

Weekly Notes for Sunday 6 December 2020

Hello everyone,

I hope you are all keeping well and keeping up with the new Covid restrictions. It's good to see BBGB back for a couple of weeks and one of our lettings, Musical Bumps, is back for three weeks. Both are very carefully managed to comply with government guidelines in order to keep everyone safe. All due credit to the leaders for their commitment and dedication.

[The latest edition of Across the City is here](#). Do have a quick read.

There are many conversations and meetings happening to ensure our local churches are able to celebrate Christmas. There is a lot of detail below – please read through this carefully.

CHRISTMAS CHARITY

Many thanks for the Christmas charity nominations. They were *Rooprai Spinal Trust, Camcrag, Blythswood Care - The Talita Kum Project, Jimmy's Night Shelter, Save The Children & CamSight*. The Elders decided that it just wasn't very practical to vote for the Christmas charity through a Zoom meeting with SFC members, so the Elders voted on your behalf. All nominations were very worthy causes but there could only be one 'winner' so **Save The Children** won the Elders' vote. Any donations from the services close to Christmas Day will be given to Save the Children.

Sunday 20th December will be a very busy day ...

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE (zoom)

Sunday 20th December 10.30am

If you wish to join the service, please email marysimuyandi@gmail.com stating the number of Christingles you are planning to make **BEFORE FRIDAY THIS WEEK**.

A pack (containing everything you need) will be delivered to your doorstep 72 hours before the service (as per Covid restrictions).

Please join us! As always, **ALL AGES WELCOME!**

CAROLS IN THE CAR PARK

On Sunday 20th December at 4.30pm, Christ Church South Cambs, with Sawston Free Church, will be leading a carol service in the Sawston Village College car park – Carols in the Car Park. Families will be invited to drive in to the car park in their cars and enjoy singing carols in their vehicles. There will be live music, lots of carols and a nativity on display. More information & booking instructions will be available nearer the time.

VILLAGE CAROL SERVICE

This joint service is being hosted by St Mary's (also on Zoom) this year. Joining instructions will be available shortly.

WORSHIP

Our services will continue for a while longer via Zoom. However, I can confirm **we are planning a 2nd trial live/zoom service on 10th January 2021**.

Tomorrow's service is with Rev Dr Mike Wilson. 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](#).

Please let me (Maggie) know if you know someone who doesn't have access to the internet who would like a transcript printed from the zoom services. We currently deliver paper copies to 5 people.

Future Services (mostly via zoom)

06 December	1030		Rev Dr Mike Wilson
13 December	1030	<i>Holy Communion</i>	Rev Paul Whittle
20 December	1030	<i>Christingle</i>	*
	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

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.

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](#). There is always lots of new information each week so please do have a look.** You can find previous updates here - www.urch-eastern.org.uk. And please have a look at www.urch.org.uk too.

A BLESSING FOR ADVENT

from the ARTHUR RANK CENTRE

May you hear the gentle voice of the One who speaks to you saying,
'well done, [*your name*], good and faithful servant'.

May you feel the loving arms of the One who assures you that
'I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

May you see the light that shines in the darkness,
that the darkness cannot overcome.

In this time of uncertainty, confusion, pain and waiting,
may you experience the hope that comes from knowing that

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.

Amen.

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

Keep safe and warm, and look after yourselves. Maggie XX