



Newsletter Week beginning Mon 4th Jan - Sun 10th Jan 2021

Hello dear friends.

It rather felt like we crashed into the new tier and the new year, with lots of updates and rule changes, which did not provide the space to pause and say – *HAPPY NEW YEAR* – to you all.

New year is often a chance to stop and reflect on what has been and look forward to what lies ahead. There is certainly no shortage of material to reflect on... but perhaps when it comes to looking ahead, all we can genuinely be certain of is that the God who has been with us, who we celebrated as Emmanuel on Christmas Day, *continues to be there ahead of us too*.

It may feel daunting to say that *all* we can be certain of is God. While this is of course true, it is worth recognising it's also incredibly uncomfortable, as while the Lord absolutely is our life source, we remember that *he has created us for connection* – in person; made for family friendship and community too. *After all, we have recently recounted through Christmas the beauty of Christ coming to us, in human form - flesh and blood – like ours. Christ coming to touch the sick, to mingle amongst the outcasts and to reconcile disconnected peoples and families...* (that is why this is so hard as our hearts still yearn for one another, for touch, for chances to chatter about nothing in particular over coffee, to have been able to have the slightly awkward Christmas dinners with family members who drive us nuts... even to sit together in the quiet). It is what we're made for. So, we recognise that this new year we continue to live and to serve each other best, for the time being, by staying apart, acknowledging it feels entirely unnatural, but again necessary, *for now...* remembering the love we have for one another, and others have for us is far more than perhaps can presently be expressed right now.

I enclose a prayer Written by Charles Wesley, used by Methodists at the start of the year:

I am no longer my own but yours.
Put me to what you will,
rank me with whom you will;
put me to doing,
put me to suffering;
let me be employed for you,
or laid aside for you,
exalted for you,
or brought low for you;
let me be full,
let me be empty,

let me have all things,
let me have nothing:
I freely and wholeheartedly yield all
things
to your pleasure and disposal.
And now, glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
you are mine and I am yours. So be it.
And the covenant now made on
earth, let it be ratified in heaven.'

It is a prayer of total submission to God. As I read it, I sometimes wonder if it's one of the hardest, but most powerful and releasing prayers we can pray with faith for his love, beauty, goodness and ability to work all things together for the good of those who love him, if we place ourselves entirely into his hands and service. If you're not yet able to pray the words, perhaps you can pray God would give you the courage to be able to in time. Blessing friends. Love from Lisselle

They will be my people, and I will be their God.' (Jeremiah 32: 39)

All SERVICES & EVENTS WILL BE ONLINE ONLY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Available on Facebook pages of:

'All Saints Church Dovercourt,' 'St. Nicholas Church Harwich' & 'St. Michael's Ramsey'
*If you don't have a Facebook account you may still access services & videos
by typing the church building names into your internet search bar.*

PARISH DIARY DATES:

Wednesdays @ 7pm	Group Evening Prayer	Zoom (code available on request)
Sundays @ 10.30am	Morning Service	Holy Communion Facebook
<u>Note:</u> Tuesday Eve Prayer	(which typically broadcasts facebook @5pm) Resumes 12th Jan	
Morning Prayer Zoom	(which typically meets Mon-Thurs @8.45am Zoom) Resumes 4 th Jan (zoom code available on request)	

PRIVATE PRAYER IN THE CHURCH BUILDINGS:

Thurs @ 2-4pm	In St. Michael's
Sat @10-12pm	In All Saints'
<u>Note:</u>	St. Nicholas' <i>will not</i> be open for private prayer for the time.
<i>Weds @10- 10.30am</i>	<i>A set time to pray from home, when you know others are praying too</i>

OTHER TV/ ONLINE RESOURCES AVAILABLE:

During the 12 days of Christmas, Chelmsford Diocese are sharing stories of generosity emerging across the whole Diocesan area find at www.chelmsford.anglican.org/stories-of-generosity

Collect Prayer: Eternal Father who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant to us who are born again by water & Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with unity of the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

CONTACTS

St. Michael's Wardens: Liz Ford	07947420598	Dawn Wallace 012555 554921
All Saints Wardens: Joan Hurst	01255 507410	Liz McLeod McLeod 0793 9534115
All Saints Treasurer: Doug Cooper	07948820923	claireanddoug38@gmail.com
St. Nicholas' Treasurer: John Shaw	07708143897	john.mshaw@hotmail.co.uk
Licensed Lay Ministers: John Shaw	(As above)	
Licensed Lay Minister: John Wallace	07825044940	jwallace759@googlemail.com
Curate: Rev Lisselle Clarke-Moisley	01255 556011	lissellecm@gmail.com

Note: *Lisselle is away on holiday & training until 11th Jan*

Temporary Parish Administrator

The PCC has offered the role of Temporary Parish Administrator to Liz McLeod for a period of three months, from 1st January 2021, and we are pleased to advise that Liz has accepted this offer. All being well, the PCC will be advertising for a permanent appointment with effect from 1st April 2021. The PCC would very much like to take this opportunity to thank Vicki White for all her dedicated hard work as Parish Administrator. The new mobile number for the Parish Administrator is **07762253132**, the email remains the same.

John Wallace. PCC vice chair