



# Holy Trinity Church Blacon

Charity number 1180853

29<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

How long will this continue? How long will we have to suffer these Covid restrictions? Our lives have become so different, for some things are slower and quieter; for others it certainly is not. We are this weekend entering Advent, a time of year when we are all called to slow down, to press the pause button, to focus on watching and waiting. This season of penitence is a valuable one for us, to remind us that God – the creator of the universe – is the master of time. He alone knows when this present age we live in will come to an end, He alone knows when Jesus will return.

We long for God to come and sort out so many difficulties in this world. Even without considering at the pandemic, we look at children starving because of wars; we look at people suffering injustices, or not having enough money to put food on the table, or loved ones suffering through illness. We long for God's healing and wholeness and lasting peace to be known throughout this world. We long for the Christ-mass, for Jesus to return, and to bring in a new creation, a new heaven and a new earth where there will be no more pain, no more illness, no more crying, no more injustice.

And while we wait, we continue to live in this broken, infected, hurting world, where people suffer unfairly. This Coronavirus which is blind to social and other boundaries, does have different impact on people, so we are finding it causes far greater suffering to the most disadvantaged in our society.

As Christians, what can we do about it? Well, one most valuable thing we Christians can do... is to turn to God in prayer. 'All I can do is pray' we may say – but it's not a last resort, it's not a tiny, insignificant contribution. To pray – to involve the Lord of the universe in the situation – to turn to Him to assist with the situation is never an insignificant thing to do, but is in fact the most valuable input you can bring to any situation.

To paraphrase Isaiah's heartfelt prayer in our first reading today, we might say: 'Look, Lord, this world is a mess and we need you to come and sort it out. O that you would do something dramatic and come and shake things up so much that people can't ignore you, so that people would totally realise you are God, and won't doubt anymore, and won't ignore you anymore... so that everyone would come to believe in you!'

Christ on the cross, Christ rising to life on the third day, is what makes the difference. It's what transforms us – from our sinfulness, to be cleaned and able to be called children of God, walking in the light rather than be thrown away into a dark corner. And also, Christ crucified and risen is what transforms this dark, stormy and unjust world. He will return one day, He will bring total healing and total peace, one day.

So, as we stay alert and wait for Christ's return in glory, let us patiently wait, let us watch as we wait, and let us continue to persevere in prayer for this world, and those on our hearts.

*Yours in His grip,*

*Tina Upton*



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## NOTICES

Holy Trinity Blacon are the living church of our living God, and we continue to be at work here! If you are able, do check the parish website [www.holytrinityblacon.org](http://www.holytrinityblacon.org) (especially the Coronavirus Support page) or our Facebook page (holylrinityblacon) for updates. Look out for our special Advent reflections videos available each Sunday morning in Advent, starting on 29<sup>th</sup> November.

## DIARY FOR THE COMING WEEK

Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	5.00pm	Evening Prayer <i>(on Zoom)</i>
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	3.00pm	Wedding <i>in church</i> (Katie Erskine and Darren Beswick)
	7.30pm	Bible Group <i>(on Zoom)</i>
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup>	7.00-10.00pm	Worship night <i>in church</i> (led by Burn Chester)
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Parish Eucharist <i>in church</i> <i>Minibus is running – let us know if you want a lift.</i>

**PRAYING FOR BLACON** Louise and Tina are taking our exercise particularly along those streets we are praying for each week. Do join us in praying for those residents. This week we pray for: *Blacon Avenue, Keats Terrace, Blacon Hall Road & Malvern Road*

**CHRISTMAS PLANS** Inspired by the NHS rainbows around the place, what if we put scenes from the nativity in our windows this Christmas? Try [www.housingaforest.com/stained-glass-nativity/](http://www.housingaforest.com/stained-glass-nativity/) for inspiration and there are lots of printable nativity silhouettes free on the internet. Let us know if you plan to take part, so we can form a trail around Blacon.

**CHRISTMAS MEAL** we are joining with Avenue Services to deliver a Christmas Dinner for Blacon residents on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December. If you would like one, or know someone who you think would enjoy one, please contact Kerry on [managerblaconbeacon@gmail.com](mailto:managerblaconbeacon@gmail.com) or 07851870078 We will also be delivering a Christmas Dinner to families on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December, more details to follow soon.

**CHRISTMAS AT HOLY TRINITY** On Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December 5.30pm church members across Chester are being encouraged to go onto their doorsteps to sing carols – which will also be broadcast on Dee Radio 106.3FM See [www.linkup.uk.net](http://www.linkup.uk.net) for carol sheets. Christmas Eve: Crib service at 6pm, Midnight Eucharist at 11.30pm, and on Christmas Day a 9.30am Eucharist.

## CONTACTS:

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