

## St Laurence Parish Church, Frodsham

Newsletter for week commencing Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2020 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent, Year B

“To know God and to make God known”

Vicar: Rev Elaine Atack – [revelaine@nym.hush.com](mailto:revelaine@nym.hush.com)

Website: [slfchurch.org](http://slfchurch.org) Facebook: [www.facebook.com/saintells/](https://www.facebook.com/saintells/)

### This week

Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> Dec Advent 2		No service this week. Services will re-commence on 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Isaiah 40.1-11 Mark 1.1-8
Monday		Elves decorating the Christmas Tree	
Tuesday	12 noon	Funeral of Joyce Wilkinson (invited guests only)	
Wednesday	10.00-15.00	Church open for private prayer – please wear a face mask	
Thursday	11.15	Funeral of David Higham (invited guests only)	
Friday		Church closed	
Saturday		Church closed	
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec Advent 3	8.00 10.00	Eucharist – spoken Eucharist – with music	

**Please join us for our online service each Sunday – and hear familiar voices. The link currently is:**  
<https://slfchurch.org/advent-2020-yr-b> and is also displayed on our website and Facebook page

**If you or anyone you know would like a CD then contact Rev Elaine or Andrew and Wendy Rudd to arrange.**

Following this 2nd lockdown – I am now pleased to say that our Sunday services will resume next Sunday, Dec 13<sup>th</sup> at 8am – said Eucharist and 10am with music.

We continue to follow Government and Church of England guidelines closely. Face coverings must be used in Church. As you are aware seating in church has been re-arranged to comply with social distancing requirements, reducing numbers who can attend.

To help us manage this – please contact Betty Rutter: [bets66@btinternet.com](mailto:bets66@btinternet.com) if you would like to reserve a place. Please do so by Friday evening, if possible.

Details of Christmas services will follow in due course.

Many thanks for your continued prayers, patience, and support at this unpredictable time.

### Prayers

**Our prayers for those who are sick:** If you know of anyone whom you feel needs our prayers – please ask permission from them or their family and then pass their name to Rev Elaine:  
[revelaine@nym.hush.com](mailto:revelaine@nym.hush.com)

**Please pray for –**

Those who are sick

For those who have died

Those whose anniversary of death falls at this time

### Letter

Dear Friends,

This Sunday we light our second candle on our Advent wreath which is the Candle for the PROPHETS of the Old Testament – who foretold the coming of a Messiah. People like Isaiah, Jeremiah, Elijah. It is therefore also the Candle of HOPE - like a light shining in a dark place.

As we light our second candle, you may like to join me in the candle prayer for the second Sunday of Advent, which I will read in our online service:

**Lord Jesus, Light of the world,  
The prophets said you would bring peace  
and save your people in trouble  
Give peace in our hearts today  
and show all the world God's love. Amen.**

In our Gospel reading this week we meet John the Baptist – a prophet whom we hear about in the New Testament, yet the last in a long line of Old Testament prophets. John was not a public figure of high status – but an ordinary, if rather eccentric character, called by God to prepare for the coming of the Messiah. He spoke with authority, “proclaiming” what people needed to do to prepare themselves for the coming of Jesus and the part they would play in his Mission and Ministry.

Our Christmas celebrations will be different this year, as circumstances force us to take stock of our lives and our priorities. We may be out of lockdown, but there are still restrictions and guidelines to negotiate in order to keep safe.

Nevertheless, our second Advent Candle of Hope reminds us that even if everything else is different this year – the essence of Christmas will not change. The birth of the Christ child – God coming among us out of love for us - remains constant; and by God's grace we wait with hope, joy and anticipation, despite the weariness which 2020 has brought. Our New Year's wish for 2021 is that the much-anticipated vaccine to combat this plague which has stricken us will allow life to return to something like normality.

Meanwhile, the present constraints on our lives may actually give us time to “be still” and reflect on the enormity of the Christmas story. The profound love of God, the light of the world, entered our world and changed our lives forever; no decorations, no trimmings, no feasts – just a manger in a stable. Below is another poem by Thom Shurman which evokes the essence of this:



### **Maybe**

*Maybe it is the waiting for God,  
Not in the wandering from store to store,  
That we find our way.*

*Maybe it is in the friendship of God,  
Not in the frenzy of the crowds  
That we are led to the manger.*

*Maybe it is in the steadfast love of God,  
And not in the pile of stuff under the tree,  
That we find what we have been searching for all our lives.*

*Maybe, just maybe, God of Advent,  
This year will be different.  
Maybe, just maybe,  
We will let you lead us to Bethlehem.*

With love and blessings,

Elaine 😊

## Notices

### **CHRISTMAS AT ST LAURENCE PARISH CHURCH, FRODSHAM**

As we approach the end of this second lockdown and move into tiers, it seems that our places of worship can now resume with Sunday services under the same restrictions as before. We are working on how this will work for us and our Christmas services. The likelihood is that some of our Christmas 2020 services will be pre-recorded and available online. More details will follow as things become clearer and when the Church of England have updated their guidelines in respect of the latest government announcements.

In the meantime, please keep checking our website for updates : <https://www.slfchurch.org>

Our Facebook and website homepage will feature “**A Carol a Day**” from Advent Sunday (29th Nov) to Christmas with the theme “Jesus is the Light of the World”. This reminds us that whatever time of darkness we encounter on life’s journey, even Covid-19, the light of Christ prevails - and with that reminder comes the hope that despite the uniquely difficult year we have all faced, this Christmas will be a time of joy and celebration. Here’s the link for our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/saintells/>

If anyone would like to request a favourite Carol for possible inclusion, please email [saintells@gmail.com](mailto:saintells@gmail.com) with your name, your chosen carol and if you wish - your preferred tune. We already have ‘In the Bleak Midwinter’ so if this is your favourite, then please give us your second favourite.

The **Church of England** has produced a series of reflections for each day from Christmas Day to 2nd January 2021 entitled “**Comfort and Joy: Nine Lessons and Carols for Christmas**” which mirrors a traditional carol service, and features contributions from *Kate Bottley, Jonathan Bryan, Bob Chilcott, Martha Collison, Guli Francis-Dehqani, Chine McDonald, Sally Phillips and Archbishops Stephen Cottrell and Justin Welby*. The series acknowledges that this Christmas may not be so easy to celebrate for those who have lost loved ones, livelihoods, or who are potentially still not able to be together with family this year. We will have the booklets nearer the time. Here’s the link: <https://tinyurl.com/y2atmd57>

Please join in our **Churches Together** theme of “Follow the Star”. From December 5th – please put stars (lights or drawings or photos) either in your garden or windows and look out for them as you go about the town.

### **FROM TOM CAMERON**

Tom again. Just thought I'd update you all on my Mum's progress. She had her brain surgery just under a month ago, which we're told went well. She spent around a week in total in Stoke Hospital and has since returned home to recover. The initial signs are good, as she is showing improvement in her balance and her general clarity of mind, but it's a long road, and carries with it the possibility of further surgery. I'm grateful for all the lovely words of kindness and support sent both to her and me lately, and knowing she has the collective thoughts of St Ls behind her is very much a force for good. In the meantime we plod onwards. T

**CHURCH QUIZZES** Do you long to spend an evening chatting to friends. Maybe having a laugh or two?

Why not join us for the fortnightly quiz on Zoom. If you haven't Zoomed before, help is at hand to get you started. It costs nothing and works on any smartphone, tablet, iPad or laptop.

Quizzes are at 7pm on Saturdays and there are two scheduled for December, 5th and 19th, which will be a Christmas one.

Interested? Reply to [saintells@gmail.com](mailto:saintells@gmail.com) and wait for your invitation.

**HOT OFF THE PRESS (or at least out of the steriliser!)** Pickled onions in sherry are now available. Beryl also has Apple Chutney, Redcurrant Jelly and Damson Jam. When they're gone, they're gone. Please contact her after 10am or email [saintells@gmail.com](mailto:saintells@gmail.com) if you don't have her number.

**RUSS' GARDEN CHUTNEY** is from his own, and an excellent Frodsham garden! Russ's email is [russnaylor@ntlworld.com](mailto:russnaylor@ntlworld.com) for order and collection.

**FOODBANK** Donations can be made at Morrison's, Sainsbury's and Tesco and also to Frodsham distribution centre at Guide HQ, Ship Street between 1 and 3 pm on Fridays (excluding Bank Holidays). Current needs are tinned tomatoes, tinned fish and instant coffee. To find out about obtaining a voucher, opening times of distribution centres or how to donate financially through the online donation page, please visit the website - [runcorndistrict.foodbank.org.uk](http://runcorndistrict.foodbank.org.uk)





**DONATIONS TO CHURCH** Many people will now find it difficult to make their usual weekly contributions to the church. If you would like to contribute directly, our Bank Account details are as follows: ST LAURENCE FRODSHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL Sort Code: 09-01-55 Account No: 42559803. Alternatively, you can use our online donations page <https://givealittle.co/campaigns/371c0c8f-ea13-4763-9688-e0de77dd8475> The work of our church during this difficult time is reliant on people's generosity, a generosity that is a hallmark of a lived-out faith and a testament to it. Thank you.

### News from Church Members

#### **THE WANDERING CHORISTERS**

Last week we started our walk in Marsh Lane. Barbara and I thought it would be a change to walk across the Marsh to Helsby. The weather was dry but very overcast, but as always we are always prepared for rain. Neither of us had been down the Marsh for some time, in fact I hadn't been down there for over 30yrs, it used to be one of my training runs when I was involved in competitive Athletics, so it was quite memorable for me. We always have a good catch up about recent events or news as we are walking. The road is quite narrow along the marsh and we soon realised it was muddy as well, but then it's been like that for the last few walks we've been on, so were getting used to it now. We met a couple walking in the opposite direction to us who said hello and warned us that we would need our wellies further on, they were so right, and as we approached it we thought we were walking through a muddy stream. Barbara and I had walking shoes on so it was quite a precarious situation with both of us hanging onto each other hoping that neither of us fell in, but we've had plenty of practice lately,



so although we had muddy feet they didn't get wet. We met a cat on the way who proceeded to wrapped its body around my legs until I sent him over to Barbara. Soon we came to the main road by Helsby High School, we crossed over the road and into Woodhouse Lane which led us to Tarvin Toad. Turning left here we suddenly realised we hadn't eaten our picnic and we were feeling very hungry, but there are not many places to stop on Tarvin Road. Then Barbara had a bright idea and said we could eat our picnic in the cemetery where there are some seats, so that's what we did, it's the first time I have ever eaten a picnic in a cemetery I have to say it was a very peaceful experience for the both of us. Thank you Lord for the paths we take and the people we meet on our way. God Bless. Jeanie.& Barbara.

**Contributions for the Newsletter should be emailed to [saintells@gmail.com](mailto:saintells@gmail.com) by 7pm on Wednesday. Thank you**

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A free phone line of hymns,  
reflections and prayers