



Catholic Parish of St Edmund, King and Martyr, Godalming

with St Joseph's, Milford

*Through the love of the Father, Son and Spirit,
our Parish will grow as the Body of Christ in Godalming
and as a sign lifted up for the peoples*

Christmastide 2020

"The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary"

The Gospel today is one of the most familiar scenes from human history. So many have seen it in nativity plays. For centuries the Angelus prayer was the core of the daily spiritual life of Christians.

There are three elements of it that I would like to dwell on this week. The first is that at its heart is revealed the mystery of God's love for us. That the Father sends his Son to save us (the name "Jesus" means he who saves), and that this work is accomplished by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the cooperation of the men and women whom he desires to reunite with himself.

The second is Mary's election. The Lord *chose* her. She is "most highly favoured". She has been singled out for a special task. This is how God works – we see it time and time again. There is something powerful about being chosen that makes us feel highly favoured. It is part of the experience of childhood and it discloses something about our being human. He calls each one of us by name. We are chosen by him, and this is recognised when we are called by name at our Baptism.

The third is that, as St Paul reminds us, God does not ask us to do anything he does not also give us the strength to do. Mary's *fiat* – her "yes" to God – was not something out of the blue. The Holy Spirit was already at work in her, drawing her into the heart of the Father. She was a faithful member of the people of Israel who knew the sort of ways in which God worked with his people – including angelic annunciations. Even though she did not understand how, she trusted that God's plan would work out. In these uncertain times we, like Mary, are invited to recognise that God may be calling us to share his life in new ways: that we are chosen especially by him to be part of his plan and that he will give us all that we need. He may be calling you to serve others more generously. He may be calling you to share more deeply in Jesus's great work of prayer. He may be calling you to share more intimately in the mystery of his Son's passion, death and resurrection. Whatever it is he will give you the strength of the Holy Spirit to do it.

Mass Responses for Fourth Sunday of Advent

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

PSALM RESPONSE: I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia! I am the handmaid of the Lord:
let what you have said be done to me. Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;
and his name will be called Emmanuel.

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Parish Assistant: Sarah Stilwell e: godalming@abdiocese.org.uk
www.stedsgod.com

Advent: Praying with the Scriptures

This Wednesday evening 7.30pm Fr Jonathan will lead a meditation on the Prologue of St John, the great Gospel of Christmas Day. Online on GoToMeeting, code 450-922-301. This weekly prayer with Scripture will resume in mid-January.

Masses during Christmastide Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day are fully booked. Places at Mass on Boxing Day, 27th December, New Year's Day, 2nd & 3rd January and Epiphany can be booked on Eventbrite (<https://tinyurl.com/y7gntvex>). There is no need to book for weekday Masses.

Livestream from St Edmund's With a faster broadband connection to 19 Croft Road we are now able to start livestreaming some of the Masses from St Edmund's on YouTube. This will include the 6pm Mass each Saturday and the two Masses on Christmas Eve. You will find a link in the welcome message on the home page of the parish website or by going to: <https://tinyurl.com/ya47rkkw>. If present at these Masses you will only be seen when receiving communion. If you would like to remain fully off camera, please stand by the front bench to receive communion.

Christmas Collection As you may know, the money offered at Christmas provides financial support for the priest. If you are a member of our Gift Aid Scheme, the parish is able to claim 25% of the amount of your donation in the usual way – but only if your offering is identifiable.

- If you have an existing Gift Aid declaration you can use one of your numbered envelopes (if you have them). If you don't have these or can't find yours please use one of the white envelopes and mark it with your envelope number, or your surname and postcode.
- Anyone - parishioner or visitor - who would like to make a one-off Gift Aid donation can do so using one of the yellow envelopes from the back of the church, completing the information requested on it. NB if you are donating at Farncombe, please use a St Edmund's envelope and not one for St John's.

COVID reminders

With much of Surrey entering "Tier 3" and the infection rate rising in the local area we would like to remind parishioners and visitors of some of the COVID prevention measures in place:

- Face coverings should cover the chin and nose and be worn at all times inside, and outside if social distancing is difficult. Face shields provide less protection but might be considered if a mask can't be worn
- Be attentive to others – leave room when coming for communion and don't kneel if the person in front of you is sitting down.
- Avoid gathering socially in church, and if speaking outside leave 2m or wear a face covering
- When we have a larger congregation we will increase the ventilation so please dress warmly.

Parish Carols Sunday 2.30pm at St John's Seminary, Wonersh GU5 0QX

An opportunity to gather for an outdoor Carol Service in the grounds of St John's, Seminary at Wonersh. As the choir haven't had a chance to practice it will be mainly popular carols sung by all. The back courtyard provides a place with a good acoustic where we can gather safely and sing to our hearts content, and there should be sufficient parking. We are starting early so that we can arrive and depart in daylight.

To help us manage numbers please let us know if you plan to come using **Eventbrite**: <https://tinyurl.com/yxz4y8xp>, or contact the parish office.

What should I do to keep safe?

- Remember that even though we are outside the risk of COVID transmission remains
- Travel only with your own household
- Keep 2m distance from other households
- Wear a face covering when talking with the stewards
- Do face each other when singing
- Don't drink and drive
- Please don't share food or drink this year
- Wrap up warmly - we will be outside.

You are welcome to **bring your own chair** and hot drinks, mulled wine and/or mince pies: the event will be fairly informal.

Some things to look forward to in 2021

Enquirers Evenings – could God be inviting you to think about becoming Catholic?

On 19th January we will begin a new series of evenings for anyone who isn't Catholic but would like to know more. The evenings will run on a Tuesday and provide an opportunity to explore the Catholic faith and what it might mean in the context of our lives in an open, supportive and friendly environment as we journey through the church's year. We will join the wider parish to look at the Sycamore series but have our own group for discussion. Please contact Fr Jonathan if you would like to take part.

Sycamore Starting on 19th January 2021, and running on **Tuesday evenings** through the year, initially on Zoom, will be an opportunity to watch and discuss the excellent videos in the Sycamore series. Sycamore is an informal course about the Christian faith and its relevance for life today. It gives you space to meet other people, share ideas, explore your beliefs, and think about questions that really matter. Visit **sycamore.fm** to find out more.

Preparing to restart Childrens' Liturgy

Along with singing this is one of the parts of our Sunday Liturgy that really is being missed, and I am aware of the large number of families with pre-first holy communion children in the parish at the moment. So that we can re-start as soon as it is prudent to do so we need to make sure that we have a large enough pool of willing volunteers who have been through safeguarding recruitment and training, and a sustainable plan for sourcing or developing the content for the liturgies. If you might be able and willing to help with this, please let Sarah know in the parish office and we will fix an (online) meeting of those interested to progress the planning.

Diocesan Lent Mission In preparation for the Diocesan Diamond Jubilee in 2025 there will be a series of annual missions with talks, time for prayer, reflection and discussions. The first of these will take place in Lent 2021 and more details will follow in the New Year.

Relaxed masses? We hope that every time we gather our Masses will be welcoming to all. Some cinemas and theatres offer "relaxed" screenings or performances to provide a particular welcome and access to people with additional needs who might not otherwise be comfortable. Might this be worth considering as part of our broader Sunday pattern?

Servers at Mass Even though there is much less for servers to do at Mass at the moment, they still help add dignity to our celebrations, and we are grateful to Sean, Andrew, Jake & Luca for their ministry. I would like to invite any children who have already made their first communion to become an Altar Server. Any adults (women and men) who used to serve or would like to do so would also be very welcome indeed – Good serving teams in parishes are usually made up of all ages.

Year of St Joseph Pope Francis has proclaimed a Year of Joseph to mark the 150th anniversary of the declaration of the Joseph as patron of the Universal Church. It will run until 8th December 2021. In his letter Pope Francis notes how the Covid-19 pandemic has helped us see more clearly the importance of "ordinary" people who, though far from the limelight, exercise patience and offer hope every day. In this, they resemble Saint Joseph, "the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence," who nonetheless played "an incomparable role in the history of salvation."

Sacrament of Penance is available by arrangement.

Confirmation Preparation for students in Years 10+ will begin in the New Year. The sacrament will be celebrated in October 2021. Please let the Parish Office know if you would like your son or daughter to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Contactless Donations Thank you to everyone who supports the parish through their giving. We are piloting an option to contribute by card (including contactless) and need a few people to help with this type of collection at Mass. If you can do so please let Fr Jonathan or the parish office know.

Opportunities to give at Christmas

The Crib Collection is taken this year for the Catholic Children's Society Crisis Fund which is used to support families in need throughout Surrey and Sussex.

LOAF at Christmas The parish's 'Love One Another Fellowship' (LOAF) is planning to reach out this Christmas, particularly to those who have had a challenging 2020 for whatever reason. They will be passing on the parish's love through phone calls, cards, gifts and other small acts of kindness. If you would like to suggest someone for them to contact in this way, please let LOAF know as soon as possible by contacting Alan on 01483 420859. **If you would like to contribute to the cost of the gifts** please put your offering in an envelope marked LOAF or make a bank transfer with LOAF as reference.

CAFOD World Gifts Printed catalogues are now available at our churches, and please take a copy home and be good neighbours to our sisters and brothers living in poverty across the world by ordering World Gifts as Christmas presents. Gifts start at just £4. <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/>

/livesimply Christmas When buying Christmas cards/wrapping paper/crackers and decorations, please try and avoid all glitter and plastic to enable items to be recycled and use ribbon and string rather than selotape. Also, you can cut down on black bin rubbish by using linen tablecloths and napkins instead of paper alternatives. Remembering our desire to live sustainably we can also try to buy less stuff and buy from ethical retailers.

Christmas present for Maria A few people in the parish wish to buy a special Christmas gift for Maria and have found something that she would love to have and can use while convalescing. If you would like to contribute, please mark your envelope 'Maria' and hand it to Fr Jonathan or send to the parish office. Cash only please, no cheques. Thank you.

Porridge Club, Zambia Richard from the Salesian's SHARE will be at Masses this weekend selling fridge magnets at £10 each. See the flier for more details or watch the short video at <https://tinyurl.com/y8kat23g>

Supporting the Sisters at Holy Cross Abbey, Whitland The sisters earn their living by the work of their hands, and have lost much business due to the pandemic. They are now making Christmas puddings and greeting cards which can be viewed on their website: www.hcawhitland.co.uk In the new year their preserves and home baking will also be available online so please support them if you are able to.

Useful resources during the pandemic

LOAF (Love One Another Fellowship)

This team of parish volunteers offers practical help. The helpline number is 07593 121430.

SVP members offer regular visits, friendship and practical support to those in need. The helpline number is 07990 717067.

Godalming Food Bank provides vital support. No referral required. 01483 418741.

Parish Welfare Fund If you need a bit of help or know someone who is struggling please don't hesitate to contact Fr Jonathan, in confidence.

Please remember in your prayers

All those affected by the Coronavirus and its impact on our lives and on the economy.

The Holy Father's Intention for December:

For a life of prayer - that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

The sick and those who care for them

including – Sylvia Reilly, Ursula Waight, Derek & Nancy Drapper, Betty Matthews, Cliff Hutchinson, Alan Berry, Nicolle Ernould, Gerry Newell, Ruth de Stefani, Josie Whittle, Barbara Brightman, Nuala Gallagher, Maria Chacaltana, Ann Lloyd, Anita van Rheenan, Jean Humphrey, Maura Goodfellow, George Gelder, Jean Tyrell, Pat Wilson and Rudolf Dorrepaal, and those in our hospitals and care homes.

The faithful departed, in particular for Ana Maria Lopez, Tom O'Kelly, Bill Bowles, Anthony Monje, Julia Gomez, Veneta Wells, Roisin Chowney, Tim Barraud, May Larby, Mary Brister, Jean Martin, Bernard Laverty, Edward Jazwinski, Joan Etsell, Margaret Beagley, May Real, Michael Dolan, Nora Denyer, Anna Clark, Harry Pullen and Anthony Sweatman whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Schedule of Masses for Christmastide 20th – 31st December 2020

Booking essential for weekends and Solemnities

Saturday 19th December	10.00am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Tom & Helen O'Kelly RIP</i> 6.00pm Mass (St Edmund's)* – <i>Those ordained Deacon today</i>
Sunday 20th December 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	9.00am Mass (St John's) – <i>For the people of the parish</i> 10.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Connie & Bernard Edgar RIP</i> 2.30pm Carols (St John's Seminary)
Monday 21st December	<i>No Mass today</i>
Tuesday 22nd December	9.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>John Moran RIP</i>
Wednesday 23rd December	9.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Guy Wright RIP</i> 7.30pm-8.30pm Lectio Divina online GoToMeeting 450-922-301
24th December CHRISTMAS EVE	5.00pm (St Joseph's) 7.00pm (St Edmund's)* – <i>Celebrant's Intention</i> 10.00pm (St Edmund's)* – <i>For the people of the parish</i>
25th December CHRISTMAS DAY	9.00am Mass (St John's) – <i>For the people of the parish</i> 10.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Frank & Matthew Brown RIP</i>
Saturday 26th December ST STEPHEN	10.30am Mass (St Edmund's) 6.00pm Mass (St Edmund's)* – <i>For the people of the parish</i>
Sunday 27th December HOLY FAMILY / ST JOHN	9.00am Mass (St John's) – <i>Staff and students of St John's Seminary</i> 10.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Connie & Bernard Edgar RIP</i>
Monday 28th December HOLY INNOCENTS	9.30am Mass (St Edmund's) – <i>Stuart Scott RIP</i>
Tuesday 29th December ST THOMAS BECKET	9.30am Mass (St Joseph's)
Wednesday 30th December	9.30am Mass (St Joseph's)
Thursday 31st December	9.30am Mass (St Edmund's)

***Livestreamed on YouTube – See www.stedsgod.com**

Livestream from Guildford: www.cpg.church

Schedule of Masses for Second Week of Christmas 1st – 10th January 2021

Booking essential for weekends and Solemnities

Friday 1st January MARY THE MOTHER OF GOD	9.30am Mass (St Joseph's) 11.00am Mass (St Edmund's)* – <i>Intentions of the Franciscan Sisters of the Divine Motherhood</i>
Saturday 2nd January <i>St Basil & St Gregory</i>	6.00pm Mass (St Edmund's)*
Sunday 3rd January 2ND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS	9.00am Mass (St John's) – <i>Terence Nagle RIP</i> 10.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>For the people of the parish</i> 11.45am (St Joseph's) – Baptism of Evie 12.45pm (St Joseph's) – Baptism of Jeremiah 1.45pm (St Joseph's) – Baptism of Sophia & Willian
Monday 4th January	<i>No Mass today</i>
Tuesday 5th January	9.30am Mass (St Joseph's)
Wednesday 6th January EPIPHANY OF THE LORD	10.00am Mass (St Joseph's) Noon (St Edmund's) – Baptism of Lorenzo & Santiago 2.15pm Mass (St Edmund's School, Year 4 & 6) – <i>People of the parish</i> 7.30pm Mass (St Edmund's) – <i>Tim Green RIP</i>
Thursday 7th January	9.30am Mass (St Edmund's)
Friday 8th January	7pm Mass (St Edmund's)
Saturday 9th January	10.00am Mass (St Joseph's) 6.00pm Mass (St Edmund's)*
Sunday 10th January BAPTISM OF THE LORD	9.00am Mass (St John's) 10.30am Mass (St Joseph's) <i>The season of Christmas concludes with the Baptism of the Lord.</i>

***Livestreamed on YouTube – See www.stedsgod.com**

**Livestream from Guildford:
www.cpg.church**



LINK-UP

December 2020

Keeping Churches in Touch

www.godalmingchurches.org

facebook.com/ChurchesTogetherinGodalmingandDistrict

Message from the Vice Chair

Every blessing is sent to you all, as we carefully come together, once again to celebrate this season of Advent and Christmas in a very different way. Please refer to your church website for information on opening times and booking requirements or visit the [CTiG&D website](http://www.godalmingchurches.org) and click on the photo of your Church.

The CTiG&D Christmas 2020 team have been meeting by Zoom to progress the following initiatives, and our special thanks goes to Matt Blake and Andy Poulson for their time, skill and expertise in preparing all the artwork for our Godalming Shines initiative and our Christmas Ad, plus the updated website and [Facebook pages](https://facebook.com/ChurchesTogetherinGodalmingandDistrict) – do take a look using the links above.

Service of Hope - Matt and Andy, together with Penny Rivers, Rev Maggie Stirling Troy, Michael Stubbs and the local schools have produced a wonderful “Service of Hope”, which you will be able to download from the CTiG&D Website www.godalmingchurches.org or via youtube.com/watch?v=ItQ9goJDgfQ or www.facebook.com/ChurchesTogetherinGodalmingandDistrict/posts/864202634122020

We are producing DVDs for the more vulnerable members of the community, without access to the internet, who would enjoy listening to some lovely carols and readings by our local school children. During lockdown all the churches have been communicating with their parishioners who are unable to access the online services, so if you are a co-ordinator for this ministry please could let me know the number of CDs your church requires by 15 December? I will ensure they reach your nominated person.
angelagilmour181@btinternet.com

Angelic Angels – we have received over 300 angels, who are winging their way to new homes around the community. Our grateful thanks to our talented knitters, and to Anne, the Administrator of Godalming Baptist Church, who is helping with the packing and onward deliveries and monitoring the recipients on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/ChurchesTogetherinGodalmingandDistrict>. Angels have been found in Milford, Witley and Elstead, and will soon be arriving in Godalming and Puttenham. Many hands make light work so if you could help with the packaging and onward delivery in your area, please call at GBC on a Friday morning between 10:00 and 12:00 noon.

CTiG&D Star in Crown Court – have you seen our lovely star, shining brightly in Crown Court, adjacent to the Godalming Town Council’s “Memory Tree”? Our grateful thanks go to Andy Jeffrey and his team at GTC for procuring and displaying the star to launch the Godalming Shines Initiative.

CTiG&D Vantage Ad – last but not least our thanks go to Gillian Martin, our very efficient Secretary, who keeps us all well informed; to Edouard Le Maistre for handling our advertising, the Ad inside the cover of the December *Vantage* Magazine works well, and lastly to Andrew Bolton our Treasurer for transferring us to online banking, which will make life so much easier going forward.

Our Chairman Rev Sandra Platford – please remember Sandra in your prayers as she copes with the daily challenges of Long COVID – she is signed off till mid-February with a gradual return to Ministry once she is feeling a little better. Sandra has been guiding us along the way and many of the initiatives above have been led by Sandra.

“We who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another” - Romans 12.5

Angela Gilmour, Vice Chair of Godalming & District Churches Together

Churches Together United Service

Every year, Churches Together in Godalming and District hold a United Service during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The service next year will be on Sunday 24 January 2021, in Godalming Baptist Church, at 10:30. The theme of the service is Abiding in Christ (Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit - John 15:5-9). After all that 2020 has thrown at us, it will be good to focus on where our roots need to be.

Because of the ever-changing COVID restrictions, we don't know yet whether it will be possible for people to attend this event in person, though we hope that at least some will be able to do so. However, whatever the situation inside church, the service will be live-streamed, so that you can watch it at home.

Please put the date in your diaries (there probably isn't much else in there!) so that we can look forward to worshipping together, one way or another.

Churches Together “Last Sunday service of the Year”

This will be on YouTube from 18:30 on Sunday 27 December, look out for the link.

Churches Together prayer breakfasts

The November prayer breakfast is on Saturday 19 December at 8:30 via Zoom at: <https://zoom.us/j/9463914833> using the password 2020.

Godalming Community Store/Food Bank

The Food Bank and the Community Store work together, with items being collected and distributed by both as needed. Citizens Advice Waverley are also involved in helping families with advice and guidance.

The Community Store is still operating from the Wilfred Noyce Centre, and The Food Bank from St Mark's Community Centre.

The Community Store is run by The Farncombe and Godalming Corona Virus Support Group, in partnership with Godalming Town Council.

Please keep supporting our local community. Donations of food etc can be via Trolley Tuesdays and various Hubs around the area and perhaps include Christmas things like wrapping paper or cards .

Keep a look out for further information, and if you have any questions or suggestions please contact Michael Stubbs who is our representative on the Town Council Community Store Working Group on michaeleashing@aol.com.

News of the Churches and organisations

Parish of Godalming

Nativity trail at St.Mark's Church

A Nativity Trail has been arranged this year starting on Saturday, 5 December. It starts at St.Mark & All Saints CE school and follows a trail around Aarons Hill and returns to the church via Franklyn Road. There are 10 windows to see and a donation of £1 for PTA funds is requested. Please contact Jacky Tickner or Sheila Samuels for a paper trail.

www.parishofgodalming.org.uk

Busbridge&Hambleton Church

Info correct at the time of writing! Check www.bhcgodalmng.org for latest information.

Christmas Eve Drive-in

Christmas Eve Drive-in "Bling your Car" at Godalming College! (16:00) Given the likelihood of existing or higher COVID 19 restrictions severely limiting numbers (and singing!) in church, a drive in carol service offers the safest opportunity to gather and share a Christmas experience with the church family and the local community - and exercise ones lungs in the confines of your car. We are delighted that Godalming College has offered its grounds to host the event. Watch the web site for details.

Godalming United Church

We continue to "Worship, witness and serve" in these uncertain times.

Regular in-person Sunday morning services resumed on 6 December. Spaces are limited to less than 50, so advance booking is necessary: 01483 860683.

If you are unable to join us in person, we are live-streaming the service at 10:30 on Sundays, with two options on how to connect:

- the same platform we have been using during lockdown: <https://guc.online.church>. This will include availability of the 'Chat' function to allow you to say "Hello", raise anything that you'd like us to pray about, and so on.
- the same platform that we were using before lockdown – at either <https://thesundaysevice.gallery.video/godalmingunited> or bit.ly/GUCTV. There is no chat available on this platform.

Services can also be watched later on our YouTube channel: bit.ly/GUCYouTube. Recordings (audio and video) are available through our website www.guc.org.uk

There will, at other times, be some limited access for private prayer – please phone 01483 420459.

December and January services

Special December and January services are as follows:

Sunday 20 December, 19:00

Digital Carol service – join in from home

24 December, 16:00

Christmas Eve Holy Communion

25 December, 10:00

Christmas Day Family Service – bring along one of your presents to show!

27 December, 10:00

Methodist Circuit Service from St Mary's Guildford led by Circuit Superintendent Rev'd Keith Beckingham – join in online from home or online in fellowship at church

3 January, 10:30

Annual Covenant Service led by Rev'd Alan Payne: a reconsideration of our faith and renewal of commitment. A great start to 2021.

Christmas appeals

Christmas at the United Church has always been a time for charitable giving – which must be handled differently in this time of Covid. The need is greater than ever, so we urge friends who join in any of our Christmas services to support our Christmas Appeals:

- Christian Aid www.christianaid.org.uk
- Action for Children www.actionforchildren.org.uk
- The Cellar via Godalming United Church
- Gambian Ophthalmic Project via Godalming United Church

For details of online giving to Godalming United Church or payment by cheque please contact Kath Riddy, Broadbridges House, The Avenue, Compton GU3 1JN or tel 01483 861446 or GUC.Missions@gmail.com
www.guc.org.uk

St Edmund King & Martyr Godalming with St Joseph's Milford Roman Catholic Churches

Praying with the Scriptures

Each Wednesday evening in Advent at 19:30, Fr Jonathan will lead a meditation on some of the key readings of the Advent Season - Isaiah 40, Isaiah 61, The Annunciation and the Prologue of St John. Everyone is welcome to join us on Wednesday evenings from 19:30 to 20:45 on GoToMeeting Virtual Parish 450-922-3011: 020 3713 5028 – access code 450-922-301

livesimply support for prisoners

Visiting hours and church services have been reduced in many prisons during the pandemic, causing extra hardship; acting in solidarity with prisoners at Send and Coldingley we are collecting: packs of Christmas cards to enable prisoners to send Christmas messages to their families; and CDs of Christmas carols so that they can sing along. To donate these items, please place them in the collection boxes at our churches ASAP or phone Sarah in the parish office.

Buying charity Christmas cards and Advent Calendars

Many charities have suffered financially this year through lack of fundraising opportunities, so please make an extra effort to support charities rather than buying Christmas cards/calendars from High Street shops. Some good options are: Aid to the Church in Need, Traidcraft, and Oxfam

Wintershall Nativity Walk 18 to 21 December

Join Mary and Joseph – safe and socially distanced! – and follow the donkey to Bethlehem, meet the Shepherds watching their sheep, spot the Angel as you climb the hill and help the Wise Men find the star. The mile-long walk should take 1½ hours through fields and woods across the hills at Wintershall. Free parking and hot drinks/refreshments available. Tickets are £35 per family group of up to 6 people, from: www.wintershall.org.uk/nativity-winter-walk

Church services for December

Our churches will be open to the community to come and worship from 2 December. To ensure we keep everyone safe, a strict booking system is in place for the weekend and Christmas services. For a full update on times and location do visit our website, and to book a space log onto <https://tinyurl.com/y4lu4dtj> or ring or email our Parish Assistant Sarah.

<https://stedsgod.com>

St Peter's, Hascombe

We are doing an Advent Course by Zoom on Sunday evenings, and in preparation for Christmas, we are working with the children of the village where they will be collecting hand-painted figures of the Nativity Scene building up to a Nativity Presentation projected on to the outside of the Church, with pictures and Carols. With safe distancing we will continue to have services in church, and all will need to book in to attend as there will be limited space.

Trinity Trust Team

If you have children and/or grandchildren in local schools, do ask them about 'We Three Kings' our pandemic production this Christmas. The three wise men are not able to meet in person due to lockdown but meet on Zoom to discuss their recent epic journey to follow the star and bow down at the spot where Heaven met Earth through the birth of Jesus. Of course, we are unable to visit local schools as usual so have recorded

the assembly and sent out links to 10 local schools.

Although written for children and young teens, adults can get a flavour of the piece as it will appear in the 'Service of Hope' that has been put together in collaboration with CTiGD, TTT and local schools. This will be available via the Churches Together website, and a link will be sent out to local church administrators by mid-December.

A recording of the service will also be available on DVD/CD to go out to members of church families (and further afield) to those who might lack the technology to watch via a link.

Thank you all for your continued support throughout this most challenging of years and we hope that through this publication and our regular newsletters you feel up to date with all that TTT has been doing with local young people pre and during the lockdown. We look forward to a brighter 2021 and to seeing many of you in person.

Please pray for:

- All young people and families facing uncertainty and anxiety this time of the year and for those who are vulnerable and struggling to make ends meet. May we be generous and giving to those who might not be blessed with the resources we have.
- For this to be a year when those who might overlook the star and the crib in favour of more earthly distractions remember to put Christ back into their Christmas', may those seeking hope for an uncertain future find it in Jesus.
- All those who currently donate to TTT (both corporately and individually).

We continue to thank all those who play a part in and support the youth ministry of the Trinity Trust Team, particularly in these challenging times. Our thanks and blessings this Christmas season. Andy and the team.

www.trinitytrustteam.co.uk

Items for next month's Link-up

Please send items for the January 2021 edition of *Link-up* to Matt Farrow: farrow.matt@gmail.com by Friday 15 January, for publication on Friday 22 January.

SHARE International working in Africa for the young

**SALESIAN HEARTS ADVOCATING FOR THE RELIEF OF
POVERTY AND RIGHT TO EDUCATION**

(The new name for Share the Light)



Dear Fellow Parishioners,

2020 has been a strange, difficult, lonely and for some of us a heart breaking year. At Christmas, we are inspired to get involved with the challenges in our world and make things a little better. By expressing our solidarity, there is healing and new life for us, which is at the heart of the Christmas blessing. In Zambia, Covid 19 related challenges have caused insecurity, increases in food prices and the devaluation of the national currency (the Kwacha). This means that buying maize, which is the country's staple food, is often impossibly difficult for the poorest families.

At the Catholic Parish school of Assumption, in the middle of Mazabuka, Zambia, the parish charity school offers a free bowl of porridge (and seconds) for 775 children each day with your support. The children are mainly from the local shantytown known as the 'Showgrounds', which is, as you can imagine, a tough place to grow up. Many children at the school eat once a day. The thought of a hot bowl of porridge each morning encourages the children to be at school which is of course the long term route out of poverty!

How does this work?

The parish PTA work with the parish priest to fill a storeroom full of bags of maize, which is made into porridge. Some parents, but more often grandparents (lots of children are double or single orphans raised by grandparents because of HIV) work in a rota each day to make the porridge. It costs around £8000 per year to buy in bulk, which is more or less £10 per year per child to supply porridge each morning. Young people from Salesian College (a local catholic school) visit Zambia each year, they see the work, develop their faith and come back advocating for other young people.

Let us be in solidarity at Christmas

We sell fridge magnets for £10 each which can be given as a gift to family and friends at Christmas. The idea is that in buying this little token and sharing this with family, you are giving them the gift of helping a child each day for the year. The fridge magnet, with a smiling child on your door, should hopefully give you a warm glow throughout the year and serve as a reminder that you are part of a solution to hunger. It is also a good reminder to us all when we open the fridge door that food is a blessing not to be wasted and certainly to be shared.



Make it happen!

Please buy tokens at the end of Mass this weekend.

With much thanks,

Richard and The Share Team Salesian College

A donation of £10 has been made
to Mrs Mweete's porridge club.

This means a child in Zambia will be
fed every day at school for a year!

'Zikomo', 'Twalumba Kapati'

Thank you!