



ADVENT

Church e-Bulletin 12th December 2021 ADVENT 3 www.sonso.org.uk

COVID

Current Situation: As we have been from the beginning of the pandemic, we are constantly reviewing best practice for our gatherings.

The only change that the new regulations make to us legally, is that whereas we have been asking people to wear masks when inside the building, it is now a legal requirement. We will also continue with using all the pews whilst also making more socially distanced seating available in the side hall. There are no plans at this stage to cancel services or re-introduce a booking system.

However, as part of caring for each other we are going to **postpone for the time being the serving of refreshments after services**. The removal of masks and general movement of people make this the highest risk part of our gatherings, so we will take a cautious approach for now until the situation with the new variant becomes clearer. Why not plan to walk home with someone and meet that way instead?

Thank you for your help in keeping each other safe.

We would also ask you to phone or email the church office rather than turn up at the door, so we can keep the church centre as a safe environment.

JESUS CENTRED, GOD DEPENDENT

Upcoming Services: Let some light into a dark year.....

Do take as many invitations as you like and invite people to our Christmas celebrations – especially this weekend's two outdoor carol services. Half an hour followed by free hotdogs and mulled punch. Suitable for everyone.

Sat 11 Dec	5pm Outdoor Carol Service @ Buchanan Park, Overslade
Sun 12 Dec	10.30am Holy Communion Luke3:7-18 ADVENT 3.
Sun 12 Dec	5pm Outdoor Carol Service @ St Oswald's
Tues 14 Dec	10.15 Tuesday Morning Service
Sun 19 th Dec	10.30 Morning Worship. Luke 1:39-55 ADVENT 4
Sun 19 th Dec	10.30 Worship, Prayer & Fellowship at Overslade Community Centre.
Sun 19th Dec	6.30pm Carol Service

Connect Groups: There are printed copies of the Bible passage for this week's connect group notes on the table at the back of church for leaders to pick up if they want them.

Boiler Room Prayer meeting: Provided the COVID situation allows, our next Boiler Room prayer meeting on Wednesday January 5th will be "live" in church from 7.30pm - 8.30pm. Come along and start the New Year by praying together as we seek to be a 'God-Dependent' people.

Christmas Tree Prayer: A prayer you can say as you put up your Christmas Tree.

Holy Creator of Trees, bless with your abundant grace this our Christmas tree as a symbol of joy. May its evergreen branches be a sign of your never-fading promises. May its colourful lights and ornaments call us to decorate with love our home and our world. May the gifts that surround this tree be symbols of the gifts we have received from the Tree of Christ's Cross. Holy Christmas tree within our home, may Joy and Peace come and nest in your branches and in our hearts. Amen.

MISSIONARY DISCIPLES

Greetings Aid: Save trees and support a great cause this Christmas! Instead of sending lots of cards to each other, we are once again offering the Greetings Aid notice board. It's very easy to do. Sign a single card and pin it on the Greetings Aid notice board. Write a cheque or send an online payment to St Matthews and St Oswalds PCC (or make a cash donation) in an envelope in the collection basket and mark it "Greetings Aid". Your money will be sent to our nominated charity: **Christians Against Poverty (CAP)**. *P.S. We know this is a bit late... but take advantage of it if you can.*

Social Media: If you are a social media user, please push the 'Oswald Penguin' and 'Christmas Service' posts that are appearing on our FaceBook page as much as you can. **@smsorugby**.

BUILDING DEVELOPMENT

Finance Update: Some very good news (and an answer to prayer): the Church Commissioners have approved our proposal for using the funds from the sale of St Matthew's Building for the redevelopment of the St Oswald's site. We don't know the exact amount yet and the details of how we access the money are to be agreed, but the principle is approved.

Building Improvements Update: We have recently installed -

- a new noticeboard by the front door.
- new storage cupboards in the hall to take cleaning equipment out of the kitchen.
- a commercial dishwasher (90 second cycle) to enable us to sanitise crockery properly.
- a new portable baptism pool and associated heaters and pumps.

The heating contractor is producing extra information for the Diocesan Advisory Committee on the new heating system and our architect has produced a more detailed specification for the DAC for the side hall refurbishment. If those permissions come through, we will begin work in early 2022.

The architect will work on the faculty application for the re-ordering of the main worship area in January.

CHURCH FAMILY

Sarah Rusk would like to say 'Thank you' to everyone on behalf of herself, Alisdair and Becky, for the prayers and support following her dad's passing.

PRAYER POINTS

Prayer Points for w/c Monday December 13th. Please pray:

1. That The Lord keeps us safe, as a community, from the ravages of the COVID pandemic.
2. That John the Baptist's message about holy living would impact our lives.
3. For the children and staff of St Matthew & St Oswald's schools who are coming to church on Friday they would be excited by the message of a saviour's birth.
4. That our indoor and outdoor carols services would impact lives and that our welcome of the stranger would be as good as The Lord's welcome of us.
5. For Gail Long, coming towards the end of her daily radiotherapy and chemotherapy. Please pray for good sleep for Gail, for mobility and for healing of the brain tumour.



Office Opening The church office at 1a New Street is open from 9.30am - 1.30pm Mon - Thursday. To keep office staff safe, we are still asking visitors to remain in the foyer and not enter the offices.

Contacts:

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Church Services: If you are having to self-isolate and cannot attend live services you can join in at 10.30 on Sundays from the worship and prayer page of our website www.m20.org.uk/worship