



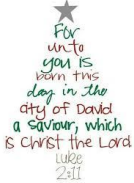
"where the river flows everything will live"

THE PARISH OF TIDENHAM (& St Briavels with Hewelsfield & Brockweir)

Final Briefing of 2020... from the Vicar!

There will be no weekly briefing on 30 December. In person services will not take place between 26 December and 10 January, there will be online provision available.

This is the final weekly briefing of 2020! I just want to take this opportunity to encourage you to...:



Engage with worship over the Christmas season.

Tune in to the Tidenham Parish Online Church on Christmas Day for the mini broadcast including a special version of 'O Come All Ye Faithful.'

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UckRjOlVDBT9M9usfhp2722w>

Whether online or physically inside or outside a church building we are trying to provide many ways to safely enable people to worship together and celebrate the birth of Christ as the Church and pray for the world he came to save. It will mean making an effort to book a place if the service is in the church building; and it will mean **taking the Covid restrictions seriously** to protect one another.



Give charity from your heart!

Christmas celebrations are different this year. Some people are not giving presents, some are doing double! However, please can I implore us to not forget our holy obligation to those in greatest need. As the song says, "many are hungry," "many still thirst," "many are cold," "many are homeless." This is a sad reality, but let us not be downcast for **we can**

make a difference as we bring the light of Christ into dark places! In the briefing there are details of charities to support this Christmas. If you have the means and the heart please respond! And, please take a moment to consider your own Christian giving to the local church as we really need your financial support. People have always been very generous at this time of year and I hope you can be again. Thank you!

"At this Christmas when Christ comes, will He find a warm heart? Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving the others with God's own love and concern." – Mother Teresa

"It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you...yes, it is Christmas every time you smile at your brother and offer him your hand." – Mother Teresa (this isn't easy with social distancing)

Receive a thank you!

Thank you to everyone who helps make these parishes such a special place to live and worship. Thank you to those who have put themselves at risk on the front line during this pandemic and all who make our communities work so well. Thank you to all of you who bring Christ's light, love, joy, peace and hope. Thank you to all our financial supporters. Thank you to all my colleagues, co-workers, volunteers, fellow disciples and fellow travellers on the road.



Finally, may each of you know the hope, peace, joy and love of Jesus Christ in your heart and in your home. May you know the Light of the World in any darkness you may be facing (and I know that life has been and is very dark for some of you), **his loving presence in a special way in this moment, and the days to come!**



Please stay safe and Happy Christmas!

God bless you

David

Revd David Treharne

Vicar of Tidenham with Beachley and Lancaut and Priest in Charge of St Briavels with Hewelsfield.

Statement from the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, and the Bishop of London, Sarah Mullally, following the introduction of new restrictions.

The news of fresh restrictions in many areas will be a bitter blow, they said.

For many people, it will mean spending Christmas Day alone. None of us has experienced a situation quite like it in our lifetimes. We note the rise in infections and hospitalisations with real concern. But we also know that there is real hope. We are nearer the end of this than the beginning, with a vaccine already being made available and treatments improving. We recognise the increased risk we face from the coronavirus - which has already taken so many lives and has now developed a new, more easily transmissible, strain - and we recognise our duty to look out for our neighbours and protect the vulnerable. So, as many of us enter these new restrictions, we must commit ourselves more than ever to looking out for those who are alone, to caring for those in need and to praying for our nation and world.

We know that public worship – both in person and through remote means – has brought comfort, hope and inspiration to so many. So we are grateful that, even in tier four, church buildings can be open this Christmas. But we urge everyone to take precautions and, especially for those in tier four, to be exceptionally careful. Even though attending public worship is permitted, many people may feel it is currently better they do not do so. Clergy and others who are shielding should certainly feel no compulsion. At this time of year - even this year - we celebrate the birth of Jesus with joy and hope. Jesus came to bring light that shines in the darkness. We need that light now and always.

Christmas Services in the Parishes

Christmas Eve

3.30pm Bobble Hats and Lanterns Crib Service outside St Luke's, Tutshill

9pm Midnight Mass, St Luke's, Tutshill

11.15pm Midnight Mass, St Mary & St Peter, Tidenham

(We hope to livestream one of these Midnight Mass services)

11.30pm Midnight Mass, St Mary the Virgin, St Briavals



Christmas Day

9am Online Christmas Message & Blessing from Vicar David with 'O Come All Ye Faithful' and 'We Wish You A Merry Christmas' via the Tidenham Parish Online Church YouTube channel.

9am Holy Communion, St Mary & St Peter, Tidenham

10am Carols outside St Luke's, Tutshill – singing is permitted outside

10.30am Holy Eucharist, St Mary the Virgin, St Briavals

With the increase in Covid cases expected after Christmas Day due to the mixing of households the Parish has taken the decision that all 'in person' church organised activities will stop after Christmas Day through to at least Sunday 10 January, when we hope in person services in our church buildings will resume. In the meantime online provision will be available:

Sunday 27 December

You are invited to join the worship at Gloucester Cathedral -

<https://www.gloucestercathedral.org.uk/services-live-stream>

10:30am St Briavals and Hewelsfield: Service of Morning Worship at Hewelsfield. No Service in St Briavals

Sunday 3 January

9.00am Family Gathering for Epiphany Service, available via the Tidenham Parish Online Church YouTube Channel

8.30am: St Mary the Virgin Church, St Briavals: BCP

9.30am: St Mary the Virgin Church, St Briavals: Eucharist

11.00am: St Mary Magdalene, Hewelsfield: Morning Worship

Wednesday 6 & 13 January Canon Tom Clammer will celebrate the Eucharist live on the Parish Facebook Group at 12noon (The Feast of Epiphany).

Community Carols and Christmas Quiz featuring musical items and greetings from the local schools, businesses, church and community groups. Christmas Trivia rounds and puzzles suitable for all ages to join in add more festive fun. Although broadcast on Tuesday 22 December it is still available on the Parish Youtube channel although the interactive chat and phone lines are now closed! Find the link on our Facebook page and website.

The Bible readings

Christmas Eve Night: Isaiah 52:7-10 & John 1:1-14

Christmas Day: Isaiah 9:2-7 & Luke 2: (1-7) 8-20

Sun 27 Dec: 1 John 1 & John 21:19b-end

Sun 3 Jan: Isaiah 60:1-6 & Matthew 2:1-12



Collects

Christmas Eve Night

Eternal God, in the stillness of this night you sent your almighty Word to pierce the world's darkness with the light of salvation: give to the earth the peace that we long for and fill our hearts with the joy of heaven through our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Christmas Day

Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth: Accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you, our Saviour and our eternal God. Amen

1st Sunday of Christmas (27th Dec)

God in Trinity, eternal unity of perfect love: gather the nations to be one family, and draw us into your holy life through the birth of Emmanuel, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Epiphany

Creator of the heavens, who led the Magi by a star to worship the Christ-child: guide and sustain us, that we may find our journey's end in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Morning Prayer in the Parishes

Morning Prayer will resume on Zoom from Monday 4 January

Mondays: Zoom online 9.30am

Tuesdays: Zoom online at 9.00am <https://zoom.us/j/122778377>

Wednesdays: Zoom online 9.00am, Followed at 9:15am by prayer for YCFM

Thursdays: St Briavels at 9.00am

Life Group meetings – please contact relevant people if you'd like to join in

- Sunday 7.30pm – for men! Taking a break over Christmas, James Parsons at James.darsie@gmail.com
- Tuesday 1pm - Life Group Online - Julia Parsons juliaparsons727@gmail.com
- Wednesday 8pm janice-hamilton@outlook.com (restarts 6 January)
- Thursday 1pm - Life Group Online – Jane Penny cfmtidenham@btinternet.com

Parish News and Information

"Living life together in the flow of God's love."

Rotas - We are collating a rota of people to do readings and lead prayers at both Tutshill and Tidenham Churches over the next few months. If you are interested in being involved please contact Clare. If you are unable to get to the church but would like to contribute, we might be able to arrange for someone to film you or you could send us a recording.

Christmas Cards – If you have Christmas cards for the church community, you can leave them on the table in the back of St Luke's Church or pop them in the red post box. Please check the table for your own post and stay safe remembering the COVID guidelines. Any cards not collected will be recycled in the New Year.

St Luke's Church is looking for two cleaners to help approx 1.5 hours per month, if you are interested please contact Nicholette, thank you.

Food Bank Donations - Approximately 80 gift bags have been delivered and it's a special blessing that 35 of these were for teenagers, who are traditionally a difficult group to buy for. Jesus says, *"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."* Matthew 25 verse 40. Thank you for your kind donations Jane Penny & Sue Thompson. Next collection is 13 January.

Financial Support

Without our usual Sunday gatherings in our church buildings financial giving to the Parish(es) has inevitably reduced. Please can we ask that you consider making a gift to the Church this December and also consider ongoing regular financial giving into 2021. Bank details are Tidenham Parochial Church, Sort Code 30-91-89 & Account number 00304754. Standing order and Gift Aid forms are available to download from the website. PCC wishes to thank all who have continued to give generously this year.



Charitable Donations - Tidenham Parish Churches have generously donated to the following charities in the past on behalf of its parishioners via the church collections. Without these collections this year the PCC have directly provided bank details below of charities if you wish to make a donation. Thank you.

Crisis, Bank sort code: 16-00-30, Account number: 12011155

Tearfund, Bank sort code: 20-00-00, Account number: 53803058

Barnabas Fund, Bank sort code: 20-26-53, Account number: 50133299

Embrace the Middle East, Bank sort code: 60-11-01, Account number: 15540464

GARAS, Bank sort code: 40-22-09, Account number: 01771671

Further details of ways to donate, and how to make a donation by Gift Aid if you are a UK taxpayer, can be found on the websites of each of the charities.

TIDENHAM PARISH ONLINE LINKS AND CONTACTS

Parish Website: This has information, documents and links to other sites.

<https://www.tidenhamparishchurch.co.uk>

Facebook Page – for communicating news & info to the wider community. Please 'follow' or 'like'.

<https://facebook.com/tidenhamparishchurch>

Facebook Group - all welcome to join this private group and post comments.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/114300818701466/>

YouTube channel: 'Tidenham Parish Online Church' with videos to assist your devotions.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UcKriOlVDBT9M9usfhp2722w>

Revd David Treharne	01291 760034	dtre vd@aol.com
Revd Janice Hamilton	01291 626158	janice-hamilton@outlook.com
Revd Nicki Bullivant	07922 833835	benedictusnicki@gmail.com (Parish Day is Thursday)
Revd David Rees	01594 530443	david.rees17@btinternet.com
Revd Canon Dr Tom Clammer	01722 504938	tomclammer@gmail.com
Fiona Gardiner	01291 624868	fiona.m.gardiner@btinternet.com
James Parsons	07970 489362	james.darsie@gmail.com
Jane Penny	01594 563803	cfmtidenham@btinternet.com (urgent only Mon/Fri)
Ethan Richards	07933 249210	tidenhamyouth@gmail.com
Clare Presley (Admin)	01291 627478	tidenhamadmin@btinternet.com (Weekdays)
St Briavels & Hewelsfield website		www.stbandhchurches.org.uk