

Newsletter of St Laurence Parish Church, Frodsham

For week commencing Sunday December 26th 2021 – Christmas 1, Year C
 and week commencing Sunday January 2nd 2022 – Christmas 2/Epiphany, Year C

“To know God and to make God known”

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

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

This Week

Please note that you are now asked to wear masks in church, and you are also encouraged to take a lateral flow test before coming. Thank you very much for helping us to stay a safe place.

PLEASE KEEP CHECKING OUR WEBSITE/FACEBOOK PAGE AS THESE MAY HAVE TO CHANGE OR BE CANCELLED AT THE LAST MINUTE DUE TO PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES

CHRISTINGLE IN CHURCH SADLY CANCELLED.

Please sing the following to the tune of Away in a Manger:

“Away in Old Frodsham, the Vicar she said –
 This Coronavirus keeps rearing its head;
 the Omicron variant means we shouldn’t mingle,
 so sadly this year there will be no Christingle.”

Dear friends,

Our ticket-only Christingle services were planned weeks ago at around 40% of our legal maximum seating capacity. However, recent developments mean even that was over-optimistic. We know you will be as disappointed as I am, but in the end your safety, health and wellbeing has to take priority. Instead, please join us online, either at 3.00pm or anytime thereafter to share our virtual Christingle service.

The Christmas Midnight Mass at 11.30pm on Christmas Eve and the Christmas morning Eucharist at 10.00am will at this point, still go ahead.

With every blessing for a safe, peaceful and Happy Christmas.

Elaine Attack

Vicar of Frodsham

This Week

Friday Christmas Eve	15.00 23.30	A relaunch of last year’s Christingle Service online Midnight Mass
Saturday 25 th Christmas Day	10.00	Family Service of Holy Communion - please bring along one of your presents
Sunday, Dec 26 th Christmas 1/Boxing Day	10.00	Holy Communion (spoken) for the feast of St Stephen
Wednesday - Friday	10.00-16.00	Church open
Sunday, Jan 2 nd Christmas 2/Epiphany	8.00 10.00 19.30-21.30	Holy Communion (spoken) Holy Communion with music Players Rehearse

Week commencing January 2nd 2022

Sunday, Jan 2 nd Christmas 2/Epiphany	8.00 10.00 19.30-21.30	Holy Communion (spoken) Holy Communion with music Players Rehearse
Tuesday - Friday	10.00-16.00	Church open
Tuesday	11.30 19.30-21.30	Funeral Players rehearse
Wednesday	19.30-21.30	Players rehearse

Sunday, Jan 9 th	8.00	Holy Communion (spoken)
Epiphany 1/Baptism of Christ	10.00	Holy Communion with music
	19.30-21.30	Players Rehearse



Christingle:

If you wish to donate to the Children's Society, you can do so here:

<https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/christingle/st-laurence-church-frodsham>

Online Services

The current website link for our online services is: <https://slfchurch.org/advent-4-onwards>

Letter

This month our letter is written by Rev Phil.

As a boy I was a chorister at All Saints, Bingley. We hosted the BBC "Songs of Praise" for All Saints on 5th November 1963, when the programme was in its early days and very different to today. We sang dozens of anthems and choral settings, as well as many wonderful hymns and psalms. Only with the hindsight of life's journey have I come to appreciate what a great privilege it was to be part of a choir with an excellent organist/choirmaster, twenty-two boy choristers and a full complement of altos, tenors, baritones, and basses.



As a consequence of this Spiritual foundation, many of our scripture readings end up being "sung" in my head – as now for example reading the story of the birth of Jesus from St. Luke chapter 2, set to music by J.S.Bach in his "Christmas Oratorio" – which includes the wonderful Recitative (BWV 248) "and there were shepherds in the same country abiding in the fields..." sung by a tenor, followed by the appearance of the angel to reassure the shepherds; "be not afraid – behold, I bring you glad tidings of great joy..." sung by a treble/boy soprano. Listening to it sixty years later, it's very hard to imagine myself singing the part of the angel – but I still can in my head.

Elaine and I haven't yet experienced "normal" life in Frodsham without lockdowns, masks, hand sanitizer, floundering politicians, social distancing, LFTs/PCRs and learning the Greek alphabet – no doubt we shall learn more letters as 2022 progresses!

Whatever life's journey throws at us, Luke reminds us that the Christmas story is a constant, clear, bright light in the darkness. The whole point of Christmas for those of us who consider ourselves Christians is that in the birth of Jesus, God has given us the gift of his Son, to share the human experience and understand our joys and sorrows. It is this message that teaches us that even in the midst of darkness we can find strength, hope and reassurance.

Our prayer for you all this Christmastide is that despite everything, the gift of God's peace may be real for you, and that in him you may find blessing, hope and love, so that we may join with the angels as they proclaim, "Glory to God in the highest!"

Happy Christmas!

Phil and Elaine

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

Those who have died

Those whose anniversary of death falls this week
Those whose anniversary of death falls w/c 2nd Jan

Prayer Wall - You can write a prayer and light a virtual candle on our website. <https://slfchurch.org/prayerwall>
Please pass your requests to Rev Elaine at the Vicarage if you haven't got internet access.

Notices

FAITH IN ACTION: We are planning to resume our meetings in 2022. Our first session, at which we will discuss our programme for the spring, will take place on Monday, January 17th at 19:30 at David's house. All welcome.

FOODBANK Collection points: supermarket drop off points, in church, distribution centre on Ship Street (Fridays 1 - 3pm). Current needs are tinned fish, tinned meat, tinned fruit, long life juice, sponge puddings, coffee, toothpaste, men's deodorant. Visit the website for info on how to give or get help - <https://runcorndistrict.foodbank.org.uk>

DONATIONS TO CHURCH If you would like to contribute to St Laurence, our Bank Account details are as follows: ST LAURENCE FRODSHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL Sort Code: 09-01-55 Acc.No: 42559803. Alternatively, you can donate here: <https://givealittle.co/campaigns/371c0c8f-ea13-4763-9688-e0de77dd8475> Thank you.

News

FROM STEPH: This photo was recently shared on our Facebook page. It has had a surprising amount of comments – it obviously touched a number of people.

- * My dad
- * My mum
- * My brother
- * My Dad
- * My nan and grandad
- * My uncle
- * My lovely dad
- * My Dad
- * The christian God or his Son
- * Mum and Dad
- * My lovely dad
- * Mum and Dad - Mum died when I was three
- * My mum, dad and sister
- * My daughter and my dad
- * My husband and son
- * My daughter
- * My dad
- * My Dad
- * My son
- * Grandma
- * My mum
- * My mum
- * My dear husband
- * My dad, love and miss him so much
- * My lovely mum
- * My mum and dad
- * Yesterday my dad for a fleeting minute, I went to ask him a question then realised. It gave me a tear.
- * My wife. I never had the chance to say goodbye



FROM PAULINE L (sent at end of November):

I've had two wonderful pieces of news this week. The first was that an asylum seeker from Syria, called Mazloom, has been granted leave to remain. I first met him at the local hotel in Runcorn, where I found him to be a very gentle and well-educated man, who helped me enormously to meet the needs of his fellow asylum seekers. He later moved to Liverpool. In Syria he worked as a teacher, and he is fluent in English, but then he moved to Iraq where he worked in a restaurant. Currently he is training to work in a restaurant in Liverpool, and his wife and children, currently sheltering in very poor conditions in Turkey, have made visa applications to join him. The sad thing is that one of his children died in Turkey while waiting for Mazloom's asylum claim to be settled.

The second wonderful news is that Shaun (full name Natashon) from Kenya has also been granted leave to remain. This young man (*Ed: pictured left with Pauline's grandson*) was the very first refugee I met on my first visit to the Runcorn hotel. He is a Christian, and when he moved to a shared house in Crewe, he organised about 15 of his fellow asylum seekers (all Muslims) to help their local church keep the churchyard clean and tidy, and in return, the parishioners would organise lunch for them. Shaun has supported fellow refugees with things like getting them hospital appointments, getting them to enrol on college courses, acting as a interpreter, and doing anything he can to help them, even though he had so little himself. A friend described Shaun as having 'God's heart' and I can only say, she was right. Shaun's dream is to train as a nurse, and I have a hunch that he might, one day, train for the ministry. He's the only refugee I have taken to my home. He shared last Christmas with my family, and he has twice visited Chester Zoo with my grandchildren.

These are Shaun's own words:

Everything that has a beginning has an end. First and foremost I could like to thank God for his blessing and favour all the way he have been faithful.

I can't forget people who have stand by me I may not be able to pay back but God can. What I could promise you is that I'll help someone who have been in the same situation as me.

And to my fellow brothers and sisters don't give up. I understand the journey is rocky, bumpy, tiresome, frustrating, challenging and whatever you name it keep pushing and trusting in lord he has a good plan for each and everyone, "a plan to prosper you and not to harm you."



Christmas Photos

Here are two photos of the MU Christmas tea (why is Santa's elf wearing a clerical collar) and one photo taken after our Carol Service.





The Alternative Collect for 1st Sunday of Christmas

God in Trinity,
eternal unity of perfect love:
gather the nations to be one family,
and draw us into your holy life through the birth of Emmanuel,
our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen

The Alternative Collect for Epiphany

Creator of the heavens,
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



Contributions for the Newsletter should be emailed to saintells@gmail.com by 7pm on Wednesday. Thank you.

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