

St James, Longdon and Christ Church, Lichfield

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Dear All,

I'm hoping that this letter finds you safe and well as we go into our third week of lockdown 2.0. Jan and I have continued to livestream the services during lockdown on our Facebook page on Sundays at 9:30am and Wednesdays at 10am (on the St James Facebook page). The church building is still open for private prayer or for anyone just wanting time away for a moment of peace on Sundays and Wednesdays 12 – 2pm.

Christ Church has recently held its annual meeting, however, we are still without a PCC secretary. This is a vital role to help the functioning of the PCC at Christ Church. The main part of the PCC secretary role includes e-mailing out any correspondence to members of the PCC and taking accurate minutes of the PCC meetings. PCC meetings are currently being held via zoom and therefore anyone willing to be PCC secretary would need to be willing to join in on zoom. Although the role is vital to ensure an efficient PCC, it does not take up too much time – if you feel that you could help take up this vital role then please do get in contact with Jan.

I would like to say a huge thank you to all of you who have been knitting angels – we have been overwhelmed by the response and they all look wonderful. We now have enough angels (so if you were about to start making some more, you can stop!). Could we please ask for all angels to be handed in at the vicarage by Friday 27th November (if you can't deliver please do get in touch with Emma or Jan).

This Christmas we are planning to have a toy collection for Rugeley & District Lions – these will be distributed to various charities who help vulnerable families and to children who normally receive nothing at Christmas. Toys need to be new and unwrapped. Any donations need to be handed in to Jan's vicarage.

This Advent, we are holding an Advent Course on the 'Characters in the Gospel of John'. This will be held on zoom on Wednesdays at 7pm on 25th Nov, 2nd, 9th & 16th Dec. If you would like to attend them please e-mail Emma (emma.cooksey@sky.com).

A few dates for your diary:

Ribbons of remembrance – the ribbons put in place for All Soul's proved to be popular this year and also moving for those who took part. We will therefore be repeating it this Christmas time for all those who want to remember a loved one who has died or perhaps even to remember a loved one who you can't be with this Christmas time.

We will therefore be inviting people to tie a ribbon on the small red tree next to reflection area on the right-hand side of the main entrance of church from Friday 11th December till Sunday 3rd January. Ribbons will be removed from the tree on Monday 4th January.

Sunday 20th December at 6pm we will be holding our Benefice Christmas Carol service via Zoom, where you can come along to sing some of your favourite Carols. We are also encouraging people to dress up in a Christmas jumper or hat! If you would like to attend then please e-mail Emma (emma.cooksey@sky.com).

As we will be unable to hold our very popular birthday service this year, we are instead going to hold a 'Christmas window challenge' to encourage families to join in with a bit of fun during the Christmas holidays. From Sunday 20th December till Sunday 4th January all are invited to come along to the Martin Heath Hall to join in with the 'Christmas window challenge'. Each window will be dressed up as a popular Christmas Carol or Christmas Song – you need to just guess what each window depicts. Answers will be put up on the church notice board after 4th January. We are also looking for volunteers to help to dress windows – if you would like to get involved then please contact Heather Jones (01543 254 398 or heatherjones101@email.com).

I'm aware that lockdown is tough for people, especially as the nights draw in and the Christmas holidays are fast approaching – if you need a hand with shopping, prescriptions or just a chat on the phone, then please do not hesitate to contact Jan or myself.

God Bless

Revd. Emma