

Dear Friends,

Well, the first Christmas lights have been up a while now, trees bought, Christmas jumpers donned and I dare say even a few mince pies consumed. We've been starved of joy and celebration for too long now and some of us simply can't wait for Christmas. And yet, only this Sunday does Advent begin, and Advent Sunday for Christians marks the *beginning* of the waiting, the period of solemn preparation for the Feast of Christmas. Who can blame us if we feel we've had enough solemnity over 2020 to last a lifetime?



But the solemnity of Advent is different, it's not about dread of something terrible or the mourning of a tragedy, rather it's mounting anticipation of something truly wonderful. It's not crushing but liberating, not isolating but communal. I'd suggest that rather than skipping eagerly over Advent to whatever festivity we can summon up for Christmas, we might welcome this season this year as one of particular value.

In recent years, rather than work through the traditional "four last things" (death, judgment, heaven and hell) many churches choose rather to focus on four virtues (or vocations) instead – namely, **HOPE, PEACE, JOY and LOVE**. What more could the Church wish to bring to the world at this dark time than a taste, or an aroma, of these precious gifts? Perhaps each week of Advent, the appropriate one could be the focus of our meditation and our prayers. There are loads of online resources available, but I've signed up for free daily reflections from the Church of England. Perhaps you might do the same. Just *control+click* here: [Comfort and Joy: our Advent and Christmas reflections | The Church of England](#)

A well-spent Advent will prepare us for a far more meaningful and joyful Christmas – one that isn't simply about letting-off steam and bursting our bubbles but rather a deep confidence and faith that, in welcoming Jesus as Immanuel (God with us), we are allowing his transforming love to restore and heal us. Christmas this year will, as we all keep saying to each other, be very different. Perhaps that can be a gain rather than a loss, as we welcome a loving Saviour into the darkness of the moment with the light of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.

God bless,

Bill Stuart-White

Advent & Christmas Services

We are delighted that under the new government regulations, **public worship will be allowed in churches** over Advent and Christmas, but nonetheless as you would expect the range and nature of the worship will be limited, not least in that congregational singing is still prohibited – so no Carol singing, except in the privacy of our homes! But there's plenty of opportunity for that.....

In partnership between our two Churches at **KCM and All Saints** we have agreed a provisional programme, that also takes advantage of some wider regional and local collaboration. It will look like this (*subject to change*)

From next Sunday:

December 6th: 9.30am All Saints Communion – *livestreamed on Facebook for all*
1.00am KCM Holy Communion

7.00pm SOUTH WEST CAROLS www.southwestcarols.com (also on 5th)

December 13th: 9.30am All Saints Communion – *livestreamed on Facebook for all*
11.00am KCM Holy Communion

7.00pm Falmouth/Penryn Churches Christmas Service (*online*)

December 20th: 9.30am All Saints Communion – *livestreamed on Facebook for all*
11.00am KCM Morning Praise

4.00pm CHRISTINGLE SERVICE for all organised by New St Church
livestreamed for home participation "Christingle in a Bag" – watch for details!
Evening: All Saints/KCM Joint Carol Service (*online*)

December 24th 11.30pm KCM Midnight Mass
11.30pm All Saints Midnight Mass
(*these services will probably be ticketed*)



CHRISTMAS DAY: JOINT SERVICE 10.30 am
CHRISTMAS COMMUNION for all the family
at KCM for all from both KCM and All Saints Churches and visitors

We are working on a plan to open **Huddle as a Prayer Space** in the lead up to Christmas and we're also going to work with the **Foodbank** to help collect donations for their Christmas Hampers and then assist with deliveries if necessary.

If you would like to donate some goodies, please see the list below (following page) and drop off at Church or email wstuartwhite@gmail.com to arrange an alternative.
(*No need to do a full box – just a few of the items will really help!*)

Foodbank Christmas Box.

2 X TINS OF MEAT
1 X TIN OF POTATOES
1 X TIN OF SWEETCORN/GREEN VEG
1 X TIN OF CARROTS
1 X JAR OF CRANBERRY SAUCE
1 X GRAVY GRANULES
STUFFING
1 X CHRISTMAS PUDDING
MINCE PIES
1 X TIN CUSTARD OR TIN CREAM
1 X TIN OF FRUIT
PACKET OF CHRISTMASSY BISCUITS
BOX OF CHOCOLATES
PACKET OF SAVOURY NIBBLES
CHRISTMAS CAKE OR CHOCOLATE LOG
SOFT DRINK (NO ALCOHOL PLEASE)



HOSPITALITY/LODGING REQUEST – I am in touch with Nael, a Palestinian refugee, who is studying for a degree in Renewable Energy at Falmouth University. Due to lockdown he has not yet been able to move to Falmouth but needs to do so soon. He would love to lodge with a couple or family in order to improve his English (which is pretty good already) and to be part of the wider community. He is a delightful and trustworthy young man and comes with excellent references. If you would like to explore this or know someone else who might, please do contact me (Bill). Thanks.

Flower Arrangers: Christmas

We would like to decorate the church for Christmas but on a reduced scale, similar to the way in which the church was decorated for Harvest Festival i.e. no Pillars. **If you would like to help with the decorating please would you contact Jane Brown, 01326 374516 or Letitia 01326 210134.** The days and times for decorating will be flexible because of the social distancing requirements. Please check the pew slips nearer the time. It will have to be completed by 19th December.