

# ST. JOHN'S CHURCH DONISTHORPE

# GRAPEVINE

## JANUARY 2021



### “HERE’S TO 2021”

Many years ago on the TV there was a programme called “THAT WAS THE WEEK THAT WAS”, which looked back on the happenings of the previous week. When Vivien asked me to write this thought, I immediately thought to myself well “THAT WAS THE YEAR THAT WAS” hence my referral to the above. But on this occasion I am not going to reflect on the year past, but only to say “with all that has gone on, thank you to all our front line workers and those who have worked so tirelessly to come up with the vaccines”.

Having said all this I am reminded that Jesus has walked with us, by our sides throughout all that has happened and still does today. It’s an amazing thought and feeling knowing he is there and listens to us on our journeys or in our lockdown situations. The Collect for the Second Sunday of Christmas acts as great reminder: “Almighty God in the Birth of your Son you have poured on us the new light of your incarnate Word, and shown us the fullness of your love: help us to walk in His light and dwell in His love that we may know the fullness of His joy: who is alive .....

Powerful stuff!! We still don’t know what’s round the corner. But it is those thoughts and words that will lead us into 2021 and get us back hopefully into our journey with him. Being surrounded by His love and guided by His light will help us. Knowing He is there listening, waiting for us is a great comfort. Hopefully at some stage we will be able to get back to being a Church community praising Him in song and prayer, being able to welcome each other in the Peace in His words, so much to look forward to.

We have been blessed that technology has kept us going with Zoom and other methods which have been delivered by Vivien and the team. A big thank you to them. May they in 2021 be able to return to the Ministry that Christ called them for.

So as we go into 2021 let us continue our faith in Christ and as the hymn reminds us: “Be bold, be strong, for the Lord your God is with you”. May His light shine upon you, His love surround you and may His words act as your guide in all that you do and say. **“Here’s to 2021”**

**Yours in Christ, Barry**

### EVERYDAY FAITH: SPIRITUAL FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY.

**Next meeting will be:** Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January at 7pm on Zoom. All welcome.

These meetings are for anyone at any stage of their Christian journey. The theme hasn’t been decided as yet. For link to the meeting, contact Wilma on [revwilmacolley@gmail.com](mailto:revwilmacolley@gmail.com)

### SOME THANK YOUS

- to all who brought so many toys for the beginning of December. They were all delivered to the Marlene Reid Centre.
- to all who’ve decorated the church
- to all who will have helped and come to the various services over Christmas as we have celebrated together the birth of Jesus Christ, either in the building or via Zoom and video.
- to all who entered the Mary and Joseph competition. (We have to go to print before the closing date for that so can’t announce winners.
- to all who shared photos of their crib scenes which are still there to delight you on the ‘photos’ tab of the church website

### SERVICES IN JANUARY – ALL AT 10am

January 3 <sup>rd</sup> :	Donisthorpe (HC)	Appleby (MP),	Snarestone (HC),
January 10 <sup>th</sup> :	Measham (MP),	Packington (HC),	Norton juxta Twycross (HC)
January 17 <sup>th</sup> :	Donisthorpe (MP),	Normanton (HC),	Swepstone (HC)
January 24 <sup>th</sup> :	Measham (HC),	Packington (MP),	Appleby (HC)
January 31 <sup>st</sup> :	Donisthorpe (HC)	Normanton (MP),	Swepstone (HC),

## ZOOM SERVICES IN JANUARY.

We are continuing our Zoom services at 5pm on 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> January. Get in touch with Wilma for the links to join: [revwilmacolley@gmail.com](mailto:revwilmacolley@gmail.com). We're having a good variety of themes at these services so give them a go. December saw us having a go at a Zoom nativity!

## LIGHTS OF LOVE SERVICE:

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> January at 2pm at St. Johns for those who wish to remember a loved one who has died.**

This is the service originally planned for last November, which was stopped in its tracks by the 2<sup>nd</sup> National Lockdown. It is a simple service during which we can remember those whom we've lost and to whom we still want to say 'We love you'. It feels a very important service to have in this year in particular.

There's a chance to light a candle and say a prayer for your loved one. Normally we would sing some hymns but that is not allowed right now. Facemasks must be worn and all the other social distancing measure observed. Feel free to come along if this would be helpful to you but we do need to know numbers this time (for social distancing reasons) so if you want to come, please ring Vivien Elphick on 01530 270354.

## FOREST CHURCH: Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> January at 3pm

Join us hopefully for our next Forest Church gathering. Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> January at 3pm, find us in the churchyard behind St Laurence Church Measham.

This time we are thinking about 'Stepping into the Unknown'.

We never really know what the future holds, if anything 2020 taught us that. The path ahead may be foggy and unclear. Come with us as we take some time to stop and think, and recognise that we never journey alone. Wherever the path leads, we are reminded God is always with us.

With activity for children and a moment to pause for adults. We will be outside so don't forget warm clothes and waterproofs, and bring your own drink and snack. Keep your eyes on the Facebook page [woodfieldforestchurch](https://www.facebook.com/woodfieldforestchurch) for any updates in case of regulation changes.

## LITTLE FISHES: 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> January

Little Fishes will meet this month on 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> January at 10am on Zoom. This is our group for babes and pre-school children plus their adult carers. It's a time for carers to talk, to watch little ones play, see a story and sing nursery rhymes. It is different on Zoom but it does bring us together. Give it a go, you would be very welcome Contact Vivien on [vivien.elphick@btinternet.com](mailto:vivien.elphick@btinternet.com) for a link

## TRANSFORMATION PROJECT.

If you were wondering..... we are still waiting for the Chancellor's decision. She has asked for more information which we are in the process of collating.....

**BEST WISHES TO  
EVERYONE FOR THE  
NEW YEAR – HERE'S TO  
A MUCH HAPPIER  
2021**

**Support our 2020  
Christmas Appeal!**

**Text  
JOHN  
to 70450  
to donate  
£5**

\*Texts cost the donation amount plus one standard rate message. You won't be opting in to any further communications from us.