

Happy New Year St Giles!

News and Notices

A weekly on-line update to keep you informed

Friday 8th January 2021

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷ and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. NKJV

HOPE AND PROMISES



JOIN US ONLINE

<https://stgilesnorthampton.online.church/>

10am with Beth Whaites and Steve Kelly

Bible Reading: Philippians 4: 4-9

Talk: Rejoice in the Lord

11am Call to prayer - join us after the morning service to pray

Zoom Meeting ID: 886 0781 8293 Passcode: prayer321



JOIN US ONLINE

<https://stgilesnorthampton.online.church/>

7pm with Beth Whaites and Steve Kelly

Bible Reading: Philippians 4: 4-9

Talk: Rejoice in the Lord

7.45-8.15pm Coffee, chat and catch up on Zoom (all welcome)

Zoom Meeting ID: 816 7271 1469 Passcode: gather123



Families at St Giles are looking at the topic of 'Rejoice in the Lord' The activities and resources have been included in the covering email to this news sheet.

For parents of under 5s - You and your children are invited to join in with a short zoom singing and Bible story time with Jo on **Tuesday** mornings at 11am. Contact jo@stgilesnorthampton.org.uk for the zoom details.

Dial-a-Sermon 01604 343200. For those who do not have on-line access.

2021... The Big Picture

Our theme for January is H O P E and the promises of God. Today we're looking at God's promise of peace in Philippians 4. In February and March (including Lent), we join with many other churches in Northampton in **the Big Church Read**. We'll be joining together to read a great book, study Scripture in depth and focus on the God who makes **"All things new"**.

We'll explain what we're doing and how to get the book next week. In the meantime, you can find out more here <https://thebigchurchread.co.uk/allthingsnew/>

(Note: we hope to be able to get the book from St Andrews at a bargain price of **£7**)



COVID/Firebreak

You may recall that we had put in place a 'firebreak' for St Giles up to and including Sunday 10th January. Now that we are in lockdown because of the new strain of the virus and the rising cases and hospital admissions, Steve, the church wardens, the Covid Task Force and the PCC will be reviewing the situation and looking again at our risk assessments. We expect to make a decision about the timing of 'reopening' in the coming week (This includes Sunday services, Thursday Holy Communion services and the Wellbeing Café).

*We urge everyone to be vigilant, to stay safe, to obey the rules and stay at home unless you are going out for a permitted purpose. And we urge you to be vaccinated if you are in one of the priority groups. **And please, please pray!** If you can, join one of the regular **Call to Prayer** sessions as we bring our nation, its citizens our NHS staff and the other so-called 'heroes' to God in prayer and intercession.*

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. Phil 4v6)

Staffing at St Giles in 2021

I'm really pleased to share the news that Nicola Aylett (previously Assistant Minister on a 12 month contract) has now been appointed to the team as **Associate Minister** on a permanent basis. Nicola is part-time and her responsibilities include the Thursday service, Care Homes, the Wellbeing Café and Sunday worship. With Graham, Nicola continues to be involved with Interserve and has set aside January for some study leave and holiday. So we will see her back at St Giles at the start of February. Please join me in congratulating Nicola and welcoming her to this new post.

Budget and finances update



Over the next month, we want to keep you fully informed about St Giles finances and we plan to share the 2020 year end position next week. Overall, it looks like we will end 2020 with good news to share because of people's incredible generosity and God's incredible faithfulness. Nonetheless, 2021 will be a challenging year and we will share more about how you can play your part in the coming weeks.

A House of prayer



God has called us to be a *House of Prayer for All Nations*. In this lockdown, with increased COVID-19 infections, confusion and challenge, we need to come together to pray and call out to God. We can do so on **Thursday evenings** (8-8.45pm) **and Sunday mornings** (11am) and we can pray for one another, our church, our nation and its leaders and for the wider world. Both are on Zoom (Meeting ID: 886 0781 8293 Passcode: prayer321) There's no need to sign up. Just sign in and come ready to contribute.

Our Youth and Children's Groups are changing!

This term we are changing our provision for youth and children, moving our work back to being on a Sunday. All of our groups are currently on Zoom. Further details are on ChurchSuite. For zoom details for any of these groups, please email Beth: beth@stgilesnorthampton.org.uk

Starting this Sunday, our groups will be:

MySpace	Reception - Year 4	Sunday 3pm
Link	Year 5 - Year 8	Sunday 4pm
Youth Church	Year 7 - Year 13	Sunday 7pm
Just Girls (Girls only)	Year 9 - Year 13	Monday 7pm
Zone (Boys only)	Year 7 - Year 13	Thursday 7pm

We need two male leaders to help us provide a group for the boys in our youth group. This group will run for 40 minutes every Thursday evening. The programme and resources will be provided. Please contact Beth for more information or if you are able to help.

Dave's advent walk for light raises £350!

You may recall Dave Allen's personal challenge to walk round the Lighthouse Lake between Sixfields and Briar Hill **26 times** during Advent to raise money for solar lighting in rural communities in Tanzania. Well he did it! Mission accomplished. **Well done Dave.**

"Thank you very much to everyone who supported me in the Advent Walk which I did for Tearfund. £350 has been donated to Tearfund for their solar lighting project in Tanzania."

Dave Allen

St Giles Prayer Diary

This week, in our cycle of prayers, we are praying particularly for:

Richard and Frances, Student ministry, Chaplains working in the NHS, police and armed forces, including Philip Evans and the team at St Andrew's and George Sarmezey at NGH.



Please remember the Hunter family in your prayers following their recent bereavement.