

The Magazine

Dec. 2020/Jan. 2021

JESUS
IS THE
REASON
FOR THE
SEASON



Diocese
of Truro



**Callington
Cluster of
Parishes**

Callington

Stoke Climsland

Linkinhorne

South Hill

www.callingtoncluster.org.uk

This year's Church of England Christmas campaign theme is "Comfort and Joy".

Both those words appear in the chorus line of one of the most popular and oldest Christmas Carols, dating from the 16th century :-

God rest ye merry gentlemen
let nothing you dismay.
Remember Christ our Saviour
was born on Christmas Day.....
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy.....

2020 has been a challenging year due to the impact of the pandemic. At times frustrating, stressful & for some painful.

Frustrating, because of the restrictions on our freedom to socialise.

Stressful for some, due to the impact on their employment, with subsequent loss of income & even unemployment.

Painful for some, coping with family illness & bereavement.

And now – at the time of writing - the uncertainty of Christmas arrangements.

We hope that some of the current restrictions of this second lockdown will have been eased at the beginning of December and our plans for Christmas worship & family celebrations can become clearer.

The birth of Jesus was a time of frustration, stress & pain.

Frustration for Joseph & pregnant Mary forced by Roman edict to make a difficult 80 mile journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem.

The stress & pain of being turned away from the inn at Bethlehem, full to capacity. And then Mary having to give birth, quite possibly in the open-air inn courtyard, & laying the new-born Jesus in a cattle –feeding trough ('manger' sounds rather too tinselly!!).

Jesus throughout his life, lived among us, sharing the frustrations, stress & pain of human life. In his ministry he drew alongside others bringing God's healing & comfort.



“THE BIRTH OF JESUS WAS A TIME OF FRUSTRATION, STRESS & PAIN.”

One of the Old Testament passages used in Advent, as we lead up to Christmas is Isaiah 40 verses 1 to 11.

“Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.....the glory of the Lord will be revealed and all mankind together will see it” (v. 1 & 5)

Jesus is “Emmanuel” i.e. God with us who can meet us in our frustrations, stress & pain. Do reach out to him in prayer, that you might know his comfort.

But on that first Christmas night JOY broke in

The joy of course for Mary and Joseph at the birth of Jesus.

The joy of the angel’s message given to the shepherds on the hillside near Bethlehem :-

“....I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” (Luke 2: 10 & 11)

The joy of the angels praising God “Glory to God in the highest..”

The joy of the shepherds then meeting the new-born Jesus, in a cattle-feeding trough, just as the angel said.

Christmas celebrates the birth of our Saviour, as the angel announced.

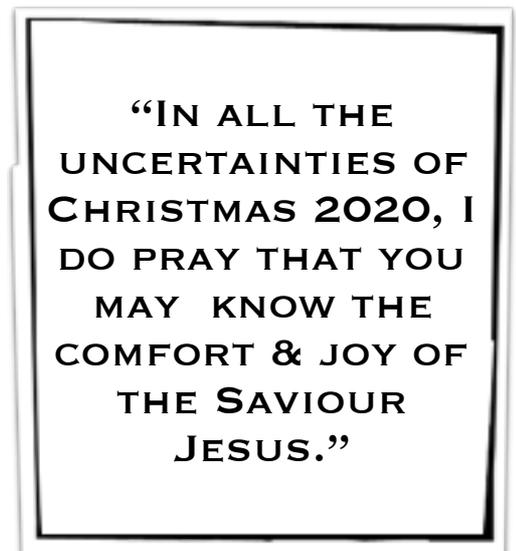
As we acknowledge our need of a Saviour and put our faith in Jesus as the one who died for our sins on the cross , we can experience Jesus :-

- bringing comfort to us in our frustration, stress & pain
- bringing joy to us, as we come to know God in a personal way

Oh! tidings of comfort & joy indeed !!

In all the uncertainties of Christmas 2020, I do pray that you may know the comfort & joy of the Saviour Jesus.

Angus



HOPE AMID UNCERTAINTY

'Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign: the virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and will call Him Immanuel.' (Isaiah 7:14)

This promise to King Ahaz in 8th century Judah is fulfilled in the coming of Jesus at the first Christmas: 'God with Us' (Matthew 1:23). Ahaz faced the military threat of Syria invading Israel, but Isaiah tells him not to panic. He can trust God, who is in control of the nation.

For us, Coronavirus brings deep uncertainty as we come to another New Year. We live with the threat from the virus, economic uncertainty, separation from family and friends, the loss of loved ones and the anxiety that isolation brings. Yet the message of Immanuel brings hope, as it did for Ahaz! Christmas changes everything forever! God has declared in Christ that He is with us and for us, not absent from or against us. His love is larger than our sin, fears or guilt: 'If God is for us, who can be against us?' (Romans 8:31).

As we prepare for the most unusual Christmas ever, let's not forget:

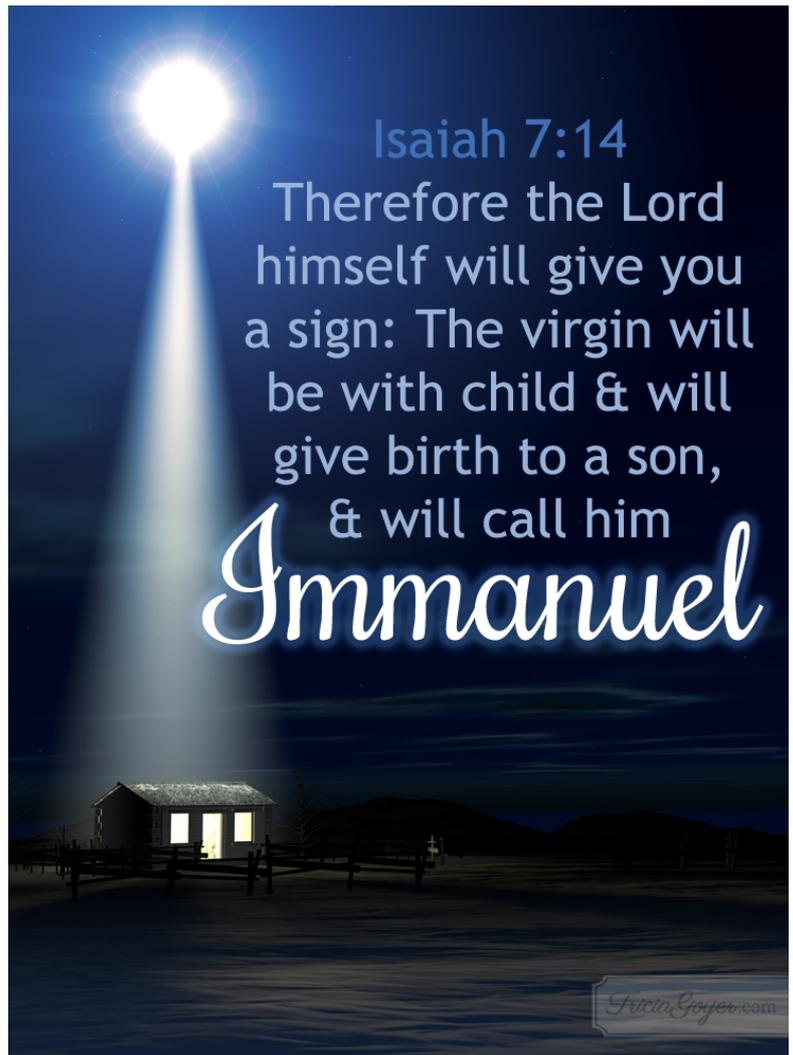
God with us means that He is on my side and by my side. In the uncertainties of life I am never alone.

God with us means that everything will work out according to His plan. My life isn't just a series of meaningless occasions or mistakes.

God with us means that even when others show they are not there for me, God is.

God with us means when circumstances change, He will give me the strength I need.

God is with me: He isn't far away, but has made the journey into my world. Here is the hope for the future, once we get past the trees, gifts, turkey stuffing and pudding!



Every year it happens. I hear Christians lamenting how 'Christmas comes earlier every year.'

Since this September (or before!) supermarkets, shops and garden centres have been selling Christmas jumpers, socks and pyjamas and all kinds of other seasonal merchandise. Should we be annoyed or exasperated? Should we have gone around reminding people that it's much too early for tinsel and mistletoe?

This year, of all years, the answer from churches and Christians of all denominations must surely be a resounding 'NO.'

As people began looking to Christmas for some light in the gloom of the pandemic – and hard-hit businesses desperately need to increase their income and chances of survival – it sounds a woefully wrong note if the Church is saying 'hold back, it's not time yet...'

Because Christmas is that time of year when increasing numbers of people want to come to church services and share in the story of the new-born King. It is when carols are played in shopping centres, and there are openings to speak of the meaning of the season.

Churches might not be able to host big indoor carol services this year, but the challenge is how we take the Christmas message out into the streets and neighbourhoods around our buildings.

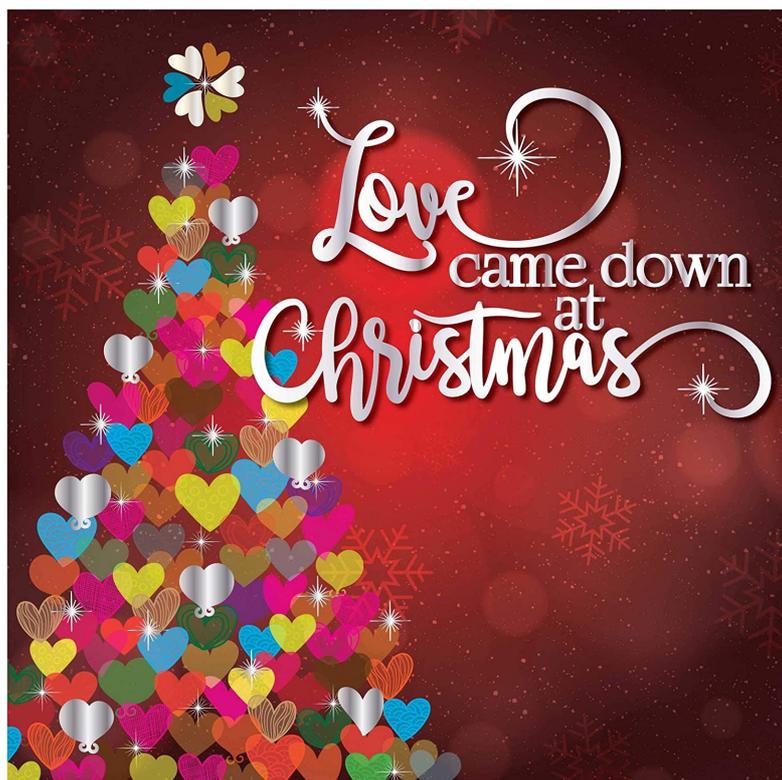
**“CHURCHES MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO HOST BIG INDOOR CAROL SERVICES THIS YEAR, BUT THE CHALLENGE IS HOW WE TAKE THE CHRISTMAS MESSAGE OUT INTO THE STREETS AND NEIGHBOURHOODS AROUND OUR BUILDINGS.
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Why It's Never
Too Early To Think
About Christmas!

This year has been one like no other for millions of people, with little prospect of better news into the New Year. So we need to be declaring the Christmas message of hope and light and joy in the darkness. And to be doing so at every opportunity.

But also, we need to be doing so with sensitivity and care, for the many who will find it hard to be celebrating this pandemic year, and with the prospect of large family gatherings in doubt because of Covid 19 regulations. Archbishop of York Stephen Cottrell wrote in his 2009 book 'Do Nothing Christmas is Coming',



“Christmas is one of the most joyful times of the year. It is also one of the most stressful. It is laden with expectations. It is often overtaken with grief. It might be the season of good will, but it can feel like the last straw on an already overburdened camel.” He added ruefully, “Wise men would not ride this one.”

Archbishop Cottrell is right that Christmas has to be approached sensitively, that we need to take care in how we celebrate, that for many people who have lost loved ones and livelihoods during this traumatic year, Christmas will not be easy.

We come alongside people with the news that the baby born in the manger grew up to be the Man of Sorrows, acquainted with grief, who experienced suffering and bereavement. God, born as Man, who shared our pain as well as our celebrations, ultimately died on a cross to rise again.

Our mission is to bring a message of hope, and to do so with love, humility and sensitivity to a hurting disorientated world – one that’s eager for light in the gloom.

“OUR MISSION IS TO BRING A MESSAGE OF HOPE, AND TO DO SO WITH LOVE, HUMILITY AND SENSITIVITY TO A HURTING DISORIENTATED WORLD – ONE THAT’S EAGER FOR LIGHT IN THE GLOOM.”

The Revd Peter Crumpler is a Church of England priest in St Albans, Herts, a former Director of Communications with the CofE, and the author of 'Responding to Post-Truth' (Grove Books).

WHAT MARY TAUGHT ME

Norma Murrain, of Silverfish Jewellery in Birmingham considers Mary....

"And behold, you shall conceive in your womb and bring forth a son and call His name JESUS..."

Luke 1:31

On 8th December Roman Catholics celebrate the feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. While non-Roman Catholics do not venerate Mary in the same way, we can still learn so much from the Mother of Jesus.

Trust A woman's trust can only be built on an intimate relationship and strong communication over time. Mary therefore must have had a relationship with God for years prior to the visit by the angel Gabriel.

She would have known the Jewish scriptures of the coming Messiah, and this enabled her to recognise God's will in the voice of the angel. (Luke 1:26-38) She trusted Him because she already knew Him.

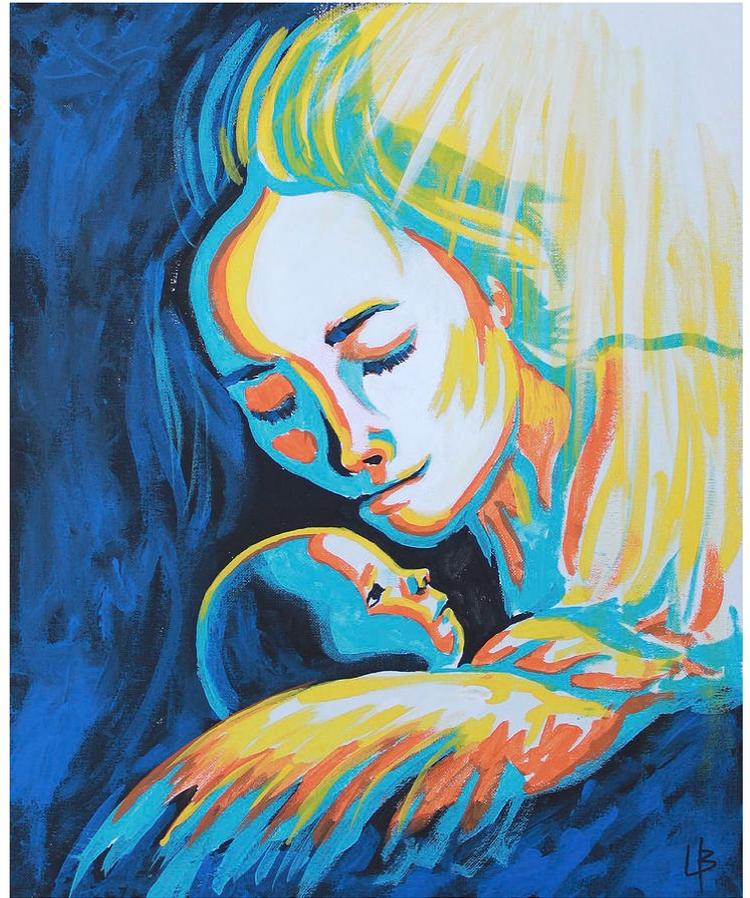
Willingness to obey She was willing to surrender to God's will, without even asking why He had chosen her. "Let it be to me according to your Word." (Luke 1:34) Her asking 'how' only reflected her willingness to obey Him. "How will this be," Mary said, "since I am a virgin." (Luke 1:34)

Testimony It's one thing to say we believe God, but far harder to go and tell somebody about Him. Yet Mary did just that: "At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth" (Luke 1:39-40). And her cousin saluted her faith: "Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished". (Luke 1:45)

Worship Finally, Mary worshiped, her poetic song full of love and reverence for God: "My soul magnifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my saviour..." (Luke 1:46)

This Christmas, as we remember Mary, what has God been able to conceive in us lately?

The Bible is clear that Jesus wants to implant His Holy Spirit into each one of us, so that we may live our lives in His presence, grow to become more like Him, and fulfil His particular will for our lives. Like Mary, our prayer can also be: "Let it be to me according to your Word" (Luke 1:34).



STRUGGLING FOR RELINQUISHMENT (part 2)

Here is the second of a three-part series by Tony Collins. He considers the question of how much BUSYNESS do we really need in our lives?

In October I wrote about my addiction to cars. But how about the addiction to a busy life?

Until a few years ago I ran a couple of imprints at a well-known publishing company, and feared I was slacking if I didn't receive a hundred emails a day.

I regularly attended events such as the Frankfurt Book Fair, where the diary took months of planning and each day was divided into thirty-minute slots. The buzz was intense: I have rarely felt more alive. I was publishing 60 books a year and keeping my feet in the complex web of relationships that that required. It all took intense concentration.

Like many business folk, I have been an adrenaline junkie. Which is another way of saying: your life is probably at war with your ethics.

If you fill every minute with sixty seconds' worth of distance run, as Kipling had it, you cannot think critically. This is where relinquishment comes in. It helps us stop trashing the planet, for a start.

Relinquishment allows us to concentrate on priorities. If we are trying to live a sustainable life, to eat meat from animals farmed with integrity and butchered without cruelty; to seek out fruit and vegetables that are locally sourced, grown without artificial fertilizer, and packaged without plastic; these things require space to think. Pollution, land degradation and climate change all result from the premise that more = better, which is the lie behind our enslavement to the Gross Domestic Product. We cannot afford to keep going as we are.

In the everyday routine of our lives, if we are to live as faithful disciples, we must undertake the detailed work of finding out and considering the implications of our choices as voters and as consumers. We should ask, 'Who made this shirt? Why is it so cheap? Where was the cotton sourced? How was the factory run? What were the workers paid? Did they work reasonable hours? As a customer, am I a partner in their wellbeing, or exploiting their vulnerability?'

It takes time to make considered decisions – and relinquishment creates time.

These ideas, and many more, are explored by Pen Wilcock in her new book [Relinquishment: Making Space for What Really Matters](#), available from Amazon in paperback and ebook.



Callington Services: Social Distancing rules means there are only 30 spaces within the building. You will be directed to one of the places. Toilets will be open. In order to manage services at this time anyone attending will need to fill in the on-line form at <http://callingtoncluster.org.uk/whats-on/smc-services/register> by 6pm on the Friday or ring Amy Wheeler 07984 199 930 by 6pm Thursday. Any in excess of 30 will be transferred to the following week's list. Only bookings by phone and via the website will be accepted. Services correct at time of going to press, please check Notice Sheet for any changes.

Wk	Time	Callington	South Hill
6th December	Mid Morning	10.00 Together@10 Family Service	11.15 Holy Communion Modern
13th December	Mid Morning	10.00 Morning Worship Modern	11.15 Morning Worship Modern
20th December	Mid Morning	10.00 Morning Worship Modern	11.15 Morning Worship Modern
24th December	Evening	11.30 pm Holy Communion Modern	
25th December	Mid Morning	10.00 Morning Worship Modern	11.15 Holy Communion Modern
27th December	Mid Morning	10.00 Morning Worship Modern	11.15 Morning Worship Modern

Important Notice: All churches follow strict Covid guidelines and face coverings need to be worn at all times whilst inside the building. We ask everyone attending to follow the guidance for seating and that you give your contact details on entry to the church, these will be kept for 21 days in line with the Governments Test and Trace Requirements. Please use the hand sanitisers provided. Unfortunately there can be no singing during Worship however there will be music. For services at South Hill, please take your own service sheets and common worship book.

Stoke Climsland

The church is also open for Private Prayer on Wednesdays from 1pm to 4pm.

A recording of the Sunday Service is also available for viewing on Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/StokeClimslandParishChurch>.

Linkinhorne	Upton Cross	Stoke C	Wk
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px;"> A short service of traditional Morning Prayer is held at St. Melor's on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 10.00 am. </div>	9.30 Informal Worship <i>Modern</i>	10.00 Morning Worship <i>Modern</i>	6th December
	9.30 Informal Worship <i>Modern</i>	10.00 Morning Worship <i>Modern</i>	13th December
	9.30 Carols with Communion	10.00 Holy Communion <i>Modern</i>	20th December
	3 - 5 pm Church open to collect 'DIY' Christingle kits	4.30 pm Virtual Nativity and Christingle (see link above)	24th December
	9.30 Informal Worship <i>Modern</i>	10.30 Family Worship <i>Modern</i>	25th December
			27th December

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Wk	Time	Callington	South Hill
3rd January	Mid Morning	10.00 Together@10 Family Service	11.15 Holy Communion Modern
10th January	Mid Morning	10.00 Morning Worship Modern	11.15 Morning Worship Modern
17th January	Mid Morning	10.00 Morning Worship Modern	11.15 Morning Worship Modern
24th January	Mid Morning	10.00 Holy Communion Modern	10.00 All Age Worship Modern
31st January	Mid Morning	10.00 Morning Worship Modern	11.15 Morning Worship Modern

The Licensing of Rev. Dr. Joe Lannon will take place at Stoke Climsland on 19th January at 7pm and will also be available online.

Please see the following page for more information.

Stoke Climsland

The church is also open for Private Prayer on Wednesdays from 1pm to 4pm.

A recording of the Sunday Service is also available for viewing on Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/StokeClimslandParishChurch>.

Linkinhorne	Upton Cross	Stoke C	Wk
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> A short service of traditional Morning Prayer is held at St. Melor's on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 10.00 am. </div>	9.30 Informal Worship <i>Modern</i>	10.00 Morning Worship <i>Modern</i>	3rd January
	9.30 Informal Worship <i>Modern</i>	10.00 Morning Worship <i>Modern</i>	10th January
	9.30 Holy Communion <i>Modern</i>	10.00 Holy Communion <i>Modern</i>	17th January
		7 pm Licensing of Rev. Dr. Joe Lannon	19th January
	9.30 Informal Worship <i>Modern</i>	10.00 Family Worship <i>Modern</i>	24th January
	9.30 Informal Worship <i>Modern</i>	10.00 Cluster Worship <i>Modern</i>	31st January

LICENSING OF OUR NEW RECTOR

Licensing is announced

Joe Lannon will be licensed as Rector of Callington Cluster in Stoke Climsland parish church at 7pm on 19th January.

The service, which will be conducted by Bishop Hugh, will be limited to 30 people but will be recorded and streamed online to allow as many people as possible to join in, even if not physically.



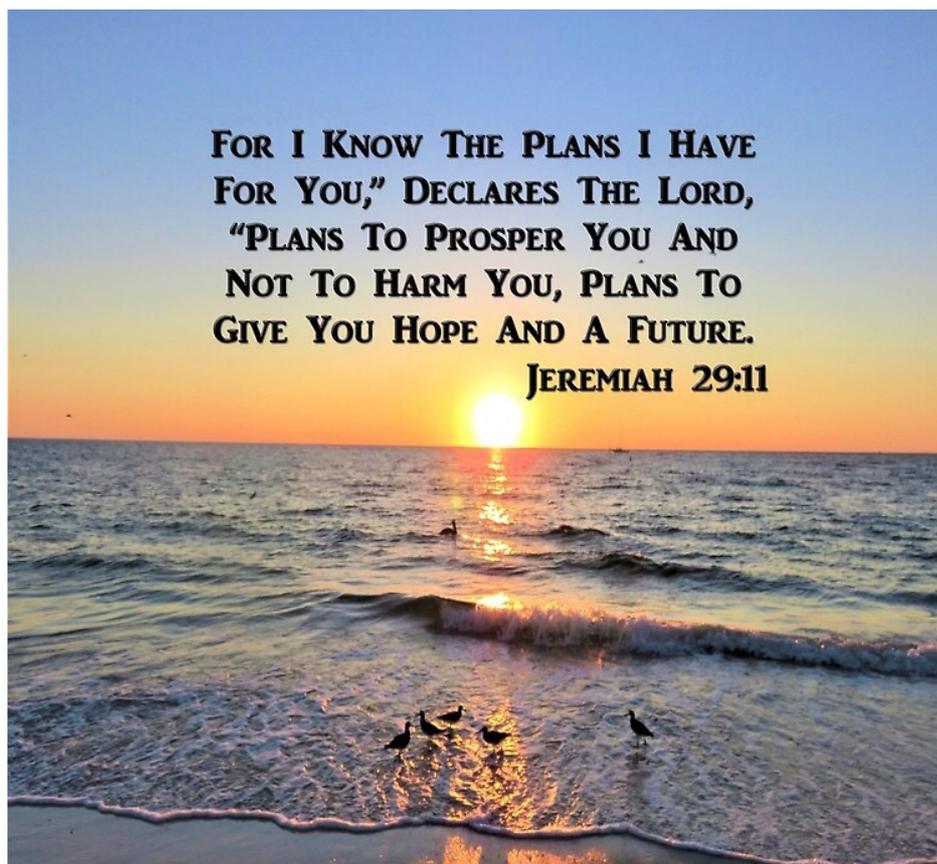
The Diocese realises that theoretically the church building can accommodate more people in a covid-safe manner, but recognise that people may be travelling to the service from higher-risk areas, and do not want Joe's ministry to begin in a way which causes spread of the Coronavirus.

In the light of the number restrictions, it is suggested that each church should have 2 places for Churchwardens (or their representatives if unable to be present).

The service order will be amended so that it is pared down to what is key in the service.

We all offer a warm Cornish welcome to Joe and his family, and look forward to a time when we can all worship and socialise together again.

Look out for updates in the weekly Notice Sheet.



WALKING AT THE RIGHT PACE

During lock down, Ali Carnegie and John Chaldecott have met regularly to walk, talk and pray together.

After one session, John sent Ali the following prayer, which both Ali and I have found hugely valuable.

I share it here, with John's blessing.

God who gives us pace and rhythm,

Forgive us when we try to go faster than we need to, and help us to remember that slowing down is not bad.

Give us the wisdom to walk at the pace of life that You have designed to be best for us.

Deliver us from comparisons with others, who are faster or slower in their pace than we are.

Help us to refuse comparison, from which can flow so much pride, and instead help us to keep in step with Your Spirit.

We pray for all those who have been forced to walk at a slower pace, and for those who are walking too fast - give them grace.

We pray for those who are travelling too slowly because of dread, fear or uncertainty. Give them courage.

Help each of us to walk at the right pace - even when others do not understand it.

Amen



NOTICES

Christmas cards that keep on giving..

In lieu of handing out Christmas cards to folk who we can greet personally, we have given a donation to Stoke Climsland's partner church in San Antonio Copan in Honduras through the charity Compassion, and are using this page to wish you a very Happy Christmas.

Callington

Ian & Tricia Jones

Jackie Howey

Carolyn Lavers

Tony & Maureen Taylor

Pauline & Mike Farr

Jane Greaves & Mike Ridgway

Gillian Beresford-Power

Nigel Cooper

Colin & Yvonne Hill Vanessa &

Peter Whitting Sandra Kenworthy

Lennie Starrs

Kirsty Farr

Stoke Climsland

Jane Coumbe

Dawn & Dominic Nelson

Barbara & Richard Bennett and all the family

Derek & Diane Strawbridge

Sue & David Watts and family

Ann and Richard Roberts

Shirley Thompson, Rob and

Heather Stewart

Pam and John Kennaugh

David & Chrys Bundy

Jane Garbett



Sue & Steve Leonard-Williams

Julie Sale

Muriel Young

Kathryn & Ali Carnegie

Jan & Deri Parsons

Lisa, Robert, Imogen &

Eleanor Chaffer

Helen Hawkey

Kay & John Chaldecott

Alan & Wendy Bruce

Syd & Rosemarie Tunkin

Ryan & Julie Hill & family

Lyn and Dave Crawley

Jan Long

Brenda Baker

TEARFUND BIG QUIZ (Charity Fundraising)

Some of you may remember that we hosted the 2019 Tearfund Big Quiz here at Rilla Mill Retreat Centre last November. With the restrictions resulting from Coronavirus, we couldn't do that this year. However, Tear Fund has prepared a Zoom version with modifications.

There is a "phone a friend" option, which you can take advantage of, provided you make a donation to the charity!

A November date for the Quiz was chosen but many people could not get things set up in time so the charity has set a deadline for folk to organise the quiz; the end of February 2021. I am intending to run it on **Saturday 21st January**.

If you can rustle up a team from folk sharing your house, brilliant. You could get a group of friends together to form one team with several screens. If you want to register by yourself and be put into a team, that is fine too. Of course, there is no reason why you shouldn't be a one person team, if you like. Those who came here last year really appreciated the way Tear Fund set up the questions and answers, very clear and straightforward. I think everyone enjoyed it.

So, contact me on maxinecbrowne@aol.com or 015793626211 if you are interested.



Cluster Magazine deadline:

The next Cluster Magazine will be the February edition which, due to the editor's holiday will be distributed on the weekend of 6th & 7th February.

The deadline is Sunday 31st January. Information can be emailed to the editor at kathryn@pempwell.co.uk.

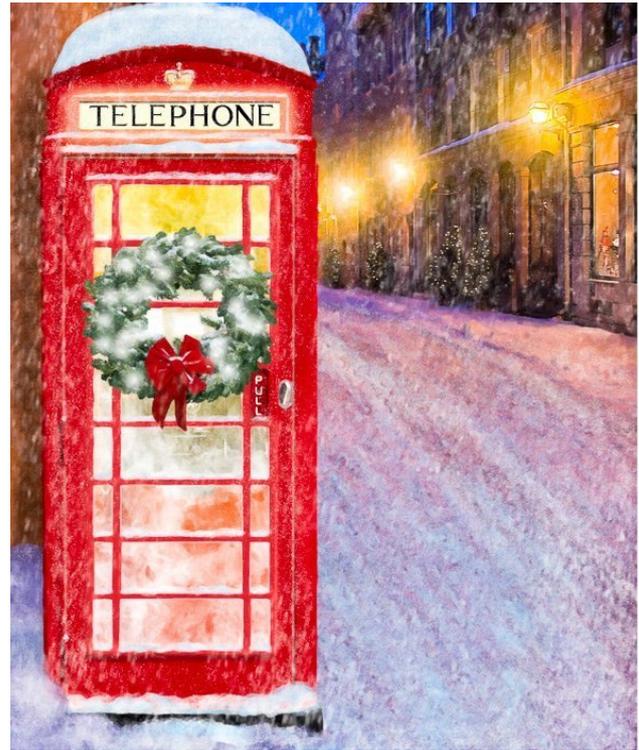
NOTICES - SOUTH HILL

Very sadly we cannot hold our beautiful Carols by Candlelight service this year, but we are inviting you to help decorate the “Nativity Phone Box” in Golberdon, in December:-

Make an angel or a star and display it in the phone box (hand sanitizer will be available). Let's make the nativity phone box a big feature this year. Christmas is not forgotten or cancelled. We can still celebrate the birth of Jesus, albeit differently.

We will be putting up our nativity scene as normal for you to visit and spend some quiet time (or perhaps not so quiet time if you bring your children). Do come and enjoy the building at any time during daylight hours.

You are also invited to create a picture or a model of your favourite Christmas carol and display it on your gate or in your drive. Let's see how many we can make and fill South Hill with Christmas.

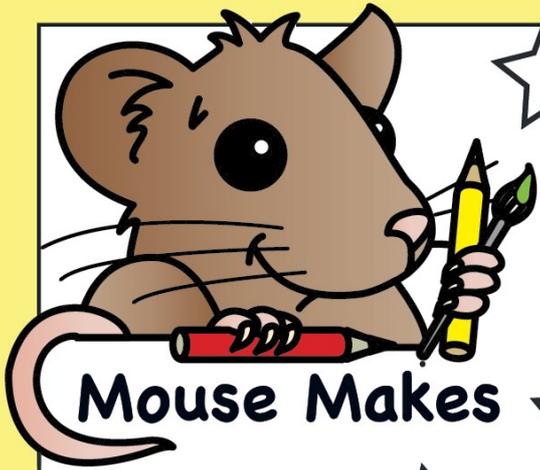


ST SAMPSON'S GETS AN EARLY CHRISTMAS PRESENT!

The Culture Recovery Fund for Heritage (under the Department for Digital, Cultural, Media and Sport) has just awarded St Sampson's church at South Hill £24,096 to pay for the necessary investigative work and some of the most urgent repair works to the roof and ceiling.

Many large well-known funding bodies such as the Heritage Lottery have suspended grant applications during the Covid-19 crisis, so huge thanks to the Here For Culture Campaign, and the tireless and vigilant fundraisers, Miranda Lawrence-Owen and Judith Ayers who achieved almost the maximum grant available. There is still a long way to go before the total target needed is reached, and so many planned fundraising activities involving our community have had to be rescheduled during the pandemic.

St Sampson's is the smallest, but oldest, church in the Callington Cluster - sometimes known as the 'Mother church'. One of its claims to fame is being the first parish of Bishop Trelawney (known to all Cornishmen!) With its small community, it is hard to catch up with the rest and become a church equipped to meet people's basic needs, such as running water, toilets and a kitchen. Thanks to local generosity that came a step closer recently: there is a new functioning tap with running water! This latest generous grant towards repairing the roof will help ensure that is the only water which runs into St Sampson's!



"I bring you **good news** that will bring great **joy** to all people. The **Saviour** has been born today! ...

*Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and peace on earth to those with whom
God is pleased".*

from Luke 2 vs. 10,11,14

HAPPY
CHRISTMAS!
Read the Christmas
story in Luke
1:1 - 2:21



A picture to colour
for Christmas. Colour in
one star each day as you
count down to Christmas!

WHO'S WHO ACROSS THE CLUSTER

Rector

Vacancy

For bookings, please contact - info.callingtoncluster@gmail.com

Families' Leader Amy Wheeler 07984 199930 amywheelerfamlead@icloud.com

Church Wardens

Callington

Garry Morris 01579 382944 southernman@radioheadfan.com

Dave Wheeler 07971 072459 davewheeler90@gmail.com

South Hill, St Sampson's

David Brent 01579 362312 (no email)

Miranda Lawrance-Owen 01579 382863 mlawranceowen@icloud.com

Stoke Climsland

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Linkinhorne/Upton Cross Brian Norris 01579 363515 briannorrisics@hotmail.com

Jesus



is the light of our Christmas,
the joy of our hearts,
and the hope of our world.