



Holy Trinity Church Blacon

Charity number 1180853

6th December 2020

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

In a science experiment a group of students were given mugs with their school logo on. A second group were not given mugs. Then the students without mugs were asked how much they would pay to have a mug. Likewise, the group with mugs were asked how much they would need to be paid to part with it.

The results were interesting. It turns out that the amount you are prepared to pay to get a mug with your school logo on it is about half as much as the student selling it believes they would need to part with it. Human beings value the things they have twice as much as things they might have in future. It seems that we are not very good at imagining how it will feel to have things in future. But are brilliant at understanding how loss feels right now!

This is the first time that I won't be able to see my mum at Christmas. Now I know that Christmas is just a day, that there are vaccines on the way. Very soon we will be able to meet and even hug safely. But the truth is, right now, I feel sad. A classic case of overvaluing my present loss against a future when we can meet safely.

Which brings us rather nicely to advent when we as the church celebrate and remember the gift of God's Son. And God's promise that one day this same Son will return in glory to rule and reign over all the earth. A day "the

glory of the lord shall be revealed, and all the people shall see it together." When God will reward and recompense his flock carrying them tenderly in his bosom.

This promise is very beautiful... and very hard to imagine.

Because it's hard to imagine, it's easy to undervalue it. Just as students who didn't own mugs were not prepared to pay enough to buy one from those who did. They valued the money (the thing that they had and would have to sacrifice) more than the possibility of owning a mug.

As I prepare for Christmas I hope that God will use this time to reset my priorities. That he will give me a right way to value the gifts he has given me. And that he will teach me to value the promise of his return.

This Christmas is going to be very different. I will miss the Christingles. I will miss the look of terror on teachers' faces when Reverend Tina asks the tinies not to burn down her church. I will miss carols, and parties, and hugs. And I will miss my mum. But, maybe not having those things, for just one year, will make a little space. Space for God. Space for gratitude. And space to discover the true meaning of His promise of hope.

May you know God's promise of hope this Advent too.

With love,

Louise Annison



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 (especially the Coronavirus Support page) or our Facebook page (holytrinityblacon) for updates. Look out for our special Advent reflections videos available each Sunday morning in Advent.

DIARY FOR THE COMING WEEK

Wednesday 2 nd December	5.00pm	Evening Prayer <i>(on Zoom)</i>
Thursday 3 rd	7.30pm	Bible Group <i>(on Zoom)</i>
Sunday 6 th	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: *Hereford Place, Worcester Place, Ludlow Road, Mayfield Road.*

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD Due to the national lockdown, the collection dates have been moved. If you still have a shoebox, you can deliver them to the church hall this week. Hall opening times: Mon 9am-5pm; Tues-Fri 2-5pm.

CHRISTMAS MEAL we are joining with Avenue Services to deliver a Christmas Dinner for Blacon residents on Thursday 17th December. We will also be delivering a Christmas Dinner to families on Tuesday 22nd December. For more information, please contact Kerry on managerblaconbeacon@gmail.com or 07851870078

CHRISTMAS CAROLS On Sunday 20th 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 for carol sheets.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES Christmas Eve: Crib service at 6pm (*Gifts received for Save the Family*), Midnight Eucharist at 11.30pm, and on Christmas Day 9.30am Eucharist.

CONTACTS:			
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