

AREA DEANS' NOTES AND RESOURCES NOVEMBER 2020

COMINGS AND GOINGS

We welcome Rev Ruth Atkinson as Incumbent in Penn St/Holmer Green.

Rev Ian Brown has announced that he will retire in May 2021.

Charles Howlett, our wonderful Superintendent at the Crem is retiring to Cornwall at the end of the year and moving to Cornwall. We wish him well, and in his LLM ministry our loss will be Padstow's gain.

LOCKDOWN

While public worship in church is still not allowed it is remarkable to see how parishes have responded by going virtual once again their own way. At least this time we can broadcast from church should we wish.

WEDDINGS

Should be able to take place from Dec 6th, but Qualified couples may need a Common Licence. If that is the case please direct them to Sara Leader at the Diocesan Registry and Tim H as Surrogate is happy to see them at short notice to complete the Affidavit.

WELFARE

Head teachers, health care professionals and clergy are under considerable stress at the moment. Expectations are so high and they become the target of much frustration and anxiety from the community. Please do your best to encourage them.

LIVING IN LOVE AND FAITH

The study material has now been launched. Would all synod members please look at and engage with it, and we will have a discussion at a future synod meeting. It would be helpful for clergy chapter and PCCs to make an initial exploration too so we can have some 'joined up' thinking as a deanery.

CHRISTMAS

Again we wait to see if and how the rules may be relaxed in terms of worship and carols, but it is hard to see many 'traditional' events taking place in churches. Let's get creative!

COURSES/WEBINARS

So many helpful courses and webinars from the Diocese and beyond to help us think about being Church in this time and to help us reflect on how we want to be Church as when the restrictions end. There are real opportunities to be grasped despite the difficulties this period has also brought.

PRAYER IN THE SECOND LOCKDOWN.

The Archbishops have invited every Christian to pray at 6pm every day during this present lock-down. A link to the resources available is here:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/call-prayer-nation>

A simple prayer booklet can be found here:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2020-11/PftN%20Booklet%20spreads.pdf>

RESOURCES FOR ADVENT 2020. Advent this year will be unlike those of previous years. It's unlikely that study groups will be possible after 2nd December even if the second lockdown ends as planned. Advent is a season of expectation and preparation – we prepare to celebrate the coming (*adventus*) of Christ in his incarnation and look ahead to his final advent as judge at the end of time. Here are some resources for individual use:

Books

At Home in Advent, by Gordon Giles. A series of daily thoughts accompanied by questions, activities, and prayers, offering a “domestic journey” from Advent to Epiphany.

Frequencies of God: Walking through Advent with R. S. Thomas, by Carys Walsh. This study guide uses the poetry of the Welsh priest and poet R. S. Thomas to explore the ideas of waiting, accepting, journeying, birthing, and seeing.

Waiting in Joyful Hope - Daily Reflections for Advent and Christmas 2020-2021, by Michelle Francl-Donnay. A set of brief, down-to-earth reflections that bring prayer and Scripture into everyday life in a thought-provoking and lasting way.

All these are available from your preferred Christian bookshop online, and can also be downloaded from Kindle stores.

Tim Harper, Martin Williams, Cassa Messervy.
Deanery Co and Assistant Area Deans