



All Saints Church Hampreston & Stapehill

December News Sheet

Booking for 'in church' services at St Mary's is essential as numbers are limited –

[Please click here to book..](#)

Or Email Helen allsaintshampreston@gmail.com
Or phone 07419 907343

Word for December



There can be no doubt that this will be a very different Christmas. Even with the relaxing of Lockdown regulations, many of our usual customs and festivities will not be available to us. For some, the shadow of loss and sickness and financial concern will loom large over the end of the year. From a church perspective, we won't be able to throw our doors open and welcome the throngs to join us in wondering at the mystery of God made flesh, and adoring Him. Our Christmas Day lunch at St Mary's can't go ahead, the decorations and candles will remain largely boxed up. And yet...

The magnitude of the gift of God in Christ Jesus is such that it cannot be overlooked. It cannot go unmarked. Moved by the desperate plight of humanity, God himself gives up His throne to become a helpless, vulnerable baby. It was the only way to release the salvation, redemption and healing that was the necessary solution to the soul sickness epidemic sweeping the earth. There are no words to fully describe the greatness of the love that motivated this rescue attempt. Our plight was so desperate, and His love so extraordinary that He came.

This is GOOD NEWS! 'Good News of great joy for all people'! It is Good News that cannot be undermined by global pandemic, political uncertainty and societal division. It is Good News that speaks into all those things that there is hope, and His Name is Jesus!

And so we have a challenge on our hands! Christmas will be different this year, perhaps a little more muted, a little quieter. But we have the best news in the World to share, and a World that needs it more than ever. We will need to be creative and thoughtful in our approach. In terms of Christmas services, we have an opportunity to reach beyond our walls to the wider community and even across the globe as much will be online. Sometimes we have had to turn people away from carol services because there hasn't been capacity in the building. Not this year! We could invite a thousand people to join in with our online Carol Service, Nativity and Christingle! Imagine that! It's really easy to share the link on your social media, or among your network of friends and family. If you've

never had the courage to invite someone to a service, well this is your year! But what else? How may God be calling you to share the love of God this Christmas? Who do you know that may be on their own? How can you reach out to them? What opportunities can you take? And how will you make room to marvel again at the gift of God in Jesus? If we find ways to put Christ at the very centre of our Christmas, we will find a hope to sustain and share that goes way beyond the end of 2020.

'Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift;' 2 Cor. 9: 15

Praying that you will experience the love of Jesus, God with us, this Christmas
Love Sarah

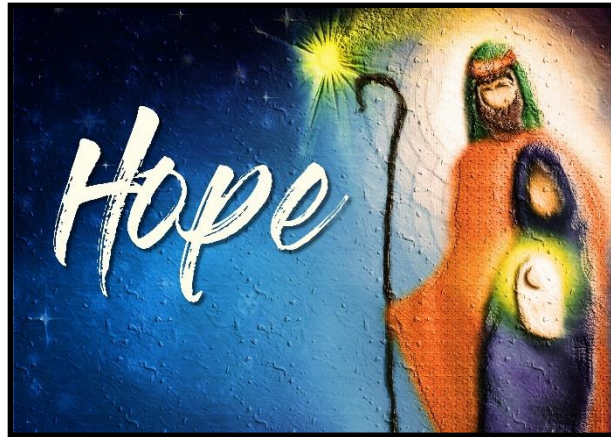


Advent Prayer

This Advent, Lord, come to the manger of my heart.
Fill me with Your presence from the very start.
As I prepare for the holidays and gifts to be given,
Remind me of the gift You gave when You sent Your Son from Heaven.
The first Christmas gift, it was the greatest gift ever.
You came as a baby born in a manger.
Wrapped like the gifts I find under my tree,
Waiting to be opened, to reveal Your love to me.
Restore to me the wonder that came with Jesus' birth,
When He left the riches of Heaven and wrapped Himself in rags of earth.
Immanuel, God with us, Your presence came that night.
And angels announced, "Into your darkness, God brings His Light."
"Do not be afraid," they said, to shepherds in the field.
Speak to my heart today, Lord, and help me to yield.
Make me like those shepherd boys, obedient to Your call.
Setting distractions and worries aside, to You I surrender them all.
Surround me with Your presence, Lord, I long to hear Your voice.
Clear my mind of countless concerns and all the holiday noise.
Slow me down this Christmas, let me not be in a rush.
In the midst of parties and planning, I want to feel Your hush.
This Christmas, Jesus, come to the manger of my heart.
Invade my soul like Bethlehem, bringing peace to every part.
Dwell within and around me, as I unwrap Your presence each day.
Keep me close to You, Lord. It's in Your wonderful Name I pray.

by Renee Swope , "The Manger of My Heart" from Proverbs 31 Ministries

ONLINE - CHRISTMAS SERVICES



Sunday 13th December

10.45 – Morning Worship

4.00pm - Carol Service

Sunday 20th December

10.45am - Virtual Nativity (family friendly)

Thursday 24th December (Christmas Eve)

3.30pm - "Light in a Box" (family friendly)

Enjoy making your Christingle at home

Call 01202 897087 to book your box

4.30pm - Sing "Silent Night" at your front door

11.55pm - Facebook Live Christmas Thought

Friday 25th December (Christmas Day)

10.00am - Christmas Celebration Service

Sunday 27th December 2020

10.00am - Carols & Communion

All services will be accessible via this link

<https://stmarys-ferndown.uk/>

Benefice services to be held in St. Mary's Church building

Sunday 13th December

9.00am - Morning Worship
10.30am - Holy Communion

Thursday 17th December

10.00am - Holy Communion

Sunday 20th December

9.00am - Holy Communion
10.30am - Morning Worship

Christmas Day - Friday 25th December

10.00am - Said Service of Holy Communion

Sunday 3rd January

9.00am - Holy Communion
10.30am - Morning Worship

Thursday 7th January

10.00am - Holy Communion

Sunday 10th January

9.00am - Morning Worship
10.30am - Holy Communion

If you would like to attend any of these services,

you can book online via www.stmarys-ferndown.org.uk

**or ring Helen in the office 07419 907343
or email Helen allsaintshampreston@gmail.com**



The Benefice Christmas Appeal



This year our Christmas Appeal will be for
The Lunchbowl Network, Nairobi
AND

the Salisbury Women's Refuge

The Lunchbowl Network was set up in 2006 in response to the plight of the orphaned and vulnerable children living in Kibera, Nairobi. Since then they have provided funding for a weekly Saturday Dinner Programme for 350 orphaned and vulnerable children and provide

creative learning for nearly 400 children in two kindergartens and a primary school. These children endure the harsh reality of life in Kibera including lack of access to clean water, very poor sanitation compounded by an inadequate education that causes them to be severely disadvantaged. The children in the programme have been selected because of their extreme vulnerability and high need. They rely upon the nutrition that is provided daily by The Lunchbowl Network.

Every year The Lunchbowl Network provides over 90,000 dinners which means that every month 7, 640 dinners are provided to the most disadvantaged children from Kibera.



The Lunchbowl Network

Salisbury Women's Refuge provides accommodation and support for up to 11 women and their children. They work tirelessly to fulfil their mission to provide a safe haven for women and children who experience domestic abuse and support them in leading an independent life.

The service that they provide includes secure accommodation, a tailored support package, advice and signposting for agencies, safety planning, counselling, domestic abuse awareness,

empowerment and self-esteem support work, and highest level of safeguarding. Salisbury Women's Refuge provides accommodation for women and children fleeing domestic abuse including honour-based violence, female genital mutilation and forced marriage.

As an independent charity, they rely on the support of the local community to help them to carry out the vital work that they do.



How to give to St. Mary's Christmas Appeal

If you would like to make a donation to the St Mary's Christmas Appeal you can do so by any of the following methods:

By Cash or Cheque in person at a church service throughout December - using the Christmas Appeal envelopes in the pews. Please place your gift in one of these envelopes and place it in the collection box as you leave the church service. Cheques to be made payable to "PCC Ferndown"

Or by Online Banking -using the details below. It is IMPERATIVE that you use the **Reference: Christmas Appeal**, so that we can identify it on our statement.

Sort Code: 40-52-40
Account Name: PCC Ferndown

Account No: 00016821
Reference: Christmas Appeal

Thank you for your generosity

The Beacon Café

@ St Mary's

Café Opening Hours

Christmas & New Year

Wednesday 23rd December 9.00am to 3.30pm

Thurs 24th December until Sunday 3rd January CLOSED

Monday 4th January 9.00am to 3.30pm

Saturdays, Sundays & Bank Holidays CLOSED



Carol Singing in Hampreston village

Monday 14th December at 6pm

Meet outside the school
Wrap up warm and
bring a torch or lantern



Facing 2021 with Courage

Greetings to you in the name of our precious soon coming King Jesus Christ. I trust that this finds you well, and managing the events and uncertainties of this most extraordinary year. Like you, I am pleased that there is some hope and expectation of a vaccine rollout very soon, but through everything that has happened, we're reminded too of God's goodness and faithfulness. I would like to encourage you to face the coming year with courage despite the challenges you are going through. My encouragement is from Joshua 1:1-9:-

After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua, son of Nun Moses' aide: "Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them - to the Israelites. I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates - all the Hittite country - to the Mediterranean Sea in the west. No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them. "Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

In this passage, I want to share with you four ways in which you can face 2021 with courage.

1) Courage rests upon a clear assignment from God (v 1-4).

There is no such thing as courage apart from mission, just as there is no such thing as faith apart from challenge. You're not just courageous to be courageous, but you are courageous for something. As for Moses, a man of God, had died; but nothing of God died. He gave Joshua the assignment. He reiterated to Joshua what he had told Moses to do. God isn't needy of worthy men. He makes men worthy. Therefore, we shouldn't fear the loss of any of his human instruments. God isn't fearful of his cause failing.

Ephesians 2:10 implies that we should step out in bold obedience. The good works he has prepared beforehand - we should walk in them!

What are the things God has prepared for you to do? When did you last reassess God's call on your life? What are those things that God has given you a passion for? Your courage will rise when you have confidence in the call.

2) Courage rests upon the assurance of God's presence (v 5, 9).

God never calls us to do anything apart from Him. Every assignment that God gives is also his primary means of sanctifying us. The very thing that God is using to draw us to himself is his calling upon us. His calling is a statement of his presence. God's assignments come with a special sense of God's presence, also known as the anointing; and his presence is real. God is saying to you **"As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you."**

If God has called you, He is with you and will be with you. Courage doesn't mean that you will not be afraid. It means that you fear God more than you fear your environment. It means that you trust more in God's divine resources more than the resources of man. Let your courage rests upon the assurance of God's presence in 2021.

3) Courage rests upon focused determination (v 6, 7, 9).

Three times God repeats "be strong and courageous." God does not have a speech impediment. When he repeats himself, he intends to. It also means that what he is saying is so important and you are to pay attention **"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."**

The Lord wants you to be obedient to voice and leading in 2021. What is God calling you to do? Your ability to endure deepens your resolve. If you act courageously, you'll get more courage. God is with you, but He'll only strengthen you when you raise your leg and put it forward. How focused determined are you to that which God is calling you? How ready are you to embrace change from what you are used to? Are you willing to obey God?

(4) Courage is anchored by the word of God (v 7-8).

"Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful." As you look forward to 2021, It is my prayer that you courage will be anchored on the Word of God. That you will love and cherish the Word of God. And that you will allow God's word be food to your soul, medicine to your body and a guide into the way you ought to live. May you proclaim it, meditate on it day and night and do all that is written in it. I wish you a Merry Christmas and a blessed 2021.

Rev'd Patches Chabala, (Team Vicar)

'I will never leave you or forsake you' Hebrews 13 v 5

Jim and I were married on the 4th November 1961, it is amazing to us that we have just celebrated our 60th year as a married couple. We want to testify to the unending love and guidance of our Heavenly Father, who during that time has led us on an amazing journey. In following our Father's leading some people thought we were crazy but ignoring God's Word wasn't an option.

Over a period of about ten years God had led us into Baptism (full immersion) and baptism of the Holy Spirit. We both felt that something different was afoot, and when Jim told me that during his preaching God had told him that his work was finished in our church. My instant retort was "Well, He hasn't told me". It was also clear that we were to make a new start in Cornwall! This put me into quite a dilemma. During a church meeting two weeks later the Lord distinctly said to me "What are you doing here?" That was very clear, but I was still afraid of the move to Cornwall from where I had lived all my life. I prayed long and hard and a short time later I was awake and praying and went downstairs and picked up a little Bible from the shelf. Opening it at random, a sentence from Psalm 71 v 16 jumped out at me "I will go in the strength of the Lord!"

Between 1972 and 1982 we had adopted three children (a testimony in itself) so a motley crew including our children and four grandparents (a total of nine) moved to Cornwall, all living in one house! We were in Cornwall for 14 years, it was not an easy time and if we hadn't had the Lord as the glue in our marriage, it would have failed. However believing that we were in God's care, strengthened our relationship and taught us what real love can overcome. The Lord led us to the Anglican church and with encouragement from the vicar, Jim was ordained and we served in the Parish of Pendeen – on the coast road between St Ives and Lands End.

We have known God's guidance, in a miraculous way He led us to Dorset where Jim went on the register and we took services in many of the local churches and Jim was used by many of the local funeral directors. We were looking for a spiritual home and once again we were guided to Hampreston where we immediately knew and experienced the love of the fellowship there.

We have been richly blessed (not with worldly goods) but with undying love and grace of our Heavenly father, and the brothers and sisters who are part of our lives. One of my favourite songs, which always encourages me and I sing it very often, I share with you:-

He giveth more grace when the burdens grow greater
He sendeth more strength when the labours increase
To added affliction He addeth His mercy
To multiplied trials His multiplied peace
His love has no limit,
His grace has no measure
His power has no boundary known unto men
For out of His infinite riches in Jesus
He giveth, and giveth, and giveth again

<https://youtu.be/hzhKGPireAA>

Pauline & Jim Harper



SIMPLE STEPS TO LISTEN TO HOPE FM

Locally the FM frequency is **90.1 FM**. This is particularly good to access in vehicles but can be more challenging in homes and other buildings.

Our Website: www.hopefm.com

Listen on Demand: We have a 30 day listen on demand service which can accessed at:
www.podbox.me/hopefm

Podcasts:- You can also listen to some of our Best Bits Podcasts on the website where you will find links to a range of platforms enabling listening:

<http://hopefm.com/listen-again-to-all-the-best-bits/>

Our regular podcasts are available at:

<https://soundcloud.com/hopefmradio>

The Tune-in Radio App: This is a free radio app enabling listening on mobile phones and iPads

<https://tunein.com/radio/Hope-FM-901-s80435/>

Radio Garden App: This is also a free radio app and can be accessed at:

<http://radio.garden/listen/hopefm/6K1sv8EX>

UK Live Radio: <http://www.liveradio.uk/stations/hope-fm>

WHAT'S ON IN 2021....

The Alpha Course is the perfect introduction to the Christian Faith for those who are seeking answers to life's big questions.



The course will start on Thursday 14th January at 7.30pm.

There will be a warm welcome then we will watch the Alpha session film. Afterwards we will talk together on Zoom and ask questions about what we have just watched.

The course sessions will only be accessible to course members so we will be in a safe online environment.

Once you have booked onto the course we will send you information for each session. For more info and to book please see St Marys website:

www.stmarys-ferndown.org.uk

or email Helen in the office

Monthly Zoom Prayer gatherings

2nd Tuesday of each month

Next one 12th January - 7:30pm

A Zoom link will be emailed



Bible Verse for 2021 – Isaiah 58: 11-12

The LORD will guide you always;
he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land
and will strengthen your frame.

You will be like a well-watered garden,
like a spring whose waters never fail.

Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins
and will raise up the age-old foundations;
you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls,
Restorer of Streets with Dwellings.

Hampreston Church Heating Project

It has been agreed, after a long wait and lots of planning, emails and discussion, to begin work in church to replace the central heating system!!

We will continue to worship at St Marys in January as All Saints won't be ready for use. The work is expected to take approximately 6 weeks.



Thank you to Brian Cuthbert,
Bob Tedder, Sarah Pix,
and the standing
committee for all the work
in preparing they have
done



CHURCH CONTACTS

Rev Sarah Pix

Tel 01202 890798

Churchwardens

Bob Tedder Tel: 01202 573711

Brian Cuthbert Tel: 01202 855410

Parish Administrator

Helen Bifield

Tel: 07419 907343

allsaintshampreston@gmail.com

[office hours Tues & Weds 12:30-](#)

[4:30pm](#)

Parish Safeguarding Representative

Sarah Pix & Helen Bifield

Tel 07419 907343

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Kate Smith; Sarah Libby; Jean Brooman;
Fiona Dodds; The Foulkes Family.

Pathways for All People.

African Inland Mission.

The Lunchbowl Network

Fernhill and Wimborne care homes.

Particularly this Christmas...

Please pray for

Families who have lost their jobs.

Those who are alone this year.

**And the Angel Said to them,
"Fear Not, For Behold, I bring
You Good news of Great joy
that will be for
all the people"**

Luke 2:10

