



TVP CHURCH NEWS

December 2020

www.tynevalleyparish.co.uk

How can we celebrate Christmas during the Covid pandemic?

Well actually this is almost the perfect atmosphere to celebrate Christmas. Christmas is the celebration of hope! That first Christmas there was a sense of expectation. In Israel there was a widespread belief that something good was about to happen. God was on the move! Perhaps salvation was on the way.

Surely there is a parallel to the situation we find ourselves in as Christmas 2020 fast approaches. As I write, three vaccines have published results of trials that are claiming remarkable levels of protection against Covid 19. Just maybe next Easter might see this crisis being all but over and we might experience some liberation from the hardships and restrictions we are under. So as at AD 1 hope has been born, a hope culminating in Easter.

In Christian festivals we often try to place ourselves in the historic events we are remembering. Surely that is easy this year, as we are feeling so many of the same feelings as the characters in the first Christmas story. Put simply, hope, joy and thanks-giving are the natural characteristics of a thoughtful Christmas celebration this year.

Rev Andrew Dick



Frieze made at Messy Church in December 2018

CHURCH SERVICES IN DECEMBER

Sunday 6th December 10.15am Cranstoun led by Rev Dale London

Sunday 13th December 10.15am NMVH Family Celebration led by Worship Team

Sunday 20th December 10.15am Cranstoun led by Rev Dale London

Christmas Eve

Zoom Christingle 4.00pm

Watchnight Service Fala Church 11.30pm led by Rev Andrew Dick

Christmas Day

Cranstoun Church 10.00am led by Rev Dale London

Sunday 27th December Cranstoun 10.15am led by Rev Robert Simpson

To reserve a place for the Sunday services please follow the link that will be sent out by email or phone Julia Baker 01875 320132 by midday on Saturday.

Midweek Prayer & Praise Services in December

Wednesday 2nd December 10.00am Fala Church Maximum 6 people

Wednesday 9th Dec 10.00am Borthwick Church Maximum 8 people

To reserve a place for the Prayer & Praise services please phone David Lacey 01875 320938

TVP Virtual Christingle @ Home

We are excited to be organising a virtual Christingle Service this year. It will be on Thursday 24th December at 4pm and links are going to be published on the TVP web site and Facebook pages. It will follow the usual format, and Louise Spencer will be introducing some carols and glimpses of the Christmas story and Reece Allan explaining how to make a Christingle at home. Local families will be taking part. We have 150 packs to make up and distribute for families to make up at home. It's for all ages, so Zoom in and join us on Christmas Eve to get into the Christmas spirit with a bit of magic. Details will be on the TVP web site and other places.



Advent at the Hall

Advent at the Hall is the TVP and North Middleton Village Virtual Advent Calendar. Look out for the links which will be published by email, TVP web site and Facebook pages. It's going to be fun seeing who appears on a short video each day at the Middleton Village Hall door, and there will be some surprise appearance by TVP members. You will be amazed by the talent! Take some time and give us a cheer. There will be music, songs, drama, dance, stories and poems. Here is teaser link: www.vimeo.com/480829118



Christmas Advent Windows

Following the success of the Oactivity Packs that were distributed during the October School Holiday we plan to give out Advent Window Packs which children (or adults) can use to create a Nativity scene to display on their window.



Farewell from our Session Clerk

When Alan, our former minister, suggested back in 2015 that I should think about being the Session Clerk, he said, "You'll enjoy it". I wasn't too sure!!

Well, looking back on the last five years Alan was right. At times enjoyment was definitely at the bottom of a long list of things 'to do' but, with Marilyn's constant IT support, especially when 'it was definitely the computer that lost those documents!', and, her never ceasing support in all other ways, it has been a pleasure to be involved in keeping things going here at TVP.

Our church is a family, and like all families, everyone has a part to play. No matter what needs doing, there is someone who has the gifting, skills or experience and ability to say, "I'll do that". And they did! Our family team members are really the ones who keep things going. The Session Clerk just needs to persuade some a little to recognise their latent gifts and skills!

I know that in many churches they struggle to find people to take on specific responsibilities. But, here in TVP, every single requirement and job is covered by someone with a smile, commitment and willingness to go the extra mile! We have benefitted from such a friendly family of willing helpers, that this has made being Session Clerk, as Alan said, something to enjoy!

Letting me enjoy myself in this role is really appreciated and I feel confident that, with God's guidance and discernment, a new session Clerk will have the opportunities I have had, to be part of our family here at TVP.

David Lacey, Session Clerk (until the end of the year)

Treasurer's Note

Based on the position at end of October 2020, I am projecting a deficit of around £4,000/£5,000 at the end of the year. This is mainly due to the lack of income from Sunday offerings, with no services for almost 6 months.

We are fortunate that a major part of our congregational giving comes through regular standing orders as this has helped to keep down the deficit. Thank-you to all those who have been contributing, by whatever method.

If you would like to make a contribution to the Church, then this can be done by sending me a cheque, made payable to "Tyne Valley Parish Church", or paying directly into the Church's account at RBS (Sort Code: 83 17 26, Account number 00164912).

Dorothy Reilly, Church Treasurer



Christmas Tree Appeal (and challenge) 2020

Because of Covid this year our Christmas Tree Appeal is going online. To add to this year's appeal we are challenging our more 'senior citizens' to think seriously about tithing (giving 10%) their Winter Fuel Allowance, or even 20%, or 50% or the whole 100%. For our 'younger citizens' please give what you can.

This year our Christmas Tree Appeal is on behalf of Midlothian Foodbank and CLIC Sargent (a charity for children with cancer). To give to the Christmas Tree Appeal online please go to www.justgiving.com/tynevalleyparishchurch Thank you on behalf of Midlothian Foodbank and CLIC Sargent.



TVP Virtual Coffee time - Age is not a barrier!

At our latest coffee and chat session Jan Dunn appeared for the first time, having been encouraged by Romay Loudon. It was a joy to see her and chat to her. So if you want to join, our next dates are Monday 30th November and Monday 14th December, both at 10.30am. Bring your own coffee and cake and meet up with old friends. The Zoom link will be on the TVP web site.



"Have a jolly Christmas, but be jolly careful!"

Boris Johnston

Our Minister, Rev Dale London, has begun a 'phased return' to work and will be permitted to work 3 days a week in December and 4 days a week in January plus in both cases some Sunday Services. It is hoped that Dale will be able to resume full duties in February. In the meanwhile Rev Andrew Dick will stay on to support and assist Dale till February.



Boxes for Foodbank donations are now back in Cranstoun Church and all donations will be very welcome, especially tins of meat, fish and soup, and pasta snack meals, along with long life whole milk, tea and sugar.