#### Social Contact

1 household ( bubble in most locations, indoors and outstoors. Hule of six applies in some outdoors settings like parks, public gordens and sports



and Funerals Up to 15 guests for weakings and

up to 30 guests for funerals. 15 for wakes and related ceremonic

Wedding reciptions not permitted

Weddings



Overnight Stays



Working from home guidance Work from home where possible.



Shopping and Retail

Open



Leisure and gyms



Any Cosums or additional restrictions subject to consultation

### Hospitality

Puts and ben must close except where they operate as a restaurant, meaning they can only serve alcohol with a substantial meal. Further closures subject to consultation.

Those in area advised against

overnight stays in other parts of UK. People outside area advised

against overnight stays in area

#### Entertainment and tourist attractions



restrictions subject to consultation. Nightclubs and adult

### Education



Schools, FE colleges open. Universities must reflect wider restrictions with option to move to greater unline

### Healthcare Services

Open.

### Residential Care

Closed to external visitors other than in exceptional circumstances.

### Travel and Transport



May continue to travel to open venues, but reduce number of journeys where possible. Avoid travel where possible in or out of the affected area with: exceptions relading work and school

### Sporting Activity



Organised sport/licensed physical activity allowed in ourdoor settings, indoor organised sport must follow social contact rules (other then youth or disabled sports.

### Worship



Open, subject to social contact

#### Childcare

Registered and wwaparaund childrans Supervised activities permitted in private horses Children's groups permitted Childcare bubbles for under 14s.

### (A





Permitted

### There are three simple actions we must all do to keep on protecting each other:



### Wash hands

keep washing your hands regularly



### Cover face

wear a face covering in enclosed spaces



### Make space

stay at least 2 metres apart - or 1 metre with a face covering or other precautions

For more information and detailed guidance visit: gov.uk/coronavirus

### This week's prayer

GOD OF LOVE AND HOPE,
YOU MADE THE WORLD AND CARE FOR ALL CREATION,
BUT THE WORLD FEELS STRANGE RIGHT NOW.
THE NEWS IS FULL OF STORIES ABOUT CORONAVIRUS.
SOME PEOPLE ARE WORRIED THAT THEY MIGHT GET ILL.
OTHERS ARE ANXIOUS FOR THEIR FAMILY AND FRIENDS.
BE WITH THEM AND HELP THEM TO FIND PEACE.
WE PRAY FOR THE DOCTORS AND NURSES AND SCIENTISTS,
AND ALL WHO ARE WORKING TO DISCOVER THE RIGHT
MEDICINES

TO HELP THOSE WHO ARE ILL.

THANK YOU THAT EVEN IN THESE ANXIOUS TIMES,

YOU ARE WITH US.

HELP US TO PUT OUR TRUST IN YOU AND KEEP US SAFE.

Amen

### <u>Prayer</u>

There are many who still need our prayers.
Those who have asked for our prayers are: Ann
Easter, Ann Batchelor (Reader at St Martin's), Andrew Bennett,
Charles Brooke, Ron and Joan Handy. For Marjorie and Eileen
Hoare, Monica Lindridge, Christine Meaton and Christine Minns.
For Carol & John O'Connor, John Ralph and Amanda Ralph. For Jane
& George Stafford. For Karen Vaughan (Cameo), Jeanette Watts and
Mark Williams.

### What you're up to. - Pictures and messages



Gavin, Noah & Clair Gill
Picture we took visiting Bedgebury
Lights last weekend. We had a magical
time and would highly recommend this
hour-long winter trail.



<u>Carol O'Connor</u> Carol in a Christmas Jumper



Olivia Fermer This is my granddaughter Olivia Fermer, getting a birthday card. 2 years old. Elaine.



Bob & Monica Lindridge
At Sophie 's Choice, Sidcup...the
day before restaurants had to
close.



Xavier & Christ Meaton
Last Saturday I went to have
breakfast with my grandson Xavier
and SANTA. Xavier was a bit worried
about it all.



Joshua & Faith Beazley-Long The Beazley-Longs have made a stain glass window with old sweet wrappers.



IT'S A CHURCH CHOIR, ED. THEY DON'T TAKE REQUESTS

### CHRISTMAS AT HOME

### with Rochester Cathedral

This trail is an adaptation of one originally set in the High Street of Rochester and has been designed for you to create your own trail at home, indoors or outside.

Alternatively, you can sit quietly and simply watch one video after the other.

This sequence takes you through a story which has been told every year at Christmas for many, many years. The nativity story tells us something very special about God, that God loved his people so much that he was prepared to be with us and to live among us.

Suitable for all ages.

You will need

- a smartphone with QR reader (most modern cameras on smartphones will read QR codes)
- · 3 sheets of plain paper
- scissors

Begin by printing the pdf called **christmas-cards.pdf** onto plain A4 paper.

Cut the sheets along the dotted lines to create 12 individual cards.

Place the cards around the house (or garden) to create your own trail.

Scan each code, listen and join in as much as you want to (words to carols are provided in each video) and then move onto the next part of the sequence.

We hope you will enjoy it, and experience a virtual journey.

The Christmas Cards for this trail are printed on the back pages.



Lk 2:7 (COVID version)

## 







These resources are to help equip & enable worship together as "family". They are intentionally intergenerational to allow space, conversation, activity & response together as the family of God. We encourage all ages to be participative & open, being responsive to God and each other.

### Gather .....

- As you gather find a place that is comfortable and have the resources ready for the activities, prayer or response times ready.
- Choose 3 members to light the 3 candles (engage all ages)

### Opening words of praise with lighting of 3 candles -

I will light a light in the name of the Maker, who lit the world and gave everything life.

I will light a light in the name of the Son, who saved the world and stretched out his hand to me.

I will light a light in the name of the Spirit, who is present everywhere in the world and gives me strength.

Together: We will light three lights for the trinity of love: God above us.

God beside us, God beneath us; The beginning, The end and the Everlasting one.

### Welcome.....

Song: Come Now is the Time to Worship https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-jU1q33K6yQ (can be sung or listened to)

Reflection time: When was the last time you heard something that made you happy – what was the announcement? Were you expecting the news/announcement or was it a complete shock? If you were writing a newspaper or news article what would the headline be?

Share with those who you are gathered with the Headlines you can try to make them "funny", "shocking" or "intriguing"



Bible passage: Read Together Luke 1:26-38
AND/OR WATCH

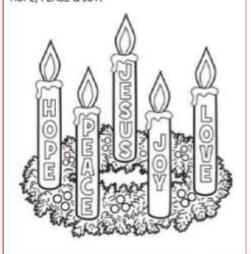
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a1yOY62GFKU stopping at 1min,10secs.

When the angel appeared before Mary telling her she was to have a son and call him Jesus she was shocked, nervous, and fearful — what would the headline be for this news story? However, the angel reassured Mary that God's Holy Spirit would be with her and she was very capable of what was being foretold, good things can come in surprises or announcements - Wonderful things do come in surprises when God is involved, because God has the power to deliver them.

Now is the time to light the first, second, third & fourth candle on an advent wreath if you have one; or colour the 1th, 2th 3th & 4th candle below. As you light or colour the candles you could use the **Text Overlay** prayer on the next sheet. The fourth candle reminds us of Love & Peace — the Angels candle.

### Interactive Learning.....

This picture will be on the sheet every week during Advent – Todays candle is **LOVE** but don't forget to colour the previous 3 candles reminding us of God's HOPE, PEACE & JOY.



Text Overlay – Read the prayer below several times. Draw the images or a picture that comes into your minds when reading the prayer through. Finally, in a dark colour write the prayer over the top of the image/drawing. Place in a prominent place for everyone to see.

People of God: awake!
The day is coming soon
when you shall see God face to face.
Remember the ways and the works of God.
God calls you out of darkness
to walk in the light of his coming.
You are God's children.
Lord, make us one as we walk with

Christ today and for ever. Amen.



### Love Lantern

On a sheet of paper create messages of love, who you love and how you can show love to friends & family just as Mary did as she expressed her love & faith in God by responding "Here I Am" Then create lanterns with the paper.



### Will You Risk It Challenge?

Over the Christmas holidays take up the Risk it Challenge when you can. Set risks/challenges like "say to 3 people this week that God cares for them too" or "It's a special day, and you're a special person." I'm sure you will think of other examples to share your faith & love in Jesus.

### Whilst creating chat about the following guestions & Share stories.....

Play this album whilst sharing and learning together –

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ir90g1TX 6ug8list=PLiylXg6tBiDHEdRxHkAK4CowALvIU NCeK

- What are some extraordinary ways God can use you in your ordinary life?
- If you had been Mary would you have agreed to do what God was asking you to do?
- What is the first thing you would think if you saw an Angel?

### Reflection & Prayer Time.....

Song: You Are Love

https://www.voutube.com/watch?v=mNd22xG4\_14

### (can be sung/read aloud or listened to)

Using the song above spend some precious moments in God's presence and be with him let him love you unconditionally.

Encourage members to sit/stand/walk silently.

Other prayers can be said at this time, concluding with the Lord's Prayer

### The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.

### Celebration....

If any of your members celebrate a birthday within the next week – sing

Happy birthday to you To Jesus be true May God's richest blessings Be showered on you.



### Closing.....

### The Grace (with "Messy" actions)

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and evermore. Amen.

### Closing Responses.....

Song: LOVE, Love

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FOsnEkcKWKM (can be sung/read aloud or listened to)

From where we are to where you need us.

#### Jesus, now lead on!

From the security of what we know to the adventure of what you reveal,

### Jesus, now lead on!

To make this world look more like your kingdom,

### Jesus, now lead on!

Ask different members to blow out the candles.....until you meet again

### Extra Ideas

- Advent
  - (activityvillage.co.uk)
- Create an Advent chain https://happyhomefairy.co m/advent-paper-chaincountdown-free-printable/
- Enjoy a Christmas Movie touther
- Make some Nativity
   Biscuits
   https://www.pinterest.co.uk/sweetsugarbeile/nativity-cookies/

# tearfund

As we approach Christmas day, we wait with hope for the one who has already come. On the first Christmas, Christ entered the world, laying his glory down to dwell among us. He is Emmanuel, God with us; our hope, our comforter, our safe refuge and our Saviour.

Despite the challenges 2020 has brought, our God has been faithful. We wanted to take a moment to pause and remember how God has been with us and share some of this year's blessings with you.

Through our Global Coronavirus Response, we have been able to reach 1.5 million people, installing 1,788 hand washing stations and distributing 83,476 hygiene kits to the most vulnerable areas in the world.

Closer to home, we have been humbled by the generosity and sacrificial support of our supporters over this challenging year. We had a fantastic response to *The Climb*, our lockdown fundraising event, where our supporters raised £326,000. While in November, 489 churches took part in the *Big Quiz Night*, raising over £247,000.

We are so thankful for the donations we have received during this time, from individuals and churches. It's been amazing to see God's faithful provision.

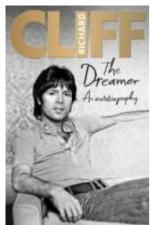
Thank you for your faithful commitment, and for all that your church has done to support the work of Tearfund through a year of great uncertainty. **Every prayer**, **donation and action you have taken as a church has helped to bring lasting transformation** to those who need it most and we cannot express our gratitude enough.

We pray you will draw close to God in this season and that you will have a peaceful and joyful Christmas with your friends, family and church.

We look forward to partnering with you in 2021 as we continue to follow Jesus where the need is greatest.

### **Books**

This week's book suggestions come from Aslan Christian Books



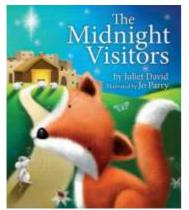
### The Dreamer by Cliff Richards

Cliff Richard tells his story, in his own words, in his highly anticipated new autobiography.

Achieving a hit in every decade since the 1950s, Cliff Richard stands alone in pop history. Coming of age in 1950s London, he began his music career at Soho's legendary 2i's Cafe, and now he's approaching his 80th birthday with record sales of over 250m and counting. He talks about finding Christianity, reflects on the ups and downs of life in the public eye, and reveals how the false allegations against him changed his life forever.

More Than Words by Hannah Dunnett
Hannah Dunnett's beautiful artwork,
interweaving Bible verses and images, has
inspired many people. From sailing boats
bobbing on the river and lighthouses standing
tall, to majestic trees and soaring mountains,
to welcoming cottages and cosy kitchens,
Hannah paints pictures that help us
understand scripture and reflect on God's
word in a fresh way.





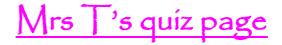
### The Midnight Visitors by Juliet David

Miriam was glad to be warm and cosy inside her cowshed. There were so many people in the town but it was nice and peaceful in her shed. Little was she to know that she would be joined by Midnight Visitors, and not just any old visitors...Snuggle up and enjoy the warm soft feel the art and narrative bring to this delightful Christmas picture book with a difference.

# Official UK Christian & Gospel Albums Chart Top 20

Pos	LW Title, Artist		Peak Pos	Mag	
1	1	1	BELIEVE ANDREA BOCELLI DEGCA	. 1	4
2	2	-	THE SEARCH NF NF REAL MUSIC	1	72
3	4+	usion w	A JOLLY IRISH CHRISTMAS - VOL 2 REND COLLECTIVE COM	2	7
4	5 +		JESUS IS KING KANYE WEST	1	59
5	3 +	1	LOOK UP CHILD LAUREN DAIGLE CENTRICITY MUSK	1	28
6	6	no-cupor	VITAL SIGNS SKILLET WARNER BROS	2	288
7	7		MANSION NF GGM	1	174
8	8	50	SONGS OF PRAISE - CELEBRATING 50 YEARS VARIOUS ARTISTS PARLOPHONE	8	8
9	12 +	Olege A	ADORE - CHRISTMAS SONGS OF WORSHIP CHRIS TOMLIN	2	23
10	17 +		THE PEACE PROJECT HILLSONG WORSHIP HILLSONG MUSIC	1	22
11	15 +	Cherrana	CAMPFIRE CHRISTMAS - VOL 1 REND COLLECTIVE UMO	1	36
12	9 +		AWAKE SKILLET ATLANTE	2	353
13	10 +		THERE IS MORE HILLSONG WORSHIP HILLSONG MUSIK	1	140
14	14	4	UNLEASHED ROADRUNNED	1	227
15	11 +	6	RE//CHOIRED HOUSE GOSPEL CHOIR ISLAND	4	7
16	13 +		AWAKE HILLSONG WORSHIP HILLSONG MUSIK	2	61
17	New	AND SER	JESUS CHRIST THE EXORCIST - LIVE NEAL MORSE FRONTIERS	17	1
18	Re		BEHOLD LAUREN DAIGLE CENTRICITY MUSIC	8	7
19	16 4		VICTORIOUS SKILLET WARNER RECORDS	3	68
20	New	126	WORLD'S FAVOURITE NEW WORSHIP SONGS VARIOUS ARTISTS INTEGRITY MUSIC	-0.01	1

### Answers on Page 19



### A SUPERSIZED QUIZ FOR XMAS

- 1. Where does the Queen traditionally spend Christmas?
- 2. What is the name of the business partner of Scrooge in a Christmas Carol?
- 3. What is New Year's Eve known as in Scotland?
- 4. Which monarch made the first royal Christmas broadcast?
- 5. Which is the only other group besides the Beatles to have three consecutive Christmas number one singles?
- 6. In the USA what is nicknamed 'tinsel town'?
- 7. Which boy soprano had a hit with "We're Walking in the Air" from 'The Snowman"?
- 8. According to the song, what did my true love give to me on the seventh day of Christmas?
- 9. Who were Caspar, Balthazar and Melchior?
- 10. Which country gives the annual gift of a Christmas Tree to London's Trafalgar Square'?
- 11. What infuriating puzzle was a best-selling toy in the 1980's?
- 12. In 1914 what unusual event took place between British and German troops on Christmas Day?
- 13. According to the carol which is the only tree 'That bears the Crown'?
- 14. By what name are the pantomime characters Anastasia and Drizella otherwise known?
- 15. Who composed the songs for the film White Christmas?
- 16. What country exports the most Christmas Trees?
- 17. Which author wrote the book A Christmas Carol?
- 18. In which ocean is Christmas Island?
- 19. Which seasonal hit song contains the words 'sleigh bells ring, are you listening?
- 20. What star sign would you be if you were born on Christmas Day?

- 21. In 'The Gingerbread Man' fairytale, who or what devours the gingerbread man in the end?
- 22. What stick would you put into a mulled wine?
- 23. In the 1947 version of Miracle on 34th Street, who plays the little girl Susan Walker?
- 24. Who wrote the Band Aid song 'Do They Know It's Christmas'? (1 point for both writers)
- 25. On 25th December in this year, Church leaders agree to fix the date of the birth of Christ. Previously some people had celebrated it in May, others in January. What year (10 either way).
- 26. Which wordless children's picture book by Raymond Briggs was first published in 1978?
- 27. How many Drummers drummed?
- 28. Which famous scientist who developed the three laws of motion, was born on Christmas day 1642
- 29. In which country would you be served a Christmas damper, in a wreath or star shape, with butter, jam, honey or golden syrup.
- 30. Which takeaway food is so popular in Japan at Christmas that it often has to be ordered weeks in advance?
- 31. Which record was a Christmas number one in 1975 and 1991?
- 32. Which alcoholic ingredient is used in a Snowball cocktail?
- 33. If you were born on Christmas Day, what's your star sign?
- 34. Bethlehem is a tiny village in which UK country?
- 35. Which country does St. Nicholas originally belong to?
- 36. Which Christmas film begins with David (Hugh Grant) commenting that whenever he feels gloomy about the world, he thinks about the arrivals terminal at Heathrow Airport?
- 37. On the 6th day of Christmas my true love sent to me?
- 38. What is a Bûche de Noel better known as in the UK?
- 39. What was the first name of the main character in the Christmas film 'Home Alone'?

## Poet's Corner

May the blessing of Christmas
Be with you and those you love
And friends and neighbours too
But if, perhaps, this time is sad
With loved ones far away
May memories of the fun you've had
Bring joy this Christmas Day
Suggested by Grace Allan – from a Christmas Card

C is for crib filled full of hay, a tiny bed where Jesus lay. H is for happiness his parents shared, the shepherds came to show they cared. R is for rejoice, that's what they did, right there in the stable, the animals hid. I is for inspiration given to many, still, lots of people don't have any. S is for sorrow brought by the cross, His crucifixion was a terrible loss. T is for thankfulness given to Him, His disciples felt joy right to the brim. M is for Mass at Christmas time, His followers sing carols, many in rhyme. A is for angel who brought the good news, though many today have different views. S is His sunshine brought into your life, It banishes cares, worries and strife. 18

# Thank you

To all those who give regularly towards the mission and ministry of St Paul's

Use this information to set up regular giving through your bank

Code 60-15-28 Account No: 66526434.
Account Name: St Paul's Church.
Reference: your name

### **Quiz answers**

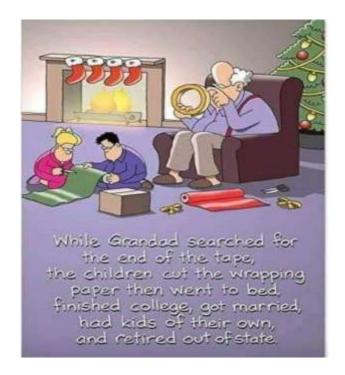
1.Sandringham; 2.Jacob Marley; 3. Hogmanay; 4.George V; 5. The Spice Girls; 6. Hollywood; 7. Aled Jones (although he didn't sing it in the film – that was Peter Auty!); 8. Seven Swans a'Swimming; 9. The Three Wise Men; 10. Norway; 11. Rubik's Cube; 12. A football match in No Man's Land; 13. Holly; 14. The Ugly Sisters; 15. Irving Berlin; 16. Canada; 17. Charles Dickens; 18. The Indian; 19. Winter Wonderland; 20.Capricorn. 21.The Fox; 22.Cinnamon; 23.Natalie Wood; 24.Bob Geldorf and Midge Ure; 25.440; 26.The Snowman; 27.12; 28.Isaac Newton; 29.Australia; 30. (Kentucky) Fried Chicken; 31.Bohemian Rhapsody 32.Advocat; 33.Capricorn; 34. Wales (Carmarthenshire); 35.Present day Turkey; 36.Love Actually; 37.Geese a-laying; 38.Yule Log; 39.Kevin.













After the Little Drummer Boy, Mary decided it was enough. Which is why we never hear about the Little Bagpipe and Accordion boys.









