

Dear Friends

St. Luke's Church Christmas Tree ~~Festival~~ Trail !

For the last nine years St. Luke's church has held an increasingly popular Christmas Tree Festival. We have had a lot of festive fun and drawn our community together, as well as raising over £10,000 for charities, and funds that have enabled the church to keep going. Last year around 3000 people visited the church during the festival.

Clearly, and sadly, we just can't do that this year.

But we don't want to lose the celebration of Christmas, and the joy that the trees bring. So, this year, the festival is becoming a Christmas Tree Trail (CTT).

The idea is that anyone (family, business, charity, school, organisation...) can decorate a tree and place it in a window or outside (safely). For a fee of just £10 they will then be entered in our CTT and given a number and a certificate to place near or by the tree to indicate that they are taking part. Once we have all the names of all the entries in (closing date is 30th November) then we will draw up a list of all the trees and their locations and publish it on our dedicated CTT website, inviting members of the public to go for walks and spot the trees.

Trees should be decorated ready for the launch on Wednesday 9th December, and left to be viewed until 24th December. It may well be the main family or business tree this year (two birds with one stone and all that!). A suggested theme for this year is that of the rainbow, but decorators may have other ideas. There will be a few trees at the church for those who don't have anywhere to place one. This year we will not be providing the trees - that allows maximum flexibility for decorators – real, artificial, small, tall, fat, thin....

It will be possible for public to vote for favourite trees online and also to make any donations, which this year will be split equally between The Thames Valley Air Ambulance and St. Luke's church. The decorator of the tree with the most online votes will, as usual, receive a certificate.

The fine details have yet to be worked out, but we are determined that there will still be a memory tree somewhere in church. The website will allow people who can't get out to see the trees too.

If you would like to join in this new and exciting venture, you would be very welcome. Do call me if you have any questions. If you would like to take part, please do return the attached form asap, and by 30th November at the latest and we will enter you and send you further details as they become available.

We look forward to welcoming you to St. Luke's Christmas Tree Trail 2020.

Every blessing



Revd. Sally Lynch, Vicar