



**UNITED BENEFICE OF CORLEY
PARISH CHURCH & ST MARY &
ALL SAINTS CHURCH,
FILLONGLEY WITH FILLONGLEY
METHODIST CHURCH**

Anglicans and Methodists in Unity.



Dear Friends,

It is that time of year when table settings suddenly gain a greater importance than they have all year. There are innumerable magazine articles about creating the perfect place setting and the right ambience for the 'most important meal of the year'. I do like to make sure that there are Christmas napkins and nice candles on the table, but to be honest what really makes me happy is who is seated around the table.

This year, many of our tables will be less crowded either because of loss or because of the Covid restrictions. Unfortunately, this Christmas will be the first without my Mum, and because my Parents-in-law are shielding they too will be absent from the table but I do rejoice in being able to spend time with my daughter and son-in-Law at their home in Leicestershire. So instead of the noisy multi-generational gathering that requires a huge logistical exercise – including complicated travel and overnight arrangements - it will be a much more pared back and quieter celebration.

Once again the Coronavirus impacts our lives. But despite the issues that are present for us all, Christmas will come. The Christ Child is born. God with us, Immanuel. In good times or in bad times, God is with us and will be at our table and in our homes and in our lives just as long as we remember to invite God in. So, when we are thinking about our table settings, maybe this year we will leave a place for the most important guest of all.

Our Advent and Christmas celebrations in church will also be very pared back this year. We can't gather for large carol services and sing our favourite Christmas carols at the top of our voices due to Covid restrictions, but we can still celebrate the coming of the Light at Christmas. For the next 2 Sundays, the morning service of Holy Communion has been moved to the afternoon and will include a celebration of Christmas readings and carols. We may not be able to sing, but we can listen to, and reflect on, the music of the season. These services will include a simple Holy Communion as well as the carols and readings.

- 🌈 Sunday 13th December at 4pm at The Parish Church, Corley
- 🌈 Sunday 20th December at 4pm at St Mary and All Saints, Fillongley

There is also the opportunity to experience Compline or night prayer on Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm. Compline is a gentle and reflective way to end the day and lasts for about 25 minutes.

- 🌈 Wednesday 16th December at 7.30pm at St Mary and All Saints, Fillongley
- 🌈 Wednesday 23rd December at 7.30pm at The Parish Church, Corley

Stop press

Services on Sunday next

9:00am Fillongley Church

4:00 pm Corley Church

Please bring and wear a face covering



Then we can start to think about 'the most important meal of the year'. The gift of Holy Communion at Christmas. Because of social distancing measures we are limited to the number of people allowed at each of our services. This has been manageable up until now, but with the popularity of Midnight Mass and Christmas Day Family Holy Communion, I am afraid that I will have to ask you to book your place at church on the 24th and 25th December. This is something I have tried to avoid, but the last thing I want to do is to have to close the door and turn away anyone who comes to worship. So, if you are planning to attend:

- 🌈 Midnight Mass or the First Holy Communion of Christmas at 11.30pm on 24th December at St Mary and All Saints Church, Fillongley.
- 🌈 Christmas Day Family Communion at the Parish Church, Corley at 10am on 25th December

Then please send me an email or give me a call and I can book you a place.
reverendalimassey@gmail.com or 07837124509.

If this time of year brings up difficult thoughts or memories for you, or if you would just like to have a chat then please do not hesitate to contact me or any of the team.

With love and prayers Ali

Readings and Prayers for Sunday 13th December 2020

The Third Sunday of ADVENT

Collects

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Readings

Isaiah 61: vs 1-4, 8-end

Psalm 126

Canticle : The Magnificat

1 Thessalonians 5: vs 16-24

John 1: vs 6-8, 19-28.

Talk / Reflection

Reflections from Revd Ali and Revd Jane are attached to this bulletin and will be preached at our services on Sunday.



HYMNS & WORSHIP SONGS

Here are the Hymns that we would have been singing in Church on Sunday ~

Advent candles tell the story (StF 165)

Christ be our light (StF 706)

Light of the world (StF 175)

Here you can sing along with this Worship Song -

[\(47\) Light of the World lyric video - YouTube](#)

Come, thou long expected Jesus (StF 169)

PRAYERS

*We continue to pray throughout Advent ~ for our world,
our nation, our communities, our families and friends, and for ourselves.
Please light a candle and unite in prayer at 6pm each day.*



Stars of Wonder

O star of wonder, star of light,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding guide us to the perfect light



J.H. Hopkins

Let the flowers close and the stars appear,
Let hearts be glad and minds be calm and let God's people say Amen, Amen.

Creation liturgy of the Iona Community

Open my eyes to your scenery, open my ears to your call,
Open my heart to your coming, Great King, born in a stall.

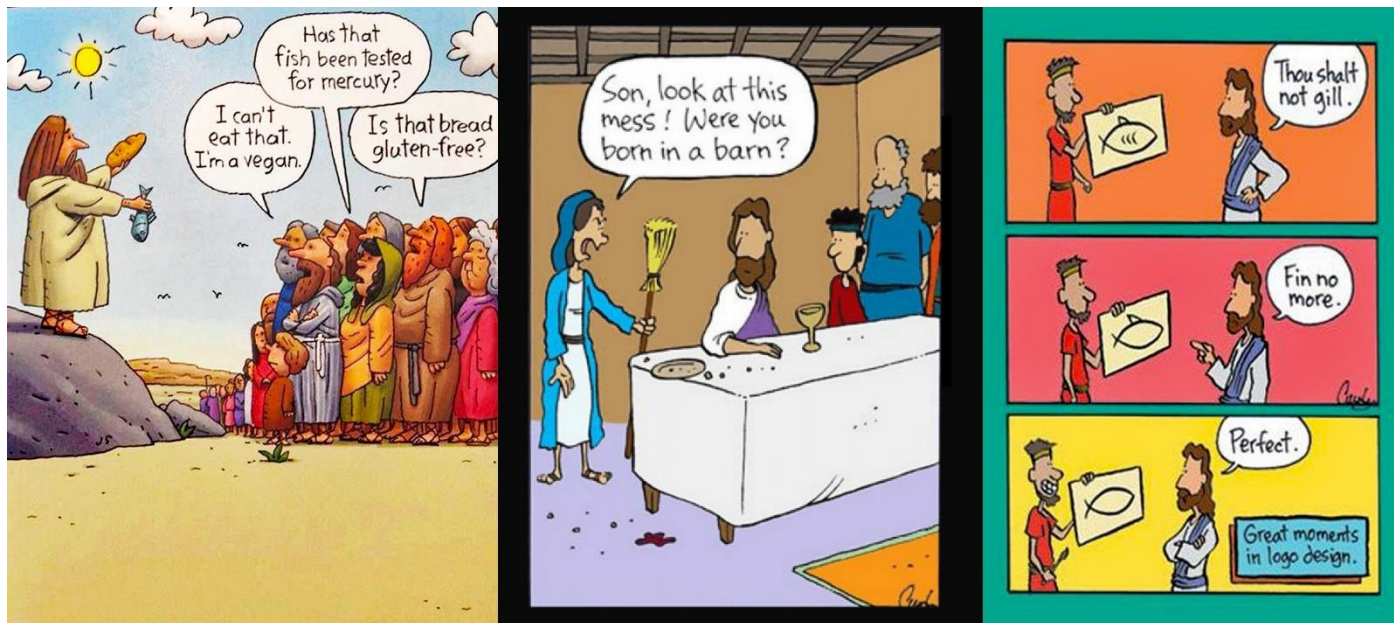
Beatitudes

We bless you, who have spelt your blessings out,
And set this lovely lantern on a hill
Lightening darkness and dispelling doubt
By lifting for a little while the veil.
For longing is the veil of satisfaction
And grief the veil of future happiness
We glimpse beneath the veil of persecution
The coming kingdom's overflowing bliss

Oh make us pure of heart and help us see
Amongst the shadows and amidst the mourning
The promised Comforter, alive and free,
The kingdom coming and the Son returning,
That even in this pre-dawn dark we might
At once reveal and revel in your light.

Malcolm Guite.

RESOURCES

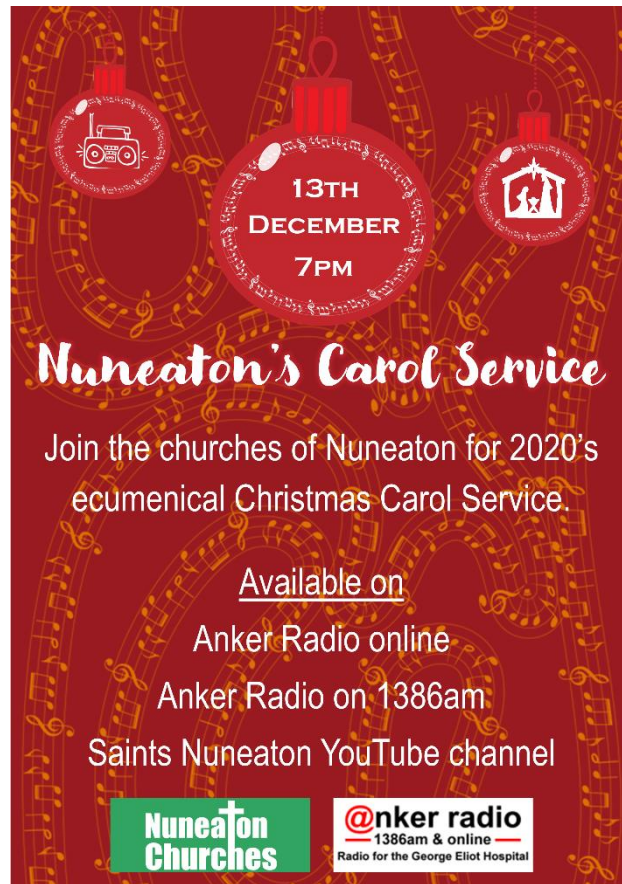


Attached to this Bulletin are these items ~

- ✚ A Reflection from Revd Ali Massey for the Third Sunday of Advent
- ✚ A Service of Lessons and Carols with Holy Communion at Corley Parish Church
- ✚ A Service of Holy Communion at St Mary & All Saints Church, Fillongley
- ✚ A Reflection from Revd Jane for the Third Sunday of Advent.
- ✚ Christmas at Home with the Self Isolation Choir.

A traditional Service of Nine Lessons and Carols recorded and produced entirely in isolation.

Sunday 20th December at 5:00pm



Do you know anyone who would like be part of the COVID-19 vaccine delivery programme?

This message has been forwarded by Revd. Kathryn Darby, healthcare chaplain in the Birmingham University Hospitals Trust, who is now living in this area. Please can you forward this to anyone that you think may be interested in this opportunity with University Hospitals Birmingham to help with the COVID-19 vaccine delivery programme?

As you know, Birmingham and Solihull has been one of the hardest hit areas in the country during the ongoing pandemic, with COVID-19 having a devastating impact on lives, health and the economy. Scientific and clinical experts have clearly stated that a large-scale vaccination programme, the likes of which have never been seen before, is our best defence alongside effective social distancing, wearing a mask and washing your hands.

To ensure the programme is as effective as possible, as quickly as possible, a workforce dedicated to delivering vaccinations is being recruited.

You will have seen in the news that safe and effective vaccines will soon be available. In order to deliver as many vaccinations to as many people in priority groups as possible, we are seeking people with appropriate experience to join our team.

These paid jobs include clinical and non-clinical roles, and we would encourage you to share these job opportunities with any friends or family you feel may be interested in helping us. A variety of job roles will be needed, which include:

- Vaccinators · Drivers · Security · Administrators
- First-aiders · Coordinators · Organisers · Care workers
- Marshalls · Logistical movers and handlers

We will be providing full training and induction so we are initially asking for your commitment to working with us. We will discuss with you how your skills and experience can best be used. We can then talk with you about the pay and conditions. All roles have been risk assessed as low risk roles so you can be assured that you will be enabled to work safely. Those interested will be employed by University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust, the workforce lead for the Birmingham and Solihull programme.

We need to fill these roles, and fast, so we would be grateful to know as soon as possible whether you will be able to support us. All you, your friends or family members need to do is email the vaccine workforce team expressing your interest and providing a contact telephone number.

We will then make contact to progress the conversation. covidvaccineworkforce@uhb.nhs.uk

Vaccinations are hopefully going to begin next month (December 2020). If you can't help then but might be able to in the future, please don't let that stop you getting in touch, as you will still be very welcome to join us in 2021.

Please do continue to keep safe and well. We hope you come to join us.

COVID-19 Vaccination Workforce Team

AND FINALLY DON'T FORGET

If there is anything that you need or know of someone who would appreciate being contacted or added to the mailing list for this weekly e-bulletin, please do not hesitate to contact Revd Ali, Revd Jane or any of the Churchwardens and Church Stewards listed below. ⁱ

ⁱ **Contact Details:**

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