

Weekly Notes for Sunday 20 December 2020

Hello everyone,

Our display at the front of the church (just behind the sliding doors) has been enhanced. A small nativity scene has been added and a spotlight has been positioned to highlight that area. It looks really special and should draw people up to have a look. The lights are on from 2 to 10pm – do try and have a look. And new posters have been posted on the railings to explain the meaning of the candles and highlight the services happening over this coming week. Thank you so much to everyone who has been involved.

WORSHIP

Tomorrow morning's service is our Christingle service led by Mary Simuyandi & Matthew Jones *with lots of help from others!* Please be ready with your oranges, red ribbon or tape, sweets etc. Please join us! ALL AGES WELCOME!

It's the usual link. If you need it, please email Maggie. The full recording of the service will appear on the Services page of the [church website](#).

Future Services (mostly via zoom)

20 December	1030	<i>Christingle</i>	Mary Simuyandi & Matthew Jones
	TBC	<i>Carols in the Carpark</i>	Christ Church South Cambs and SFC (live!)
	1800	<i>Village Carol Service</i>	St Mary's (also on zoom) *
24 December	1700	<i>Family Service</i>	Rev Paul Whittle
24 December	2330	<i>Midnight Service</i>	Rev Paul Whittle
25 December	1000	<i>Christmas Day</i>	Rev Paul Whittle
27 December	1030		Go4th

The links for these three services, are on Maggie's weekly email. If you need these links, please email Maggie.

* If you wish to attend the Village Carol Service in person, you must book your seats in advance - please email stmaryssawston@btinternet.com giving names, number of seats & contact details so that the seating can be arranged to comply with social distancing. You will receive a reply to confirm that you have seats.

To join the service from home, you should go to the St Mary's Sawston Facebook page (www.facebook.com/stmaryssawston) for the livestream. Please ignore any instructions to login or create your own Facebook account. You do not need to do this to access the live link on this page. It should be very simple!

January Services (mostly via zoom)

3 January	1030	Rev Paul Whittle
10 January	1030	Rev Paul Whittle with Holy Communion. (Paul's final service with us.) Just a reminder that we are planning a 2 nd trial live/zoom service at this service. This of course will be subject to any new Covid-19 restrictions in January.
17 January	1030	Rev Dr Mike Wilson – Covenant Service
24 January	1030	Go4th
31 January	1030	Rev Deborah McVey (who will be our new Interim Moderator)

PRAYER REQUESTS

We continue to pray for those who are recently bereaved

Please continue to pray for friends and family who are struggling with their health, young and old.

And we thank for God for the many scientists worldwide who are developing Covid-19 vaccines, and we pray for the organisations who are working out the logistics of administering the vaccines to so many millions.

We have just found out that due to the new Tier 4 restrictions in Kent, Matthew's sister and mum will be unable to spend Christmas together as planned – their first Christmas since they were each widowed.

We pray for folks who are spending Christmas alone or separated from their families.

Please do remember to let me know of any prayer requests.

ONLINE

Don't forget there is a really rich selection of resources on line as highlighted in previous emails - children's activities and worship, church virtual services, book recommendations, Paul Whittle's blog, the URC websites, some wonderful Christian music & songs on YouTube, prayers focussing on Coronavirus, etc. This week's update can be found [here](#). This is Paul's final update but he has left the updates into next year in very capable hands!. There is always lots of new information each week so please do have a look. You can find previous updates here - www.unc-eastern.org.uk. And please have a look at www.unc.org.uk too.

A PRAYER

From the Synod Moderator

Lord, bless us and keep us in these strange times.

May we know the peace that we can find only with you.

Help us to look forward to a less restricted time,
though looking for the benefits of a good 'new normal'.

May we know the joy that we can find only with you.

And bless those who struggle the most with where we are.

Be with those who face the bigger challenges of these times,
whether those of self-isolation, of being a key worker,
of missing those we cannot see, of having to make difficult decisions.

Guide us in your ways.

May we know the hope that we can find only with you.

So, bless us now and always.

Amen

Please remember to share this email with others you know who don't receive email.

Keep safe and warm, and look after yourselves.

Happy Christmas!

Maggie

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