



We are asked to pray for:

- * The staff of the NHS at what is always the busiest time of the year. We also give thanks for the vaccination programme that is now underway.
- * Those who are going to be isolated this winter due to the government restrictions. And all those who are worried about the relations they will not be seeing.
- * Jesse, the Great grandson of John & Jean Griffiths who has undergone surgery.
- * Linette & Kevin as they continue to recover from a serious attack Covid-19.
- * The family of John Collins, who has been called home.
- * Freda Elliott following the death of her son after a short illness.
- * Helen Alexander, Borrowwash, who is waiting surgery following the diagnosis of Bowel cancer. Giving thanks that the cancer is contained.
- * Fiona and Dale, as they wait his scan results and await approval of his visa application. Also for Fiona's step-mother after the discovery of cancer.
- * Ellie Hill, Spondon, as she continues her recovery following her treatment.
- * Margaret Barker, Borrowwash, following a short stay in hospital. Giving thanks that all is well.
- * The family of Brian Sessions, who has been called to glory.
- * Mo Ashby following a nasty fall.
- * Nita French who has recently had a hip replacement
- * Gil Blood, following a successful cataract operation.



Come on let's celebrate!

**Janet Horobin,
Borrowwash, on
her 80th birthday**

Congratulations



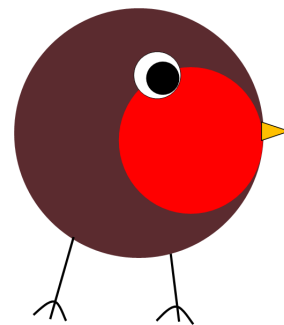
Come on let's celebrate!

**Kate Bulman and
Jordan Bowker
who were
married at
Borrowwash on
16th December**

Congratulations



Colin and Carol would like to thank everyone for the cards and greetings they have received and would wish you all a God filled Christmas and New Year.



**BORROWWASH, DRAYCOTT, SPONDON
ST THOMAS ROAD
BULLETIN 11
20TH DECEMBER 2020**

Dear Friends

Christmas is coming and the goose is getting fat, or the turkey or whatever your dish of choice might be.

As with everything this year, Christmas is going to be different. One difference I have already noted for myself, is that I have not eaten a mince pie yet. Normally by this point in December I would have been to numerous Carol services and partaken of the after service refreshments of mince pies. But that is another difference - no carol services. Another custom we will have to refrain from this year is kissing Santa, or anyone not in our bubble, underneath the mistletoe - for some this will be a relief!

Our Christmas festivities are going to be different too. I am sure that many of us will not be seeing as many of our family and friends as would normally be the case. Many of you will have had to do the dreadful act of negotiating who is going to see whom and who is going to miss out. For some of us that could mean that we are isolated and have to celebrate Christmas on our own. If you know someone in this situation, please do give them a call and wish them a happy Christmas - you could be the only person they speak to on Christmas day.

As we reported in the last edition of the **Bulletin**, all our services will be via the medium of Zoom this year. On the right there is a summary of what we are doing, while the inside pages give more information about each of the services. We do want these services to be fun and festive and so we hope that you will be dressed in a festive manner and invite you to sit around your Christmas tree. For those who cannot join us Zoom we hope that you will find services via the internet or your TV.

However, and wherever, you celebrate the birth of Christ this year. I wish you a very peaceful and joyous Christmas and a blessed new year

Colin

Christmas and New Year how to access our services

As you know, due to the continuing Covid-19 situation, all our services will be online this year via the Zoom platform.

We will be using 2 Zoom codes during the festive season. You can find out which code is required for each of the services by referring to the middle pages of this **Bulletin**.

Remember, that if you cannot join us using a computer you can use your phone to access the service as it happens. To do this, ring one of the numbers shown at the bottom of the page and follow the instructions:

- type in the **Meeting ID** followed by the **# Key**
- When asked for the **host ID** just press the **# Key**
- Type in the **Passcode** followed by the **# Key**

The meeting ID and Passcode can be found in the middle pages of the **Bulletin**. If you are going to use the phone we can supply you with a paper copy of the words of the hymns and the reading, if you require this please let Colin or Judith know.

After the service, we put the audio recording onto the Spondon Methodist Church website for those who couldn't get to the service. They can be found at spondonmethodist.org.uk/services/.

Again, following the service we are able to provide a CD of it. These can be order via Jon Shepherd on 07717 288827.

We hope that you will find some means of celebrating with us over the festive period, but if you are unable to join us, we hope that you will be able to find worship to suit you on the radio or television.

However you worship this Christmas may you know the awe and joy of the baby born to be our Saviour.

Closing Thoughts

During Advent we have been reflecting on the name Emmanuel, God is with, us. The name told to Mary by the angel as he repeated the prophesy from Isaiah. John Wesley, on his death bed uttered the now famous line, 'Best of all God is with us!' echoing the words of Isaiah and Gabriel.

In a year that has been different, it has at times been difficult to see God in all the turmoil and strife, in the loneliness of isolation and in the illness and even death. But because we cannot see God does not mean that he hasn't been there. I am convinced, he has been with every nurse who has found the strength to do one more hour; with every person who has contracted the virus; with every family who has had to mourn the death of someone they love, offering comfort and peace. This conviction comes from the Christmas story, the words of Gabriel, 'God is with us'.

May you know the presence of God with you this Christmas and in the coming year.

Zoom by Phone

0131 460 1196 or 0203 481 5240

Please see centre pages the Meeting ID and Passcode.

SERVICES FOR CHRISTMAS



What to do about Christmas? That was the question we were faced with as ministers and stewards at the start of Lockdown 2. We could have held all our services in the various churches, but then we couldn't sing the carols that are such an important part of Christmas to say nothing of hearing the Christmas readings in no more than thirty minutes. In the churches in the section we could only accommodate about 20 people so who would be invited and who would have been left out. We could have opened for some services and not for others but that would cause a logistical headache and we would still have the same issues regarding numbers, timing and singing. We could have done nothing, but that does not feel very Christmassy and certainly not the way we would want mark the coming of our Saviour - even when he was first born the occasion was marked by angels, wisemen and shepherds. We know Christmas will be different, but we still want it to be a special and meaningful event, where we celebrate and God is glorified. Below is a taste of what you can expect at each of the services over Christmas.



Carols and Nativity

Date: Sunday, 20th December
Time: 6.00pm
Zoom: Meeting ID: 882 7411 8637
Passcode: 722447

This service marks the formal start to our Christmas celebrations.

It will be a service that combines the tradition of Lessons and Carols and a Nativity. So we will hear the story of God's work of redemption and will see the unfolding of the incarnation, through a traditional(ish) Nativity play, which has been put together using members of our congregations. Of course, as you would expect from a Carol service, there will be lots of our favourite Carols to sing along to.

We invite you and your family to gather around your Christmas tree and to dress in a festive manner (as we do for all of our Christmas services - We would love to see your Christmas jumpers and Santa hats on display!

Christingle

Date: Christmas Eve
Time: 4.00pm
Zoom: Meeting ID: 882 7411 8637
Passcode: 722447

The Christingle service is fast becoming a tradition associated with Christmas. The Christingle, meaning *Little Christ Child*, was first begun by a Moravian bishop in Germany in 1747. The Moravians in the UK were holding Christingle services from between the two world wars. Now many Christian churches hold these services in Advent, Christmas or Epiphany.

It is possible to join this service and soak in the atmosphere, but if you wish to create your own Christingle, you will need: An orange; A piece of red ribbon to fit round the orange; 4 cocktail sticks; some dried fruit or soft sweets (e.g. dolly mixture); A pin or Sellotape, and finally a small candle; something to light the candle with. (If you haven't got these items (Judith or Colin can deliver a small kit, excluding the orange to you).

In lighting the candle we remind ourselves that Jesus, who was born in the stable, is the Light of the World.

Like the Carol service, we invite you to sit by your tree and dress in a festive manner.



The First Service of Christmas

Date: Christmas Eve
Time: 11.30pm
Zoom: Meeting ID: 882 7411 8637
Passcode: 722447

Midnight communion has for many of us been an important part of Christmas. This year unable to meet we are unable to share in communion. Instead we will gather around the crib in a short reflective service as we look on with Mary and Joseph and welcome the Christ child into the world.

A Christmas Celebration

Date: Christmas Day
Time: 10.00am
Zoom: Meeting ID: 882 7411 8637
Passcode: 722447

As they say, it does what it says on the tin. A service celebrating Christmas, giving thanks for God's enduring love made known through Jesus.

This is also a chance to show off your Christmas presents, the new jumper, the favourite new toy, the socks and anything else Santa or a loved one has given you.,

From the Old to the New

Date: Sunday, 27th December
Time: 10.30am
Zoom: Meeting ID: 827 0960 1674
Passcode: 248724

In this space, as the year passes from 2020 to 2021, Judith will be reflecting on the year that is coming to completion and the new year as it is beginning to dawn with new hopes and promises. Just as Mary will have looked back at what had led to the birth of Jesus and forward to what the future might hold for him.

Covenant

A Methodist way of Life

Date: Sunday, 3rd January
Time: 10.30am
Zoom: Meeting ID: 827 0960 1674
Passcode: 248724

A Methodist Way of Life is a new initiative that has been endorsed by Methodist Conference earlier this year. We are going to launch the initiative across our section at our online Covenant Service. There will be more about this initiative in the next *Bulletin*.

As the Covenant service is online it will not include communion, but will include a **Love Feast** for this you will need a cold drink and a piece of cake or biscuit.



Coffee Lounge

Suspended until January

Food Bank Collection Points

Borrowash, 2a Nursery Close / Draycott, 10a Derby Road / Spondon, 20 Chapel Street