

News and Prayer Update for 27th December

Rostherne with Bollington, St John High Legh and St Paul Over Tabley

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Do You Need to Talk To Someone? Call any of the above, we have other people who are also experienced in listening who are willing to help, so **please do call, we are here for you.** All conversations are in strict confidence.



News and Prayer Update for 27th December

Link for this week's Service: https://youtu.be/SbNNK_4_1TY

HYMN: Good Christians All Rejoice (John Mason Neale 1818 – 1866)

Good Christians, all rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now give heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today,
ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today;
Christ is born today.

Good Christians, all rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now you hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this.
He has opened heaven's door,
and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this;
Christ was born for this.

Good Christians, all rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now you need not fear the grave:
Jesus Christ was born to save,
calls you one and calls you all
to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save;
Christ was born to save.

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Collect for First Sunday of Christmas:

Almighty God,
who wonderfully created us in your own image
and yet more wonderfully restored us
through your Son Jesus Christ:
grant that, as he came to share in our humanity,
so we may share the life of his divinity;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Psalm: Psalm 148

- ¹ Alleluia. Praise the Lord from the heavens; ♦
praise him in the heights.
- ² Praise him, all you his angels; ♦

News and Prayer Update for 27th December

- praise him, all his host.
- 3 Praise him, sun and moon; ♦
praise him, all you stars of light.
- 4 Praise him, heaven of heavens, ♦
and you waters above the heavens.
- 5 Let them praise the name of the Lord, ♦
for he commanded and they were created.
- 6 He made them fast for ever and ever; ♦
he gave them a law which shall not pass away.
- 7 Praise the Lord from the earth, ♦
you sea monsters and all deeps;
- 8 Fire and hail, snow and mist, ♦
tempestuous wind, fulfilling his word;
- 9 Mountains and all hills, ♦
fruit trees and all cedars;
- 10 Wild beasts and all cattle, ♦
creeping things and birds on the wing;
- 11 Kings of the earth and all peoples, ♦
princes and all rulers of the world;
- 12 Young men and women, old and young together; ♦
let them praise the name of the Lord.
- 13 For his name only is exalted, ♦
his splendour above earth and heaven.
- 14 He has raised up the horn of his people and praise for all his faithful servants, ♦
the children of Israel, a people who are near him. Alleluia.

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First reading: Isaiah 61:10 – 62: 3

10 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

11 For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

1 For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.

2 The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.

3 You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

News and Prayer Update for 27th December

Gospel Reading: Luke 2: 15 – 21

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.'

¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child;

¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.

¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

²¹ After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised (NRSVA)

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HYMN: While shepherds Watched Their flocks By Night Nahum Tate (1652-1715)

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down
and glory shone around.

'Fear not,' said he - for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind -
'Glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all mankind:

'To you in David's town this day
is born of David's line
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord.
And this shall be the sign:

'The heavenly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands
and in a manger laid.'

Thus spoke the seraph, and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song:

'All glory be to God on high,
and to the earth be peace;
goodwill henceforth from highest heaven
begin and never cease!'

News and Prayer Update for 27th December

REFLECTION - How The Great Guest Came by Edwin Markham (1852 – 1940)

HYMN: Good King Wenceslas Look'd Out (John Mason Neale 1818 – 1866)

Good King Wenceslas looked out
On the Feast of Stephen
When the snow lay round about
Deep and crisp and even
Brightly shone the moon that night
Though the frost was cruel
When a poor man came in sight
Gathering winter fuel.

Hither, page, and stand by me,
If thou knowst it, telling
Yonder peasant, who is he?
Where and what his dwelling?
Sire, he lives a good league hence,
Underneath the mountain
Right against the forest fence
By Saint Agnes fountain.

Bring me flesh and bring me wine
Bring me pine logs hither
Thou and I shall see him dine
When we bear them thither.
Page and monarch, forth they went
Forth they went together
Through the rude winds wild lament
And the bitter weather.

Sire, the night is darker now
And the wind blows stronger
Fails my heart, I know not how
I can go no longer.
Mark my footsteps, good my page
Tread thou in them boldly
Thou shall find the winters rage
Freeze thy blood less coldly.

In his masters step he trod
Where the snow lay dinted
Heat was in the very sod
Which the Saint had printed
Therefore, Christian men, be sure
Wealth or rank possessing
Ye, who now will bless the poor
Shall yourselves find blessing.

News and Prayer Update for 27th December

Link for St Mary's Carol Service: <https://youtu.be/nGFHaU103Yk>

PRAYER in the coming week

Comfort and Joy activity for Sunday 27th Dec, 1st Sunday of Christmas (from CofE website)

What brings joy today? *Wider family who love us, grandparents, etc*

Look at your Christmas cards. Find the ones that came from grandparents, aunts, uncles and godparents. Thank God that they love and care for you and your family.

Who needs comfort today? *Families who cannot be together*

Find a jigsaw puzzle. The pieces need to join together to complete it. Some families cannot be together this Christmas. As you put your puzzle together, ask God to be with families who have been separated during the holidays.

Comfort and Joy activity for Monday 28th Dec

What brings joy today? *The children in our family*

Make a chain of paper dolls. On each doll, write the name of a family you know and all the children and adults in it. Put the dolls in a place where you can see them and thank God for the people they represent.

Who needs comfort today? *Those who are grieving for loved ones this Christmas*

Make another chain of dolls. During this year some people died, and their families are sad. As you write the names of people who have died on the dolls, talk about something you remember about each person.

Comfort and Joy activity for Tuesday 29th Dec

What brings joy today? *Holiday time to be together*

Shout out 'Group Hug' and get everyone in your household to either have a household huddle or hug themselves tight. Thank God that you can be together at holiday time.

Who needs comfort today? *Those who are hungry*

Open your fridge or food cupboard and look at what's inside. Some people have very little food and very little money to buy more. Next time you go to the supermarket, buy some extra tins to put in their Food Bank collection.

Comfort and Joy activity for Wednesday 30th Dec

What brings joy today? *Remembering all those journeying to find out about faith*

Some people who visited Jesus followed a star to find their way. Make or draw and decorate a large star. As you hang it on your front door or in a window pray for people who want to know more about Jesus.

Who needs comfort today? *People struggling with illness of whatever kind*

Hospitals don't close over Christmas. They carry on caring for people who are ill. Send a card to your local hospital to thank the staff who were working over the holiday.

Comfort and Joy activity for Thursday 31st Dec

What brings joy today? *For all the good things the past year brought to us*

Have a family huddle with your favourite hot drinks. As the drinks cool, tell each other the things you have really enjoyed in 2020.

Who needs comfort today? *Those who have found this year very difficult*

Squeeze your hands into fists until it feels uncomfortable. 2020 was uncomfortable for some families. Slowly open your hands and ask God that 2021 would be less difficult for them.

News and Prayer Update for 27th December

Comfort and Joy activity for Friday 1st Jan

What brings joy today? *For the good things in store this year*

Draw around your hand. Inside it write or draw the things you are looking forward to in 2021.

Who needs comfort today? *People worried about the future*

Draw around your other hand. Some people are worried about 2021. Draw hearts inside this hand and ask God to hold the people and their worries.

Comfort and Joy activity for Saturday 2nd January to Epiphany

What brings joy today? *That Jesus is for the whole world*

How many countries can you and your family name? Jesus came to be God's Good News for all the countries of the world. Jump for joy that Jesus is God's Good News for you too.

Who needs comfort today? *Those in the Middle East*

Jesus was born in Bethlehem and grew up in Nazareth. He came to bring peace but today there are many conflicts in that part of the world. Find the two towns on a map. Place your fingers on them and pray for the people who live there.

Prayer for the Month:

Father in heaven,
our hearts desire the warmth of your love
and our minds are searching for the light of your Word.

Increase our longing for Christ our Saviour
and give us strength to grow in love,
that the dawn of his coming may find us rejoicing in his presence
and welcoming the light of his truth.

The Roman Missal

NOTICES

❖ **Services are currently able to be held, although further restrictions may be required in the future!**

FACE COVERINGS – These are still mandatory in places of worship. Please come prepared. (Please inform the clergy if you are exempt from wearing a face covering and do let the service leader know if you lip read).

Sunday 27 December

There are no services in any of our churches this weekend. Please join the online streamed service using the link at the top of page 2 of this Update.

Sunday 3rd January:

10.00 Holy Communion at St John High Legh

10.30 Holy Communion at St Mary Rostherne

Wednesday Mornings

There will be no Celtic Morning Prayer at St John's this Wednesday; the next one is planned for 6th January.

**It is important that no one feels they must come to services
if they are reluctant to.**

We will continue to stream a service each Sunday

News and Prayer Update for 27th December

❖ **Coffee and Chat Wednesday 30th December:** We are having a Zoom Coffee and Chat meeting on Wednesday morning from 11.00 am to 12.00 noon.

Just click on the link below.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82025663924?pwd=RkZSeERyZEYyTE1maVBmbG9JSTVLUT09>

If you need the meeting ID and Password for this meeting please contact Patricia.

Email: pmrobinson51@gmail.com or Tel: 01565 830 595

❖ **Christingle Service in the United Benefice:**



Our final Christingle Service is on:
Sunday 24 January at St Paul Over Tabley.

An online Christingle Service is available at: <https://youtu.be/1CHlvU77fAg>

We also have our own Christingle giving page with the Children's Society so if you would like to make a donation to the Children's Society go to:

<https://thyg.uk/CUS047758> **Please note there was a digit missing from the link so if you tried and didn't get through to it please try again.**

❖ **Join the Prayer Chain:**

Our Reader, Chris Stanisstreet has organised a **Prayer Chain** which is done by email and telephone. The idea behind this, is that when a specific prayer request is made, it is passed on by group e-mail to the people on the list who then pray for the particular situation.

If you would like to receive prayer requests or would like to make a prayer request, please let Chris Stanisstreet know:

Tel: 01925 755559; Mob 07918 981 723; stanbess2003@yahoo.co.uk

❖ **Thank you to all who supported the St Mary's Christmas Produce Sale**

People have been incredibly generous with their support and donations and as a result the Christmas Produce Sale has raised approx. £1250! Thank you to everyone who organised, baked, delivered, printed, supported, and bought; you have all helped towards this amazing total!

❖ **The Hideaway – Hope Centre in Partington**

Partington is just a few miles away – about 15 minutes in the car. Yet the lives of many people there are very different than the lives of most of us here in High Legh and Little Bollington. Approximately 1/3 of the residents live below the poverty line and it is in the lowest 5% of deprived areas in the UK.

Churches Together in Lymm and District have supported The Hideaway – Hope Centre in Partington during the Covid 19 crisis. They are running a foodbank,

News and Prayer Update for 27th December

providing hot meals daily, hosting a play-centre, giving family advice and counselling. An amazing beacon of hope in that deprived area.

They plan to open a shop selling surplus food and uniform at affordable prices but unfortunately one of the businesses that had offered money is not able to give and they are £3000 short and desperately need to begin this project by December.

Can you support them? Any amount will help and if possible, within the next two weeks.

Please use the Lymm Baptist Church giving website:
lyymbaptistchurch.com/giving

Any money you give will go directly to the Hope Centre.

If you cannot use online giving but would like to support them please contact Rev'd Trish for help.
Thank you

We are all in need of hope in these difficult times. Please will you give a little hope to our neighbours.

❖ **Offering and Fund Raising** – Please continue to give if you can

❖ **Knutsford Food Bank – St Mary's and St Paul's**

During Advent and into the New Year please help us support the Knutsford Food Bank by bringing items for us to collect and take to The Welcome at the start of the New Year – a time when families and people in need can find themselves in difficulty.

❖ **Homemade Jams For Sale:**

There are various Jams and Marmalade available at prices between £2.00 / £3.00 per jar depending on size, either from St Mary's or by telephoning the Vicarage- we will deliver them to you.

St Paul's are offering: Strawberry, Gooseberry, Damson or Strawberry, Greengage and Gooseberry jams.

St Mary's are offering: Strawberry, Rhubarb & Ginger, Rhubarb Jelly, Redcurrant Jelly, Marmalade and Yellow Raspberry.

❖ **Morning and Night Prayer**

If anyone does not yet have access to the "Worship at Home" booklet containing the Order of Service for Morning Prayer or Night Prayer, please contact the Vicarage, as there are large print copies and ordinary size ones that can be posted out or versions that can be e-mailed.

Bible Readings and Psalms for the Coming Week from the Lectionary.

Here are some suggestions for more Psalms and Bible readings to use with Morning and Night Prayer:

News and Prayer Update for 27th December

Readings for Morning Prayer: These readings usually follow on from each other so you get a bit more of the story each day (except on special Saints Days).

Mon 28th Dec – Holy Innocents: Psalm 36; Genesis 37:13-20; Matthew 18: 1-10

Tues 29th Dec – John Apostle & Ev: Psalm 21; Exodus 33:12 – end; 1 John 2: 1-11

Wed 30th Dec – Psalm 113; Isaiah 59: 1-15a; John 1: 19-28

Thurs 31st Dec – Psalm 102; Isaiah 59: 15b-end; John 1: 29-34

Fri 1st Jan – Naming & Circ. Jesus: Psalm 103; Genesis 17: 1-13; Romans 2: 17-end

Sat 2nd Jan – Psalm 18: 1-30; Isaiah 60: 1-12; John 1: 35-42

Readings for Night Prayer (for Christmas)

Short Reading: In him was life and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it.

Psalm 31: 1 – 5, 19 – end

¹ In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; ♦
deliver me in your righteousness.

² Incline your ear to me; ♦
make haste to deliver me.

³ Be my strong rock, a fortress to save me, for you are my rock and my stronghold; ♦
guide me, and lead me for your name's sake.

⁴ Take me out of the net that they have laid secretly for me, ♦
for you are my strength.

⁵ Into your hands I commend my spirit, ♦
for you have redeemed me, O Lord God of truth.

¹⁹ How abundant is your goodness, O Lord, which you have laid up for those who
fear you; ♦

which you have prepared in the sight of all for those who put their trust in you.

²⁰ You hide them in the shelter of your presence from those who slander them; ♦
you keep them safe in your refuge from the strife of tongues.

²¹ Blessed be the Lord! ♦

For he has shown me his steadfast love when I was as a city besieged.

²² I had said in my alarm, 'I have been cut off from the sight of your eyes.' ♦
Nevertheless, you heard the voice of my prayer when I cried out to you.

²³ Love the Lord, all you his servants; ♦
for the Lord protects the faithful, but repays to the full the proud.

²⁴ Be strong and let your heart take courage, ♦
all you who wait in hope for the Lord.

Collect:

We give you thanks, O God,
for the gift to the world of our Redeemer;
as we sing your glory at the close of this day,
so may we know his presence in our hearts,
who is our Saviour and our Lord,
now and for ever.

Blessing:

May the love of the Word made flesh enfold us,
his joy fill our lives,

News and Prayer Update for 27th December

his peace be in our hearts;
and the blessing of God be with us
this night and always.