

Newsletter of St Laurence Parish Church, Frodsham

For week commencing Sunday 10th January 2021 – Baptism of Christ, Year B

“To know God and to make God known”

Vicar: Rev Elaine Atack – revelaine@nym.hush.com

Website: <https://slfchurch.org/> Facebook: www.facebook.com/saintells/

This week

Sunday 10 th Jan Baptism of Christ		Church closed Virtual service only – CD and online	Mark 1. 4-11
Monday	11.00	Funeral of Ronald Percival at Walton Lea (invited guests only)	
Tuesday		Church closed	
Wednesday		Church closed	
Thursday		Church closed	
Friday		Church closed	
Saturday		Church closed	
Sunday 17 th Jan Epiphany 2		Church closed Virtual service only – CD and online	

Our priority remains to keep each other safe during this pandemic, which we have already endured for over nine months. Although we now have cause for hope of an eventual return to something approaching “normality” with the roll out of the Oxford AstraZeneca vaccine, realistically it will be late Spring or early Summer before we have all had our second dose of vaccine.

In the meantime things are getting worse as this new variant spreads. We are now in another lockdown. As you are aware by now – we have come to the conclusion that it is in everyone’s best interest that we **close church** until infection levels are substantially lower and it is safe for Tom to be back in action.

Further updates will be circulated via the Newsletter and our website. Some of you will be disappointed by this news, while others will be relieved. **Services will continue online and CD as at present.**

Safety measures now will hopefully mean that we reap the benefits later. We have kept safe so far – it would be shame to “fall at the final hurdle”

Please remember that I am available by phone or email (Fridays excepted), or even via zoom should you wish to chat “face to face”. I look forward to the time when we can celebrate together.

Please keep safe and well, and keep in touch with each other.

CD’s of our online service: if you, or anyone you know would like to receive our weekly service on a CD – please contact Rev Elaine or Andrew and Wendy Rudd to arrange this.

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

Please pray for –
Those who are sick

For those who have died

Those whose anniversary of death falls at this time

Letter

Dear Friends,

I hope you all had a blessed and peaceful Christmas, despite things being very different for us. Thank you to everyone who helped in any way with our Christmas services, both online and in church. It's very humbling to know that so many people shared in our services, either online or via a CD recording; in fact, the Christingle service appears to have reached more people than would normally be the case in church.

As I wish you all a Happy New Year for 2021, we find ourselves in lockdown once again. Given all the uncertainty, I wonder if any of you have even thought about New Year Resolutions? And for those of you who have, dare I ask whether you are still keeping them?! The beginning of a New year often makes us pause and reflect on our lives and maybe resolve "to do things better" – even in matters of faith.

As we celebrate the Baptism of Christ this Sunday, we are reminded that our relationship with Christ is a lifelong journey – not just a Christmas gift to be packed away and forgotten. God calls us by name, knowing and loving us as unique individuals; we grow in faith as we grasp the enormity of this.

As I write, it is the Feast of the Epiphany when we remember the Magi / Astrologers / Wise men / Kings / travellers from afar – whoever they were. They recognised the enormity of the birth of the Messiah in Bethlehem and went on a very long journey to pay their respects – bowing down in humility to the infant King and offering him precious gifts. We don't discover how long it took the Magi to return home..... just that they went by a different route.

Although we find ourselves "locked-down" once again as we begin this new year, at least this time we can see some light at the end of the tunnel. Our "star" being the Covid-19 vaccine which will hopefully protect us from infection and allow some semblance of normality to return to our lives.

Like the Magi who needed patience, perseverance, courage, faith and determination to journey and reach their destination – so do we as we wait for things to improve.

In the meantime, we, like the Magi can bring each other precious gifts, keeping in touch with each other, sharing the love of Christ by simple random acts of kindness, and of course, praying for each other.

You might like to share a few quiet moments – in effect "Meditating with the Magi" - praying that our faith may be strong like theirs:

They set out to follow a star.....have you had any moments of "wonder" when you have been led deeper into an understanding of the mystery of God?

The star's light shone in the darkness Have you encountered darker moments and yet trusted that light was still to be found? Where / how did you recognise the light?

They asked for directions when they felt lost what questions do you travel with? Who are the "wise" people in your life who help with your questions?

They bowed down in adoration How do you "switch off" and allow for moments of silence and reflection, knowing and recognition?

They offered their gifts what are your gifts? How do you share them?

The truth about Herod was revealed to them in a dream Have you ever been disappointed to discover that someone is trying to deceive you?

A dream.... such revelations can also happen to us – perhaps even to you?
How else does God make himself known to you?

You may like to keep coming back to this and allow time for God to speak to you personally.

Please keep safe and well,

Love and blessings,

Elaine 😊



A Letter to Rev Elaine plus others

Dear Rev Elaine and the 'Christmas Box' preparers and deliverers.

I am writing to thank you all for the beautifully decorated Christmas box delivered a few days before Christmas by Steph Parker. I do not have a computer and have looked forward to the weekly CD and newsletter into which you have all put so much effort. The box was a surprise and a delight. The chocolates were eaten almost immediately (in case they went stale!) but the remaining contents brought a warmth to every day. The 'Comfort and Joy' booklet and the content of the CDs is very uplifting. I have sung along with the hymns and carols and listened to the reflections and readings. The 'thoughts' of Mary, Joseph and the shepherd - just amazing. I was there. I could see the light in the eyes of the Christ Child; held his new-born weight in my hands and felt his arms outstretched to support me. That support has been constant through my church family and friends who have kept in touch throughout these long months. I cannot thank you enough for your thoughtfulness and friendship. God bless you all.

Love Beryl x

Editor: Beryl is one of those who cannot access our services online, so receives them on CD, with a printed copy of the newsletter. Before Christmas, all the services for Christmas, New Year and Epiphany were prepared early, so they could be sent out together in a box to those without online access. If you also cannot access our services online, please note that you can ask Rev Elaine or Andrew and Wendy Rudd for a weekly CD.

Notices

OBERAMMERGAU PASSION PLAY, SUMMER 2022

Are you interested in being part of a group from St Laurence's to go to Austria in summer 2022 for the famous Passion Play in Oberammergau?

Normally held every ten years, the plays have been postponed due to COVID-19 and will now take place between May and August 2022. Further information about the plays here:

<https://www.passionsspiele-oberammergau.de/en/visit/oberammergau>

The trip would include return air flight, all transfers and travel, accommodation and tickets to a performance. Cost would be somewhere between £1600-2000.

At the moment, we'd just like an indication of interest from you, so if you'd like to find out more, please contact Elaine Graham: graham359@icloud.com.

THANK YOU from Rev Elaine to all who have donated their Frodsham Christmas Vouchers to church. Your donations have been very much appreciated.

MESSAGE FROM PAULINE If you haven't already returned your Children's Society box please can you do so as soon as possible. If you need it to be collected please email saintells@gmail.com and your message will be forwarded to Pauline.

Please note that if you don't have a box you can still donate to the Children's Society using our church's special giving page: <https://thyg.uk/CUS050018> or by scanning the QR code.



MESSAGE FROM BERYL Please can you save your Christmas cards so that Dawn and I can reuse them. Thank you

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: Shampoo, Custard, Sponge puddings, Rice pudding.

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

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

BERYL'S BLOG

Here I am with pen in hand,
Not inspired to write a blog
But I'm sure I'll think of something
As its safer than a jog.

You've read about my mishaps
And believe me they were true.
It seems those little gremlins
Always alter what I do.

Try, try and try again;
I know somewhere I read it.
But for me the best idea has been
Try, fail – forget it!

I do not doubt in the days ahead
That things won't go to plan.
So watch this space, be patient
I'll write down what I can.

Through the dark days, just perhaps.
To your face I've brought a smile.
That's simply what I've been about
And made it all worthwhile.

The old year out, the new one in
And with it some good cheer.
God bless, stay safe, be positive
We will meet up this year.

Wishing you a year of peace and good health.
Stay safe! Love Beryl x



Contributions for the Newsletter should be emailed to saintells@gmail.com by 7pm on Wednesday. Thank you
If you wish to be unsubscribed from this weekly newsletter, please email saintells@gmail.com with 'Unsubscribe' in the heading