

Dear Friends,

/Here we are again! At the moment all the Christmas services are happening as planned, we've tweaked a few of them to reduce mingling and keep them as safe as we can. Christmas can never be cancelled, and we join with Christians in North Korean jails, underground churches in China, secret fellowships across the Muslim world (where the church and conversion from Islam is banned in many places), and the 3-5 million (ish) people across the world who have come to Christ this year. A Saviour has been born to us, Christ the Lord, and we will join with the angels to praise Him and announce Him to the world. /

\*St Peters Nativity Set Festival \*is great fun, it's running until Friday afternoon, 10am-12 each morning and 2-4pm each afternoon, free entry and refreshments

\*This weeks Christmas services\*:

- \* Friday 4pm Christingle at Palmers Garden Centre (we've made some changes to the usual format for covid safety)
- \* Fri 6.30pm reflective service at St James, because for some of us its not a season to be jolly
- \* Sunday 4pm Carols by Torchlight, outdoor carol singing in St James Churchyard, bring a torch or a smartphone!
- \* Sunday 6.30pm Carols by Candlelight in St James. .

For all the indoor services, please wear a face covering and take a lateral flow test before coming if you can. There'll be a collection for our Mission Partners at each service.

The \*live stream this Sunday will be the 6.30pm Carol service,\* /not /the 10.30am service, so please look out for that if you are joining us from home. Sunday morning will be an all-age service, so there'll be plenty for our children/grandchildren to engage with in the service, as well as everyone else! Please do support these, when our children were younger we really appreciated the older church members who took time to speak to our children, and it made a lasting impression on them, We'd like to say a big \*thankyou to Naomi McKnight, \*who is stepping down from running the Tuesday morning Tots and Toys. She has put in lots of work not just in setting it up every week, but in getting to know the mums and families who come along, and supporting them through what has been a very tough season for everyone.

\*Ruth C has put up some Christmas videos on her Youtube channel\* for local schools, including some very interesting outfits.....

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuOKm1UKLDRK2SsSIXyoB2w>

Thankyou to everyone who has delivered \*Christmas publicity cards\* around the parish, we pray that these prompt people to reconnect with God and with the church this Christmas and mark the beginning of a journey to new and living faith in Jesus. There are still a few cards left at each church, so if you have time to deliver a batch before the end of this week, that would be fantastic. The weather forecast is mild and mostly dry!

There will be a\*Christmas Concert \*in aid of meningitis research at St James next Wednesday, 7.30pm, organised by Lily Keen, all welcome, the recommended donation on the door is £5 and includes refreshments.

\*Please pray for Ruth and myself\*, as we get to share the message of Jesus with hundreds of people over the next few days. It's an enormous privilege, and quite a challenge. I was reading Acts 10 this morning, where as Peter is speaking, the Holy Spirit comes in power upon Cornelius and his household, and they all come to faith on the spot.

Just imagine that happening at Palmers.

Finally, \*if you have any recommendations to pass on to the rest of us\*:

for holiday reading, things you've found really helpful in your Christian walk (books, podcasts, Youtubers, bible notes, websites etc) - it would be great to share these with one another. Please reply to this email with anything you think might bless someone else. For myself, I'm looking for some new prayer resources for January, to use in my daily prayer time, and biographies of Christians. We'll share these through this e-news next week.

yours in Christ

David and Ruth

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St James and St Peters on

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