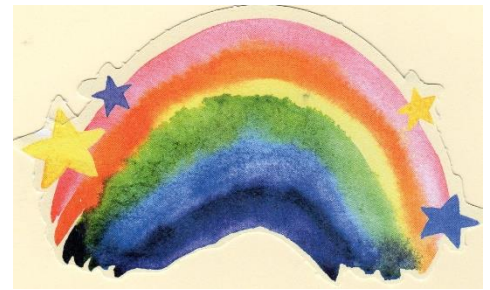




**UNITED BENEFICE OF CORLEY
PARISH CHURCH & ST MARY & ALL
SAINTS CHURCH, FILLONGLEY WITH
FILLONGLEY METHODIST CHURCH**

Anglicans and Methodists in Unity.



Dear Friends,

“Have yourself a merry little Christmas”.

A line from the famous song that was first performed in the 1944 film musical ‘Meet me in St Louis’, has been quoted a lot this week. The Prime Minister and the media are using that quote to encourage us to pare back our Christmas plans in light of the continuing pandemic.

We are probably most familiar with the upbeat version recorded by Frank Sinatra and others but the original lyrics were considered too melancholy for Judy Garland to sing in a wartime film. They included the line ‘it may be your last’. Judy Garland was also worried about that line, thinking that the truth of the lyric might be too difficult for the vast majority of people to handle. So, the lyrics were changed to the more ‘acceptable’ version that we know today.

But for me, there is something about the timing, the rawness and the honesty of that lyric that resonates today. This year, we have all had to face the fact of our own mortality.

Unfortunately, the indiscriminate nature of the virus has meant that the global pandemic has affected everyone in one way or another. The impact will be different for each of us, depending on our circumstances, but no-one has been immune to the many ways that the pandemic has had an impact on us. We may have lost someone close to us. We may have lost work or been financially disadvantaged by the pandemic. We have all missed time spent with family and friends. We might have suffered with our mental health or loneliness.

But there is a glimmer of light at the end of the pandemic tunnel – the vaccine. We have rejoiced at the vaccine being administered to some of the most vulnerable in our society. It is going to take time for the vaccine to be rolled out to everyone, but each vaccine is a tiny speck of light that is added to that glimmer at the end of the tunnel. We all still need to be very careful – maintaining social distance, wearing our face masks and taking particular care over hand hygiene – but we have hope ~ hope that some sense or normality will return by the end of the spring or early summer. God willing.

But thinking about those original lyrics, there is also a resonance with this time of Advent. We pray and sing ‘O Come, O Come, Emmanuel!’, expressing our longing for the second return of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. We pray that this Christmas will be our last before he comes again in glory and there will be a new heaven and a new earth. So, maybe in the light of our Christian faith, we shouldn’t be worried by the way the sentiment is expressed. After all, we believe that the best is yet to come; the time when we know God as completely as God knows and loves us.

Stop press

Services on Sunday next

4:00pm Fillongley Church

9:00am Corley Church

Please bring and wear a face covering



So, as we prepare to celebrate the coming of the Christ Child in a much more simple way than in years gone by, maybe the lyrics for us to concentrate on this year are 'Next year..... at least we all will be together. If the Lord allows', and look forward to the time when we can gather together safely, to praise and worship the Lord with singing and joy. In the meantime 'from now on, we'll have to muddle through somehow'. We will muddle through, observing all the safety guidelines, praising God in our hearts and heads rather than with our voices, until that day when that glimmer of light is a shining beacon and we are all free of this horrible disease.

Until then, we are having to limit our numbers gathering in church, so if you would like to attend:

- Midnight Mass on 24th at 11.30pm
- Christmas Family Holy Communion on Christmas Day at 10am,

please could you let me know (reverendalimassey@gmail.com or 07837124509) and I can make sure there is a place booked for you.

If all this has been triggering anything for you in any way, then please do not hesitate to contact me or any of the team. I am always happy to talk and pray with you over the phone even if we aren't able to meet in person.

So, have yourself a merry little Christmas now.

Love and prayers

Ali

Have yourself a merry little Christmas. It may be your last.

Next year we may all be living in the past. Have yourself a merry little Christmas.

Pop that champagne cork. Next year we may all be living in New York.

No good times like the olden days. Happy golden days of yore.

Faithful friends who were dear to us. Will be near to us no more.

But at least we all will be together. If the Lord allows.

From now on, we'll have to muddle through somehow.

So have yourself a merry little Christmas now.

Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas, original lyric by Ralph Blane and Hugh Martin, 1944

Readings and Prayers for Sunday 20th December 2020

The Fourth Sunday of ADVENT

Collects

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son, so we wait for his coming in glory; bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with her, our great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Readings

2 Samuel 7: vs 1-16

The Magnificat (Luke 1: vs 46-55)

Romans 16: vs 25-end

Luke 1: vs 26-28



Talk / Reflection

Revd Ali's reflection for the fourth Sunday in Advent is attached to this bulletin.

HYMNS & WORSHIP SONGS

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

[Advent candles tell their story \(StF 165\)](#)

[The Angel Gabriel from heaven came \(StF 187\)](#)

Here is a recording of this song from Kings College, Cambridge.

[\(1\) The Angel Gabriel : Kings College, Cambridge - YouTube](#)

[Long ago, prophets knew Christ would come \(StF 178\)](#)

[Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord! \(StF 186\)](#)

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.*

A Poem from 12th or 13th Century Celtic Christian Spirituality.

On the face of the world there was not born his equal.
Three-person God, Trinity's only Son gentle and strong.
Son of the Godhead, Son of Humanity, only Son of Wonder.
The Son of God is a refuge, Mary's Son a blessed sanctuary, a noble child was seen.
Great is his splendour, Great Lord and God in the place of glory.



From the line of Adam we were born.
From David's line the fulfilment of prophecy, the host was born again.
By his word he saved the blind and the deaf from all suffering.
The ragged, foolish and those of impure mind



A Celtic Prayer

Child of glory, Child of Mary, born in a stable, King of all.

You came to our wasteland, in our place suffered.

Happy we are counted who to you are near.

Strengthen our hope, enliven our joy, keep us valient, faithful and near

Carmina Gadelica (adapted)

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The Diocese Online Team are producing The One (Christmas) Show. This is a magazine-style programme that will be streamed on the diocesan **YouTube channel at 7.00 pm on the 18<sup>th</sup> of December**. It will highlight the many good things that have happened across the whole diocese this year besides advertising what is happening over Christmas in our parishes. In

short, the show aims to be uplifting, heart-warming and informative and should appeal to anyone who usually attends church at Christmas. You can view the trailer here ~

<https://vimeo.com/483582798> The programme will include a number of videos:-

- Behind the scenes at the cathedral
- An interview with Simon Betteridge, Lead Chaplain at Coventry Hospital
- The development of Saints in Nuneaton
- A montage of the last 12 months in the diocese.
- Covid-19 through the eyes of school children (includes a carol)
- An interview with the Church Online team leader
- An interview with Chris and Malc from All Saints, Allesley
- A Christmas song by Chris and Malc
- A message from Bishop John

## Christmas Greetings from our Methodist Friends



*The former Methodist Church  
December 2017*

We have received Christmas greetings from Revd David Hunter and Rita wishing all their friends at Fillongley a peaceful Christmas and praying that the New Year will bring happier and safer times.

We have also received similar greetings from Revd Andrew DeVille and Helen. You may recall that Andrew was moved away from us at short notice to take over as Superintendent Minister of the Portsmouth Circuit where there were problems. At this year's Methodist Conference he was appointed Chairman of the Southampton Methodist District.

## **SOMETHING FOR THE NEW YEAR ~**

Starting in the New Year, Revd Jane Braund will be running **The Bible Course** online, from Tuesday 5th January for 8 weeks, from 7.30 to 9 in the evening.

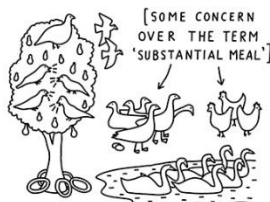
Over eight sessions the Bible Course helps us see the big picture of the Bible Storyline. Presented by Dr Andrew Ollerton of the Bible Society, each session is very well presented, with sections of teaching, discussion time and personal reflection. There are tools and skills to help us read the Bible for ourselves and a booklet to accompany the course.



If you would like to join in then please let Revd Jane know (01676 533737 or [jane.braund@methodist.org.uk](mailto:jane.braund@methodist.org.uk)) so that she can send you the Zoom details and a booklet that is needed for the course.

## THE 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

ADJUSTED FOR 2020



DAYS 1-7: CONTINUE  
PRETTY MUCH AS BEFORE



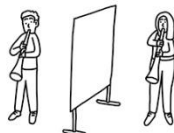
8 MAIDS A-MILKING  
ALLOWED TO CARRY ON  
(ESSENTIAL WORK)



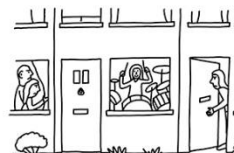
9 LADIES DANCING  
OVER ZOOM



10 LORDS A-LEAPING  
(BUT ONLY IF THEY ARE  
PART OF THE SAME BUBBLE)



11 PIPERS PIPING  
BEHIND PERSPEX  
SCREENS






12 DRUMMERS DRUMMING,  
THEREBY ANNOYING THE  
LOCKED-DOWN NEIGHBOURS



## RESOURCES

Attached to this Bulletin are these items ~

-  A Reflection from Revd Ali for the Fourth Sunday of Advent
-  A Service of Lessons and Carols with Holy Communion at St Mary & All Saints Church, Fillongley
-  A Service of Holy Communion at Corley Parish Church.

### 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. <sup>i</sup>

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<sup>i</sup> **Contact Details:**

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Revd Jane Braund ~ Methodist Minister 01676 533737

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